

Vol. 246

No. 12



सत्यमेव जयते

Friday

3 August, 2018

12 Shravana, 1940 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

# RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

Obituary Reference (pages 1-2)

Papers laid on the Table (pages 2-15)

Message from Lok Sabha—

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, 2017 – *Laid on the Table* (pages 15-18)

Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture – *Laid on the Table* (pages 18-19)

Statement of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture – *Laid on the Table* (page 19)

Reports of the Railway Convention Committee – *Laid on the Table* (pages 19-20)

Statements by Ministers—

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance – *Laid on the Table* (page 20)

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways – *Laid on the Table* (page 20)

[P.T.O.]

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Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture – *Laid on the Table* (page 20)

Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution – *Laid on the Table* (page 21)

Motion for election to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit (pages 21-22)

Statement regarding Government Business (pages 22-24)

Regarding the Motion of Privilege and the Notice under Rule 267 to suspend the Business (pages 24-26)

Discussion on the final draft of the National Register of Citizens in Assam (pages 26-44)

Oral Answers to Questions (pages 44-86)

Written Answers to Starred Questions (pages 87-98)

Written Answers to Unstarred Questions (pages 98-370)

Statements by Minister Correcting Answers to Questions – *Laid on the Table* (page 371)

Private Members' Bills—

The Universal Health Insurance and Healthcare Coverage Bill, 2018 – *Introduced* (page 371)

The Illegal Immigrants (Identification and Deportation) Bill, 2018 – *Introduced* (page 372)

The Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2018 – *Introduced* (page 372)

The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2018 – *Introduced* (page 372)

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (Amendment of Article 19) – *Introduced* (page 373)

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018 – *Introduced* (page 373)

The Agricultural and other Rural Workers (Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2018 – *Introduced* (page 373)

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E-mail	:	<a href="mailto:rsedit-e@sansad.nic.in">rsedit-e@sansad.nic.in</a>

The Downtrodden, Backward and Oppressed Youth (Development and Welfare) Bill, 2018 – *Introduced* (pages 373-374)

The Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill, 2017–*Under Consideration* (page 374-411)

Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee (pages 411-412)

Special Mentions—

Urging the Government to direct the CIFRI, Barrackpore to be more pro-active and help save inland fishery resources (pages 412-413)

Demand to promote Ayurveda in Madhya Pradesh under AYUSH Mission (page 413)

Demand to restore the old pension scheme (page 413)

Demand to adopt appropriate policy for the development of villages to restrict migration towards cities (page 414)

Demand for research and translation of Indian classical texts (page 414-415)

Demand to ensure that MSP reach to the farmers by protecting them from middlemen (page 415)

Demand to build and maintain the service and internal roads for cities along with main roads and over bridges (pages 415-416)

Demand to expedite the work on new AIIMS projects (page 416)

Request to implement recommendations of Kamalesh Chandra Committee for Gramin Dak Sevaks (page 416-417)

Demand to immediately set up a Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh (pages 417-418)

Demand to restore the provision of SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989 or to bring an ordinance to safeguard the interest of SC/ST consequent upon the judgement of the Supreme Court (page 418)

Demand to provide certain incentives to sugar industry in Tamil Nadu (page 418-419)

Demand to direct the State Governments to pay compensation to farmers where deficit of rain hit the sowing of Kharif crops especially in Bundelkhand (page 419)

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## RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 3rd August, 2018/12th Shravana, 1940 (Saka)*

*The House met at eleven of the clock,*

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*:

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Shri Bhishma Narain Singh**, a former Member of this House, on the 1st of August, 2018, at the age of 85 years.

Born in July, 1933 at Udaigarh village in Palamau District of Jharkhand, **Shri Singh** was educated at the Banaras Hindu University.

An agriculturist, **Shri Singh** was actively involved in community development programmes, promotion of education and upliftment of the tribal people, particularly of Chotanagpur. He served as the Director of the Bihar State Co-operative Marketing Union in 1967 and as the Chairman of the Bihar State Cooperative House Construction Financing Society and the Bihar State Credit and Investment Corporation.

**Shri Bhishma Narain Singh** started his legislative career as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly and was its Member for three consecutive terms — from 1967 to 1969, from 1969 to 1972 and again, from 1972 to 1976. **Shri Singh** also served as a Minister of State in the Government of Bihar, holding different portfolios from 1971 to 1974.

**Shri Bhishma Narain Singh** represented the State of Bihar in this House for two terms — from April, 1976 to April, 1982 and again, from April, 1982 to April, 1984. He also served as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Works and Housing, Communications, Civil Supplies and Cooperation in the Union Council of Ministers from 1980 to 1983.

Later on, **Shri Singh** served as the Governor of Assam and Meghalaya from 1984 to 1989, with additional charge as the Governor of Sikkim, from May to November, 1985. He also served as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh from February to March, 1987 and of Tamil Nadu from 1991 to 1993.

In the passing away of **Shri Bhishma Narain Singh**, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian, an able administrator and a dedicated social worker. He was also a Gandhian till his last breath.

We deeply mourn the passing away of **Shri Bhishma Narain Singh**.

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 family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

I received requests from one or two Members to speak, but I verified it that that is not the practice. Though I do not have any objection basically, but that would become a practice for others too. **Shri Bhishma Narain Singh** was known to many of us. He has been a dedicated public worker. Just a few months back I had been to a family function of his, a marriage, and he was explaining to me about his early days. He was such a great person. We really feel sorry.

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#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- I. **Report (2015-16) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur and related papers.**
- II. **Accounts (2015-16 and 2106-17) of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi and related papers.**

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

- I.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—
  - (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2015-16.
  - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9451/16/18]

II.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Act, 2014:—

- (i) (a) Annual Accounts of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (b) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above University. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9099/16/18]
  - (ii) (a) Annual Accounts of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
  - (b) Review by Government of the Annual Accounts of the above University.
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9099/16/18]

**Memorandum of Understandings between the Government of India and various Companies.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9453/16/18]
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT) Limited, for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9454/16/18]
- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL), for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9455/16/18]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9456/16/18]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9457/16/18]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9458/16/18]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) Limited, for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9459/16/18]

- (viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9461/16/18]

- (ix) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9460/16/18]

**I. Notification of the Ministry of Communications**

**II. Report and Accounts (2016-17) of BBNL, New Delhi and related papers**

**III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and BBNL, MTNL and BSNL**

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 (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications), Notification No. F. No. 10-10/2016-BB and PA,



dated the 5th July, 2018, publishing the Telecommunication Interconnection (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (4 of 2018), under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9524/16/18]

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

- (a) Fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), 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 Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), for the year 2016-17.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9353/16/18]

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

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications) and the Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9354/16/18]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications) and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited 1 ^ (MTNL), for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9355/16/18]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9691/16/18]

**Statements showing action taken by Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the session**

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, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements showing action taken by Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the Session shown against each:—

1. Statement No. XXIX Two Hundred and Eighteenth Session, 2009  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9791/16/18]
2. Statement No. XXVII Two Hundred and Nineteenth Session, 2010  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9792/16/18]
3. Statement No. XXVII Two Hundred and Twentieth Session, 2010  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9793/16/18]
4. Statement No. XXIII Two Hundred and Twenty-first Session, 2010  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9794/16/18]
5. Statement No. XXIII Two Hundred and Twenty-second Session  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9795/16/18]
6. Statement No. XXV Two Hundred and Twenty-third Session, 2011  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9796/16/18]
7. Statement No. XXIV Two Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session, 2011  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9797/16/18]
8. Statement No. XXIII Two Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session, 2012  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9798/16/18]
9. Statement No. XX Two Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session, 2012  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9799/16/18]
10. Statement No. XVII Two Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session, 2013  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9800/16/18]
11. Statement No. XVII Two Hundred and Thirtieth Session, 2013-14  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9801/16/18]
12. Statement No. XV Two Hundred and Thirty-second Session, 2014  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9802/16/18]
13. Statement No. XIV Two Hundred and Thirty-third Session, 2014  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9803/16/18]

14. Statement No. XII Two Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session, 2015  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9804/16/18]
15. Statement No. XII Two Hundred and Thirty-fifth Session, 2015  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9805/16/18]
16. Statement No. XI Two Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session, 2015  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9806/16/18]
17. Statement No. X Two Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session, 2015  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9807/16/18]
18. Statement No. IX Two Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session, 2016  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9808/16/18]
19. Statement No. VIII Two Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session, 2016  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9809/16/18]
20. Statement No. VII Two Hundred and Fortieth Session, 2016  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9810/16/18]
21. Statement No. VI Two Hundred and Forty-first Session, 2016  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9811/16/18]
22. Statement No. IV Two Hundred and Forty-second Session, 2017  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9812/16/18]
23. Statement No. III Two Hundred and Forth-third Session, 2017  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9813/16/18]
24. Statement No. II Two Hundred and Forty-fourth Session, 2017-18  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9814/16/18]
25. Statement No. I Two Hundred and Forth-fifth Session, 2018  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9815/16/18]

**The Statement on Half Yearly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on Half Yearly

Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the Financial year 2017-18 under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003; [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9565/16/18]

**Memorandum of Understandings between the Government of India and various Corporations and Companies**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the IRCON International Limited, for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9359/16/18]
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9360/16/18]
- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9368/16/18]
- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFCL), for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9369/16/18]
- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9363/16/18]
- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) Limited, for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9361/16/18]
- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Braithwaite and Company Limited, for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9362/16/18]

- (viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the RailTel Corporation of India Limited, for the year 2018-19. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9364/16/18]
- (ix) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the RITES Limited, for the year 2018-19. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9366/16/18]
- (x) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), for the year 2018-19. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9367/16/18]
- (xi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Limited, for the year 2018-19. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9365/16/18]
- (xii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL), for the year 2018-19. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9370/16/18]

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

**II. Reports and Accounts (2014-15) and (2015-16) of various Corporations and related papers**

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

- I.(i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare), under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914:—

- (1) S.O. 1248 (E), dated the 20th March, 2018, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (First Amendment) Order, 2018.
- (2) S.O. 1873 (E), dated the 10th May, 2018, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Second Amendment) Order, 2018.

- (3) S.O. 1930 (E), dated the 16th May, 2018, publishing corrigendum to Notification No. S.O. 1873 (E), dated the 10th May, 2018 (in Hindi only).
  - (4) S.O. 2059 (E), dated the 24th May, 2018, publishing Corrigendum to Notification No. S.O. 1873 (E), dated the 10th May, 2018.
  - (5) S.O. 2286 (E), dated the 5th June, 2018, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Third Amendment) Order, 2018.  
[Placed in Library. For (1) to (5) See No. L.T. 9471/16/18]
- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—
- (1) S.O. 1323 (E), dated the 22nd March, 2018, publishing the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Second Amendment Order, 2018.
  - (2) S.O. 1391 (E), dated the 28th March, 2018, notifying the Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985 as a special order for the purposes of Section 12A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
  - (3) S.O. 1392 (E), dated the 28th March, 2018, notifying the specifications of provisional fertiliser Phosphogypsum to be manufactured in India for a period of 3 years from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.
  - (4) S.O. 3264 (E), dated the 5th July, 2018, authorizing certain manufacturers of City Compost specified therein, for bulk sale of City Compost, directly to farmers from their plants for a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette.
  - (5) S.O. 3265 (E), dated the 5th July, 2018, publishing the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Third Amendment Order, 2018. [Placed in Library. For (1) to (5) See No. L.T. 9470/16/18]
- (iii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers' Welfare)

Notification No. G.S.R. 391 (E), dated the 24th April, 2018, publishing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (Community Award from the Gene Fund) Rules, 2018, under Section 97 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9472/16/18]

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

- (i) (a) Forty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Panchkula, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9323/16/18]
- (ii) (a) Forty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9321/16/18]
- (iii)(a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9324/16/18]
- (iv)(a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9322/16/18]

**I. Report and Accoutns (2015-16) of IDPL, Gurugram, Haryana and related papers.**

**II. Accounts (2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16) and Audit Reports of NIPER, Hajipur, Bihar and related papers.**

**III. MoU between Government of India and KAPL**

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

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

(a) Fifty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Gurugram, Haryana, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

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

- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9516/16/18]

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

(i) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hajipur, Bihar, for the year 2012-13, and the Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hajipur, Bihar, for the year 2013-14, and the Audit Report thereon.



- (iii) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hajipur, Bihar, for the year 2014-15, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hajipur, Bihar, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9337/16/18]
- III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL), for the year 2018-19.  
[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9517/16/18]

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), under Section 40 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016:—
  - (1) F. No. B.S./11/11/2018, dated the 4th June, 2018, publishing the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.
  - (2) F. No. B.S./11/04/2018, dated the 7th June, 2018, publishing the Bureau of Indian Standards (Advisory Committees) Regulations, 2018.
  - (3) F. No. B.S./11/05/2018, dated the 14th June, 2018, publishing the Bureau of Indian Standards (Hallmarking) Regulations, 2018.
  - (4) G.S.R. 584 (E), dated the 25th June, 2018, publishing the Bureau of Indian Standards Rules, 2018.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (4) *See* No. L.T. 9340/16/18]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), Notification No. S.O. 2414 (E), dated the 13th June, 2018, publishing the Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2018, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9342/16/18]

- (iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (1) S.O. 2345 (E), dated the 7th June, 2018, publishing the Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018 w.e.f. from the date of publication.
- (2) S.O. 2346 (E), dated the 7th June, 2018, directing that no producer of sugar shall sell or agree to sell or otherwise dispose off or deliver or agree to deliver white sugar or refined sugar in the domestic market or remove white sugar or refined sugar from the godowns of the factory in which it is produced for sale in the domestic market, at a rate below rupees twenty-nine per kilogram till further orders w.e.f. from the date of publication.
- (3) S.O. 2347 (E), dated the 7th June, 2018, directing that every producer producing sugar by vacuum pan process shall hold such quantity of white sugar or refined sugar at the end of each month as may be specified by the Central Government for each month with immediate effect.

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (3) See No. L.T. 9518/16/18]

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 21A of the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015, inserted by the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs):—

- (1) G.S.R. 606 (E), dated the 3rd July, 2018, publishing the Commercial Courts (Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement) Rules, 2018.
- (2) G.S.R. 607 (E), dated the 3rd July, 2018, publishing the Commercial Courts (Statistical Data) Rules, 2018.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No. L.T. 9372/16/18]

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### MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

#### **The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, 2017**

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

"in accordance with the provisions of rule 101 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that the amendment "That at pages 2 and 3, clause 3 be *deleted*. " made by Rajya Sabha in the Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Bill, 2017 at its sitting held on the 31 st July, 2017, was taken into consideration by Lok Sabha at its sittings held on 3rd January, and 2nd August, 2018. Thereupon the following amendment alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha was adopted by Lok Sabha, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India:—

That at pages 2 and 3, the following be *inserted*, -

Insertion of new article 338B. 3. After article 338A of the Constitution, the following article shall be inserted, namely:—

National Commission for Backward Classes.	"338B. (1) There shall be a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as the National Commission for Backward Classes.
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- (2) Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament, the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members and the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other-Members so appointed shall be such as the President may by rule determine.

- (3) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- (4) The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.
- (5) It shall be the duty of the Commission:—
  - (a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;
  - (b) to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes;
  - (c) to participate and advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State;
  - (d) to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
  - (e) to make in such reports the recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes; and
  - (f) to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.
- (6) The President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the action-taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

- (7) Where any such report, or any part thereof, relates to any matter with which any State Government is concerned, a copy of such report shall be forwarded to the State Government which shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.
- (8) The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in sub-clause (a) or inquiring into any complaint referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (5), have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely:—
  - (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
  - (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;
  - (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
  - (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
  - (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents;
  - and
  - (f) any other matter which the President may, by rule, determine.
- (9) The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting socially and educationally backward classes."

2. I am also to inform that Lok Sabha has made the following further amendments to the Bill:—

#### **Enacting Formula**

That at page 1, line 1,-

*for "Sixty-eighth" substitute "Sixty-ninth".*

#### **Clause 1**

That at page 1, line 3,-

*for "2017" substitute "2018".*

3. I am further to inform that after adoption by Lok Sabha of the amendment alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha and the further amendments, the Bill, as amended by the amendment alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha and the further amendments, was passed by Lok Sabha in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India.
4. I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill, as amended by Lok Sabha on the 2nd August, 2018, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 101 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha with the request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the amendments made by Lok Sabha be communicated to this House."

I lay a copy of the Bill, as amended by the Lok Sabha, on the Table of the House.

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**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**श्री रामनाथ ठाकुर** (बिहार): महोदय, मैं विभाग संबंधित कृषि संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदनों की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- (i) Fifty-fourth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2015-16) on "impact of Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides on Agriculture and Allied Sectors in the Country" of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);
- (ii) Fifty-fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2016-17) on "Comprehensive Agriculture Research based on Geographical Conditions and Impact of Climatic Changes to ensure Food Security in the Country" of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);
- (iii) Fifty-sixth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2017-18) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare);

- (iv) Fifty-seventh Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2017-18) on the Subject "Variance in Cost and Quality of Agricultural Tools and Implements Being Provided to the Farmers under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Problems Being Faced by the Farmers Due to Imported Power Tillers - A Review" of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare);
- (v) Fifty-eighth Report on the Subject "ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute - A Performance Review" of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education); and
- (vi) Fifty-ninth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2017-18) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

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**STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर** (बिहार): महोदय, मैं कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय (कृषि, सहकारिता एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग) से संबंधित "ग्रामीण गोदाम स्कीम के माध्यम से ग्रामीण भंडारण अवसंरचना को सुदृढ़ करना" विषय के संबंध में अट्टाईसवें प्रतिवेदन (सोलहवीं लोक सभा) में अंतर्विष्ट समुक्तियों/सिफारिशों पर सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्रवाई के संबंध में चालीसवें प्रतिवेदन पर सरकार द्वारा आगे की गई कार्रवाई को दर्शाने वाले विवरण की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

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**REPORTS OF THE RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Railway Convention Committee:—

- (i) Twenty-fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Maintenance of Rolling Stock;

[Shri T. K. Rangarajan]

- (ii) Twenty-fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Internal Resources Generation by Indian Railways;
- (iii) Twenty-sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixteenth Report on Track Upgradation and Modernisation; and
- (iv) Twenty-seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twentieth Report on Vigilance in Indian Railways.

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#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): Sir, I laid a Statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Sir, I laid a Statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on 'Tourism Promotion and Pilgrimage Circuit'.

##### **Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture**

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (साध्वी निरंजन ज्योति): महोदय, मैं खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय की अनुदान मांगों (2017-18) के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित कृषि संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के अड़तीसवें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों/समुक्तियों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में एक वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखती हूँ।



**Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I laid the following statements regarding:—

- (i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2018-19), pertaining to the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and
- (ii) Status of implementation of recommendations/observations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2018-19), pertaining to the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

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**MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON OFFICES OF PROFIT**

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

Sir, I move the following Motion:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do elect three Members of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies caused by the disqualification of Shri Sharad Yadav from the membership of Rajya Sabha w.e.f 04.12.2017, and the retirement of Shri Naresh Agrawal and Shri CP. Narayanan from the membership of the House on 02.04.2018 and 01.07.2018 respectively, and resolves that the House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single

transferable vote, three Members from amongst the Members of the House to the said Joint Committee, to fill the vacancies."

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

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#### **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 in the House for the remaining part of the Monsoon Session will consist of:—

1. Consideration and passing of the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Lok Sabha:—
  - (a) The National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill 2018;
  - (c) The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (d) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (e) The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (f) The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018; and
  - (g) The Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
  - (a) The National Medical Commission Bill, 2017;
  - (b) The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018;

- (c) The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2018;
  - (d) The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (e) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (f) The Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017;
  - (g) The Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2017; and
  - (h) The Consumer Protection Bill, 2018;
  - (i) The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2017;
  - (j) The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India;
  - (k) The Major Port Authorities Bill, 2016.
  - (l) The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (m) The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (n) The Union Territory Goods and Service Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
  - (o) The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) (Amendment) Bill, 2018; and
  - (p) The Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
4. Consideration and adoption of amendments alternative to the amendments made by Rajya Sabha and further amendments made by Lok Sabha in the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Third Amendment) Bill, 2018.
  5. Further consideration and passing of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017 as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.
  6. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Ordinance, 2018 (No.6 of 2018) and consideration and passing of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill, 2018 as passed by Lok Sabha.

[Shri Vijay Goel]

7. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Sports University Ordinance, 2018 (No. 5 of 2018) and consideration and passing of the National Sports University Bill, 2017(After it is passed by Lok Sabha).
8. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to following Demands for Grants, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
  - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2018-19.
  - (b) Demands for Excess Grants for 2015-16.

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**REGARDING THE MOTION OF PRIVILEGE AND THE NOTICE UNDER  
RULE 267 TO SUSPEND THE BUSINESS**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You understand how much *...(Interruptions)...*Please, आप बैठ जाइए।

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, there is a privilege motion to be raised by me under Rule 187. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not called you. Please sit down. I am just coming *...(Interruptions)...* These Bills, numbering around thirty, is the Business for us for the coming week. *...(Interruptions)...* मैं आपको कुछ बोल रहा हूँ। आपको समझ नहीं आ रहा है? I am saying something from the Chair. Please sit down. When we go to that, you can speak. You will have an opportunity. Please co-operate with the Chair. When the Chair is saying something, the Member should have the courtesy of, at least, listening to that. You are not willing to listen to others on certain occasions. My plea is: Please, co-operate in proper conduct of the House. There are around twenty-four major Bills and some other related Bills, and they are all equally important. It will be a sad commentary on the functioning of our House if we are not able to do justice. I am not going to say anything on how many Bills you want to finally take up. It is for the Government and the House finally to decide, but they are all important Bills. So, the Minister's duty is to bring to the notice of the House as to what is the Government's proposed agenda. How many of these Bills are going to be passed is left to the House.

Then, Members, I have received notice for privilege motion from our Member from West Bengal. I am examining it. I have communicated it to the concerned officers for their comments. Once I receive the comments, we will hear as to what the motion is. Then, we will discuss it and will come to a conclusion. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, allow me to speak on the motion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I have first asked for their comments. That is the procedure.

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, two hon. Members of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please; I have not allowed you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN : Sir, one of the Members...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand. You are a new Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please understand what the procedure is. It is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have taken note of your notice. I have asked the concerned authorities to respond. Once I get that information, I will give you an opportunity to raise the matter if I admit it, or, even if I do not admit it, that will also be taken care of. That will be after my decision.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal) :, Sir, two of our Members, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, I am not arguing with you. I am just placing on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My point is: I know that.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Yes, Sir. And, this morning, our request was and we gave notice under Rule 267 to suspend the Business, and we can listen to the Home Minister on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री सभापति:** आप बैठ जाइए। The point is ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, let us not have arguments and cross-arguments. I have heard. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, we have given notice ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I myself, from the Chair, am saying that Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray and Shri Md. Nadimul Haque, both Members, have been arrested for

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\*Not recorded.

[Mr. Chairman]

defying Section 144, etc. But, we have asked for a detailed report. The Home Minister, anyhow, is very much there in the House. He is going to respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज़।

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, let the Home Minister make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, again, the same thing will happen and you will be at a loss. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not allow this. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not know in what way you are reading the procedures and then raising it. I have obliged you. I have said that I am taking it on record. I have given opportunity to your leader also. And, if it becomes a habit, then it will be very difficult. Now, the hon. Home Minister to respond. Then, Members from Assam will be given priority, and other Members also, if they have any clarifications, will be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is the Zero Hour now. ...*(Interruptions)*... It has been given priority. Now, Shri Rajnath Singh.

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#### DISCUSSION ON THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS IN ASSAM\* ... *Contd.*

गृह मंत्री (श्री राजनाथ सिंह): सभापति महोदय, मैं सबसे पहले आपके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज़, शांति से सुनिए। यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण, गंभीर और नाज़ुक मामला है।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ कि एनआरसी ड्राफ्ट को लेकर बहुत ही गंभीर चर्चा इस सदन में हुई है। मैं लगभग 21-22 वर्षों से संसद के इस सदन में अथवा उस सदन में अपनी भूमिका का निर्वहन एक संसद सदस्य के रूप में कर रहा हूँ। मैंने देखा है कि जब कभी भी संसद के सामने नेशनल प्राइड, नेशनल सिक्योरिटी, नेशनल यूनिटी, इंटीग्रिटी और सोब्रेनिटी का सवाल खड़ा हुआ है, तो पूरा का पूरा सदन पूरी तरह से एकमत रहा है, पूरी तरह से उसमें कंसेंसस रहा है। जहां तक NRC draft का प्रश्न है, मैं मानता हूँ कि इसको लेकर कहीं पर कोई apprehensions रहे होंगे, कहीं पर कोई confusion रहा होगा। इस कारण से चर्चा कभी नर्म हुई तो कभी गर्म हुई, लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि पूरा clarification हो जाने के बाद स्थिति पूरी तरह से स्पष्ट हो जाएगी।

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\* Further discussion continued from 01.08.2018.

सबसे पहले तो मैं यह जानकारी देना चाहूंगा कि यह ड्राफ्ट जो 30 जुलाई, 2018 को प्रकाशित हुआ है, वह final draft नहीं है, वह final NRC नहीं है, बल्कि यह NRC draft है। सभापति महोदय, इस NRC के background पर भी यहां पर चर्चा करना चाहता हूं। NRC को update करने की प्रक्रिया 15 अगस्त, 1985 को साइन किए गए Assam Accord के अनुसार प्रारम्भ हुई। असम में 1951 में भी census के आधार पर NRC तैयार किया गया था। 1979 से 1985 के बीच illegal foreigners के विरुद्ध चलाए गए असम आंदोलन के बाद केन्द्र सरकार, राज्य सरकार, All Assam Students' Union और ऑल असम गण संग्राम परिषद के बीच असम समझौता हुआ था। मैं यह भी जानकारी देना चाहता हूं कि उस समय हमारे देश के प्रधान मंत्री स्वर्गीय राजीव गांधी जी थे। उस समझौते में असम में illegal foreigners की पहचान करने के लिए 24 मार्च, 1971 की एक cutoff date निर्धारित की गयी थी। इस समझौते को implement करने हेतु NRC को update करने का निर्णय तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री डा. मनमोहन सिंह जी के द्वारा 2005 में राज्य सरकार और All Assam Students' Union के साथ हुई एक बैठक में लिया गया था।

सभापति महोदय, 6 दिसम्बर, 2013 को NRC updation के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा notification जारी किया गया था। यह सारा कार्य बेहद meticulous तथा transparent तरीके से किया गया है। पूरे राज्य में 2,500 NRC सेवा केन्द्र इस कार्य के लिए स्थापित किए गए हैं। एक partial draft दिनांक 31 दिसम्बर, 2017 को प्रकाशित किया गया तथा final draft दिनांक 30 जुलाई, 2018 को प्रकाशित किया गया। जो भी आवश्यक जानकारी की आवश्यकता थी, वह सारी जानकारी हासिल करने के बाद और उसका verification करने के पश्चात ही यह NRC drafts तैयार किया गया, जो 30 दिसम्बर को publish किया गया है। उसमें उन व्यक्तियों अथवा उनके वंशजों के नाम शामिल हैं, जिनके नाम दिनांक 24 मार्च, 1971 तक के electoral roll अथवा NRC 1951 में दर्ज हुए थे। Legacy establish करने के लिए 12 दूसरे documents, जैसे land records, passport, जीवन बीमा पॉलिसी, Employer's Certificate आदि भी allow कर दिए गए थे। यदि एक document नहीं है तो इनमें से कोई भी document आप दे सकते हैं। अन्य राज्यों से आकर असम में रहने वाले भारतीय नागरिक भी 1971 से पहले के भारत में कहीं का भी certificate of residence दिखाने पर योग्य माने जाएंगे, यानी उनका नाम NRC में शामिल कर लिया जाएगा।

मैं पुनः इसे clarify कर देना चाहता हूं कि यह केवल ड्राफ्ट है, न कि final NRC. NRC तैयार करने का जो पूरा process चला है, वह ऑनरेबल सुप्रीम कोर्ट के supervision में ही चला है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट इस प्रक्रिया की नियमित रूप से monitoring कर रहा है। 31 जुलाई, 2018 को भी इस मामले की सुनवाई सुप्रीम कोर्ट में हुई और आगे की कार्यवाही के लिए कोर्ट ने कुछ और निर्देश भी दिए हैं। भारत सरकार तथा असम राज्य सरकार इसके लिए पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध है कि time-bound manner में सभी genuine Indian citizens के नाम NRC में शामिल कर लिए जाएं। यह सारी प्रक्रिया पूरी तरह से fair है और साथ ही साथ objective है। इसमें कोई भेदभाव नहीं हुआ है और मैं आश्चर्य करना चाहता हूं कि न ही आगे कोई भेदभाव होगा। इस प्रकार के आरोप यदि कोई लगाता है तो मैं समझता हूं कि वह उचित नहीं होगा। मैं इस बात पर पुनः बल देना चाहता हूं कि final NRC के पहले सभी को legal provisions के अनुसार claims and objections फाइल करने का पूरा अवसर मिलेगा। इसके अलावा

[श्री राजनाथ सिंह]

फाइनल एन.आर.सी. के पश्चात भी सभी संबंधित व्यक्तियों को Foreigners Tribunal के पास जाने का पूरा अवसर मिलेगा। इसका अर्थ यह है कि जिन व्यक्तियों का नाम फाइनल एन.आर.सी. में शामिल नहीं हो पाएगा, तो वे Foreigners Tribunal को एप्रोच कर सकते हैं। मैंने पहले भी कहा था और मैं फिर से इस बात को दोहराना चाहता हूँ कि किसी के विरुद्ध कोई भी coercive action नहीं होगा। सभापति महोदय, मैं इसको दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण ही मानता हूँ कि कुछ ऐसे लोग रहे होंगे जिनके द्वारा अनावश्यक रूप से एक डर का माहौल पैदा किया गया है। इस मामले में कुछ लोगों के द्वारा गलतफहमियाँ फैलाने की कोशिश भी की गई है। कुछ vested interests वाले व्यक्तियों के द्वारा social media पर propaganda चलाया जा रहा है, ताकि इस मामले को internationalise किया जा सके तथा communal harmony को प्रभावित किया जा सके, यानी यह communal disharmony पैदा करने की एक कोशिश है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस प्रकार का प्रयास किसी के द्वारा नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। मैं यह भी स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि दुनिया का चाहे कोई भी देश हो, वह कम से कम इतना तो जानना चाहेगा कि हमारे देश में कितने हमारे nationals हैं और कितने foreigners हैं। इसकी जानकारी रखना किसी भी देश के लिए बहुत स्वाभावित है। यह उसका दायित्व बनता है।

सभापति महोदय, मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि यह विषय भारत की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा से जुड़ा हुआ है और मैं इस संबंध में सभी से सहयोग की अपेक्षा करता हूँ। दिनांक 29 जुलाई, 2018 को असम के मुख्य मंत्री महोदय की अध्यक्षता में गुवाहाटी में एक all-party meeting हुई थी और उस मीटिंग में एन.आर.सी. बनाने के लिए सर्वसम्मति से सभी राजनीतिक पार्टियों ने पूरी तरह से सहयोग करने का आश्वासन भी दिया था और इसमें सभी प्रमुख दल शामिल थे। सभापति महोदय, मैं इस बात का विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि peace, harmony और public order को maintain किया जाएगा। हमारी सरकार ने इस कार्य में असम में राज्य सरकार को assist करने के लिए, उन्होंने जितनी भी force की मांग की थी, उन्हें वह force मुहैया कराई जा चुकी है। चर्चा के दौरान कुछ और भी प्रश्न उठाए गए हैं, जिन सम्मानित सदस्यों ने प्रश्न उठाए थे, उनमें से कुछ सम्मानित सदस्य यहां पर मौजूद नहीं हैं। फिर भी, मैं उनके प्रश्नों का उत्तर देना चाहूँगा। चूंकि चर्चा की शुरुआत हमारे लीडर ऑफ द अपोज़िशन, गुलाम नबी आज़ाद साहब की तरफ से हुई थी इसलिए पहले उन्हें के द्वारा जो apprehensions यहां पर express किए गए थे, उनका उत्तर मैं देना चाहूँगा। आज़ाद साहब ने यह कहा था कि 40 लाख व्यक्ति शामिल नहीं हुए हैं, उनके परिवारों को मिलाकर इनकी संख्या बहुत ज्यादा हो सकती है, लेकिन मैं यह क्लैरिफाई करना चाहता हूँ कि ये 40 लाख परिवार नहीं हैं, बल्कि ये 40 लाख व्यक्ति हैं, इसलिए इसको लेकर कहीं पर कोई कन्फ्यूजन नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं यह भी बताना चाहता हूँ कि 3,29,91,384 व्यक्तियों ने एन.आर.सी. के लिए एप्लाई किया था और उसमें से 2,89,83,677 व्यक्ति एन.आर.सी. के ड्राफ्ट में शामिल हो गए हैं। मैं सुखेन्दु राय जी, जो कि इस समय मौजूद नहीं हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री देरेक ओब्राइन** (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, वे मौजूद नहीं हैं because उनको तो arrest कर जेल में बंद कर दिया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Derek. ...**(Interruptions)**... This is not the way. ...**(Interruptions)**... Let him complete. ...**(Interruptions)**... No argument is allowed.



...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)... You are a senior parliamentarian.  
...(Interruptions)... You know that. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री राजनाथ सिंह:** सभापति महोदय, सुखेन्दु राय जी ने एक प्रश्न किया था और उन्होंने सुप्रीम कोर्ट का 5 दिसम्बर, 2017 को जो आदेश हुआ था, उस आदेश की भी चर्चा की थी। इसमें पृष्ठ 7 पर यह कहा गया है कि असम के original inhabitants व भारत के अन्य प्रदेशों से आए नागरिक बराबरी के माने जाएंगे और उनको नागरिकता प्राप्त करने का भी समान अवसर मिलेगा। वास्तव में ऐसा ही किया जा रहा है। जैसी सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हमसे अपेक्षा की है, वैसा ही किया जा रहा है। सभी भारतीय नागरिक जो अन्य राज्यों से असम में आए हैं और वर्ष 1971 से पहले, भारत का कहीं का भी certificate of residence दिखाने पर, एन.आर.सी में उनका नाम शामिल कर दिया जाएगा और अब तक शामिल किए गए हैं। प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव जी और श्रीमती विजिला सत्यानंत ने भी इंडियन सिटिज़न्स और उनके बच्चों का प्रश्न यहां पर उठाया था, जो 24 मार्च, 1971 के उपरान्त असम में आए हैं। सभापति महोदय, मैं इस बारे में आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि जो भी आवश्यक प्रमाण पत्र NRC में शामिल किए दिए जाने के लिए अपेक्षित हैं, वे सारे आवश्यक प्रमाण पत्र देने पर किसी भी भारतीय का नाम नहीं छूटेगा और हर भारतीय नागरिक का नाम NRC में शामिल किया जाएगा। Claims and objections की प्रक्रिया में इसका पूरा ध्यान रखा जाएगा।

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा जी ने एक प्रश्न किया था और उस संबंध में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हर व्यक्ति जिसने NRC के लिए एप्लाइ किया है, उसको अपनी नागरिकता का प्रमाण देना होगा। इसके लिए कई वैकल्पिक डाक्युमेंट्स दिए जा सकते हैं, जिनकी चर्चा मैंने पहले भी की है, जैसा कि पासपोर्ट, इश्योरेंस पॉलिसी है, सर्विस डाक्युमेंट्स हैं, एजुकेशनल सर्टिफिकेट्स हैं, एम्प्लॉयमेंट सर्टिफिकेट्स हैं, ये सब दिए जा सकते हैं, जो कि 24 मार्च, 1971 के पहले issue किए गए हैं।

सभापति महोदय, इस प्रकार से जो NRC का प्रोसेस चला है, नागरिकों की सुविधा का ध्यान रखते हुए ही इसे तैयार किया गया है। सभापति महोदय, मैं पुनः यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हर व्यक्ति को अपनी नागरिकता के प्रमाण पत्र देने एवं NRC में शामिल होने का पूरा अवसर मिलेगा। मैं पुनः इस बात को दोहराना चाहता हूँ। 30 जुलाई को जो ड्राफ्ट पब्लिश हुआ है, वह ड्राफ्ट है और claims and objections हर व्यक्ति, जो भारत के किसी भी कोने से असम में आया है, उसको पुनः अवसर मिलेगा, जिसमें वह अपनी नागरिकता को सिद्ध कर सके, अपनी नागरिकता को प्रूव कर सके। NRC updation exercise भारतीय संसद द्वारा बनाए गए कानून के अंतर्गत, भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा साइन किए गए Assam Accord के अंतर्गत पूर्णतया ट्रांसपेरेंट तरीके से की जा रही है। NRC का विषय हमारे देश की नेशनल सिक्योरिटी से जुड़ा हुआ है। हम सभी को इस मुद्दे पर पूरी संवेदनशीलता के साथ उत्तरदायी भी होना चाहिए। सभापति महोदय, हम इस एक्सरसाइज़ को इसके logical conclusion तक ले जाने के लिए पूरी तरह से कमिटेड हैं, लेकिन हम यह भी आश्वस्त करना चाहते हैं कि न तो किसी के साथ कोई भेदभाव होगा और न ही किसी को अनावश्यक harassment का सामना करना पड़ेगा। इसलिए मैं पुनः सदन को अपनी तरफ से आश्वस्त करते हुए यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जो भी प्रोसेस चलाया जा रहा है, वह फेयर है, ट्रांसपेरेंट है। यदि कहीं पर भी किसी को किसी प्रकार की शिकायत होगी, तो उस शिकायत का भी निस्तारण किया जाएगा।

**श्री सभापति:** धन्यवाद मंत्री जी। डा. मनमोहन सिंह जी, आप कुछ पूछना चाहते हैं?

**डा. मनमोहन सिंह (असम):** नहीं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name of the former Prime Minister was also taken. That is why I asked him. Now, Shri Ripun Bora.

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Sir, first of all, I extend my thanks to the hon. Home Minister for giving this reply. He has given the historical background of NRC in which it has been established that a wrong message had gone to the country that the Congress is against NRC. But, now, from the statement of the hon. Home Minister, it has clearly been justified that it is the Congress Party which initiated NRC. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your supplementary? *...(Interruptions)...* Please look at the time because I have to give opportunity to all.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, I want to add one more thing. With the statement of the hon. Home Minister, it is clear that Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, understood the danger of the people of Assam in the field of cultural, social, economic and political security and for that purpose, the Assam Accord was done by our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It was done in order to protect the people of Assam.

Now, Sir, I have to make only a few suggestions to the hon. Home Minister. There is urgent requirement for modification of some guidelines. So far as 40 lakh people are concerned, here we have seen, most of them are women and children below 18 years. Sir, all of them are Indian citizens. Names of women have been dropped only because there is a provision in the guideline of NRC that a married woman would have to submit her linkage certificate from her parents' native place. That linkage certificate is to be given by the Gram Panchayat Secretary. But, what has happened in many cases is that the Gram Panchayat Secretary has given the certificate but the verification officer has instructed for another supporting document. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right, thank you, Ripunji. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, this is a very *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, this is one. *...(Interruptions)...* The second thing is about the children. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have another Member from your Party. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: आप लोग बीच में इस प्रकार से interfere मत कीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... मुझे मालूम है कि एक Member कांग्रेस की ओर से बोलने के लिए और हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... I have to complete it by 12 o' clock. ...*(Interruptions)*... He would be losing the opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, my last point is this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Others should not stand. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am allowing him. ...*(Interruptions)*... What are you doing? ...*(Interruptions)*... This should have happened three days back. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, then, in these 40 lakhs, there are several lakhs of children who are below 18 years and because of being below 18 years, there is requirement of birth certificate or school certificate. But, in Assam - the remote areas, the inaccessible areas - due to illiteracy, their parents have no birth certificate and no school certificate, and the venture school certificate, which was given, was rejected. Because of that also, names of many Indian citizens may have been dropped.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right, thank you.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: My last submission to the hon. Home Minister, and one point of information for my TMC friends also, is that in case of migration of the married women, the Assam NRC Authority has issued letters to different States for proof of their linkage certificate. In the Supreme Court on 27.03.2018, the Registrar General of India gave the information that only 30.63 per cent reply has come. As far as West Bengal is concerned, 1,20,000 applications were forwarded by the NRC Authority to the West Bengal Governor but only 15,000 replies have come so far. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, because of that also, some genuine names have been dropped.

So, now, my suggestion to the hon. Minister is to modify. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ripunji, please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: These are all technical grounds and because of these technical grounds the names of Indian citizens have been left out. So, my humble submission is to

[Shri Ripun Bora]

modify and simplify the guidelines and to extend the deadline for submission of claim forms, which has been given as 27th of September, it is a very short time and it should be extended.

My second suggestion is this. The Supreme Court has already given order that they should not take any apparent view of treating these 40 lakh people as foreigners. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right, thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Though in Assam, an all-party meeting was convened by the Assam Government, I would like to suggest that at the national level also, there should be an all-party meeting so that all political parties can be taken into confidence. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Very constructive suggestions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, be very brief, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to cover all before the Question Hour. Please understand. See, how many hands are being raised? You are from the State and you are also a senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, how many minutes are you going to give me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally, the clarifications are for one or two minutes.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: If two minutes, then, there should not be any interruptions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, no problem. Nobody should interrupt him.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, as the hon. Home Minister has already given the details and background of the NRC, I will not go into that. While I am one with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming this NRC because NRC was first brought into effect in the year 1951, that is, after partition, after Independence of India, – that is the basis of the present NRC — so many things have happened in between which necessitated the updating of this NRC. There was a report. One of our hon. Members has already raised it that there was a report from one Governor that four lakh foreigners, Bangladeshis, are in Assam. That was again followed by a Chief Minister saying that it would be more than that. Another Chief Minister said that it would be nearly seven lakhs.

So, it was necessitated that an updating be done. And, this demand was there and I want to tell you the background that until 1984, there were agitations, and in 1985, the Accord was signed. In the Accord, this was one of the points that NRC would be updated. Sir, from 1985, there were two Opposition Governments, non-Congress Governments, and nothing was done. In 2001, the then Congress Government took up this with a tripartite meeting for updating of the NRC. Sir, the Supreme Court order is subsequent, and before that, the work was started. And, with the order of the Supreme Court, the updating has been completed now. I compliment them for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion or question now?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Yes, I am coming to the question now. Sir, my first question is or the first clarification that I want to ask is that most of the people, those whose names do not appear in the NRC belong to the poorer sections of the society. Those who are rich; those who are literate, they will find their way to get into the NRC but what about the poorer sections who could not even come to register their names in the NRC? I would like to know whether the Government will provide legal aid to those poorer sections of people so that they get justice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right, thank you.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: My second question is, Sir, hon. Home Minister had bilateral meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You had three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... You had three minutes, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: And, the Bangladesh and the Indian Home Minister have signed a joint communique and in that it has been mentioned that the Indo-Bangladesh border is safe and secure. The other day, in reply to a question, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs has also said that. Sir, my question is or my clarification is, whether this issue was discussed with the Bangladesh Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Because with such number of people who are out of NRC and doubted they are Bangladeshi, I would like to know whether the Home Minister has taken up this matter with his Bangladesh counterpart...

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

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: And, whether some bilateral discussion will be done by the Home Minister. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha. It will be odd for me to advise the senior Members. They should restraint themselves and take the example of LoP who always confines to time.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I will follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. Please.

**प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा:** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय गृह मंत्री जी का धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ कि इस पूरे मसले पर इतिहास की समग्रता की जरूरत थी, न कि एक एकांगी दृष्टिकोण की और आपने उस समग्रता का परिचय दिया। कई सारे जो साक्ष्य हैं, वे सदन के माध्यम से अवाम के बीच जाएंगे। सर, अगर 40 लाख व्यक्तियों में से 10 लोग भी document के बाद सही पाए गए, तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बीते 10-12 दिनों से ये 'घुसपैठिए' के टाइटल में जी रहे हैं। प्रतिष्ठित पदों पर बैठे लोग इन्हें 'घुसपैठिए' बता रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि आपकी और NRC Co-ordinator की जुबान में थोड़ी healing हुई है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस healing touch को और बढ़ाना होगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

**प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा:** सर, मैं एक आखिरी टिप्पणी करूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has to respond before 12'o clock.

**प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा:** सर, मैं 30 सेकंड में अपनी बात खत्म करूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are capable. Please finish it.

**प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा:** अगर possible हो, तो वैसे लोगों के लिए थोड़ी legal aid, hand-holding होनी चाहिए, जिनके परिवार के तीन सदस्य नागरिक हैं, लेकिन दो सदस्य नागरिक नहीं हैं। नागरिकता के ऊपर मैंने उस दिन भी कहा था कि अगर हम इसको समुदाय और परिवार के दृष्टिकोण से नहीं देखेंगे, तो यह पूरा का पूरा मामला संवेदनहीन लगेगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Manojji. These all are asking clarifications only. Now, Shri Majeed Memon.

**श्री माजीद मेमन (महाराष्ट्र):** सभापति महोदय, हम आदरणीय गृह मंत्री जी के स्पष्टीकरण का स्वागत करते हैं। उन्होंने जो बात कही, उसे दोहराते हुए मैं सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। आपने कहा कि यह final नहीं है, हर व्यक्ति को दोबारा मौका दिया जाएगा और अगर उसके पास अधिकार है, तो उसके साथ कोई अन्याय नहीं होगा। हम इसका दिल से स्वागत करते हैं। महोदय, बंगलादेश की सरकार की तरफ से यह जवाब आ चुका है कि हम इन लोगों को accept नहीं करेंगे। दोबारा scrutiny

کرنے کے بعد ہو سکتا ہے کہ 40 لاکھ کا یہ نمبر گھٹ کر 30 لاکھ پر رکھ لیا جائے یا 25 لاکھ پر رکھ لیا جائے۔ ان کے بارے میں حکومت کا کیا فیصلہ ہے، کیا پلان ہے اور ان کا کیا کیا جائے گا، آپ کृپا کے ساتھ ان کے بارے میں وضاحت کریں۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Memonji. Now, Shri Javed Ali Khan. Please give suggestion or ask question.

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN (Uttar Pradesh): I will ask one clarification and not give any suggestion. माननीय सभापति जी, NRC से हमारा कोई विरोध नहीं है, क्योंकि वह एक समझौते के तहत बना है और सुप्रीम कोर्ट की निगरानी में, उसके निर्देशों के तहत ही इसका काम हो रहा है। जब से 40 लाख लोगों के NRC में जगह न पाने का मामला सामने आया है, तब से कुछ ऐसे विशेष नाम भी सामने आए हैं, जिनके नाम उस लिस्ट के अंदर नहीं हैं। असम के दो विधायकों के नाम उसके अंदर शामिल नहीं हैं, वहां की Assembly के एक ex-Deputy Speaker रहे हैं, जिनके नाम उसके अंदर नहीं हैं। हमारे देश के जो पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रहे हैं, श्री फ़ख़रुद्दीन अली अहमद साहब, उनके परिवार के लोगों के नाम भी उसमें छूट गए हैं।

महोदय, इसके साथ यह भी हो रहा है कि हमने उन सब 40 लाख लोगों को 'घुसपैठिए' की संज्ञा देना शुरू कर दिया है। चार दिन से टीवी पर बहस चल रही है, जिनमें उनके लिए लगातार 'घुसपैठिए', 'घुसपैठिए', 'घुसपैठिए' शब्द का प्रयोग किया जा रहा है, जबकि अभी तक फाइनल ड्राफ्ट भी नहीं आया है। एक बड़ी पार्टी के नेता ने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस करके ... (व्यवधान)...

†جناب جاوید علی خان (اتر پردیش): مائنے سبھا پتی جی، این آر سی۔ سے ہمارا کوئی ورودہ نہیں ہے، کیوں کہ وہ ایک سمجھوتے کے تحت بنا ہے اور سپریم کورٹ کی نگرانی میں، اس کے نردیشوں کے تحت ہی اس کا کام ہو رہا ہے۔ جب سے چالیس لاکھ لوگوں کے این آر سی۔ میں جگہ نہ پانے کا معاملہ سامنے آیا ہے، تب سے کچھ ایسے خاص نام بھی سامنے آئے ہیں، جن کے نام اس لسٹ کے اندر نہیں ہے۔ آسام کے دو ودھایکوں کے نام اس کے اندر شامل نہیں ہے، وہاں کی اسمبلی کے ایک سابق ڈپٹی اسپیکر رہے ہیں، جن کے نام اس کے اندر نہیں ہیں۔ ہمارے دیش کے جو سابق راشٹری رہے ہیں، شری فخرالدین علی احمد صاحب، ان کے پریوار کے لوگوں کے نام بھی اس میں چھوٹ گئے ہیں۔

مہودے، اس کے ساتھ یہ بھی ہو رہا ہے کہ ہم نے ان سب چالیس لاکھ لوگوں کو 'گھس-پیٹھنے' کی سنگیا دینا شروع کر دیا ہے۔ چار دن سے ٹی۔وی۔ پر بحث چل رہی ہے، جس میں ان کے لئے لگاتار 'گھس-پیٹھنے'، 'گھس-پیٹھنے'، 'گھس-پیٹھنے' شبد کا استعمال کیا جا رہا ہے، جبکہ ابھی تک فائنل ڈرافٹ بھی نہیں آیا ہے۔ ایک بڑی پارٹی کے نیتانے پریس کانفرنس کر کے ... (مداخلت)...

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you, but the point is, the media should be careful. That is all. ...(Interruptions)... Next is Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री जावेद अली खान: एक बड़ी पार्टी के नेता ने प्रेस कांफ्रेंस करके उन 40 लाख लोगों के बारे में यह कहा कि वे घुसपैठिए हैं। ... (व्यवधान)...

†جناب جاوید علی خان : ایک بڑی پارٹی کے नेता نے پریس کانفرنس کر کے ان چالیس لاکھ لوگوں کے بارے میں یہ کہا کہ وہ 'گھس-پیٹھئے' ہیں۔۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: Javed Aliji, please. I understand. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री जावेद अली खान: मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस तरीके से उन 40 लाख लोगों को, जिनके नाम किसी भी वजह से NRC में आने से छूट गए हैं ... (व्यवधान)...

†جناب جاوید علی خان : میں مائنٹے منٹری جی سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا اس طریقے سے ان چالیس لاکھ لوگوں کو، جن کے نام کسی بھی وجہ سے این-آر-سی میں آنے سے چھوٹ گئے ہیں۔۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔۔

श्री सभापति: मैं समझ गया हूँ। Please don't repeat. Otherwise, you will not get the reply then.

श्री जावेद अली खान: क्या आप उन्हें 'घुसपैठिए' की संज्ञा दिए जाने से रोकेंगे?

†جناب جاوید علی خان : کیا آپ انہیں 'گھس-پیٹھئے' کی سنگیا دئے جانے سے روکیں گے؟

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made a very good point. But you could have confined to that.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I again want to reiterate that from different parts of our nation, people have gone and settled in Assam. They are possessing Aadhaar cards, ration cards, school certificates. They are also possessing the marriage certificates. There are people from South who are married to Assamese people. They possess all that but their name is not in the NRC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So what is your suggestion?

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: I want to know whether the modalities will be changed or revised so that these people, who have migrated from different parts of the country, especially, from the South, can be proved that they are Indians, that they are the citizens of this country.

†Transliteration in Urdu script.



MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri D. Raja.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have only two questions. Number one is, will the time-limit be extended? The Government will have to clarify that. Number two, the Government will not allow any action. I think no action should be taken against those who do not find place in the draft NRC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. These are very basic points, which you raised that day also.

SHRI D. RAJA: Yes, Sir. These are my two questions and the Minister should clarify.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri T.K. Rangarajan.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, first, I thank the Home Minister for his reply. My point is, when you enumerate that no caste or no religion should be taken into account, nobody should be punished, I request the Home Minister that in the all-party meeting in the State and at all India level also, before you conclude this, give them more opportunity and extend the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Derek O'Brien.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, I have two suggestions and two questions. Sir, my first suggestion is this. We have been going on with this for 47 minutes now. We have heard the name of only one State, Assam. This is not just an Assam issue. This is an issue for Rajasthan. This is an issue for Punjab. This is an issue for UP. This is an issue for Bengal. This is a national issue, a human rights issue, a humanitarian issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: So, let us not get stuck in with Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't go into the explanation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, my second point is, this is classical double-speak. What is the real voice of this Government? Is the real voice of this Government what the Home Minister says here or what the BJP Party President says outside? ...*(Interruptions)*... We need to know. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please don't get into politics. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't get into politics at all. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: We need to know this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask the clarifications, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: My clarification is...*(Interruptions)*... Why?  
...*(Interruptions)*... When I say, 'BJP Party President'...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not about a party. Here, we are not discussing about parties. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, we are hearing two voices. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Home Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Derek, do you want to ask the supplementary? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Yes, Sir. I have not asked the question.  
...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, please do. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.  
...*(Interruptions)*... No mention of any parties, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... कृपया बैठे-बैठे मत बोलिए। Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, when the Home Minister spoke for 20 minutes, we listened to him. Get them seated first, Sir...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the Home Minister spoke for 20 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: For this much you are getting this impatient! I have been patient for how many days! ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: No, no, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody should speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Bhupenderji, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Without the Chairman's permission, nobody should speak or even make comments. Nothing will go on record. Don't test my vocal cords. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: I am quoting the Home Minister, what he just said in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: "Communal disharmony is being spread." Yes, Sir. It is being spread. But, who is spreading it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is all political ...*(Interruptions)*... This is a political allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to go to the next name. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: I am quoting it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the clarification? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: No, Sir. You have to protect me... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are making allegations, how can I protect you? If you confine yourself to the subject, I can protect you. I can go out of the way also to protect you.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Everything is peaceful, two of my colleagues from Rajya Sabha, phoned up my colleague MPs. They went yesterday, and they said, " Section 144 was on." They said, " They don't want to meet big groups. They will go in groups of two, Sir." ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Derek, please. What is your point? You are making comments, and then, counter comments. Ask clarification. What is your clarification?

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: I have asked two clarifications. Let me ask my clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can't take the time and deprive opportunity to others. At twelve o' clock, he has to reply. If you don't want reply, then, ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been a Quiz Master. You know how to calculate the time also ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, let me clarify. I am no Quiz Master. I am the Parliamentary Party Leader in Rajya Sabha from the TMC. Please correct this, Sir. I am no Quiz Master.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay; you don't know quiz. I leave it. Okay.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your clarification?

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: The Home Minister must clarify whether he approves of all those statements coming out, including, of shooting people, etc. We must not double-speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, my last question is, as I said, we cannot allow refugees in our own country. We have to accept this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, if everything is so calm, then, what happened yesterday to my colleagues? We have raised the privilege question. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, let me ask my last question. If there are sixteen documents needed to prove the citizenship or not the citizenship, then how, the higher Constitutional authorities, could not produce one document for their graduation certificate?

MR. CHAIRMAN: See, on such an issue, larger issue, concerning the nation's security and sovereignty, one has to be very serious.

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA (Nominated): I just want two clarifications. The first one is, among the people, who are excluded from the NRC, are undoubtedly, large numbers of people who are not citizens of India. We don't know the numbers. So, they can be classified into two categories. Some of them are, what might be called economic migrants. But, there are people who are refugees, who have fled from persecution in neighbouring countries. What is the attitude of the Government of India towards people who are refugees? That is number one. Number two, can we ask the Home Minister for some assurance that no person, who is not a citizen of India, should be included in one of the most democratic functions, which is the voting right because just as Indians cannot be excluded from voting, we cannot have people, who are not citizens of India, voting?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Thank you. Now, Shri Anand Sharma.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I thank the Home Minister.

आपने आश्वासन किया है कि किसी के खिलाफ कोई भी कार्रवाई नहीं होगी, जब तक वह अपना क्लेम फाइल न करे और final list न जारी हो जाए।

सर, मुझे आपके माध्यम से गृह मंत्री जी से एक बात पूछनी है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस NRC की draft list आने के बाद सरकार को और देश को एक बात कही है कि इस पर जो modalities हैं, जो standard operating procedure हैं, उनको streamline किया जाए और notify किया जाए। वह कब तक होगा, यह गृह मंत्री जी आश्वासन करें। साथ ही, पहले भी जिन लोगों को इसकी जानकारी नहीं थी, उनको आप कैसे जानकारी पहुंचाएंगे? क्या आप अनपढ़ लोगों के लिए, गरीब लोगों के लिए विशेष कैम्पस लगाएंगे? स्पष्ट प्रश्न है कि इसका सीधा प्रभाव अन्य राज्यों पर ही नहीं पड़ता है, परन्तु भारत

के पड़ोसी देशों के साथ — अभी प्रश्न आया था कि आप हमारे पड़ोसी मित्र देश के पास गये, वहां आपकी बातचीत हुई, बंगलादेश के साथ। इस सरकार ने...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा:** सर, एक मिनट। यह गम्भीर बात है।

**श्री सभापति:** टाइम नहीं है। 12 बजने वाले हैं। I have to go to Question Hour.

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा:** सर, मैं सवाल तो पूछ लूं? ...(व्यवधान)... मैं एकदम से दो सवाल पूछ लेता हूं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

**श्री आनन्द शर्मा:** मेरा पहला प्रश्न है कि सरकार ने भारत की संसद को बताया है कि केवल 2.4 लाख लोग असम के doubtful voters हैं, सरकार के गृह राज्य मंत्री, श्री किरें रिजिजु ने यह सदन को बताया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह सही स्थिति है, क्योंकि ऐसी आशंकाएं जताई जा रही हैं कि बहुत ज्यादा लोग ...(व्यवधान)... इनमें बाहर के हैं।

दूसरी बात, मैं यहां इतिहास में नहीं जाता, NRC 1951 से और 1985 के Accord से असम - specific है। Sir, this is important. NRC updating is Assam-specific. The Home Minister must clarify what is the position because, today, when there is a talk that NRC exercise will be extended to other States, it has created huge panic and fear in the country. That should be clarified.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I have a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I can't allow. The Leader of the Opposition is the last one and then we will go to Question Hour.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhattacharya, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... I can't because it can't be an extension of the discussion. The Leader of the Opposition is on his legs, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)... That means, you are not interested in hearing replies! What can I do?

**विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद):** महोदय, मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा। असम से मेरा association तकरीबन 41 वर्षों से है, जब मैं Youth Congress में था। आज से 31 या 32 साल पहले, जब मैं 1986 में, Accord के तुरंत बाद, Minister of State for Home Affairs था, उस समय दो Minister of State for Home Affairs थे और वर्क allocation में मेरे पास Mizoram Accord, Assam Accord and Punjab Accord था। इस संबंध में यहीं दिल्ली में मेरी दर्जनों meetings उस समय के मंत्री, श्री प्रफुल्ल मोहंता और दूसरे मंत्री, श्री थुंगन के साथ हुई थीं। तब से लेकर, 1986 से लेकर आज तक इस बारे में जब कभी भी चर्चा होती है तो मैं इसके साथ associated रहता हूं।

[श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद]

यहां दो-तीन चीजें माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने बताईं। मैं माननीय गृह मंत्री जी का स्वागत करता हूं। इससे पहले मैं स्पष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि भारत की सुरक्षा, स्वतंत्रता और territorial integrity बहुत अनिवार्य है। इसमें कोई compromise नहीं हो सकता - चाहे विपक्ष हो या सत्ताधारी पार्टी हो। यह भी अनिवार्य है कि देश के पास ऐसी सूची होनी चाहिए कि उसके citizens कौन हैं। इतना विशाल देश है। कश्मीर से लेकर North-East और दक्षिण तक चारों तरफ हमारे borders हैं और हम अपने borders दुनिया के लिए खुले नहीं छोड़ सकते। यहां सुरक्षा का मुद्दा भी है और संख्या का मुद्दा भी है लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ मैं, कल television देख रहा था, जिसमें दिखाया गया कि एक आदमी जो आर्मी में 30 साल service करने के बाद रिटायर हुआ और दूसरा Air Force से 30 साल की service करने के बाद रिटायर हुआ है, उन दोनों के नाम लिस्ट में नहीं हैं। उनमें से एक ने कहा कि मैंने अपने बाप का 1951 वाला certificate दिया और दूसरे ने 1947 वाला अपनी मां का certificate दिया। अब इन Army and Air Force के दो लोगों ने, एक ने 1947 वाला अपनी मां का certificate दिया और दूसरे ने 1951 वाला अपने बाप का certificate दिया हो ... (व्यवधान)...

† قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): مہودے، میں زیادہ وقت نہیں لوں گا۔ آسام سے میرا ایسوسی ایشن تقریباً 41 سالوں سے ہے، جب میں یوتھ کانگریس میں تھا۔ آج سے 31 یا 32 سال پہلے، جب میں 1986 میں، Accord کے فوراً بعد، Minister of State for Home Affairs تھا، اس وقت دو Minister of State for Home Affairs ورک ایلوکیشن میں میرے پاس Mizoram Accord, Assam Accord and Punjab Accord تھا۔ اس سلسلے میں یہیں دہلی میں میری درجنوں میٹنگس اس وقت کے منتری، شری پرفل موہنتا اور دوسرے منتری، شری ٹھنگن کے ساتھ ہوئیں تھیں۔ تھب سے لیکر، 1986 سے لیکر آج تک اس بارے میں جب کبھی بھی چرچہ ہوئی ہے تو میں اس کے ساتھ ایسوسی ایٹڈ رہتا ہوں۔

یہاں دو تین چیزیں مانتے گره منتری جی نے بتائیں۔ میں مانتے گره منتری جی کا مواگت کرتا ہوں۔ اس سے پہلے میں واضح کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ بھارت کی سُرکشا، بہت ضروری ہے۔ اس میں کوئی کمپرومائز نہیں territorial integrity سونٹنا اور ہوسکتا۔ چاہے ویکش ہو یا سٹہ دھاری پارٹی ہو۔ یہ بھی ضروری ہے کہ دیش کے پاس ایسی سُوچی ہونی چاہیے کہ اس کے سٹیزن کون ہیں۔ اتنا وشال دیش ہے۔ کشمیر سے لیکر نارٹھ ایسٹ اور دکشین تک چاروں طرف ہمارے بارڈرس ہیں اور ہم اپنے بارڈرس

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

دنیا کے لیے کھلے نہیں چھوڑ سکتے۔ یہاں سورکشا کا مدعا بھی ہے اور تعداد کا مدعا بھی ہے لیکن اس کے ساتھ ساتھ، میں کل ٹیلی ویژن دیکھ رہا تھا، جس میں دکھایا گیا کہ ایک آدمی جو آرمی میں تیس سال سروس کرنے کے بعد ریٹائر ہوا اور دوسرا انیروفرس سے تیس سال کی سروس کرنے کے بعد ریٹائر ہوا ہے، ان دونوں کے نام لیسٹ میں نہیں والا سرٹیفکیٹ دیا اور 1951ء میں سے ایک نے کہا کہ میں نے اپنے باپ کا والا اپنی ماں کا سرٹیفکیٹ دیا۔ اب ان آرمی اینڈ انیروفرس کے دو 1947ء دوسرے نے 1951ء والا اپنی ماں کا سرٹیفکیٹ دیا اور دوسرے نے 1947ء لوگوں نے، ایک نے والا اپنے باپ کا سرٹیفکیٹ دیا ہو۔۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔

**شری سभापति:** एक ही मिनट बचा है, प्लीज़। ... (व्यवधान) ... You have to be brief, please.

**श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद:** यह television पर discussion चल रहा था। इस तरह से माननीय गृह मंत्री जी का यहां कहना बड़ी dichotomy है, आपसे में बड़ी तरदीद है। आपने कहा कि बिल्कुल fair and objective process चल रहा है। अगर यह fair and objective process है तो ये दोनों आदमी, एक आर्मी में 30 साल और दूसरा Air Force में 30 साल service करने के बाद भी लिस्ट से बाहर कैसे हैं? मेरे ख्याल में माननीय गृह मंत्री जी को कहना चाहिए कि process में गड़बड़ हो सकती है, अगर आप पहले ही कहेंगे कि process ठीक है तो फिर आपने इसमें क्या करना है? ... (व्यवधान) ... यह मुझे आपसे अनिवार्य रूप से कहना है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

†جناب غلام نبی آزاد: یہ ٹیلی ویژن پر ڈسکشن چل رہا تھا اس طرح سے مائینی گره منتری جی کا یہاں کہنا بڑی dichotomy ہے، آپس میں بڑی تردید ہے۔ آپ نے کہا کہ

بلکل fair and objective process چل رہا ہے۔ اگر یہ fair and objective process

ہے تو یہ دونوں آدمی، ایک آرمی میں تیس سال اور دوسرا انیروفرس میں تیس سال سروس کرنے کے بعد بھی لیسٹ سے باہر کیسے ہیں؟ میرے خیال میں مائینی گره منتری جی کو کہنا چاہیئے کہ پرسیز میں گزیر ہو سکتی ہے، اگر آپ پہلے ہی کہیں گے پرسیز ٹھیک ہے تو پھر آپ نے اس میں کیا کرنا ہے؟۔۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔۔ یہ مجھے آپ سے ضروری طور پر کہنا ہے۔۔۔ (مداخلت)۔۔

12.00 Noon

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद: एक question इन्होंने यहां उठाया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सरकार और पार्टी को एक भाषा में बोलना चाहिए - कोई कहता है कि हमने किया, कोई कहता है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने किया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

† جناب غلام نبی آزاد: ایک کونٹیشن انہوں نے یہاں اٹھایا۔۔۔ **(مداخلت)**۔۔۔ سرکار اور پارٹی کو ایک بھاشا بولنا چاہیئے۔ کوئی کہتا ہے کہ ہم نے کیا، کوئی کہتا ہے کہ سپریم کورٹ نے کیا۔۔۔ **(مداخلت)**۔۔۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, as there is no time,

आप नाम नोट करके सभी माननीय सदस्यों को लिखित रूप में उत्तर भेज दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... धन्यवाद।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...**(Interruptions)**... The Home Minister has taken note of all the suggestions and also the clarifications. Please go through it. I really feel sorry that I could not allow the Home Minister earlier. Normally it does not happen, but today, at least, we had an opportunity to hear the Home Minister. Many doubts have been clarified but still there are some doubts in the minds of the hon. Members. So, please take care of them and then send them answer. Question Hour. ...**(Interruptions)**... Question No.181. Mr. Minister. ...**(Interruptions)**... कृपया आप बैठ जाइए।

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, at 1 o'clock. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today is Friday. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please. What can I do? ...**(Interruptions)**... I have been cautioning the hon. Members. ...**(Interruptions)**... All the hon. Members, who want to go, please go quietly. ...**(Interruptions)**... If you want to remain, please remain quietly. ...**(Interruptions)**.. Please.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Subsidy for sugar sector

\*181. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a subsidy of ₹5.5 per quintal of sugarcane crushed during the 2017-18 season to help sugar mills clear more than ₹ 19,000 crore dues to cane growing farmers;

†Transliteration in Urdu script.



- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the assistance would be paid directly to farmers on behalf of mills; and
- (d) whether the subsidy would be adjusted against the Fair and Remunerative Price of 255 per quintal fixed by Government as the rate that mills must pay to cane growing farmers as well as the arrears of payments pending from various years?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) and (b) With a view to improve the liquidity position of the sugar mills to enable them to clear cane dues of farmers and to offset the cost of cane, the Central Government has extended assistance @ ₹ 5.50/quintal of cane crushed amounting to about ₹ 1540 crore.

(c) and (d) The assistance shall be paid directly to the farmers on behalf of the mills and be adjusted against the cane price dues payable to the farmers including arrears of previous seasons.

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Respected Chairman, Sir, the Indian sugar industry is already facing problems to clear arrears of cane growers and the sugar industry is also facing difficulties to realise the cost of their production. It is estimated that India's sugar production this year will touch 360 lakh metric tonnes and liquidating this will be a daunting task for them. In the meanwhile..

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your supplementary, Rathinavelji? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

SHRI. T. RAHINAVEL: In the meanwhile, India has imported about 30,000 quintals of sugar from Pakistan which is quite cheaper than the Indian sugar. This import, if continued, will have a serious repercussion on the Indian sugar industry which provides lakhs of people employment and helping sugarcane growers. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps by the Government to protect the domestic sugar from cheap import of sugar from the neighbouring countries, including Pakistan.

**उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी.आर. चौधरी):** ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन सर, माननीय सदस्य ने आपके माध्यम से यह चिंता जताई है कि भारत में चीनी का उत्पादन ज्यादा हो रहा है और यह बात सही है कि 2017-18 में हमारे देश में 316 लाख टन नहीं बल्कि लगभग 322 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन हुआ है। यह भी सही है कि जब उत्पादन कम होता है, तब भी चीनी का आयात होता है, निर्यात भी होता है। इसी प्रकार से पाकिस्तान या अन्य देशों से देश के अंदर जो चीनी आ रही है, वह हर साल 20 लाख टन के आसपास आयात होती है और हम 25 से 26 लाख टन चीनी का निर्यात भी करते हैं। जहां तक यह सवाल है कि हमारी चीनी का भाव ज्यादा कम न हो जाए, माननीय सदस्य ने यही प्रश्न पूछा था कि काश्तकारों को पैसा मिल जाए, इसी कारण से यह साढ़े पांच रुपए प्रति क्विंटल के हिसाब से फार्मर्स को पेमेंट करने के लिए दिया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Second supplementary.

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Respected Chairman, Sir, Tamil Nadu sugar industry has been passing through a difficult period as it has been hit by record low production following the failure of monsoon. The capacity utilisation for sugar mills in Tamil Nadu slumped to 25 per cent during the current season and that the cost of production has also gone up heavily. With low sugar prices, sugar mills in Tamil Nadu could neither pay the fair and remunerative price on time nor service nor repay the loans. So, it has been demand of sugar mills in Tamil Nadu that they should be exempted from export obligations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Are you exempting them from export obligations? ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not the system; you have to come to the operative part every time. In the beginning, it is okay.

**श्री सी.आर. चौधरी:** माननीय चेयरमैन सर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो चिंता जताई है कि because of failure of the monsoon तमिलनाडु में गन्ने का जितना प्रोडक्शन होना चाहिए, उतना नहीं हुआ है। वास्तव में पिछले दो-तीन साल से मानसून failure के कारण प्रोडक्शन भी कम हो रहा है और इसके साथ ही साथ इसका sowing area भी कम हो रहा है, यह बात सही है। यहां पर 36 मिलें हैं, उनमें से 26 मिलें काम कर रही हैं, उसके मुकाबले they are not getting the raw material, they are not getting the sugarcane. अब जहां तक माननीय सदस्य का यह मानना है, I would say that इस संबंध में पूरे देश की यही स्थिति है, इसलिए पूरे देश में sugar producing जितनी भी स्टेट्स हैं, उन सबको हमने साढ़े पांच रुपये प्रति क्विंटल का फायदा दिया है। फैक्टरी गेट पर जो मिनिमम 29 रुपए प्रति किलोग्राम का रेट है, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में पहली बार यह रेट फिक्स किया गया है, इसे not below ₹ 29 किया गया है। इसी प्रकार से subvention of interest है। इसमें ई.बी.पी. को एथनॉल बनाने के लिए काफी छूट दी गई है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि कई प्रकार से relaxations दिए गए हैं, ताकि फैक्टरी वालों को...

**श्री सभापति:** उनका सवाल है कि are you going to give them exemption from export obligation?

**SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY:** It is not possible.

**श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर:** माननीय सभापति महोदय, जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया, उन्होंने एथेनॉल बनाने की भी बात की। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों की गन्ने के बकाये की बड़ी भारी समस्या है। मैं सरकार को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि इन्होंने मिलों को साढ़े पांच रुपए incentive दिया है। मैं इसे मिलों के लिए incentive कहूँगा, क्योंकि यह किसान का नहीं है, किसानों को तो पूरा उतना ही मिलना है।

**श्री सभापति:** आप अपना सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर:** सर, सरकार का 1,540 करोड़ रुपए खर्च हो रहा है, सरकार 30 लाख मीट्रिक टन के लिए bufferstock भी बना रही है। सरकार ने गन्ने के रस से बनने वाले एथेनॉल के लिए साढ़े चार हजार करोड़ रुपए दिए हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो एथेनॉल गन्ने के रस से बनेगा, उसे दस प्रतिशत तक पेट्रोल में मिलाने की कोई योजना है?

**श्री सी.आर. चौधरी:** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके मार्फत माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूँगा कि जो एथेनॉल बनाया जा रहा है, वह वास्तव में पेट्रोल में मिस्र करने के लिए ही बनाया जा रहा है। हमारा इसे 10 प्रतिशत तक करने का इरादा है, जबकि अभी चार प्रतिशत तक पहुँच गया है, इस कारण एथेनॉल बनाने की परमिशन दी गई है। पहले ethanol molasses 6 कैटेगरीज़ का था, उसके बाद हम 'सी' और 'बी' category के molasses को काम में ले रहे हैं और उनकी परमिशन दे दी गई है।

**कुमारी शैलजा:** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहती हूँ कि हरियाणा में हजारों किसानों को बार-बार धरने पर बैठना पड़ता है, क्योंकि उन्हें उनके dues समय पर नहीं मिलते और इतने dues हो जाते हैं कि उन्हें बार-बार धरने पर बैठना पड़ता है। मंत्री जी, क्या यह बताएंगे कि हरियाणा के कितने farmers के dues अभी बकाया हैं? अभी किसानों का कितना amount बकाया है, कितने farmers के बकाया हैं? खासकर यमुना नगर और अंबाला क्षेत्र में कितने किसानों के बकाया हैं? इस सवाल में पूछा गया है कि 19,000 करोड़ due हैं और आपने कहा कि इस वष आप सिर्फ 1540 करोड़ रुपए देंगे, तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह तो ऊंट के मुँह में जीरा होगा। माननीय मंत्री जी, खासकर हरियाणा के बारे में बताएं।

**श्री सभापति:** मंत्री जी, अगर आपके पास जानकारी नहीं है, तो आप नोट करके बाद में बता दें। अगर अभी बता सकते हैं, तो बताइए।

**श्री रामविलास पासवान:** सर, मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि दो रेट्स होते हैं, एक एफ.आर.पी. होता है और दूसरा एस.ए.पी. होता है। जहां तक हरियाणा के वर्ष 2017-18 के बकाये का सवाल है, उसके बारे में मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने जो एफ.आर.पी. रेट फिक्स किया है, उसके मुताबिक किसानों का बकाया जीरो है। एस.ए.पी., जिसको राज्य सरकारें तय करती हैं, उसके मुताबिक किसानों का बकाया 693 करोड़ है। इस प्रकार, वर्ष 2016-17 में जो बकाया था, वह सारा का सारा भुगतान हो चुका है।

**प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव:** सभापति महोदय, पिछले कुछ वर्षों में देश में चीनी का जो उत्पादन हुआ है, वह खपत से ज्यादा हुआ है। इसके बावजूद, गवर्नमेंट ने चीनी को इम्पोर्ट किया है। चीनी आज देश में surplus है और surplus होने के बाद भी उसका import किया गया, जिसकी वजह से मिलों की भी स्थिति खराब हुई और किसानों का जो लगभग 22 हजार करोड़ रुपया बकाया था, उसको मिल अदा नहीं कर सके। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब पर्याप्त मात्रा में चीनी यहां उपलब्ध है, तो वह import क्यों कराई जाती है और उस import करवाने की वजह से किसानों को जो पैसा नहीं मिल पा रहा है, मिलों की हालत खराब हो गई है, उसको सुधारने के लिए आप क्या काम करेंगे? क्या आप चीनी को एक्सपोर्ट करने की कोई व्यवस्था करेंगे? मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि इम्पोर्ट लगातार बढ़ रहा है और एक्सपोर्ट घट रहा है। ऐसा होने के जो भी कारण हैं, उनमें परिवर्तन करना पड़ेगा।

**श्री सी.आर. चौधरी:** माननीय चेयरमैन महोदय, मैं आपके मार्फत माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि वर्ष 2016-17 के लिए हमारा प्रोडक्शन काफी कम हुआ। वह 202 लाख टन तक हुआ, जबकि इससे पहले वह करीब दो-ढाई लाख टन था और उससे पहले वह 285 लाख टन भी था, जो कि अभी बढ़कर 322 लाख टन हो गया, तो यह variation प्रोडक्शन के अंदर आ रहा है। जब प्रोडक्शन कम होता है, तो निश्चित रूप से गवर्नमेंट इस बात की चिन्ता करती है। जब चीनी का भाव 40 रुपए किलो से क्रॉस करने लग जाता है, then we have to import sugar from other countries, ताकि चीनी का भाव स्थिर रहे। यदि हम इम्पोर्ट नहीं करें और चीनी 50 रुपए किलो हो, then what will happen to consumers? तो यह भी देखना पड़ेगा।

**श्री रामविलास पासवान:** सभापति जी, माननीय राम गोपाल जी ने जो प्रश्न पूछा है, उसके संबंध में इन्होंने पहले ही बतला दिया है कि 322 लाख टन हमारी पैदावार हुई है, 40 लाख टन carry forward है, उसमें से 30 लाख टन हम बफर स्टॉक के लिए रख रहे हैं और हमने कहा है कि 20 लाख टन का एक्सपोर्ट किया जाए। उसके बावजूद, हमें नवम्बर से लेकर दो महीने के लिए 20 लाख टन के हिसाब से रखना पड़ता है और उसके बाद भी कुल मिलाकर 12 लाख टन बचता है। आपने जो कहा है, उसके संबंध में मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोगों के पास एक ही हथियार है कि हम इम्पोर्ट ङ्कूटी को मैक्सिमम कर सकते हैं। पहले इम्पोर्ट ङ्कूटी 50 परसेंट थी, उसमें relaxation देकर हमने जीरो परसेंट कर दिया है। उसके बावजूद, यह देखना आवश्यक है कि हम कंट्री-वाइज़ नहीं चलते हैं कि एक कानून किसी एक कंट्री के लिए बनाएं और पाकिस्तान के लिए दूसरा बनाएं। हमने जो relaxation दिया है, वह 100 परसेंट दिया है। सरकार इम्पोर्ट नहीं कर रही है, यह ओपन मार्केट में कितनी चीनी रिलीज़ हो, बफर स्टॉक बनाने का काम हो, जिससे किसानों को पैसा मिले। किसानों को पैसा तभी मिलता है, जब मिल-मालिक घाटे में नहीं चलता है। इसलिए हम मिल-मालिक को घाटे में नहीं रहने देना चाहते हैं और किसान को पेमेंट करवाना चाहते हैं, लेकिन उसके बाद भी अगर मिल-मालिक पेमेंट नहीं करता है, तो यह राज्य सरकार की जवाबदेही होती है कि वह उसके खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई करे।

**Handling of Aadhaar database by public and private agencies**

\*182.SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Aadhaar database of tens of thousands of citizens is handled in an irresponsible manner by various public and private agencies;
- (b) whether Government has noticed that news-items are often appearing in media regarding leakages of Aadhaar data; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of the threat posed by mishandling of Aadhaar database, both to the security of the nation and privacy of the individuals?

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

***Statement***

(a) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) does not share its data with anyone except as per the provisions of Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Regulations framed thereunder.

Sharing of information or seeding of Aadhaar information with the authorised agencies is governed as per the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.

Section 29 (1) of the Aadhaar Act 2016 read together with Regulation 3(1) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 categorically states that no core biometric information, collected or created under the Aadhaar Act, shall be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever; or used for any purpose other than generation of Aadhaar numbers and authentication under the Act.

Regulation 4(1) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 provides that core biometric information collected or captured by a requesting entity from Aadhaar number holder at the time of authentication shall not be shared for any reason whatsoever.

Further, Section 30 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 applies the rigours of the IT Act, 2000 and the rules thereunder whereby Biometric Information is deemed to be Sensitive Personal Information.

Additionally, Chapter VII of the Act lays down monetary penalties and imprisonment for unauthorized sharing of residents' identity information. Any violation to the provisions of the Aadhaar Act is a criminal offence.

(b) Aadhaar has built digital trust among people at large and some devious elements are trying to spread misinformation.

Aadhaar is one of the key enablers for the 'Digital India' movement in general and 'Jandhan, Adhaar, Mobile (JAM) Trinity' in particular, when it comes to service delivery with enhanced efficiency. Aadhaar has also evolved as an instrument for promoting good governance and enabling the poor to rightfully secure their due benefits by availing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to their Aadhaar linked bank accounts which number about 95 crore as on 20.07.2018.

Aadhaar has helped in weeding out fake, ghost and duplicate beneficiaries. Benefits/ gains from DBT and such other Governance Reforms are estimated to be ₹ 90,012.71 crore upto March 2018. With Aadhaar, services to beneficiaries have become more meaningful, transparent and corruption-free through direct deliveries without middlemen. Hence, Aadhaar inspires more confidence and trust between person to person and person to system transactions than any other identity document in India. Truly, Aadhaar is a game changer for the poor.

In respect of so-called data leak reported in certain sections of media, it is to clarify that there has been no security breach of UIDAI's database or Central Identity Data Repository (CIDR). The said media news reports are not based on proper comprehension of the facts.

UIDAI database is encrypted, safe and robustly secure. There has not been a single case of identity theft leading to any financial loss reported till date.

(c) There has been no case of mishandling of UIDAI database till date.

Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and has deployed the necessary technology and infrastructure to secure Aadhaar database. 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.

UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain the highest level of data security and

integrity. UIDAI has adequate legal, organizational and technological measures in place for the security of the data stored with UIDAI. Data Protection measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to ensure the security of data. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data.

Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. Further, 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 there under have been specifically drafted keeping in account the various security requirements in respect of data collected by UIDAI. Security Audits are conducted on regular basis by Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, which is an attached office of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. Further in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, I had gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister very carefully and constrained to say that his reply deeply disappointed me. Sir, it is not about misinformation. It is not about some unruly elements. The truth is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your supplementary. You cannot make a statement. This is Question Hour.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, people's perception is that Aadhaar has become *niradhaar*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was my phrase once upon a time. If they become *niradhaar*, then they will, ultimately, become *janadhaar*. वह आगे जाकर जनाधार होगा।

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: The task is to give them *aadhaar*, not to make them *niradhaar*. The present Aadhaar regime is making them *niradhaar*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, Mr. Minister.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir,

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, I cannot allow speeches to go on record during Question Hour. I will go to next question.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, my question is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you ask your question?

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: It is a serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: See, this is not the way. You are a new Member. I thought you will understand how questions are asked by looking at others. I will go to the next supplementary.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, my second supplementary is this.

Sir, Srikrishna Committee has talked about 'critical information' and 'non-critical information.' What is the approach of the Government on this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: See, how simple the question is. This is important.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, with great respect, Aadhaar was *niradhaar*, because there was no law earlier to back it up. When we came to power, we gave *aadhaar* to Aadhaar by an Act of Parliament. Therefore, now, there is a proper Act of Parliament to back Aadhaar. That is one thing.

The second part is, Srikrishna Report on data privacy and data law is a draft Report. It is in public domain. Let the Government, stakeholders and other people concerned have the widest consultation possible. Consultation was done in the past and consultations will be done again. But, as far as Aadhaar is concerned, the core biometrics is a very much critical component which is completely safe and secure that even the billionth of the time you try, you cannot crack it. I can only say one thing. People have got a right to have information about Aadhaar. But, today, Aadhaar operation has led to empowerment of the poor people. There has been a saving of ₹ 90,000 crores.

**श्री हरिवंश:** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा, मेरा सवाल दो फैक्ट्स रखकर है, कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की जो खुली लूट चलती थी, जिसके बारे में सरकार के ग्रामीण विकास के एक पूर्व सचिव ने कहा कि अगर यह राशि सीधे मनी ऑर्डर से गरीबों को भेज दी जाए तो 10 वर्ष में इनकी गरीबी खत्म हो जाएगी। वर्ष 1985 में एक पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि 100 पैसे चलते हैं तो 15 पैसे पहुंचते हैं। मेरा सवाल है कि इस लूट को रोकने में पहली बार आधार सफल हुआ है, ऐसी खबरें आती हैं और आधार के खिलाफ ऐसे काम में लगे ...**(व्यवधान)**...



**श्री सभापति:** आपका सवाल क्या है?

**श्री हरिवंश:** उनके संरक्षक हर संभव अभियान चला रहे हैं, इससे कितनी बचत हुई? इसके बारे में मंत्री जी बताएं।

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** महोदय, एक डायरेक्ट बेनिफिट ट्रांसफर कार्यक्रम चलता है, जिसमें गरीबों के लिए कल्याणकारी योजनाएं जैसे 'पहल' व अन्य हैं। इनकी सबकी सब्सिडी का पैसा सीधे गरीबों के बैंक अकाउंट में जाता है। जन-धन के 31 करोड़, आधार के 121 करोड़ और बाकी मोबाइल फोन से कनेक्ट करके जाता है। जैसा कि मैंने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि 90,012.17 करोड़ रुपये इसमें बचे हैं, जो बिचौलिये खा जाया करते थे। यह सच्चाई है, यह एक उपलब्धि है, इसे देश को सेलिब्रेट करना चाहिए।

**श्री सन्तियुस कुजूर:** मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि असम में अब तक आधार कार्ड इश्यू करने का काम शुरू नहीं हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि असम में आधार पर कार्ड इश्यू करने का काम कब से शुरू होगा और इसके लिए मंत्री महोदय ने क्या कदम उठाया है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, it was stopped in Assam.

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** असम में आधार का काम National population register के कारण नहीं हुआ, जो प्रश्न आप माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से पूछ रहे थे। कालिता जी जानते होंगे, यह चर्चा का विषय था, लेकिन वहां के मुख्य मंत्री ने अब सक्रियता दिखाई है, बैठक हुई है और मुझे लगता है कि इस दिशा में जल्दी ही कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए।

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, my specific question, since the hon. Minister has asserted that it is absolutely secure and foolproof, is that day-before-yesterday, the TRAI Chairman had made public his Aadhaar Card. It was immediately hacked; his bank accounts were tracked; and, money was deposited in the bank account of TRAI Chairman. So, please do not assert it. There is a need to make it secure. The Minister must look into that and explain as to how it happened.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as far as that particular case is concerned, the UIDAI has given a public statement that the claim was wrong. Also, the UIDAI has issued a public advisory not to unnecessarily disclose things.

But, Sir, I would like to put a question here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot put a question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I want to put a question in reply. Mr. Anand Sharma is a distinguished national leader and also the Deputy Leader of his party. His mobile phone is available on the website of the Rajya Sabha. In this digital world, you leave footprints while being in public life. But what is important is the 'core biometrics'.

So, this and the iris should never be broken and have never been broken. And, we are consciously undertaking audit to issue guidelines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 183. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no need to stand. ...*(Interruptions)*... All names are being noted. And, then, as I told you, I would look into certain things, like, area, party, importance of the question, whether you had been given opportunity yesterday also, etc., etc. All these things are to be kept in mind. I have a system also.

### **Low returns on farm produces**

\*183. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lower returns on farm produces is the main reason behind farmers' distress;
- (b) whether it is a fact that bargaining power of farmers has declined in the past few years;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that real MSPs have been stagnant under the present Central Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### ***Statement***

(a) and (b) Farmers' distress is caused by multiple reasons including crop loss inflicted by natural calamities, infestation by pests and debt (loan) etc. In order to enhance farmers' return for their farm produce and thereby improve their bargaining power, DAC&FW has adopted multipronged strategy such as improving the productivity, reducing cost of production as well as improving production, market structure and efficiency and value addition. In order to improve the marketing system for farmers to get better remunerative prices for their produce and for improving their bargaining power, Government has taken the following steps:

- (i) Launched e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) and e-trading platform to facilitate farmers to realise better price through online, transparent competitive bidding system.

- (ii) Released model "The State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017" (APLM Act). Model APLM Act guides the States to amend their marketing laws to promote a competitive, efficient markets;
- (iii) Released model "Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" for adoption by the States/UTs. Contract Farming Act on adoption by the States aims at facilitating, mitigation of price risk and market uncertainties for the contracting sponsors including farmers.
- (iv) Development and up-gradation of rural haats as Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). GrAMs would provide better access to market and marketing, while helping to reduce wastages and marketing costs.
- (v) Promoting collectivisation of farmers through formation of FPOs, Cooperatives etc. to improve their economy of scale and improving collective bargaining power of farmers.

(c) and (d) Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP. The MSP declared during 2012-13 to 2018-19 for various crops is given in the Annexure (*See below*). It would be seen that there has been constant increase in MSP during the period. In the budget for 2018-19 the Government had announced that MSP for all unannounced Kharif crops will be 1.5 times the cost of production. Giving a major boost for the farmers income, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 04.07.2018 has approved the increase in the MSPs for all Kharif crops for 2018-19 season at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production.

#### *Annexure*

##### *7 years MSP Statement for various crops*

			(₹ per quintal)						
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Kharif Crops</b>									
1.	Paddy	Common	1250	1310	1360	1410	1470	1550	1750
		Grade 'A'	1280	1345	1400	1450	1510	1590	1770

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1500	1500	1530	1570	1625	1700	2430
		Maldandi	1520	1520	1550	1590	1650	1725	2450
3.	Bajra		1175	1250	1250	1275	1330	1425	1950
4.	Maize		1175	1310	1310	1325	1365	1425	1700
5.	Ragi		1500	1500	1550	1650	1725	1900	2897
6.	Arhar(Tur)		3850	4300	4350	4625^	5050^^	5450^	5675
7.	Moong		4400	4500	4600	4850^	5225^^	5575^	6975
8.	Urad		4300	4300	4350	4625^	5000^^	5400^	5600
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3600	3700	3750	3800	3860	4020	5150
		Long Staple	3900	4000	4050	4100	4160	4320	5450
10.	Groundnut in Shell		3700	4000	4000	4030	4220*	4450^	4890
11.	Sunflower Seed		3700	3700	3750	3800	3950*	4100*	5388
12.	Soyabean	Black	2200	2500	2500	-	-	-	-
		Yellow ##	2240	2560	2560	2600	2775*	3050^	3399
13.	Sesamum		4200	4500	4600	4700	5000^	5300*	6249
14.	Nigerseed		3500	3500	3600	3650	3825*	4050*	5877
<b>Rabi Crops</b>									
15.	Wheat		1350	1400	1450	1525	1625	1735	
16.	Barley		980	1100	1150	1225	1325	1410	
17.	Gram		3000	3100	3175	3500**	4000^	4400@	
18.	Masur (Lentil)		2900	2950	3075	3400**	3950@	4250*	
19.	Rapeseed/ Mustard		3000	3050	3100	3350	3700*	4000*	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20.	Safflower		2800	3000	3050	3300	3700*	4100*	
21.	Toria		2970	3020	3020	3290	3560	3900*	
<b>Other Crops</b>									
22.	Copra	Milling	5100	5250	5250	5550	5950	6500	7511
	(Calender Year)	Ball	5350	5500	5500	5830	6240	6785	7750
23.	De-Husked Coconut		1400	1425	1425	1500	1600	1760	2030
	(Calender Year)								
24.	Jute		2200	2300	2400	2700	3200	3500	3700
25.	Sugarcane*		170	210	220	230	230	255	275

# Fair and remunerative price.

## Single MSP of Soyabean (yellow) is recommended by CACP since 2015-16, as black variety of soyabean is no longer cultivated in major producing States. Since 2015-16, MSP of Soyabean yellow is also applicable to black variety.

\* Including Bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal.

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

^ Including Bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal.

^^ Including Bonus of ₹ 425 per quintal.

@ including bonus of ₹ 150 per quintal.

**सरदार सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा:** सभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न के चार पार्ट्स थे, इन्होंने दो के जवाब दिए हैं। इन्होंने पांच एक्शन लिए हैं। मैं सहमत हूँ और बधाई भी देना चाहता हूँ कि इन्होंने कुछ स्टेप्स लिए हैं, वे अच्छे हैं, लेकिन आज मेन विषय एमएसपी का है। आपने मुझे दो प्रश्न ही पूछने देने हैं, पहले तो मैं पूछना चाहूँगा कि एमएसपी में आपने जो प्राइस फिक्स किए हैं, उसकी कीमत मार्केट में बहुत कम मिल रही है, आप उसका डिफरेंस कैसे देंगे और उनको कैसे मिलेगा?

**श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत:** माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य का धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर प्रश्न किया है। हाल ही में देश की सरकार ने एमएसपी बढ़ाने का ऐतिहासिक निर्णय लिया है और इस बात को principally लागू भी कर दिया है कि किसान को लागत का 50 प्रतिशत लाभकारी मूल्य मिलना चाहिए। किसान को लाभकारी मूल्य मिले, इसके लिए सरकार विभिन्न उपक्रमों और योजनाओं के माध्यम से खरीद करती है। एससीआई के माध्यम से गेहूँ और चावल की खरीद होती है और अन्य coarse grains- दलहन, तिलहन और कपास की खरीद Price Stabilisation Scheme और Price Stabilisation Fund के माध्यम से की जाती है, ताकि किसान को सही भाव मिल सके और इसको सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।

**श्री सभापति:** सेकेंड सप्लीमेंटरी।

**सरदार सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा:** हमारे पंजाब में मार्किट में मक्का आ रही है, उसकी बहुत कम कीमत मिल रही है। यह मेरा पहला सवाल था। इनका जो कहना है, मेरा ख्याल है कि उसे ज़रा देख लें, वह गलत है।

दूसरा, जो इन्होंने एमएसपी को डेढ़ गुना किया है, यह बहुत अच्छा काम है। मैं इसके लिए इनको बधाई देता हूँ। लेकिन इन्होंने कुछ स्टेट्स के लिए ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, no comments.

**सरदार सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा:** लेकिन इन्होंने कुछ स्टेट्स में ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** यह तो आपका काम है।

**सरदार सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा:** लेकिन कुछ स्टेट्स में उसका उतना फायदा नहीं मिल रहा है। जैसे पंजाब की बात है, इन्होंने जो फार्मूला तय किया है, उसके अंतर्गत सी(2) लागू नहीं किया। उससे स्पेशली पंजाब और हरियाणा को बहुत बड़ा फर्क पड़ता है।

दूसरा, मैं मंत्री जी से यह कहूंगा कि आप उसका ज़ोन बढ़ा दीजिए। अगर स्टेटवाइज नहीं करते, तो कुछ स्टेट्स का ज़ोन बढ़ा दें, ताकि उनका जो cost of production है, वह स्टेट का, हर ज़ोन का ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति:** धन्यवाद। वे यह पूछ रहे हैं कि क्या आप ज़ोन के बारे में सोचेंगे?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत अच्छा सवाल उठाया है और हम सबके भी ध्यान में होना चाहिए कि धान और गेहूँ की खरीदारी फूड एण्ड सप्लाय मिनिस्ट्री के द्वारा होती है। दलहन, तिलहन और खरीदारी पीएसएस योजना के तहत होती है और जूट, कपास की खरीदारी के लिए अलग बोर्ड है, लेकिन मोटे अनाजों की खरीदारी नहीं होती थी। हमने एक बार न सिर्फ समर्थन मूल्य डेढ़ गुना किया है, बल्कि राज्यों से बातचीत कर रहे हैं, नीति आयोग के साथ भी बातचीत कर रहे हैं। हम इस बार यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि मोटे अनाजों की भी खरीदारी हो।

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया:** माननीय सभापति जी, सरकार के न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य और उसको डेढ़ गुना किए जाने के निर्णय से किसानों को लाभ होगा। मेरा सीधे प्रश्न, जो फसलें खराब हो जाती हैं, के संबंध में है। मध्य प्रदेश में हमारे अंचल में लहसुन और प्याज़ बड़ी तादाद में पैदा होता है। जब फसल की पैदावार आती है, तो उस पैदावार को लम्बे समय तक सुरक्षित करने का कोई उपाय नहीं है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि प्याज़ और लहसुन का भंडारण करने के लिए और उसको सुरक्षित रखने के लिए आपने कौन-सी विधि और कौन-सी डिवाइस तय की है?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** जो जिन्स नोटिफाइड हैं, ऐसे 24 जिन्सों की खरीदारी मूल्य समर्थन योजना के तहत होती है। ऐसे जो उत्पाद हैं, जिनका समर्थन मूल्य नहीं है, उनके लिए बाज़ार हस्तक्षेप

योजना है और जब भी राज्यों से प्रस्ताव आता है, तो हम तुरंत 24 घंटे के अंदर उसको मंजूरी देते हैं। पिछले 4 वर्षों के अंदर बड़े पैमाने पर समर्थन मूल्य में जो जिन्स नोटिफाइड नहीं हैं, उनकी खरीदारी बाज़ार हस्तक्षेप योजना से की है और इस बार एक नई योजना लॉन्च की है। टमाटर, आलू और प्याज़ के लिए ऑपरेशन ग्रीन और लहसुन को हम बाज़ार हस्तक्षेप योजना के तहत खरीदते हैं। जब भी हमारे पास मध्य प्रदेश के प्रस्ताव राजस्थान के प्रस्ताव या किसी अन्य राज्य के प्रस्ताव आए हैं, चाहे तेलंगाना से आए हैं, आंध्र प्रदेश से आए हैं, इस योजना के तहत हमने इसकी मंजूरी दी है।

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers' distress is widespread. Even our Economic Review says that climate change is not in favour of farmers. Again, the productivity comes down. My question to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is this. Market alone cannot solve the problem because the input cost is going up. Unless you increase the productivity of the farmer and they get help from the market, the problem cannot be solved. What steps have you taken to increase the productivity, procurement and other things in the States?

श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत: सभापति महोदय, जहां तक productivity के increase का प्रश्न है, ICAR, Indian Council of Agricultural Research के अंतर्गत देश के विभिन्न कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों ने high productivity और high yield की varieties का देश की सभी commodities में, जिनका हमारे यहां उत्पादन होता है, अनुसंधान करके उनको मार्केट में प्रचलित किया है। Certified बीज अधिकतम संख्या में अधिकतम किसानों तक पहुंचें, इसको सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हमने सब जगह पर माकूल व्यवस्थाएं की हैं। माननीय सदस्य ने climate change के विषय में प्रश्न किया है, जो पूरे विश्व के लिए चिंता का विषय है। Climate change से हमारे आने वाले समय में कृषि का कार्य प्रभावित न हो और किसानों की productivity उसके कारण कम न हो, इसके लिए हमने एक विशेष योजना बनाकर NICRA कार्यक्रम के तहत ऐसे climate resilient villages डेवलप किए हैं, जहां पर हम अग्रिम पंक्ति का प्रदर्शन किसानों की जानकारी के लिए कर रहे हैं।

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Is it a fact that in 2015 his Ministry issued a circular to the State Governments that the State Government can give no special bonus over and above MSP and those State Governments which give extra bonus over and above MSP, the Food Corporation of India will not procure additional paddy from that State? If that is a fact, why then has there been exception and some States have been allowed to give bonus over and above the MSP? This is what I would like to know from the Minister.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, FCI मेरे मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत नहीं है और मेरे मंत्रालय से ऐसा कोई परिपत्र जारी नहीं हुआ है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: No, Sir. There has been a circular and that has been. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 184. Mr. K.C. Ramamurthy.

**Spreading fake news in social media**

\*184.SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has observed that fake news in social media, particularly on WhatsApp, are spreading like anything;

(b) whether the Ministry has any guidelines to curb such things or has given any direction to WhatsApp to curb fake news on its platform;

(c) if so, when such instructions have been issued and whether it has yielded positive results; and

(d) whether social platform like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, etc., are working with Ministries of Communications, Home Affairs, IT and the local police to address these and other issues, if so, the details thereof?

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

***Statement***

(a) to (c) There are media reports about increase in fake news, misinformation/disinformation on Internet particularly using WhatsApp platform. Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY) took note of this and issued a notice to WhatsApp on 3rd July 2018. In their response submitted on the same day, WhatsApp has conveyed a number of steps taken by them to address the issue of fake news propagated using their platform. In particular, they have shared the strategy of "Giving people the controls and information they need to stay safe" and "To work proactively to prevent misuse on WhatsApp". Subsequently on 19th July % 2018, Government issued second notice to WhatsApp conveying that they need to come out with more effective solutions that can bring in accountability and facilitate enforcement of law in addition to the promised efforts towards labelling forwards and weeding out fake news.

Section 79 of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides that intermediaries are required to follow due diligence. WhatsApp and other social media



sites are intermediaries within the definition of the IT Act. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under this section requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, Publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors or is unlawful in any way.

In this regard, an elaborate and detailed statement has already been made before this house on 26.07.2018 while replying to the debate on a calling attention motion which is given in the Annexure (*See below*).

(d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been regularly conducting meeting with popular social media sites like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter etc. MHA has also issued a number of advisories which includes advisory on untoward incidents in the name of protection of cows dated 9.8.2016, advisory on cyber crime prevention and control dated 13.1.2018 and also an advisory on incidents of lynching by mobs in some States fuelled by rumours of lifting/kidnapping of children dated 4.7.2018. Pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court's order dated 17.7.2018 in WP(C) 754/2016, MHA has issued a directive on 23.7.2018 to all States for implementation of directions of the apex court and has constituted a Group of Ministers and a High level Committee to make recommendations in this matter.

#### ***Annexure***

*Statement on Calling Attention Motion Notice under Rule 180 of Rajya Sabha on  
"Misuse of Social Media Platforms and propagation of fake news  
causing unrest and violence" on 26 July 2018*

**Hon'ble Chairman,**

I rise to make a statement on Misuse of Social Media Platforms and propagation of fake news causing unrest and violence. Honorable Members of Parliament Shri Bhubneshwar Kalita,, Shri V. Muraleedharan, Shri Mahesh Poddar, Shri Rajeev Chandrashekhar, Prof Manoj Kumar Jha and Ms. Saroj Pandey have given a notice regarding calling attention motion that *inter alia* seeks to draw attention to the problem of "Misuse of Social Media Platforms to spread rumours and fake news leading to rising incidents of violence and lynching in the country".

**2. Nature of Cyberspace**

- 2.1 The issue raised by my colleagues is extremely relevant. It is important to appreciate the nature of cyberspace and its present status in the country for a comprehensive view in this matter. Cyberspace has distinct and unique characteristics as compared to physical space. It is virtual, borderless and offers anonymity to an extent. As a result, cyber-attacks can be launched from anywhere in the world with limited possibility of trace back and positive attribution. Once anybody is on internet he can access any system on internet spread across the globe from anywhere. The cyber space offers virtual environment where anyone can hide his identity on the network and create a pseudo name or can acquire some other identity. The security of the computer infrastructure acquires greater importance under these conditions.
- 2.2 With widespread proliferation of new technologies like social media and mobile apps, etc. there are some miscreants who are misusing these technologies for committing cybercrimes. Such behaviour is facilitated by virtual and borderless nature of cyber space, where anyone can open account in any name including fake name from any part of the world. Most social networking sites do not conduct background information check and their servers are located abroad.

**3. Social Media Platforms**

- 3.1 Social media platforms have become the most prominent media to facilitate interactions. They have led to growth of digital medium. Popular social media platforms are Facebook, Twitter, Linked in, Instagram, Youtube, WhatsApp etc. Any user can post any content (text, image, video, speech, etc.) from anywhere on social media platform. Typically users of these platforms are identified by the profiles they create. Users are required to provide certain amount of personal information to facilitate connections. These sites facilitate communication between users by means such as fora, chat rooms, blogs, tweets, email, instant messenger etc. In addition several customized features and applications are provided on these websites to share information, photos, audio and video files.
- 3.2 India is today emerging as a big digital power with a proactive people-centric program of creating digital infrastructure focusing on digital delivery of services and thereby digital empowerment leading to digital inclusion where every common man is enjoying benefits of digital governance. With a strong base of 118 crore mobile phones, about 122 crore Aadhaar numbers and 32 crore Jan Dhan accounts

being opened, new milestones in digital delivery of various benefits to the citizens have been created. Riding on this Jan-dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile (JAM) Trinity, the implementation of various welfare schemes have been streamlined where by fictitious duplicate claimants have been identified and weeded out resulting in savings of over rupees 90, 000 crores as a result of such direct benefit transfer to the citizens. Initiatives like e- hospital, Jeevan Pramaan, e-scholarships, e- soil health cards, digital payments, digital locker, cloud services and Umang app wherein the citizen can avail the services of over 1,200 schemes of Central or State Governments in the palms of ordinary Indians, empowering the citizens in pursuit of digital inclusion.

- 3.3 India is also a globally recognised IT power where Indian IT companies have displayed their potential on the Global stage and have brought great respect to India. Of late, India is becoming a big centre of the startup movement. The digital literacy scheme namely PMG DISHA that seeks to empower over 6 crore Indians is showing great results. Today innovation, entrepreneurship and inclination of ordinary Indians to improve the fruits of technology are being appreciated globally. The government is taking initiatives so that in a few years India could become a 1 trillion dollar digital economy.
- 3.4 Of late India has also become an important country where social media platforms have spread their wings. The spread of social media has also in its own way contributed to awareness, connectivity, education, community self-help, information and updates, and business promotion. All this could happen because the big digital economy operates beyond geographical borders.

3.5 Userbase of social networking sites by March 2018:

Social media	World User Base (in crores)	Indian Users (in crores)
Facebook	219	19.4
Twitter	33	2.6
YouTube	100	4.2
WhatsApp	150	20 (upto Feb 2017)

[Source : © Statista 2018]

4. **Challenges**

- 4.1 While acknowledging the benefits of digital empowerment it has also brought in challenges and some of its reckless abuse has posed a serious dilemma of striking the

balance between freedom of speech and expression, awareness, empowerment and the obligation to be responsible accountable so that mobile platforms do not become vehicles to commit crime, incite hatred, provoke terrorism, extremism, promote money laundering etc. The government because of its commitment to respect freedom of speech and expression, freedom of choice and responsibility towards the right to privacy of the citizen is equally cognizant of the mandate of article 19(2) of the Constitution of India where the freedom of speech and expression is subject to reasonable restrictions relating to sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

#### 4.2 **Fake news**

Fake news is a type of propaganda that consists of deliberate misinformation or hoaxes spread *via* traditional print and broadcast news media or online social media. It can include text, visual, audio, data report etc. Fake news is written and published with the intent to mislead in order to damage an agency, entity, or person, and/or gain financially or politically, create disturbance and unrest, often using sensational, dishonest, or outright fabricated headlines to increase readership, online sharing, and Internet click revenue. The typical attributes of fake news are that it spreads fast, is doctored, is incorrect, is malafide, is intentional, is sensational/glamorous, is unverified, and goes viral.

- 4.3 The Government is cognizant that social media platforms are being abused as vehicles for weaponisation of information against India's strategic interest and economic stability and is committed to taking suitable action to deter such action.

#### 5. **Action on misuse of social media and fake news**

- 5.1 Recently, it has come to the attention of the Government of India that a number of disturbing instances causing loss of innocent lives have taken place in various parts of the country. These are deeply painful and regrettable, as well as a matter of deep concern for the Government. The Government has taken prompt action. The first incident was reports of breach of data at Facebook wherein it was reported that data of a number of their users had been compromised by Cambridge Analytica. Immediately, notices were issued to the two companies and their response sought. Facebook responded that they will streamline their internal processes regarding handling of personal data. They stated that the case of Cambridge Analytica it was

a case of breach of trust. They promised to take various other steps to ensure that such breaches do not recur. Cambridge Analytica on the other hand gave an initial response that data of Indians was not breached but this was not in conformity with what was reported by Facebook. Cambridge Analytica also did not respond to a subsequent notice. Therefore, it is suspected that Cambridge Analytica may have been involved in illegally obtaining data of Indians which could be misused. The Government has entrusted this issue to be investigated by the CBI for possible violation of Information Technology Act, 2000 and IPC. There were also subsequent reports that data of users was illegally accessed by hardware manufacturers who had tie-ups with Facebook. In regard to this issue Facebook has also stated that they are not aware of any misuse of facebook information, including Indian users' information.

- 5.2 The other series of incidents relating to abuse of social media where mob lynchings were reported in various parts of the country consequent to circulation of wild rumours on WhatsApp as a result of which innocent people have lost their lives. The Government swiftly issued notice to WhatsApp since in most incidents such horrible events were preceded by viral circulation of rumours on this platform. In response, WhatsApp have taken steps to increase the friction in propagation of content on the platform by reducing the number of forwards to five and also indicating whether an incoming message is either forwarded or originally composed by the sender. They have also planned to remove the forward button that appears adjacent to the video or audio message. They have also informed that they will be bringing in fact checking and fake news verification mechanisms to help people check the veracity of content on the platform. While taking note of such response, it was felt that it was not adequate to meet the challenges of the situation. Therefore, WhatsApp has been asked to come out with better technological solutions so that misuse of the platform is avoided. Also, the Government has issued second notice issued to WhatsApp and it was conveyed to them, at the highest level that being a technological major company, it is equally their responsibility to promptly come up with technical solutions when a harmful message is in wide circulation on the same day in a particular area on a particular issue. It is their obligation to inform the law enforcement agencies when they notice such viral messages.

6. **Action taken by MHA**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a number of advisories including one advisory on untoward incidents in the name of protection of Cows dated 9th

August, 2016, another advisory on cyber crime prevention and control dated 13th January, 2018 and also an advisory on incidents of lynching by mobs in some States fuelled by rumours of lifting/kidnapping of children dated 4th July, 2018. Pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court's order dated 17th July, 2018 in WP(C) 754/2016, MHA has issued a directive to the States for implementation of directions of the apex court on 23rd July 2018 and has constituted a Group of Ministers and a High level Committee to make recommendations in this matter.

## 7. **Legal Provisions to deal with objectionable content on social media platform**

### 7.1 IT Act 2000

#### **Provisions for blocking and removal of content**

- (a) Blocking of websites/information : Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for blocking of websites/webpages in specific conditions of - (i) Defence of India (ii) Sovereignty and integrity of India (iii) Security of State (iv) Foreign relations with foreign States (v) Public Order (vi) or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offense relating to above.
- (b) Disabling or removal of information by intermediaries : Social media site (Intermediaries) are required to disable or remove any unlawful information as and when brought to their knowledge through a court order or by through appropriate Government or its agency. Various law enforcement agencies notify the social media sites for removal of contents / disabling of contents under provisions of section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

### 7.2 Blocking Compliance of section 69A of IT Act, 2000

- (i) The compliance of the intermediaries in the year 2017 is as follows:

	Facebook	YouTube	Twitter	Instagram	Others
No. of URLs blocked	457	95	321	41	51

- (ii) The compliance of the intermediaries in the year 2018 (till June 2018) is as follows:

	Facebook	YouTube	Twitter	Instagram	Tumblr
No. of URLs blocked	499	57	88	25	28

The legal provisions that are currently available with regard to the conduct of intermediaries, which includes various social media platforms, in order to respond to such developments are in the IT Act, 2000. Some of such provisions need to be revised and reinforced so that they can respond to the emerging challenges. This is proposed to be done by strengthening the implementation aspects section 79 of IT Act, 2000.

## 8. New Measures

- 8.1 It is critical for social media service providers regulated as 'online intermediaries' under Indian law, to ensure that the lawful provision of their services and platforms in India in order to continue to receive access to Indian users, should ensure and demonstrate their strict compliance with the Information Technology Act as well as all other applicable laws, as well as submit themselves and their services, platforms and other applications to the jurisdiction of Indian courts and authorities by having a physical presence in India.
- 8.2 To continue to target Indian users, such intermediaries must implement appropriate remedial measures and assist in curtailing any use of such services and platforms that perpetuate harm in Indian society, including loss of life or disruption of public order. This, at the very minimum, necessarily requires them to ensure that all such malicious messages circulated through their services or platforms in India can be traced, and their source of origin be effectively identified by law enforcement agencies or relevant public authority.
- 8.3 The Government is, therefore, seriously considering that through appropriate rules all social media platforms should be required to locate their grievance officer in India who could act as the point of contact for all communication with regard to such grievances. The duty of such grievance officer should cover not only to receive grievances on real time basis but also to inform law enforcement agencies. It is planned to issue directives in public interest to such intermediaries that would require all such social media platforms to ensure that their platforms do not become

vehicles for promoting hatred, terrorism, money laundering, mob violence and rumour mongering. They should provide for technological solutions so that verified fake news and provocative messages can be filtered by technical solutions. They should bring in a more effective mechanism for receiving grievances and they should report to the LEAs. They should also seek to provide the facility of verifying fake news on the platform itself.

- 8.4 Further, this government will strengthen the appropriate legal framework to ensure that significant social media and instant messaging service providers targeting Indian users do not deprive Indian users of the right to bring proceedings in India, and of the protections of Indian law.
- 8.5 The Government wishes to make it very clear that social media platforms run by any company or entity is an important stakeholder and therefore it cannot evade its responsibility, accountability and larger commitment to ensure that its platform is not misused on a large scale to spread incorrect facts projected as news and designed to instigate people to commit crime. If they do not take adequate and prompt action, then the law of abetment also applies to them. It is expected that while honouring freedom of speech and expression and right to inform and educate; the mandate of Article 19 (2) of the Constitution has to be kept in mind and there has to be a healthy balance in overriding public interest.
- 8.6 In addition to taking the above reinforcement of legal provisions to make the platforms more accountable, the Government will also promote initiatives to increase awareness among the citizens to become adept in noticing fake news and to avoid becoming a party to viral circulation of fake news. A campaign to educate school children about the misuse of social media for propagation of false news will be taken up. The Common Service Centres will also be engaged in the task of promoting this message among people especially in rural areas. Various stakeholders such as educational institutions, professional and industrial associations, chambers of commerce etc. would also be involved in this campaign. The State Governments will also be requested to join in this effort to make the citizens more aware to prevent the use and abuse of social media. In this regard I will be writing to all Chief Ministers.
9. Conclusion: Government is committed to freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the Constitution of India. Government does



not regulate content appearing on social network platform. These social network platforms, though, are required to follow due diligence as provided in section 79 of the Information Technology Act 2000 and the Rules notified therein. They have also to follow Article 19(2) of the Constitution and ensure that their platforms are not used to commit and provoke terrorism, extremism, violence and crime.

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for a detailed and satisfactory answer. However, Sir, recently, the Malaysian Government has promulgated Anti Fake News Act, 2018 and has defined what fake news is. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any attempt is made to define fake news and amend relevant penal provisions.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, this House may recall, under your directive, we had a very good Calling Attention Motion discussion, and, in the written replies also, as part of the annexure, I deeply appreciated your good comments about that.

Sir, the Malaysia Government has surely passed a law. I am aware of that. In India what is important is the need to have a consensus in the polity and society of the country as to what a fake news is. Fake news is something which does not require description. Even the existing laws cannot project something which is false, designed to provoke, designed to instigate to commit crime, and, therefore, if you see my reply, I have already taken proactive measures by commanding all the social media platforms. 'You are welcome to do business in India. India is emerging as a digital power; Facebook has the highest presence here; so is WhatsApp. But you have to be accountable and you must get technological solution which denies people the opportunity to get provoked.' In particular, Sir, I have emphasised upon them that 'you must have a Grievance Officer here. You must ensure that it is not circulated.' I have emphasised upon them — it is not a rocket science — as to how on the same day, on the same issue, in the same State, millions and lakhs of messages are getting circulated, you must get solutions.' They have responded. We will be very tough. 'You do business in a fair manner, enlighten, educate, awake.' But if this fake news is designed to provoke people to commit crime, plainly, it is not acceptable. That is how we are working.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jaya Bachchan. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: 'You are satisfied', you told, Mr. Ramamurthy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let others get an opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; please bear with me. Yes, Shrimati Jaya Bachchan.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: The Minister has really given a very exhaustive reply. Can I ask him two questions, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Two questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. One question only.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Okay. I am going to club it.

Sir, according to most of the people, this is a cyber crime, and how effective have you been in the measures, as you say, you have taken?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Very good.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I really appreciate a very straight question by hon. Member, Jayaji. If she would go through my reply, the enclosure part in particular, exercising the power under Section 69A of the IT Act, we have blocked 457 URLs of the Facebook, 95 of the YouTube, 321 of Twitter and 41 of Instagram. Also, I have given data on the compliance of intermediaries for two years, 2017-18. What is important, hon. Chairman, Sir, is that actions will be taken, and we are taking them. She is absolutely right that it borders on cyber crime. If by abuse of your platform people are getting provoked and instigated to commit crime, you are also a kind of an abettor. You cannot evade your accountability. That is what we have been emphasizing. I can only say, Sir, the response of these has been very, very encouraging. What I am emphasizing is, do more. India is an emerging digital economy. You are having a huge clientele here. Earn money, but be accountable. And I think it would work in future.

**डा. विनय पी. सहस्रबुद्धे:** सभापति महोदय, मुझे लगता है कि social media और main-stream media, इन दोनों में भी फेक न्यूज के बारे में काफी कुछ होता रहता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो Information and Broadcasting Ministry है या Press Council जैसी संस्थाएँ हैं, क्या इन संस्थाओं के साथ कुल मिलाकर फेक न्यूज के प्रादुर्भाव को रोकने के विषय में, क्या कोई समन्वय बैठाने की दिशा में कोशिश हो रही है?

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सभापति महोदय, अगर माननीय विनय सहस्रबुद्धे जी मेरे विस्तृत अनुलग्नक को देखेंगे, जो मेरे प्रश्न के साथ लगा हुआ है और जो पिछले कॉलिंग ऑफ अटेन्शन का

स्वरूप था, उसमें मैंने स्वयं इस बात की चर्चा की है। उसमें मैंने विद्यालयों, विश्वविद्यालयों, छात्रों के बीच, ट्रेड बॉडीज़ के बीच में चर्चा करने की बात कही है और मैंने कहा है कि मैं मुख्यमंत्रियों को लिख रहा हूँ। एक प्रकार से पूरे देश को, सर्वानुमति से इस तरह के संक्रामक रोग के खिलाफ़ खड़े होने की आवश्यकता है। मैंने यह भी कहा है कि यह चिंता हमें राजनीतिक विरोध से ऊपर उठकर करनी पड़ेगी। भारत की डिजिटल क्षमता में सभी का सहयोग रहा है, इस पर हमें मिलकर काम करने की आवश्यकता है। सभापति महोदय, इस संदर्भ में, मैं एक बात अवश्य कहना चाहूंगा कि जो उन्होंने प्रेस काउंसिल से चर्चा करने की बात कही है, मैंने कल ही अपने विभाग के पदाधिकारियों को यह निर्देश दिया है कि प्रेस काउंसिल और बाकी के जो लोग हैं, वे सब मिलकर काम करेंगे, लेकिन हमें एक बात पर ध्यान देना पड़ेगा कि आज social media ने आम हिंदुस्तानियों को मजबूत किया है। वे सवाल पूछते हैं, मुझसे भी पूछते हैं, बड़ों से पूछते हैं और संपादकों से भी पूछते हैं, तो इस सवाल पूछने के अधिकार पर कोई चिंता नहीं होनी चाहिए। यह देश के लोकतंत्र का खम्भा है।

**श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर:** सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या कोई ऐसी कमेटी बनाई गई है, जिससे यह पता किया जा सके कि यह फेक न्यूज़ ही है? इसका क्या क्राइटीरिया रखा गया है? क्योंकि बहुत ज्यादा social media, twitter इसमें आते हैं; to judge that, to ascertain that it is fake news, क्या कोई ऐसा प्रावधान रखा गया है?

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सभापति महोदय, IT Act में इसका प्रावधान है, लेकिन विप्लव जी, आपकी बात बिल्कुल सही है कि जमीन पर और अधिक समन्वय से काम करने की आवश्यकता है। मैं आपको एक उदाहरण देता हूँ, अगर किसी जिले में, हिमाचल प्रदेश या कश्मीर में, किसी कलेक्टर को लगता है कि एक जिले में गड़बड़ी हो रही है, तो वह कार्रवाई करता है और इंटरनेट को रोकता है। इन बड़े social media platforms का दुर्भाग्य यह है कि ये बहुत तेजी से फैलते हैं और लाखों की संख्या में फैलते हैं। इसलिए इसमें तकनीकी समाधान भी जरूरी है और प्रशासकीय सक्रियता भी जरूरी है, इसलिए इसमें सभी को मिलकर काम करना पड़ेगा।

#### **Illegal diversion of urea by fertilizer companies**

\*185.SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any information about the fertilizer companies involved in illegal diversion of urea for non-agricultural purposes;
- (b) if so, the detailed list thereof;
- (c) if there is no such information, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether any action has been taken/ notices been issued so far by the Government in this regard along with the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) to (d) Government of India has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and notified Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973. The State Governments have been empowered to take appropriate action to curb Black-Marketing and Diversion of Subsidized Urea to Industrial Sector and to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating provisions of FCO, 1985 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Department of Fertilizers has also advised/ sensitized the State Governments for gearing up enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction for taking appropriate action against the offenders, if any.

Fertilizers are sold by companies through their dealers/ retailers network and the number of cases of diversion reported by various State Governments in the last three year is as follows:

Year	Diversion Cases	State
2017-18	1	Uttarakhand-1
2016-17	0	NIL
2015-16	5	Gujarat-2, Kerala-3

In all these cases, State Governments have taken appropriate actions as per FCO. No case of direct involvement of companies has been reported by any State Government to this Department.

Further, in August 2015, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) presently renamed as Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Custom (CBIC) had informed this Department that seven cases of alleged diversion of Urea of various companies for industrial use were detected and show cause notices (SCN) were issued by CBIC. The names of the companies are given in the Annexure (*See below*). This Department had also asked the concerned companies to furnish the status report to / this Department. It has been informed by the concerned companies that they had submitted reply to SCN to respective commissionerate of CBIC and are awaiting the decision on the matter.

**Annexure**

*Alleged diversion of Urea of following companies to whom Show Cause Notices have been issued CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Custom):*

Sl. No.	Name of the party manufacturing Urea
1.	M/s GNFC, Bharuch
2.	M/s KRIBHCO, Surat
3.	M/s GSFC, Vadodara
4.	M/s IFFCO, Kalol
5.	M/s RCFL, Thal
6.	M/s RCFL, Trombay
7.	M/s NFL, Panipat

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने बहुत विस्तार से बताया है कि किस तरीके से यूरिया का नॉन-एग्रीकल्चरल यूज डाइवर्जन रोकने के लिए, उन्होंने essential commodities के रूप में, fair fertilizer control order के माध्यम से स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को ऑथराइज करके, सर्च एंड सीज़र की पावर देकर, यह कार्रवाई करने का काम किया है। इस प्रभावी कार्रवाई का अगर विस्तृत विवरण इसमें दिया है, अगर उसको देखेंगे तो पता चलता है कि 2015-16 में केवल पांच और 2016-17 में केवल एक मामला दर्ज हुआ है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वे जानते हैं कि प्रभावी कार्रवाई के कारण यूरिया का यूज कम हुआ है या फिर किसान ने अपनी अरुचि दिखानी शुरू की है या खेती का एरिया कम हुआ है?

**राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह:** सभापति महोदय, पहले यूरिया neem-coated नहीं होता था, तो उसका वितरण इधर-उधर हो जाया करता था। जब से इस सरकार ने neem-coated यूरिया लागू किया है, इसका डाइवर्जन कम हो गया है। जैसा मैंने बताया है कि इसका फायदा इस तरह से हो रहा है कि बहुत ही कम केसेज डाइवर्जन के आ रहे हैं।

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सभापति महोदय, नीम कोटेड यूरिया के बारे में मैं मानता था कि सबसे पहले यही जवाब में आएगा, लेकिन लिखित जवाब में इस तरह का उत्तर नहीं आया था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बताना चाहूंगा कि जनवरी, 2018 में लोक सभा के एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में आपने जवाब दिया था कि यूरिया के बोरे का वजन 50 किलो से 45 किलो कर दिया है, जिसकी वजह से यूरिया का यूटिलाइजेशन 10 परसेंट कम हुआ है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** एक तरफ आप प्रभावी कार्रवाई करने की बात कह रहे हैं और दूसरी तरफ नीम कोटेड यूरिया की बात कर रहे हैं।

**श्री सभापति:** आपका क्वेश्चन क्या है?

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय गृह मंत्री से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें नीम कोटेड यूरिया, प्रभावी कार्रवाई और किसान की अरुचि में से कितना-कितना परसेंट यूरिया के यूटिलाइजेशन का कम हुआ है?

**राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह:** सभापति महोदय, नीम कोटेड यूरिया का प्रयोग खेती में किया जाता है। नीम कोटेड यूरिया के इस्तेमाल से उत्पादन में वृद्धि होती है। जब से नीम कोटेड यूरिया का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है, तब से इसका कट्टा 45 किलो का हो गया है, पहले यह कट्टा 50 किलो का हुआ करता था और यह उतना ही लाभ दे रहा है, जितना कि 50 किलो वाला नॉन-नीम कोटेड यूरिया दिया करता था।

जहां तक इसके प्रयोग की बात पूछी गई है, तो मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि किसान जितना भी यूरिया चाहता है, वह सारा का सारा, कुल मिलाकर के पूरी तरह से उस तक पहुंचाया जा रहा है, कम से कम इस सरकार के आने के पश्चात। अगर मैं यूरिया का ही जिक्र कर दूँ, तो हमारे देश के अंदर प्रोडक्शन 240 लाख मीट्रिक टन है, रिक्वायरमेंट 298 लाख मीट्रिक टन है, availability 317 लाख मीट्रिक टन है और कुल मिलाकर सेल्स 303 लाख मीट्रिक टन है यानी कि इसकी availability ज्यादा है और इसकी सेल्स कम हुई है।

इसी तरह से DAP और complex fertilizer का प्रोडक्शन 128 लाख मीट्रिक टन है, रिक्वायरमेंट 229 लाख मीट्रिक टन है, availability 236 लाख मीट्रिक टन है और कुल मिलाकर इसकी सेल्स 212 लाख मीट्रिक टन है। अगर इस को देखा जाए, तो किसान पूरी तरह से अपने यूरिया एवं अन्य खाद का इस्तेमाल करने के लिए सक्षम है और यह उस तक सही रूप में पहुंच रहा है।

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** Sir, the excessive use of urea not only affects the farm produce but also the nutrition value of crop produce. A number of farmers engage themselves in excessive usage of urea for the simple reason that they would like to take the maximum production out of it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent such excessive use of urea so as to protect the soil condition and also improve the nutrition value of crops.

**RAO INDERJIT SINGH:** Sir, it could have been better addressed to the Agriculture Ministry, but I tend to agree with the hon. Member that excessive use of urea is counter-productive. To ensure that the quality of soil does not get degraded, bio-fertilisers and other methods of raising production have been employed by the Ministry of Agriculture and, through research, other methods are also being considered. I think, in future, the

use of urea will considerably come down or other fertilisers will be used to enhance production.

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Sir, it is obvious from the reply of the hon. Minister that the supply of urea after neem coating has increased tremendously and misuse has been stopped. Sir, I would like to know if there has been any study as to what is the positive effect of adding neem to the urea and if more coating of neem will be more effective to the farmer.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: I don't know if there is any study that has taken place, but it must have taken place when one says that earlier, without coating urea was 50 kg. per bag and now it has become 45 kg. per bag. The reason why it has been reduced from 50 kg. to 45 kg. is that 45 kg. bag contains *neem*-coated urea and it is giving as much, if not more, sustenance to the crops as non-coated urea.

#### **Revival of FACT, Kochi**

\*186.SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken to revive the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Kochi, a major fertilizer manufacturing company in the public sector;

(b) whether Government has received any representation from the Government of Kerala, requesting to save the ailing FACT; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary action to keep the FACT running in public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

As and when required, necessary financial support has been given by Government of India to keep FACT operational. Year-wise details of the same are as under:

#### **2001-02**

Financial relief package on the OECF loan obtained by the company for its Ammonia Project at Udyogamandal as under:

- (i) Waiver of outstanding interest amounting to ₹ 226.88 crore for the period from 1998-99 to 2001-02.
- (ii) Moratorium on principal repayment upto 31.03.2002 on the balance loan amounting to ₹ 378.20 crore.
- (iii) Waiving levy of penal interest on past defaults in repayment of principal due and interest accrued and due upto 31.03.2002.

**2002-03**

Financial reliefs sanctioned *vide* order No.14012/8/2002-FP dated 31.10.2003.

- (i) Waiver of outstanding interest of ₹ 87.80 crore on GOI loans of ₹ 497.20 crore as on 31.03.2003 along with waiver of penal interest for past defaults upto 31.03.2003.
- (ii) Moratorium on repayment of principal on GOI loans as on 31.3.2003 amounting to ₹ 497.20 crore upto 31.3.2004 to be repaid in 10 equal annual instalments from 2004-05 onwards.
- (iii) Reduction in interest rates on GOI loans of FACT as on 31.3.2003 to 7% with effect from 1.4.2003 from the existing rate of 13.50%-16.00%.
- (iv) Deferment of interest payment on outstanding GOI loans as on 31.3.2003 upto 31.3.2004. The deferred interest shall be converted into loan on 31.3.2004 and repaid along with outstanding principal as in (ii) above.

**2005-06**

Financial relief package sanctioned by Government of India *vide* letter NO.19047/3/2006-FCA-II dated 28.9.2006 based on BRPSE recommendations as follows:

- (i) Waiver of outstanding interest as on 31.3.2005 amounting to ₹ 85.77 crore.
- (ii) Conversion of 50% of the outstanding GOI loan of ₹ 584.60 crore as on 31.3.2005 (*ie.* ₹ 292.30 crore into equity capital).
- (iii) Write off of the non-plan loan of ₹ 60 crore given for voluntary retirement scheme.



- (iv) Write off of balance outstanding GOI loan of ₹ 232.30 crore as on 31.3.2005.

**2007-08**

During the year Government of India had released a grant in aid of ₹ 200 crore to sustain the operations of the company and help restart the shutdown plants.

**2015-16**

To avert immediate financial crisis in FACT, a Plan Loan amounting ₹ 1000 crore was sanctioned.

Further, facilities of priority payment and comfort letters etc. are also extended as and when felt necessary. Department of Fertilizers has also accorded approval for sale of unutilized surplus land of FACT to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).

Government of Kerala has also accorded approval for negotiated purchase of unutilized surplus land belonging to FACT by Government of Kerala.

Recently, FACT has also approached Government of India with a financial restructuring proposal which includes waiver of outstanding loan and interest thereon, one-time compensation for the use of high cost LNG and approval for sale of land. Inter-Ministerial consultations are ongoing and the proposal is under finalisation.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Sir, in reply to my question, the hon. Minister has stated about the steps taken by the Government to protect the FACT. But, Sir, the crisis still remains as it was. At this juncture, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Recently, the FACT has submitted a financial restructuring package for the approval of the Government. Now, the delay in approval will deepen the crisis. So, would the Government take immediate steps to approve that proposal?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We discussed it in the Zero Hour yesterday and now again there is a Question also! Okay.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, this is a very old fertilizer unit and, over the years, the Government has been taking some measures to ensure that it continues with the production. The latest proposal that has been received by the Government of India, is only

of recent occurrence. And, the issues that have been put forward by the Fact management is that the sale of 481.79 acres of land to the Government of Kerala, that has already been sanctioned. And, they are going to gain ₹ 1,391 crores out of this sale. The second is the transfer of 169 acres of land by sale to BPCL. That has already been approved and they are going to get ₹ 420 crores out of this deal. Further, they have asked for writing off of outstanding Government loans, grant of a one time compensation of ₹ 140 crores for the use of high-cost LNG to test the LNG facilities, waiver of consequent tax liability etc. So, the three things which are still left in the pipeline are under active consideration of the Government. We want this plant to be revived to the fullest extent. We are taking it up on a priority manner and I think, soon, a decision favourable to FACT will come-into being.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: I appreciate your reply. In this crisis period, the top management posts are kept vacant. There is no CMD, Director (Finance), and Director (Technical). These posts are all vacant. Many employees...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. What is your question?

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: I would like to ask from the hon. Minister whether these posts would be filled at the earliest.

**डा. चन्द्रपाल सिंह यादव:** माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि अभी FACT के revival की बात हो रही है, लेकिन देश में बहुत सी कंपनियाँ ऐसी हैं, जो यूरिया का उत्पादन करती हैं, परंतु आज वे बन्द होने के कगार पर हैं। हम सब जानते हैं कि यूरिया पैदा करने वाली कंपनियों का profit और loss सरकार की जो उर्वरक की नीति होती है, उस पर depend करता है और उसी के कारण उनका profit और loss होता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि मौजूदा यूरिया नीति के कारण यूरिया के जो कारखाने बंद हो रहे हैं, उन्हें देखते हुए, क्या सरकार अपनी नीति में परिवर्तन करने पर विचार कर रही है?

**राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह:** सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि यूरिया की नीति की वजह से कंपनियाँ बंद हो रही हैं। यह एक बड़ा विशाल मामला है और कई चीजें इसके अंदर होती हैं, तब जाकर कोई कंपनी red में चली जाती है। कुल मिलाकर Public Sector की लगभग 45 बड़ी कंपनियाँ हैं, जो fertilizer produce करती हैं और लगभग 105 छोटी संस्थाएँ हैं, जो fertilizer produce करती हैं। आजकल भारत सरकार की तरफ से जो major ध्यान दिया जा रहा है, वह उन बड़ी कंपनियों पर दिया जा रहा है, जो Public Sector के अंदर हैं। उनमें से पांच ऐसी बड़ी कंपनियाँ हैं, जिन्हें भारत सरकार की ओर से दुबारा चालू कराने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है और जल्दी ही

उसके ऊपर अमल हो जाएगा। उनमें से एक बड़ी कंपनी तो ऐसी है, जो वर्ष 2018 में ही चालू हो जाएगी। चार कंपनियां ऐसी हैं, जो 2011 तक चलने की संभावना में आ जाएंगी। यह एक continuous process है।

**श्री सभापति:** इसमें गोरखपुर, सिंदरी, रामागुंडम, ये सब हैं?

**राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह:** इसमें ये सब हैं?

**डा. चन्द्रपाल सिंह यादव:** सर, वह तो पहले बंद हो रहा है।

**श्री सभापति:** वह तो प्राइवेट वाला है।

**राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह:** मैं बता देता हूं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सभापति:** चन्द्रपाल सिंह जी, अगर हम लोग इस पर ज्यादा चर्चा करें, तो इसमें एक secret है, मैं वह secret बताऊं। Companies manufacture करती है, subsidy कंपनी में जाती है। अभी इसमें ऐसा हुआ कि जब neem-coating शुरू हुई, तो वह chemical company के उपयोग में नहीं आएगी। इसलिए automatically उन्होंने production कम कर दिया। पहले वे ही produce करती थीं। हम लोग जो पैसा देते थे, वह सीधे किसान को नहीं पहुंचता था, क्योंकि किसान के पास एकाउंट नहीं था। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मुझे मालूम है, आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, please sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... This is not the way. ...**(Interruptions)**... If you want to support the companies, that is a different matter. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**डा. चन्द्रपाल सिंह यादव:** \*

**श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद:** सर, यह expunge किया जाए, यह बिल्कुल गलत है। It is very unfair. आप इसको withdraw कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Now, we go to Question No. 187. ...**(Interruptions)**... आप यह विषय छोड़ दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्लीज, आप छोड़ दीजिए। मैंने किसान के लिए facilitate किया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह नागर:** \*

**श्री सभापति:** ये दोनों रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जाएंगे, आप चिन्ता मत कीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... हमने किसान के हित में सोचा कि जो fact है, वह देश के सामने आना चाहिए। अगर कंपनी को protect करना है, तो अलग बात है। Now, Question No. 187 ...**(Interruptions)**...

**Contract Farming**

\*187.DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to experiment with Contract Farming to help develop the marketing links that are necessary for raising the efficiency of agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether such a proposal would be considered in the near future to deal with various problems relating to farming?

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

***Statement***

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to develop direct marketing link between the farmers and contract farming sponsors (processors, organized retailers and exporters, etc.) and also to mitigate price risk and market uncertainties the Government has formulated and released a progressive and facilitative Model Act, by the name of "The-----State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" in May, 2018 for its adoption by the States/Union Territories (UTs). The aforesaid Model Act covers the entire value and supply chain from pre-production to post-harvest marketing stages, besides covering services contract for the agricultural produce and livestock. The Model Act aims at mitigating price risks and market uncertainties for the contracting parties and help develop the marketing links that are necessary for raising efficiency of agriculture.

- (c) In view of (a) & (b) above, the Question does not arise.

**डा. विकास महात्मे:** सर, मैं मंत्री जी का अभिवादन करना चाहूंगा कि वे ठेका आधारित कृषि मॉडल एक्ट लाए, जिससे किसान को बहुत लाभ होगा। मेरा सवाल यह है कि जो ठेकेदार हैं, अगर वे ज्यादा chemical fertilizers use करते हैं, pesticides use करते हैं, तो उसके खेत की soil health कम हो सकती है। इससे पांच साल के बाद वह कुछ उगा नहीं पाएगा और उससे कुछ फसल नहीं ले पाएगा। क्या इस एक्ट में इसका प्रावधान किया गया है या बाद में ऐसा करने की कोशिश की जाएगी?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह:** महोदय, असंतुलित उर्वरकों का प्रयोग न हो, इसके लिए देश में प्रथम चरण में 10 करोड़ से अधिक किसानों को Soil Health Card दिया गया है। अब द्वितीय चरण भी प्रारम्भ हो चुका है। असंतुलित उर्वरकों के प्रयोग को रोकने के लिए इस सरकार ने पहले ही कदम उठा रखा है।

जहां तक ठेका कृषि का सवाल है, मैं माननीय सदस्य के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं कि हमारी राष्ट्रीय किसान नीति के पृष्ठ 21 के चैप्टर 9 में लिखा हुआ था, 2007 में जो किसान नीति बनी थी, कि संविदा कृषि वस्तु विशिष्ट खेती की जरूरत को पूरा करने के लिए संविदा खेती आचार संहिता या एक मॉडल संविदा विकसित की जाएगी। संविदा खेती में किसान को किसी भी परिस्थिति में उसकी भूमि से वंचित नहीं किया जाएगा। 2007 में किसान नीति में यह बात आई थी। हमने 2018 में डेढ़ वर्षों तक राज्यों से बातचीत करके मॉडल एक्ट जारी किया है। किसान का अधिकार है, सुरक्षित है और वह Soil Health Card के माध्यम से काम करेगा।

**DR. VIKAS MAHATME:** Sir, I understand that in this model Act, there is a robust dispute settlement mechanism, but we know that the contractors are very powerful and the farmers are powerless. So, is there any provision in the Act that whatever dispute settlement mechanism is provided, it will reach the farmers? That means, will the Government spread awareness about this Act and its provisions among the farmers?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, the Minister. You have raised your question.

**श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत:** माननीय सभापति महोदय, देश में जो Contract Act है, contract उसके अधीन आता था। Contract Act में हमेशा से ही दो पक्ष हैं। किसान से जुड़े हुए पक्ष के संबंध में किसान और कॉर्पोरेट या किसान और कोई processor contract में हो, तो हमेशा ही यह देखा गया कि किसान एक कमजोर कड़ी है और उसको दबाया जाना संभव है। हमने यह जो नया Model Contract Act बनाया है, इसमें इन सारे प्रावधानों को इस दृष्टिकोण से चिन्हित किया गया है, निर्धारित किया गया है कि किसान के पक्ष को केवल बराबरी का पक्ष ही नहीं, अपितु किसान के पक्ष की ज्यादा चिन्ता की जा सके। जहां तक dispute settlement mechanism का प्रश्न है, उसमें एक robust mechanism develop किया गया है। प्रारम्भिक स्तर पर, यदि आपसी बातचीत या समझौते के आधार पर, ombudsman बैठ करके या arbitration के माध्यम से dispute settlement हो सकता है, तो वह किया जा सकता है, वरना तहसीलदार के यहां जा करके अथवा राज्य सरकार जिस किसी भी अधिकारी को registration authority नियुक्त करती है, उसको time-frame में, किसान के हित की चिन्ता करते हुए, उसकी समस्या का निस्तारण करना अनिवार्य है।

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV: Sir, the draft Contract Farming Act provides for establishing a State-level Contract Farming (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority to ensure implementation of the Model Act. Sir, my supplementary question has two parts. First part is, how many such State-level Contract Farming (Promotion and Facilitation) Authorities have been established so far, and the second part is, since the establishment of the e-NAM, that is, the National Agriculture Market, how many contract farming agreements have been entered into between buyers and sellers over the portal?

**श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत:** माननीय सभापति महोदय, 22 मई को हमने यह Model Contract Farming Act देश के राज्यों के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया था। चूंकि अब तक इसमें लगभग तीन महीने का ही कालखंड बीता है, लेकिन विभिन्न राज्यों ने अपने-अपने स्तर पर इसकी प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ कर दी है। तमिलनाडु, उत्तर प्रदेश, ओडिशा और कर्नाटक, इन चार राज्यों ने इस दिशा में काम करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है। किसी भी राज्य सरकार ने ऐसा कोई बोर्ड संसूचित किया हो, इसकी सूचना अभी तक इन तीन महीनों में हमें प्राप्त नहीं हुई है। पूर्ववर्ती सरकार के समय में जो ऐक्ट बना था, उसी ऐक्ट को 21 राज्यों ने अपने-अपने यहां पर लागू किया है।

**श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा:** सर, मंत्री जी ने जवाब दिया है कि Model Contract Farming Act बनाया गया है, लेकिन यह पता नहीं लग पाया है कि अभी तक State-wise कितनी जमीनों पर फार्मिंग चालू हो चुकी है। सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि जो value added agriculture है, specially herbs and spices, यह एक नया जोन है, जिसका export potential भी है। माननीय मंत्री जी कृपया यह बताने की कृपा करें कि क्या contract farming के माध्यम से कोई ऐसी modalities सामने आई हैं, जिनमें किसानों की मदद करने के लिए यह जो value added components हैं, specially herbs and spices. इनके ऊपर काम चालू किया गया है?

**श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत:** माननीय सभापति महोदय, जैसा मैंने पहले भी कहा कि वर्तमान ऐक्ट को हमने केवल तीन महीने पहले ही संसूचित किया है, तो इस ऐक्ट के अधीन कोई नया कॉन्ट्रैक्ट हो करके काम प्रारम्भ हुआ हो, ऐसी सूचना हमारे पास नहीं है। लेकिन मैं माननीय सदस्य की और सदन की जानकारी के लिए यह बताना चाहता हूं कि जो पूर्ववर्ती Contract Farming Act था, उसके आधार पर विभिन्न प्रदेशों में अभी तक इस तरह के काम चल रहे हैं। आंध्र प्रदेश और मध्य प्रदेश, इन दोनों ही राज्यों में contract farming पर अश्वगंधा की खेती करके, उसका root extract निकाल कर export करने का काम किया जा रहा है। देश के अन्य प्रांतों में भी इसी तरह के कामों के लिए contract farming करवाई जा रही है।

**डा. अशोक बाजपेयी:** सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि land holding लगातार कम होती जा रही है और जोतें अलाभकारी हो गई हैं, इसीलिए contract

farming पर विचार करने की बात उठी है। महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि contract farming अंगीकार करने के बाद किसानों की आय पर इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा? क्या सरकार ने इसका कोई अध्ययन किया है कि वर्तमान में कृषि से किसानों की जो आय है, contract farming के बाद उनकी आय में क्या परिवर्तन आएगा?

**श्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न के प्रारम्भिक भाग में ही इसका उत्तर छिपा हुआ है। Economics का एक Economics of scale का सिद्धांत है, लेकिन इस देश के किसानों के सामने fragmentation of land एक बड़ी चुनौती बन करके उभरा है। इस प्रॉब्लम को address करने के लिए देश की सरकार ने दो निर्णय लिए हैं। एक तो 'Contract Farming Act' को हमने किसानों के हितों का ध्यान रखते हुए नया 'Model Contract Farming Act' बनाने के लिए संस्तुत किया है, ताकि किसान Economics of scale पर काम कर सकें। किसान न केवल अपने प्रोडक्शन को बेचने के लिए, अपितु आदान के क्रय के लिए भी Economics of scale पर काम कर सकें, साथ ही एकत्रित होकर होलसेल में inputs को भी खरीद सकें। इसके साथ ही साथ सरकार ने farmer producer companies को promote करके, विभिन्न प्रावधानों के तहत उन्हें income tax and other benefits देते हुए strengthen करने का काम भी किया है, ताकि किसान एकत्रित होकर बड़े प्रमाण में कृषि कार्य कर सकें।

#### **Recruitment for Group 'D' posts**

\*188.SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the automation projects aimed to improve safety, the Railways propose to hire about one lakh staff through an online process, mainly in Group 'D' comprising of gangmen, trackmen, switchmen, cabinmen, welders and helpers;

(b) whether there being no recruitment for Group 'D' during the last two years, the operational efficiency of Railways has taken a hit with most of the trains running late in all the Zones; and

(c) whether Railways have the professional manpower and systems capacity to process more than 2.5 crore pending applications?

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

***Statement***

(a) Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. The policy of Railways is to fill up the vacancies as per operational requirement. Accordingly, 1,32,646 vacancies including 62,907 vacancies for safety related activities in Level-1 posts (erstwhile Group 'D' posts) are being filled up in Railways.

(b) Operational efficiency of Railways depends upon infrastructure. Historically, there has been lack of investment in infrastructure which has been substantially increased in recent years. Trains get delayed due to the factors related to its internal working and also external factors which are beyond the control of Railways. In addition to asset failures, certain factors such as line capacity and terminal capacity, constraints on account of increasing passenger and freight traffic, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches) intermittent natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, and heavy road traffic at level crossing gates across the Indian Railways network, mid-section run over cases involving cattle and humans etc. also adversely affect the punctuality of trains over Indian Railways. Sanctioned posts in all categories are more than the actual operational requirements because they include an element of Leave Reserve and Rest Givers. This Leave Reserve varies from 12.5% to 30% in safety categories. Efficiency in operational performance of the Railways is maintained by appropriate manpower planning and there is no compromise in this regard.

(c) Indian Railways has an elaborate and well established set up for recruitment. There are 21 Railway Recruitment Boards spread all over the country. In addition, services of professional agencies are taken as per requirement, and modern techniques such as Computer Based Tests have been introduced to ensure transparency in the recruitment process.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Sir, unplanned track maintenance work is often cited as a reason why trains run late. Technology can be used to diagnose the condition of railway track to prepare artificial intelligence-based calendar for repair and replacement work. It has been reported that if AI is introduced, 90 per cent of the trains will run on time. My question, through you, Sir, is whether the Government has any plan to develop a non-intrusive remote monitoring system for railway track to detect any discrepancy or flaws in real time. If yes, what is the status of the project?



SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Member from Kerala has raised a very good point; I am delighted that this sense of urgency in bringing mechanisation and modernisation to the Railways is also becoming a priority of the nation. Hon. Member of Parliament would be happy to know that in the current year, we are buying machinery worth over ₹ 7,000 crore. This is a dramatic change from the past. Earlier the Railways used to buy machinery worth ₹ 300-400 crore every year towards modernising the infrastructure for laying new tracks. What Hon'ble member is referring to is the Ultrasonic flaw detection sensor model by which we can detect flaws on the railway track. We are buying machinery worth ₹ 7,000 crore this year and, in the next year, it will be ₹ 13,000 crore. That is the level of quantum jump in investment which earlier used to be ₹ 300 crore. I am very confident that all of this will lead to a far better system of maintenance and track safety. I am delighted to share with the House, Sir, that last year we had the lowest number of consequential train accidents in the history ever.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary question. Mr. Minister, you have to keep time in mind, so that others can get the opportunity.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Sir, my second supplementary question is this. There is a rise in women employment in every sector thanks to women empowerment. What is the rise of employment in the Railways for women in the last four years? What is the total percentage of women employment in the Railways sector as of 2018?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Well, I think it is very important that women get an opportunity to work in the Indian Railways and therefore all our examinations are gender neutral. Everybody is free to apply. Everybody goes through a process which is most transparent and completely computer driven and there is no interview at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have any information about the details, it is okay. Otherwise, you can collect it and give it later.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I just want to add one thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Time is running out.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: We have a very low number of women because women have not been traditionally applying for tedious jobs like trackmen, gangmen and running staff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anil Desai.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Not enough have been applying..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, rail should go only on track.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Ultimately, it will depend on a transparent system.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Sir, may I know it from the Hon. Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is running out. That's my worry. All the Ministers have to be brief and crisp.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Sir, basically Group 'D' recruitment is for trackmen, gangmen, etc. This job is done on the tracks. Here the educational qualification criteria are being raised from what they were earlier. It is depriving a lot many poor youth in the country. I want to know whether any corrective step is being taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I would just correct the wrong perception. The criteria have been proposed to be raised for the future. For this recruitment, the criteria are the same as they were the last time.

**श्री चुनीभाई कानजीभाई गोहेल:** सर, रेलवे में लाखों कामगारों की कमी के हिसाब से, temporary कामगारों को लेने के लिए यह प्रस्ताव रेल मंत्रालय द्वारा किया गया है। सर, हमारे लाखों युवाओं की नज़र रेलवे भर्ती पर है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ठेके पर लिये जाने वाले temporary कामगारों को लेने के बाद, क्या permanently कोई योजना बनाई जाएगी?

**श्री पीयूष गोयल:** सर, माननीय सांसद जी को मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि अभी यह जो recruitment हो रहा है, यह कोई temporary नहीं है, permanent jobs मिल रही हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से सारे सदन को सूचित करना चाहूंगा कि पहले जो 90,000 jobs शुरू हुई थीं, हमने उन्हें बढ़ा कर 99,000 कर दिया था और कल ही उसको बढ़ा कर और 32,000 को notify किया है, तो अब 1,32,646 नौकरियों का process शुरू किया गया है।

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS****Setting up of mini labs in KVKs for soil testing**

\*189. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiative for setting up of mini labs in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for soil testing across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of mini labs established by Government in KVKs, including in Himachal Pradesh; and
- (c) the number of farmer benefited under this scheme and the steps taken by Government to develop more mini labs for soil testing?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For testing the soil samples of farmers involved in frontline extension activities by Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) at district level, the Government has set up 980 Mini Soil Testing Labs in 658 KVKs. The State-wise details of mini soil testing labs established in different Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) including in Himachal Pradesh has been given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) As many as 7.63 lakh Soil Health Cards have been distributed to farmers after testing the soil samples by Mini Soil Testing Labs and 21.82 lakh farmers have been benefitted through advisories by KVKs on Soil Health Management. The State-wise number of soil health cards issued and the number of farmers benefitted with advisories on soil health management are given in the Statement-II (*See* below). The Government has also made provision for setting up of village level soil testing labs by village entrepreneurs under Soil Health Scheme by providing financial assistance up to 75% of the total cost of ₹ 5.0 lakh per project. The cost will be shared on 60:40 basis by Government of India and States (90:10 basis for North East and Hilly States).

***Statement-I******State-wise details of Mini Soil Testing Labs set up in KVKs***

Sl. No.	State	Number of KVKs having Mini Soil Testing Labs	Total Number of mini Soil Testing Labs with KVKs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	48

1	2	3	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	17
4.	Assam	25	36
5.	Bihar	36	36
6.	Chhattisgarh	24	25
7.	Delhi	1	1
8.	Goa	01	03
9.	Gujarat	41	41
10.	Haryana	14	14
11.	Himachal Pradesh	13	25
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	20	34
13.	Jharkhand	21	21
14.	Karnataka	31	49
15.	Kerala	14	20
16.	Lakshadweep	0	0
17.	Madhya Pradesh	46	59
18.	Maharashtra	43	68
19.	Manipur	9	14
20.	Meghalaya	5	9
21.	Mizoram	8	10
22.	Nagaland	11	15
23.	Odisha	33	65
24.	Pondicherry	1	3
25.	Punjab	21	43
26.	Rajasthan	59	59
27.	Sikkim	4	5
28.	Tamil Nadu	27	52
29.	Telangana	16	29

1	2	3	4
30.	Tripura	5	11
31.	Uttar Pradesh	56	107
32.	Uttarakhand	12	18
33.	West Bengal	20	38
TOTAL		658	980

**Statement-II**

*State-wise details of Number of Soil Health Cards distributed and Number of farmers benefited with advisories on Soil Health Management*

Sl. No.	State	Number of Advisory issued on soil health management	Number of Soil Health cards distributed
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1619	1619
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5366	6551
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5283	5810
4.	Assam	13331	18296
5.	Bihar	33364	33364
6.	Chhattisgarh	24693	416943
7.	Delhi	890	890
8.	Goa	2698	2698
9.	Gujarat	17103	17103
10.	Haryana	6829	6829
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1913	1731
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1643	1690
13.	Jharkhand	28659	28659
14.	Karnataka	9710	9710
15.	Kerala	6050	6050
16.	Lakshadweep	0	0

1	2	3	4
17.	Madhya Pradesh	48490	1062500
18.	Maharashtra	234154	234154
19.	Manipur	3422	3757
20.	Meghalaya	2194	2486
21.	Mizoram	2545	3190
22.	Nagaland	3006	4518
23.	Odisha	40243	40243
24.	Pondicherry	414	678
25.	Punjab	7291	4129
26.	Rajasthan	49257	49257
27.	Sikkim	1086	1376
28.	Tamil Nadu	3145	6033
29.	Telangana	2973	6743
30.	Tripura	2318	2466
31.	Uttar Pradesh	172898	172898
32.	Uttarakhand	8002	8002
33.	West Bengal	22008	22008
TOTAL		762597	2182381

**Non-availability of telecommunication facilities in  
certain villages of Gujarat**

†\*190. SHRI RATHWA NARANBHAI JEMLABHAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecommunication facilities are not available in 1275 villages of Gujarat despite 70 years of independence of our country;

(b) the reasons for non-availability of telecommunication facilities in the above-mentioned villages; and

(c) the reactions therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) 1262 inhabited villages (*i.e.* 7%) out of 17,843 inhabited villages (as per census 2011) are uncovered with mobile services in the State of Gujarat due to remote areas, sparse population and low techno-commercial viability.

(c) Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is likely to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Government has prioritised provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, North Eastern States and Islands in the first phase.

#### **Engagement of labourers on contractual basis**

†\*191. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry proposes to engage labourers on contractual basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of permanent posts lying vacant in the Railways at present;

(d) the number of vacant permanent posts that have been filled up during the last three years; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that according to experts, scarcity of employees for a long time is likely to adversely affect the functioning of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) For non-core works or works which are not ongoing permanently, Indian Railways (IR) engages contract labourers.

IR executes a wide range of works for creation, repair and maintenance of its various assets including stations, coaches, wagons, coaching depots, locomotives, tracks, etc pertaining to various departments namely Mechanical, Commercial, Operating, Electrical, Civil Engineering, Signal and Telecommunication, Security, Medical, etc. These works are executed through its own workers and/or through outsourcing (particularly non-core activities) to contracting agencies. These agencies work for the Railways and engage workmen/labourers towards execution of these contracts.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

IR engages contract labourers directly only in a few categories such as para-medical staff, school teacher, Data Entry Operators/Executive Assistants/Digital Office Assistants, "Consultant-cum-Coach" (Heritage) and engagement of retired personnel/other personnel in Engineering, Electrical, S&T departments of Railway Electrification and Construction organizations, on contract basis. Therefore, Contract labourers are engaged mostly by the contracting agencies providing services to IR on contract basis *i.e.* providing service either through service contracts or through works contracts.

(c) The number of permanent posts lying vacant in the Indian Railways is 2,53,324.

(d) A total number of 1,32,401 candidates have been empanelled to fill up vacancies during the past three years.

(e) No expert study is available to show that scarcity of employees would adversely affect the functioning of the Railways.

#### **State-of-the-art facilities at railway stations**

†\*192. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's decision to modernise selected railway stations in the country with state-of-the-art facilities, is yet to be fulfilled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the names of the railway stations that have been equipped with state-of-the-art facilities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Indian Railways had advertised its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on Indian Railways for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties duly providing for amenities and other requirements of the Railways. The cost of station redevelopment was to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. Twenty three stations were initially taken up for bidding in first phase by Zonal Railways under the Program. Out of these 23 stations, bids were received for two stations only, *viz.* Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode stations, which are under evaluation. No bids were received for other stations.

Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) have been entrusted the work of redevelopment of Anand Vihar, Bijwasan, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



Habibganj (Bhopal), Shivaji Nagar and Surat railway stations. Works have commenced at Habibganj and Gandhinagar stations. Bids for Surat, Anand Vihar, Bijwasan and Chandigarh stations have been invited.

In addition, an MoU between Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and NBCC India Ltd. has been signed for redevelopment of the following 10 railway stations:

Tirupati, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Nellore, Madgaon, Charbagh (Lucknow), Gomtinagar (Lucknow), Kota, Thane new, Ernakulam Junction and Puducherry

Contracts have been finalised for Gomtinagar station and bids have been invited for Charbagh and Tirupati stations.

One station in each Division is being taken up for redevelopment through Divisional Railway Managers.

Based upon the feedback received during various interactions with developers, investors and other stakeholders, Ministry of Railways has now formulated a revised strategy for station redevelopment on fast track through simplified procedure and with improved terms like longer lease periods etc., and accordingly, a Cabinet Note has been initiated in this regard.

### **Calculating requirement of additional Judges**

†\*193. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission, in its 245th report, had suggested that to measure the needs of judicial services, population is not the appropriate criteria and the rate of disposal method is more pragmatic and useful for calculating the requirement of number of additional Judges to clear the backlog of cases as well to ensure that new backlog is not created; and

(b) if so, in the light of suggestion of the Law Commission, whether any policy related measures are being taken/have been taken by Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) In 245th report (2014), the Law Commission has observed that filing of cases *per capita* varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

economic and social conditions of the population. As such the Law Commission did not consider the judge population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in the country. The Law Commission found that in the absence of complete and scientific approach to data collection across various High Courts in the country, the "Rate of Disposal" method, to calculate the number of additional judges required to clear the backlog of cases as well as to ensure that new backlog is not created, is more pragmatic and useful.

In May, 2014, the Supreme Court asked the State Governments and the High Courts to file their response to the recommendations made by the Law Commission. In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS Committee) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and to furnish its recommendations in this regard.

NCMS Committee submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March, 2016. The report, *inter alia*, observes that the clearance of backlog is not the sole or central basis for determining the judge strength and that the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of "*Judicial Hours*" required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, the Committee has proposed a "weighted" disposal approach *i.e.* disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court considered the reports of the Law Commission and the NCMS Committee in its Order dated 02.01.2017 in Criminal Appeal Nos.254-262 of 2012 (Imtiaz Ahmad *versus* State of UP. & ORs.), and directed, *inter alia*, that the NCMS Committee shall formulate a scientific method for determining the basis for computing the required judge strength of the district judiciary; that in the interim, the judge strength shall be computed for each State in accordance with the approach indicated by the NCMS Committee; that the interim report of the NCMS Committee shall be forwarded by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts and Chief Secretaries of all States so as to enable them to take follow up action to determine the required judge strength of the district judiciary based on the said report.

Department of Justice has forwarded a copy of interim report of the NCMS Committee to all State Governments and High Courts to enable them to take follow up action to determine the required strength of district and subordinate judiciary.

Sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 19,518 as on 31.12.2013 to 22,545 as on 31.03.2018. The working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 15,115 as on 31.12.2013 to 17,109 as on 31.03.2018.

**Rejection of formula for calculating input costs**

\*194. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NITI Aayog has recently rejected the formula provided by the MS Swaminathan Commission for calculating input costs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) National Commission on Farmers (NCF) headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has recommended that the MSP should be at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production. However, when the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 was finalized by the then Government, this recommendation of providing 50% returns over cost of production was not included. Dr. (Shri) M. S. Swaminathan in his Report on NCF had discussed different dimensions of fixing MSPs, but while finalizing National Policy on Farmers, the then Government had accepted the current established methods.

Cost of production is one of the important factors in the determination of MSPs. While recommending its Price policy, the CACP considers all costs in a comprehensive manner. The costs include all paid out costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour, rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred in cash and kind on the use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, interest on working capital, diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets etc, miscellaneous expenses and imputed value of family labour. Hence the costs considered are very comprehensive and based on the methodology recommended by Expert Committees from time to time. Broad based consultations with Departments concerned including NITI Aayog are held before finalising the methodology or MSPs are announced.

The Government has announced the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for kharif crops 2018-19 on 4th July 2018. This decision of the Government of India is a historic one as it redeems the promise of the pre-determined principle of fixing the MSPs at a

level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommended MSPs for all kharif crops is in line with the announced principle.

While cost of cultivation of crops tends to go up year-on-year on account of rise in prices of inputs used, cost of production may go up or down depending on the all India yield levels. The details of increase in MSP and all India weighted average cost of production of Kharif crops from 2014-15 to 2018-19 is given in the Statement-I and II respectively (*See below*). It is seen that increase in MSP has been much higher than the increase in cost of production in 2018-19.

***Statement-I***

*Absolute increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif crops*

			(₹/quintal)				
Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
<b>Kharif Crops</b>							
1.	Paddy	Common	50	50	60	80	200
		Grade 'A'	55	50	60	80	180
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	30	40	55	75	730
		Maldandi	30	40	60	75	725
3.	Bajra		0	25	55	95	525
4.	Maize		0	15	40	60	275
5.	Ragi		50	100	75	175	997
6.	Arhar (Tur)		50	275	425	400	225
7.	Moong		100	250	375	350	1400
8.	Urad		50	275	375	400	200
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	50	50	60	160	1130
		Long Staple	50	50	60	160	1130
10.	Groundnut in Shell		0	30	190	230	440
11.	Sunflower Seed		50	50	150	150	1288

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
12.	Soyabean	Yellow	0	40	175	275	349
13.	Sesamum		100	100	300	300	940
14.	Niger Seed		100	50	175	225	1827

**Statement-II***Absolute increase in cost of production of Kharif crops*

(₹/quintal)

Sl. No.	Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
<b>Kharif Crops</b>						
1.	Paddy (Common)	17	42	25	72	49
2.	Jowar (Hybrid)	101	97	34	55	63
3.	Bajra	64	61	32	24	41
4.	Ragi	136	214	45	128	70
5.	Maize	54	27	25	78	87
6.	Arhar (Tur)	15	132	4	77	114
7.	Moong	115	103	72	221	364
8.	Urad	81	230	129	-319	173
9.	Groundnut in Shell	512	82	57	-212	101
10.	Sunflower Seed	129	153	197	2	111
11.	Soyabean	37	41	82	269	145
12.	Sesamum	846	367	56	-121	99
13.	Niger Seed	805	62	220	546	6
14.	Cotton (Medium Staple)	25	243	136	387	157

Includes all paid out costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour, rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, interest on working capital, diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets etc, miscellaneous expenses and imputed value of family labour.

**Sale of shares of Mother Dairy**

\*195. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was any proposal to sell whole or part of the shares of Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetables to private company during the UPA regime;
- (b) if so, Government's view at that time;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the benefits of research in mustard have been passed on to the same group by NDDDB; and
- (d) whether Government would enquire into a possible conflict of interest through a Central investigation agency?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) As per information received from National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), no such records are available with NDDDB.

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

(c) No Sir. The Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants set up by the Delhi University, with financial support of NDDDB was involved in improvement of Rapeseed-Mustard from 1996 to September, 2016. The outcomes of the Project have been patented and the patent rights are jointly held by NDDDB and the Delhi University.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Farmers' stir**

1921. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the farmers' stir demanding a waiver of farm loans and an increase in MSP of farm produces along with milk subsidy, per litre;
- (b) if so, present State-wise average MSP being paid on farm produces;
- (c) the loss to economy due to stir of farmers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh had organized 'Gaon Bandh (Village Strike), agitation from 1st June to 10th June, 2018 over demands including complete waiver of farm loans, implementation of Swaminathan Commission recommendations pertaining to fixation of Minimum Support Price for agricultural produce and guaranteed income of farmers.

Agriculture being as a State subject, the State Governments are primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture sector and developing perspective plans for their respective States and ensuring effective implementation of the programmes/schemes. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/Programmes.

The Government has been reorienting the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness which goes beyond achieving merely the targeted production. The income approach focuses on achieving high productivity, reduced cost of cultivation and remunerative price on the produce, with a view to earn higher profits from farming. Various initiatives by way of schemes and policy reforms have been rolled out in consonance with this approach.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP.

Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all kharif crops for 2018-19 season. This decision of the Government is a historic one as it redeems the promise of the pre-determined principle of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19. The MSP declared during 2012-13 to 2018-19 for various crops is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Annexure appended to Answer to SQ No. 183 Part (c) and (d)].

The procurement and sale price of milk are decided by the concerned State Governments in consultation with State Cooperative Milk Federations based on the input cost.

The action taken by Department Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries to manage the crisis is as under:—

- (i) Increased the import duty of Whey Powder from 30% to 40% *vide* notification dated 27.03.2018.
- (ii) D/o Commerce *vide* notification dated 13.07.2018 has allowed 10% export incentive under Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) for all dairy products.
- (iii) Advisory to all the States to include supply of milk/milk products of Cooperatives through Mid-day Meal Scheme, Anganwadis under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Health schemes, Tribal Hostels and Government/Institutional canteen.
- (iv) Advise to all State Governments and State Milk Federations to use Public Distribution System of State Governments to market surplus milk.
- (v) The State Government of Bihar and Rajasthan issued order to provide milk powder to children of Anganwadi centres under ICDS.
- (vi) State Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra have announced to provide subsidy of ₹ 50/Kg for skim milk powder.
- (vii) A Scheme named "Support to State Cooperative Dairy Federation" has been approved to provide working capital loan to State Cooperatives and Federations with a corpus of ₹ 300 crore.

#### **Non-privatization of Mother Dairy**

1922. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mother Dairy was set up under the NDDB Act to help the farmers;
- (b) if so, the quantum of milk purchased respectively from farmers, farmers' cooperatives, farmers' producer companies and private companies during the years 2004-2014, year-wise;
- (c) the average purchase price paid to these sources, category-wise and year-wise; and



(d) the action Government proposes to take to ensure retaining Mother Dairy as a farmers' organisation and not a private company with monopoly shareholding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) As per the provisions of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Act, 1987, Mother Dairy, Delhi as a subsidiary unit of NDDB. The objective of Mother Dairy is to provide quality food and beverages to consumers at affordable prices while assuring fair returns to farmers.

(b) The year-wise details of quantum of milk purchased by Mother Dairy from farmers of Cooperatives, New Generation Cooperatives, Milk Producers Companies and Private Companies during the years 2004-2014 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The year-wise details of purchase price of milk procured by Mother Dairy from the farmers of Cooperatives, New Generation Cooperatives, Milk Producers Companies and Private Companies during the years 2004-2014 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) The provisions of Section 42 of the NDDB Act, 1987, provides that Mother Dairy to be a subsidiary unit of NDDB. Further, NDDB Board decided that the Mother Dairy be made a wholly owned subsidiary company of the NDDB. The Chairman of NDDB is the Non-executive chairman of Mother Dairy, and one Director of NDDB, selected from NDDB is on the Board of Directors of Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Limited. As per Section 42 of NDDB Act, 1987, any change in the special character of Mother Dairy has to be decided by NDDB Board, where apart from others, one Director from amongst officials of Central Government and two Directors from amongst Chairman of State Cooperative Dairy Federations are also present.

**Statement****A. Milk procurement volumes by Mother Dairy - Thousand kg. per day**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Cooperative	1,390.87	1,183.57	892.08	646.32	680.62	510.97	406.22	248.20	323.91	153.17
NGCs (Own)	56.00	108.81	132.13	308.78	374.41	460.87	763.36	1,131.43	1,246.65	557.18
MPC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156.58	559.29
Private			160.41	478.61	615.36	687.81	476.19	555.03	295.00	558.73
TOTAL	1,446.87	1,292.38	1,184.63	1,433.70	1,670.39	1,659.65	1,645.77	1,934.67	2,022.15	1,828.37

**B. Purchase price of milk procured by Mother Dairy (Fat 6.5% SNF 9%) - ₹ per kg**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Cooperative	14.35	14.67	17.13	19.47	20.13	23.39	25.94	25.98	28.98	34.83
NGCs (Own)	14.35	14.67	17.13	19.47	20.13	23.39	26.77	26.04	29.28	35.95
MPC	14.35	14.67	17.13	19.47	20.13	23.39	27.90	27.75	31.64	35.68
Private	14.35	14.67	17.13	19.47	20.13	23.39	26.85	27.15	30.20	36.45
TOTAL	14.35	14.67	17.13	19.47	20.13	23.39	26.59	26.35	29.55	35.93

NGC- New Generation Cooperatives.

MPC - Milk Producers Company.

**Development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Odisha**

1923. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would provide ₹300 lakh under Centrally Sponsored Programme (CSP) - Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to clear up the pending subsidy of eligible beneficiaries of Odisha;
- (b) whether Government would dispose the stringent applicability of the two CSP, *i.e.* Saving-cum-Relief and Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD Oil; and
- (c) if so, whether Government would amend the guideline immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture has been subsumed as a component under the restructured CSS on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries and this restructured scheme has been implemented with effect from 2016-17. The Central funds are provided to the State Governments/Union Territories under the restructured CSS with enhanced unit cost. During past two financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18, a sum of ₹ 3671.27 lakh was provided to the Government of Odisha for development of fisheries in the State. This includes ₹ 1997.11 lakh released for development of inland fisheries and aquaculture. The projects completed or taken up by the State Government without the prior approval of Government of India are not entitle for central funding under the above said restructured

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration at present in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW).

**Setting up of a Special Agriculture University**

1924. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to introduce any Special Agriculture University in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

#### **Settlement of claims under PMFBY**

1925. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total premium collected in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total value of claims made by the farmers in the said States, the total value of claims settled and the total value of claims remaining pending; and

(c) the average time taken to settle such claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Details regarding premium collected and claims in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) since its inception in April, 2016 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

PMFBY incorporates a number of new features and provides for technological interventions, which the States are implementing for the first time and hence there is delay in the process. In addition in the case of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan issues related to yield data and delay in release of State share of subsidy to insurance companies had led to delay in claim settlement. Due to the aforesaid reasons major claims in these States were settled between 2 to 6 months.

#### **Statement**

*Year-wise details of premium and claims in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)*

(₹ in crore)

State	Year	Premium Collected			Claims Estimated	Claims Approved	Claims Paid	Balance Claims
		Farmer	State	GoI				
		Share	Share	Share				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madhya Pradesh	2016-17	723	1529	1529	1993	1986	1980	13
	2017-18*	855	2005	2005	4788	4550	4410	378

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rajasthan	2016-17	370	1111	1111	1848	1804	1798	50
	2017-18*	285	847	847	1633	1294	1121	512

\* Claims of Kharif 2017 season only.

### Providing large fishing vessels to fishermen of Tamil Nadu

1926. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to provide specially built large vessels for fishermen of Tamil Nadu for deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, whether any funds have been earmarked to meet the project and by when these deep sea fishing vessels would be handed over to fishermen of Tamil Nadu;

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

(d) the expected increase in fish catch and revenue generation by using such vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) A sub component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' has been introduced under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' to provide Deep Sea Fishing Vessels to the traditional fishermen, their societies, associations, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Fishers Producer Organizations (FPOs) for construction of larger deep sea tuna long liners at a project cost of ₹ 80 lakh per vessel with 50% central subsidy assistance. Under the Central Plan Scheme, a sum of ₹ 300 crore has been released to the Government of Tamil Nadu during 2017-18 for procurement of Tuna Long liners for traditional fishers and for construction of fish landing centre at Kunthakal in Rameshwaram District of Tamil Nadu.

(c) Central Financial Assistance under the sub component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' has also been sanctioned to State Government of Andhra Pradesh (₹259.20 lakh) and Government of Gujarat (₹ 211.20 lakh).

(d) As per 'Report of the Working Group for Revalidating the Potential of Fishery Resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone' (2011) the potential yield of

oceanic resources is estimated at 216,500 tonnes, which shall be targeted by Deep Sea Fishing Vessels introduced under the said sub component on 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing'.

**Steps to provide cows and cattles to poor people free of cost**

1927. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to strengthen the animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, apiculture, agricultural education and research and expansion system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any concrete measures for providing cows, cattle and goats to poor people, free of cost; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is implementing the following schemes for strengthening of the animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, apiculture, agricultural education and research and expansion system such as:—

1. Rashtriya Gokul Mission
2. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
3. National Livestock Mission
4. Livestock Health and Disease Control
5. Blue Revolution
6. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

Further, Government of India is also promoting research and education in agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country through Indian Council of Agricultural Research with the overall objectives of improving profitability, nutritional/livelihood security of farmers through infusion of improved/high-yielding technologies.

(c) and (d) For employment generation and promotion of entrepreneurship in dairy and small ruminant sector especially in rural areas, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing two schemes, namely, Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme and Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation. Under one of the components of Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme, back ended subsidy is provided at the rate of 25% of the total cost of the project to the applicants of General category and at the rate of 33% for the members of SC/ST category for purchase of milk cattle with unit size from 2 to 10 per beneficiary. Under Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation Scheme, a sub-mission under National Livestock Mission, the activities relating to poultry, small ruminants and pig are supported with subsidy at the rate of 25% for General category members and 33% for SC/ST and BPL category members.

Similarly, 'Rural Backyard Goats Development Scheme' under National Livestock Mission, there is provision of distribution of Sheep/Goat Unit such as 10 numbers of high yielding young female of age group 4-5 months and 1 number of high yielding young male of age group 5-6 months to the farmers.

Indian Council of Agriculture Research - Animal Science Institute have provided 420 cows free of cost to poor goat rearers 2016-17 onwards through various programmes like transfer of technology, North-Eastern Hill (NEH) Region, Tribal Sub-Plan, Farmers First and All India Coordinated Research project (ICRP) on Goat Improvement in the State of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh for improving the productivity of goats.

#### **Suicides by farmers**

1928. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers' suicides in the country has risen by 50 percent in 2018 in comparison to last two years;

(b) if so, whether more than 640 farmers have committed suicides in three months, from March to May, 2018, in Maharashtra alone; and

(c) if so, the number of farmer suicides reported in the country upto June, 2018 along with the number of families having received compensation therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These reports on suicides are available upto 2015 on its website. The reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published as on date. However, NCRB has provided data relating to suicides for the year 2016 (provisional) to this Ministry. As per the ADSI Reports for the year 2015 and data as provided by NCRB for the year 2016 (provisional), the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country, State-wise is given in the Statement (*See below*). The number of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2016 has come down approximately by 9.77% from 12602 to 11370 as compared to suicides in the year 2015.

In the State of Maharashtra, the number of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2015 was 4291, while in the year 2016, it was 3661, which is approximately 14.68% less as compared to the year 2015.

Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness being as a State subject, the State Governments are primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture sector and developing perspective plans for their respective States and ensuring effective implementation of the programmes/schemes. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes/programmes.

Further, the State Governments provide relief to families that face farmer suicides. This information is not maintained Centrally, however, as per information available from some of the States, the details of relief etc. being provided are as follows:—

- State Government of Maharashtra gives *ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 1.00 lakh to the heirs of the deceased farmer. The three norms of eligibility for *ex-gratia* are crop failure, indebtedness and harassment due to inability to pay agriculture related loans.
- The Punjab Government provides ₹ 3.00 lakh compensation to victims' family w.e.f 23.07.2015.
- Government of Andhra Pradesh provides ₹ 5.00 lakh compensation to the family members of the deceased farmers.
- The Government of Telangana provides *ex-gratia* relief of ₹ 5.00 lakh to the family of the deceased farmer towards rehabilitation and ₹ 1.00 lakh as a onetime settlement to wipe off all the liabilities of the family.



- In Karnataka an amount of ₹5.00 lakh relief is provided to the family w.e.f. 1.4.2015. The children of the deceased get free education up to post graduation including hostel facility.

**Statement**

(A) State/UT-wise number of Suicides by persons self-employed in farming/ agriculture during 2015

Sl. No.	State/UT	Agricultural Labourers	Farmers/ Cultivators	Total
		(A)	(B)	(A+B)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	400	516	916
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	7	10
3.	Assam	54	84	138
4.	Bihar	7	0	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	100	854	954
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	244	57	301
8.	Haryana	134	28	162
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46	0	46
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	21	0	21
11.	Jharkhand	21	0	21
12.	Karnataka	372	1197	1569
13.	Kerala	207	3	210
14.	Madhya Pradesh	709	581	1290
15.	Maharashtra	1261	3030	4291
16.	Manipur	0	1	1
17.	Meghalaya	1	2	3
18.	Mizoram	1	0	1
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Odisha	27	23	50
21.	Punjab	24	100	124
22.	Rajasthan	73	3	76
23.	Sikkim	3	15	18
24.	Tamil Nadu	604	2	606
25.	Telangana	42	1358	1400
26.	Tripura	48	1	49
27.	Uttar Pradesh	179	145	324
28.	Uttarakhand	2	0	2
29.	West Bengal	0	0	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	12	0	12
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		4595	8007	12602

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

*(B) State/UTs wise number of suicides committed by persons engaged in farming sector during 2016 (Provisional)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Agricultural Labourers	Farmers/ Cultivators	Suicides in Farming Sector (Total)
		(A)	(B)	(A+B)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	565	239	804
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	6	6

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	64	06	70
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	97	585	682
6.	Goa	1	0	1
7.	Gujarat	378	30	408
8.	Haryana	159	91	250
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14	0	14
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	21	0	21
11.	Jharkhand	0	3	3
12.	Karnataka	867	1212	2079
13.	Kerala	298	23	321
14.	Madhya Pradesh	722	599	1321
15.	Maharashtra	1111	2550	3661
16.	Manipur	0	1	1
17.	Meghalaya	3	2	5
18.	Mizoram	7	0	7
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	101	20	121
21.	Punjab	49	222	271
22.	Rajasthan	39	4	43
23.	Sikkim	2	12	14
24.	Tamil Nadu	345	36	381
25.	Telangana	13	632	645
26.	Tripura	18	4	22
27.	Uttar Pradesh	115	69	184
28.	Uttarakhand	3	0	3
29.	West Bengal	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	3	3
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	27	2	29
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		5019	6351	11370

#### Scarcity of fodder

†1929. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme/programme for the development and production of fodder in the context of wide spread drought in different States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the stretches of meadows in villages are getting shrunk due to weathering and/or encroachment resulting in scarcity of fodder, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken to remove the encroachment from such lands at the earliest along with the details of the rural meadows, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing National Livestock Mission with a Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder development since 2014-15. The scheme is operational in all States and UTs under normal time as well as at the time of natural calamities like drought, flood, etc. Besides this, Additional Fodder Development Programme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana implemented by Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare is also operational especially for drought affected States/Areas. Financial assistance is also provided under the normal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

programme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) of Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare for other fodder developmental activities planned by the States which is supported by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

(b) and (c) No information in this regard is available at the Centre Government level as Agriculture being the State Subject, the powers regulating the functioning of agriculture in the matters raised in the question vest with the concerned State Governments.

#### **Adoption of scientific and modern system in agriculture**

†1930. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve the technical competence of farmers and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of steps taken, if any, to encourage the farmers to adopt the scientific cultivation and modern system of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Agricultural knowledge information pertaining to various technologies generated by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes and Agricultural Universities are shared with network of 700 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the country which are coordinated by 11 ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs). The KVKs in turn share agricultural technological information with line departments of agriculture in States and subsequently disseminated to farmers. The KVKs in the country are mandated with technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development. KVKs organize demonstrations, training programs and skill development programmes to update knowledge and skills on modern agricultural technologies of farmers and farm women, rural youth and in-service extension personnel. The KVKs organize training programmes for farmers and extension personnel. Depending upon the expertise required in training programs, the Scientists of ICAR Institutes are involved.

During the last four years (2014-15 to 2017-18), the KVKs have updated the knowledge and skill of 53.96 lakh farmers; conducted 1.32 lakh on-farm trials and 5.04 lakh frontline demonstrations on farmers' fields; trained 5.62 lakh extension personnel;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ensured participation of large number of farmers in extension activities (540.04 lakh); produced large quantity of seeds (184600 tonnes), 1711.91 lakh planting materials, 950.22 lakh live-stock strains and finger lings; tested soil, water, plant, manures samples (20.90 lakh) and issued mobile agro-advisory to farmers (1022.67 lakh).

### **Increase in demand of bio-agro products**

†1931. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in demand of bio-agro products all over the world and such products fetch comparatively better price;
- (b) if so, the schemes on which Government is working to promote bio-farming, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of increase in bio-agro products with the efforts of the Government during the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to growing awareness of adverse effect of consuming inorganically cultivated vegetables, foods etc. organic food products have been gaining popularity in the country and demand for organic manures and other agro horticultural products have also been increased considerably. Due to better quality these products fetches better price comparatively.

(b) and (c) Government has taken a number of initiatives under bio/organic farming including biofertilizers, biopesticides, vermicompost and green manures across the country through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)/Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) to develop/boost marketing of certified organic produce to make it easily available to households consumers to promote organic/bio farming. The details of the scheme and funds released State-wise under PKVY and MOVCDNER is given in the Statements-I, II, III and IV respectively (*See below*).

The bio-organic products are also supported in other schemes *viz.* Soil Health Management (SHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Network Projection Organic Farming under ICAR. Pattern of assistance for promotion of bio agro inputs under SHM and other schemes is given in the Statement-V (*See below*). Commercial production units of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

organic/bio inputs under National Project on Organic Farming progress till August, 2017 (According to NABARD) and Bio Fertilizer Production is given in the Statement-VI and VII respectively (*See below*).

Further, Waste decomposer developed by National Centre of Organic Farming, Ghaziabad is being distributed to farmers across the country for on-farm production of organic fertilizers from organic waste. More than 5 lakhs farmers have been benefited by using waste decomposer culture in various States across the country.

#### ***Statement-I***

##### ***Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana***

**Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** is the first comprehensive scheme launched as a Centrally Sponsored Programme (CSP) since 2015-16, which now has been revised for next 3 years. The scheme is implemented with a 90:10 (GoI: State Government) funding pattern in 8 NE States and 3 hilly States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, 100% in Union Territory and 60:40 funding pattern in remaining States of the country. The new guideline of the scheme has been uploaded in the website [www.agricoop.nic.in/guidelines/integrated-nutrient-management](http://www.agricoop.nic.in/guidelines/integrated-nutrient-management).

The scheme PKVY is implemented by the State Government on per hectare basis for 500-1000 hectare area in each cluster. A group of farmers having a total area of 20 hectare as far as possible in contiguous patch within a village. The farmer within a group can avail benefit to a maximum of 2 ha., and the limit of assistance is ₹50,000 per ha., out of which 62% *i.e.*, ₹ 31,000 is given as incentives to a farmer for organic conversion, organic inputs, on-farm inputs, production infrastructure, etc., shall be provided directly through DBT during the conversion period of 3 years. The target of an area of around 4 lacs ha. is proposed to be covered in the 3 years which is double the area covered in last three years.

#### **Status of the Scheme**

Total amount allocated for the scheme 2015-2018 is ₹ 947 crore and fund released ₹ 582.47 crore till date for total 11891 clusters. Under PKVY scheme 237820 hectares of land has been converted into organic farming land and 3,94,550 farmers have been benefited.

**Statement-II**

*Details of the State-wise physical and financial progress report under PKVY schemes being implemented by DAC&FW during 2015-16 to 2017-18*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of clusters	2015-16 (₹ in lakh)		2016-17 (₹ in lakh)		2017-18 (₹ in lakh)		2017-18		Release in 2018-19 (₹ in lakh)	
			1st year	2nd year	3rd year	No. of new clusters	Allocation for new clusters (₹ in lakh)	Release for new clusters (₹ in lakh)				
			Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	433	1854.47	1100.15	1308.50	798.17	759.88	292.93	867	1563.21	363.25	0.00
2.	Bihar	327	1400.49	1050.37	988.17	664.26	573.86	0.00	100	428.28	214.14	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	188.00	805.17	603.88	568.12	314.78	329.92	314.16	12.00	51.39	25.70	0.00
4.	Gujarat	100	428.28	178.45	302.19	238.83	175.49	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	4	17.13	7.14	12.09	0	7.02	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Haryana	20	85.66	53.53	60.44	45.98	35.10	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Jharkhand	100	428.28	321.21	302.19	203.14	175.49	0.00	150	642.43	321.21	0.00
8.	Karnataka	545	2334.15	1945.12	1646.96	815.27	956.43	1224.64	0	0.00	0.00	408.21
9.	Kerala	119	509.66	382.22	359.61	0	208.83	307.24	500	2141.42	1070.71	0.00



10.	Madhya Pradesh	880	3768.90	2826.67	2659.31	1787.6	1544.33	1813.94	500	2141.42	1070.71	0.00
11.	Maharashtra	932	3991.61	2598.51	2816.45	2957.59	1635.58	0.00	326	1396.21	698.10	0.00
12.	Odisha	320	1370.51	1027.88	967.02	650.03	561.57	610.60	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Punjab	50	214.14	160.6	151.10	0	87.75	0.00	200	856.57	428.28	0.00
14.	Rajasthan	755	3233.55	2373.69	2281.56	1491.13	1324.96	0.00	395	1691.72	845.86	0.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	112	479.68	399.73	338.46	207.2644	196.55	194.64	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Telangana	300	1284.85	1070.71	906.58	448.77	526.47	0.00	390	1670.31	835.15	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	575	2462.64	2052.2	1737.62	1270.64	1009.08	838.58	45	192.73	96.36	0.00
18.	West Bengal	120	513.94	214.14	362.63	393.66	210.59	374.07	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Assam	220	1413.34	576.39	997.24	0	579.12	1804.19	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	122.06	51.41	86.13	81.08	50.02	94.50	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Mizoram	34	218.43	89.08	154.12	138.65	89.50	211.94	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Manipur	30	192.73	107.07	135.99	0	78.97	48.82	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Nagaland	24	154.18	154.18	108.79	0	63.18	128.98	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Sikkim	150	963.64	409.105	679.94	0	394.86	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	656.81
25.	Tripura	50	321.21	133.84	226.65	308.83	131.62	164.81	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Meghalaya	45	289.09	144.55	203.98	296	118.46	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
27.	Himachal Pradesh	110	706.67	395	498.62	0	289.56	797.58	100	642.43	321.21	0.00
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	28	179.88	74.95	126.92	87.81	73.71	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Uttarakhand	550	3533.35	1962.97	2493.10	2019.4	1447.81	2668.08	35	224.85	112.42	0.00
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	68	485.39	130	342.49	0	198.89	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu								55	392.59	235.55	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli								500	3569.04	1000	0.00
33.	Delhi								500	3569.04	471.45	0.00
34.	Puducherry								8	57.10	28.55	0.00
35.	Other Expenses			24.85		0.00						55.98
TOTAL		7208	33763.09	22619.60	23822.96	15218.88	13834.58	11889.70	4683	17604.61	8138.68	1121.00

Note: Total fund released in 2017-18 is ₹ 20346.29215 lakh (Including fund released for model organic clusters ₹ 307.91 lakh and 10 lakh for the salary). Total clusters 11891 sanctioned.

**Statement-III*****Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region***

Realizing the potential of organic farming in the North Eastern Region of the country, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched a Central Sector Scheme entitled "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region" for implementation in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, during 2015-16 to 2017-18. The scheme aims at development of certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification and creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative. The scheme was approved with an outlay of ₹ 400 crore for three years. The guideline of the scheme has been uploaded in the website [www.agricoop.nic.in/guidelines/integrated-nutrient-management](http://www.agricoop.nic.in/guidelines/integrated-nutrient-management).

The assistance is provided for cluster development, on/off farm input production, supply of seeds/planting materials, setting up of functional infrastructure, establishment of integrated processing unit, refrigerated transportation, pre-cooling/cold stores chamber, branding labeling and packaging, hiring of space, hand holdings, organic certification through third party, mobilization of farmers/processors etc. Under this scheme, an area of 50,000 ha. have been targeted to be covered under organic farming in North Eastern Region of the country during the period of three years *i.e.* from year 2015-16 to 2017-18.

**Major components of MOVCDNER:—**

1. Value Chain Production
2. Value Chain Processing
3. Value Chain Marketing
4. Value Chain Support Agencies

**Physical and Financial Progress report of MOVCDNER scheme****(A) Fund Released:—**

- (i) During the year 2015-16 an amount of ₹112.11 crore has been released.
- (ii) During the year 2016-17 an amount of ₹47.63 crore has been released.

- (iii) During the year 2017-18 an amount of ₹66.22 crore has been released.
- (iv) In the current financial year 2018-19 an amount of ₹9908.20 crore has been released to seven States.

**(B) Physical progress:—**

As on against target of 50000 ha. area, 45918 ha. area brought under the Organic Farming. Against the target of 100 FPCs, 97 FPCs has been achieved, against the target of 2500 FIGs, 2469 FIGs has been formed, and 48948 farmers are mobilized.

***Statement-IV***

*State-wise budget allocation, Release and Utilization received during 3 years*

Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER):

Sl. No.	States	2015-18			Budget Allocation 2018-19	Amount Released Phase-I (Committed liability) (A)	Amount Released Phase-II (B)	Total Released 2018-19 (A+B)
		Fund Released	Utilized Fund	Unspent Balance				
1.	Assam	2439.30	1665.31	773.994	1762.61	-	-	-
2.	Manipur	3328.94	2419.99	908.95	2407.10	546.86	1203.55	1750.41
3.	Meghalaya	2696.98	2352.92	344.06	2857.79	218.07	1428.90	1646.97
4.	Nagaland	3800.46	2836.58	963.88	2096.13	649.78	1048.07	1697.85
5.	Mizoram	2174.15	2174.15	0	1019.12	0	75.83	75.83
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	2483.41	1857.31	626.1	1634.39	1053.36	817.20	1870.56
7.	Sikkim	4216.08	4185.81	30.27	883.85	1763.62		1763.62
8.	Tripura	1456.25	1210.31	245.94	1789.01	208.45	894.51	1102.96
TOTAL		22595.57	18702.38	3893.194	14450.00	4440.14	5468.06	9908.2
Office Expenses		-	-	-	1550.00	-	15.00	15.00
GRAND TOTAL					16000.00	2676.52	5483.06	9923.20

**Statement-V**

*Pattern of assistance for promotion of organic farming under Soil Health Management (SHM) and other schemes*

**A. National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)-Organic and INM Components of Soil Health Management (SHM):—**

- (i) Setting up of State of art liquid/carrier based Bio-fertilizer/Bio-pesticide units, 100% assistance to State Government/Government Agencies upto a maximum limit of ₹ 160.00 lakh/unit and 25% of cost limited to ₹40 lakh/unit for individuals/private agencies through NABARD as capital investment of 200 TPA production capacity.
- (ii) Setting up of Bio-fertilizer and Organic fertilizer testing Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) or Strengthening of existing Laboratory under FCO, assistance up to maximum limit of ₹ 85 lakh for new laboratory and up to a maximum limit of ₹ 45 lakh for strengthening of existing infrastructure to State Government Laboratory under Agriculture or Horticulture Department.

**B. National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP):** Financial assistance @ 50% Subsidy to the tune of ₹ 300/- per ha. is being provided for different components including bio-fertilizers, Supply of Rhizobium Culture/Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria (PSB)/Zinc Solubilising Bacteria (ZSB)/Azatobacter/ Mycorrhiza and vermicompost.

**C. National Food Security Mission (NFSM):** Under NFSM, financial assistance is provided for promotion of Bio-Fertilizer (Rhizobium/PSB) @50% of the cost limited to ₹300 per ha.

**D. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):** Organic farming project components are considered by the respective State Level Sanctioning committee according to their priority choice

**E. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is implementing programmes under Network project on "Soil Biodiversity-Bio-fertilizer" and developed improved and efficient strains of bio-fertilizer specific to different crops and soil types. Liquid Bio-fertilizer technology with higher shelf life has also been developed. The ICAR also imparts training, organizes Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) to educate farmers on all these aspects.

**Statement-VI**

*Commercial production units of organic inputs under National Project on Organic Farming progress till August, 2017 (According to NABARD)*

Sl. No.	State	Vermi-hatchery	Bio-fertilizers	Fruit/Vegetable waste compost unit	Subsidy released (₹ in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	11		211.59
2.	Assam	27	2	2	75.95
3.	Bihar	8			10.50
4.	Delhi			1	40.00
5.	Goa		1	1	31.60
6.	Gujarat	57	5	1	198.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2		46.35
8.	Jharkhand	1			1.50
9.	Karnataka	41	11	5	564.34
10.	Kerala	1	2	2	61.56
11.	Madhya Pradesh	17	1	1	37.53
12.	Maharashtra	33	16	2	316.36
13.	Manipur			1	17.53
14.	Meghalaya		1		5.67
15.	Punjab and Haryana	116	12	1	288.30
16.	Rajasthan	170	2		148.29
17.	Tamil Nadu	5	7	4	312.58
18.	Tripura			1	20.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	120	2	1	234.88
20.	Uttarakhand	1	4		69.75
21.	West Bengal	7	2		20.08
TOTAL		612	81	23	2712.36

Source: NCOF, Ghaziabad.

**Statement-VII***State-wise bio-fertilizer production in India*

SIN.	State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Carrier based (MT)	Carrier based (MT)	Carrier based (MT)	Carrier based (MT)	Liquid based (KL)	Carrier based (MT)	Liquid based (KL)	Carrier based (MT)	Liquid based (KL)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>South Zone</b>										
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0.0000	0.0000	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1126.35	1335.74	2714.22	2668.8000	274.8560	3062.6	317.811	3375.91	365.24
3.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0.0000	0.0000	0	0	0	0
4.	Karnataka	5760.32	7683.72	9907.337	16462.6200	23.0561	23042.91	488.142	31553.06	993.443
5.	Kerala	904.17	1045.64	3520.66	4916.9700	10.5096	4926.045	56.5751	4993.8692	59.6143
6.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.0000	0.0000	0	0	0	0
7.	Puducherry	509.45	621	516.98	560.9500	1.4976	283.641	4.088	203.966	11.197
8.	Tamil Nadu	3373.81	11575.7	14104.83	15373.2900	11.3017	23721.2104	861.9535	27427.962	875.292
TOTAL		11674.1	22261.8	30764.027	39982.6300	321.2210	55036.41	1728.57	67554.7672	2304.7863

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>West Zone</b>										
1.	Chhattisgarh	276.34	501.63	712.07	1024.680	9.620	954.371	9.38	955.074	10.23
2.	Gujarat	2037.35	978.48	6411.434	3667.929	2800.500	3963.42	2873.317	3909.82	2857.77
3.	Goa	0	370	66.26	802.520	0.000	820.52	0	822	0
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2309.06	1408.08	4824.194	2637.990	119.216	2741.30775	131.033	5609.006	238.103
5.	Maharashtra	8743.69	5897.91	6218.607	14847.397	324.767	7825.142	389.665	8323.616	398.33
6.	Rajasthan	199.78	982	1315	599.898	0.000	680	0	711	0
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		13566.220	10138.100	19547.565	23580.414	3254.103	16984.76	3403.395	20330.516	3504.433

<b>North Zone</b>										
1.	Delhi	1617	0	396	104.500	0.000	106.2	0	116.2	0
2.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0
3.	Haryana	914.41	5832.61	1146.483	872.955	46.489	1097.457	58.032	2360.644	70.148
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1.29	0	26.147	0.768	33.070	2.712	190.05	3.276	194.7



5.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	45.26	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0
6.	Punjab	692.22	2311.33	2124.852	6305.453	74.278	2197.197	149.581	5533.774	210.177
7.	Uttar Pradesh	8695.08	1310.02	2682.221	4099.068	98.036	3053.115	223.34	2835.79	461.19
8.	Uttarakhand	263.01	2758.21	5493.851	2129.952	208.034	3549.39	428.22	3720.68	696.9
TOTAL		12183.010	12212.170	11914.814	13512.696	459.907	10006.07	1049.223	14570.364	1633.115

**East Zone**

1.	Bihar	75	52.4	52.4	64.90	0.00	97	0	107	0
2.	Jharkhand	8.38	35.3	14.2	9.08	0.00	9.172	0	18.552	0
3.	Odisha	590.12	407.1	1097.61	1074.46	4.70	467.634	13.701	516.281	31.79
4.	West Bengal	603.2	1110	1682.7076	2061.83	14.63	2826.27	23.537	3195.18	26.21
TOTAL		1276.7	1604.8	2846.9176	3210.27	19.33	3400.076	37.238	3837.013	58

**North East Zone**

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	59	59	0	3062.6	317.811	119.7	0
2.	Assam	68.33	89	149	88.000	0.000	1315	22.5	1359.05	26
3.	Manipur	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	25	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0
5.	Mizoram	0	0	4	3.600	0.000	4.2	0	2.5	0
6.	Nagaland	13	7.45	7.45	7.450	0.000	8.81	0	51.45	0
7.	Sikkim	0	9.5	10.1	12.400	0.000	12.91	0	16.25	0
8.	Tripura	1542.85	514	225	240.000	0.000	1143.07	0	1153.5	0
TOTAL		1624.18	619.95	454.55	410.450	0.000	5546.59	340.311	2727.45	26
GRAND TOTAL		40324.21	46836.82	65527.87	80696.45595	4054.563711	88029.30415	6240.926	109020.1102	7526.3343

Source: Compiled by NCOF (Data Provided by Production Units/State Government/RCOFs).

**Implementation of schemes for enhancing agricultural production**

†1932. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes implemented by Government to enhance the agricultural production and to increase the income of the farmers; and
- (b) the number of farmers benefited by these schemes and the quantum of growth registered in the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Agriculture is a State Subject. However, Government of India facilitates the State Governments through many Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes to increase production and to increase the income of farmers. A list of schemes is given in the Statement (*See* below).

- (b) Some indicators regarding number of farmers benefited and the quantum of growth registered in production under some schemes is as follows:

Under Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), launched during 2014-15, 20533 demonstrations have been conducted, 16915 number of trainers have been trained, 768232 number of agricultural machinery distributed, 7303 number of Custom Hiring Centres established, 185 Hi-Tech hubs and 5871 number of Farm Machinery Banks have been established at farm level.

Under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), 237820 hectares of land has been converted under organic farming and 394550 farmers have benefitted with effect from 2015-16 onwards.

Under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) from 2015-16, 45918 hectare area has been brought under Organic Farming in the North Eastern States, 98 Farmer Producer Centers (FPCs) have been registered and 2469 Farmers Interest Group (FIGs) have been formed and 48948 farmers are mobilized.

Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), about 572 lakh farmers have been covered over an area of 571 lakh hectares during Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17 seasons.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Under Seed Village Programme, the number of farmers benefitted in 2017-18 was 30.05 lakhs.

Over 1.52 crore farmers have benefited through different extension activities under Sub Mission on Agricultural Extension since 2014-15 to 31st March, 2018.

Under Soil Health Card Scheme, during Cycle-I (2015-16 and 2016-17) Soil Health Cards were distributed to 1073.89 lakh farmers and during Cycle-II (2017-18 and 2018-19), Soil Health Cards have been distributed to 74 lakh farmers

***Statement***

Sl. No.	Names of Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes
1.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
2.	National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)
3.	Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
4.	Soil Health Management (SHM)
5.	Soil Health Card (SHC)
6.	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
7.	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
8.	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
9.	Sub- Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)
10.	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (WHDH)
11.	National Agroforestry & Bamboo Mission (NABM)
12.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
13.	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

**Remunerative price to farmers**

1933. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) the number of farmers committed suicide since 1 st April, 2018 till date, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to provide remunerative prices to farmers of the country while the cost of production has gone up rapidly and prices of crops have gone down drastically since 2015;

(c) whether it is also a fact that non-remunerative price of crops to farmers is forcing them to hand over their lands to industries for corporate farming; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for providing non-remunerative prices to 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 are available upto 2015 on its website. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published as on date. However, NCRB has provided data relating to suicides for the year 2016 (provisional) to this Ministry. As per the ADSI Reports for the year 2015 and data as provided by NCRB for the year 2016 (provisional), the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country State-wise is given in the Statement-I [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 1928 part (a) to (c)]. The number of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2016 has come down approximately by 9.77% from 12602 to 11370.

(b) to (d) Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). The Commission collects analyses data on cost of cultivation and recommends MSP.

Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all kharif crops for 2018-19 Season. This decision of the Government is a historic one as it redeems the promise of the pre-determined principle of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19. The MSP declared during 2012-13 to 2018-19 for various crops is given in the Statement-II [Refer to the Annexure appended to answer to USQ No. 1928 part (a) to (c)]

The Government has implemented National Agriculture Market popularly known as e-NAM ' scheme for transparent price discovery for the farmers for their produce

through competitive online bidding system. Under the scheme, an electronic trading portal with pan India trading facility has been deployed in 585 regulated wholesale markets in 16 States and 02 Union Territories across the country as on 31.03.2018.

Further, in order to provide better marketing facilities to the farmers, the Government of India has released a new model "The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017" on 24th April, 2017 for its adoption by States/UTs. The provisions therein provides for alternative marketing channels such as setting up of private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/ silos/ cold storages or such structures as market sub yards to facilitate farmers in marketing their produce at competitive and remunerative prices.

In order to optimise the use of scarce resources and mitigate the uncertainty in price and marketing, the Government has formulated and released a progressive and facilitative Model Act "The – State/ UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" in May, 2018 for its adoption by the States/Union Territories (UTs). The aforesaid Model Contract Farming Act covers the entire value and supply chain from pre production to post harvest marketing including services contract for the agricultural produce and livestock.

#### **MSP for Kharif crops**

1934. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

- (a) whether Government has increased the MSP for Kharif crops recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether farmers' organisations have announced for a long strike against the Government's misleading claims for recent increase in MSP and unremunerative agricultural policies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Government announces

Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season *viz.* paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, arhar, moong, urad, groundnut-in-shell, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, nigerseed and cotton; 6 rabi crops *viz.* wheat, barley, gram, masur(lentil), rapeseed/mustard and safflower and two other commercial crops *viz.* jute and copra. In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.

Government has announced its historic decision on 04.07.2018 to fix MSP at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production for kharif crops 2018-19 which redeems the promise made in the Union Budget for 2018-19. The MSPs fixed by Government, cost and returns over all-India weighted average cost of production of crops for 2017-18 and 2018-19 is given in the Statement (*See* below). Cost of production varies in different States on account of difference in levels of irrigation, resource endowment, farm mechanization, land holding size, yield of crops etc.

(c) to (e) From time to time, some farmers and farmers' organizations have been agitating and making certain demands like increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for agricultural crops and other agricultural policies.

Recent increase in MSP of Kharif crops at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production will ensure remunerative price to farmers. Government has taken several steps to provide remunerative prices to farmers for their produce which include implementing e-National Agriculture Market and framing model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017, promoting Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) and stepping up the levels of procurement for pulses and oilseeds through the Price Support Scheme (PSS). PSS is implemented at the request of the State Government concerned which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and other State duties. The basic objectives of PSS are to provide remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of the consumers by making available supplies at reasonable price with low cost of intermediation. Under PSS, payments to the farmers are made strictly through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and account payee cheque by the procuring agencies within three days of purchase of their produce.

**Statement***Cost\*, Minimum Support Prices(MSPs) and Return over Cost*

(₹/quintal)

Commodity		2017-18			2018-19		
Sl. No.	Kharif Crops	Cost	MSP	% Return over cost	Cost	MSP	% Return over Cost
1.	Paddy(Common)	1117	1550	38.76	1166	1750	50.09
	(Grade A)^	1590	1770				
2.	Jowar (Hybrid)	1556	1700	9.25	1619	2430	50.09
	(Maldandi)^	1725	2450				
3.	Bajra	949	1425	50.16	990	1950	96.97
4.	Maize	1044	1425	36.49	1131	1700	50.31
5.	Ragi	1861	1900	2.10	1931	2897	50.01
6.	Arhar (Tur)	3318	5450	64.26	3432	5675	65.36
7.	Moong	4286	5575	30.07	4650	6975	50.00
8.	Urad	3265	5400	65.39	3438	5600	62.89
9.	Cotton (Medium Staple)	3276	4020	22.71	3433	5150	50.01
	(Long Staple) ^		4320			5450	
10.	Groundnut In Shell	3159	4450	40.87	3260	4890	50.00
11.	Sunflower Seed	3481	4100	17.78	3592	5388	50.01
12.	Soyabean	2121	3050	43.80	2266	3399	50.01
13.	Sesamum	4067	5300	30.32	4166	6249	50.01
14.	Nigerseed	3912	4050	3.53	3918	5877	50.01

\*Includes all paid out costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour, rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, interest on working capital, diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets etc, miscellaneous expenses and imputed value of family labour.

^ Cost is not separately compiled for Paddy (Grade A), Jowar (Maldandi) and Cotton (long staple).



**Decline in number of beneficiaries under PMFBY**

1935. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total funds allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the total number of beneficiaries under the scheme, year-wise and State/UT-wise;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the number of new beneficiaries under the scheme in 2017-18 from 2016-17, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure bringing all farmers under the ambit of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), which is an actuarial/bidded premium based scheme, over and above farmers premium, subsidy is provided both by Central and State Government on 50: 50 basis. Funds allocated by Central Government under PMFBY since its inception are given below:

Year	Funds Allocated (In ₹ crore)*
2016-17	11054.63
2017-18	9419.79
2018-19	13014.15

\* Includes allocation of funds for meeting the committed liabilities of the Government under erstwhile schemes.

State-wise details of farmer applicants covered during 2016-17 and 2017-18 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

Yes, Sir. There is decline in coverage of farmer applicants in 2017-18 from 2016-17. This is mainly due to factors like the announcement of Debt Waiver Scheme in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, farmer's perception of mitigated risk in 2017-18, which was a good monsoon year, deduplication due to Aadhaar being made mandatory for coverage etc..

The scheme is optional for States. Notwithstanding that Government has been urging the States to bring more areas and crops under the scheme so that maximum

farmers may be covered under the scheme. Besides that Government seeks active involvement of all stakeholders especially States and implementing insurance companies for conduct of publicity campaign/awareness programmes including organization of camps in the rural areas to build farmer awareness about crop insurance schemes. Other measures include release of advertisements on regular basis in leading National/local News Papers, telecast through audio-visual media, distribution of pamphlets in local languages, participation in agriculture fairs / mela / goshti, dissemination of SMS through Kisan Portal/National Crop Insurance Portal and conduct of workshops/ trainings of officials of State Governments and financial institutions and farmers. Moreover, insurance companies have been asked to utilize 0.5% of gross premium collected by them for publicity and awareness generation. For non-loanee farmers since crop insurance is optional, the Common Service Centers (CSCs) and online enrolment have been activated to provide services besides traditional modes like banks and insurance intermediaries.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of Coverage of Farmers Applicants  
during 2016-17 and 2017-18*

Sl. No.	States	Farmers Applicants covered (in numbers)	
		2016-17	2017-18
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	324	364
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,771,957	1,799,021
3.	Assam	60,265	56,791
4.	Bihar	2,714,270	2,234,483
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,549,139	1,471,587
6.	Goa	757	538
7.	Gujarat	1,975,139	1,754,470
8.	Haryana	1,336,028	1,335,764
9.	Himachal Pradesh	379,925	378,105
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	150,302
11.	Jharkhand	877,754	1,197,438

1	2	3	4
12.	Karnataka	2,737,667	1,601,511
13.	Kerala	77,405	46,136
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7,181,316	6,890,930
15.	Maharashtra	12,001,215	10,053,750
16.	Manipur	8,366	9,109
17.	Meghalaya	89	2,945
18.	Odisha	1,820,236	1,899,034
19.	Puducherry	8,537	Not Available
20.	Rajasthan	9,150,224	6,012,084
21.	Sikkim	574	1,391
22.	Tamil Nadu	1,450,427	1,284,714
23.	Telangana	973,343	1,077,641
24.	Tripura	12,760	11,674
25.	Uttar Pradesh	6,767,276	5,290,261
26.	Uttarakhand	261,571	184,427
27.	West Bengal	4,133,279	4,004,596
GRAND TOTAL		57,249,843	48,749,066

**Role of co-operative societies in disbursing fertilizers  
and seeds to farmers**

1936. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of transparency, tenant farmers are not getting fertilizers and seeds provided by co-operative societies and it goes to the black-market;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to make the role of cooperative societies more transparent; and

(c) whether any scheme is being considered upon by Government for using accounts of farmers opened under Jan Dhan Yojana for providing fertilizer subsidy to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No such instance seems to have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana guidelines envisage channeling Direct Benefit transfer from Government to the beneficiaries' Jan-Dhan Accounts. DBT may also be remitted into accounts other than Jan-Dhan accounts of beneficiaries.

**Inclusion of more crops under Market Intervention Scheme**

1937. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received requests from various State Governments regarding inclusion of more crops under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and refunding the loss suffered by the farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the State Governments, particularly Jharkhand and Gujarat, have also requested the Government to enhance the Central aid under the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) the other measures taken by Government to give benefits to the middle and small farmers of the country, especially those of Jharkhand and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) No Sir. All the agricultural and horticultural commodities for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) are not fixed and are generally perishable in nature are covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

(d) In order to give benefits to small and marginal farmers of the country including Jharkhand and Gujarat, the Government has implementing various schemes viz., Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea (NCU), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation, Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc. In addition, schemes relating to tree plantation (Har Medh Par Ped), Bee Keeping, Dairy and Fisheries are also implemented.

**Implementation of PMFBY**

1938. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are issues in implementing Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);
- (b) the reasons for not appointing insurance experts at the Central level to track and evaluate the progress of scheme, negotiate lower premium rates with re-insurers and also guide States for effective implementation thereof;
- (c) whether States and Centre are not paying premium subsidy in time to companies resulting in difficulties;
- (d) if so, how Ministry would ensure doing this in time and issue/finalize tenders for 3-4 years in one go which reduces premium; and
- (e) how technology is being used under PMFBY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is a scheme involving several stakeholders including State Governments, financial institutions, insurance companies and farmers, both loanee and non-loanee. It also envisages adoption of technology for integration of all stakeholders on the National Crop Insurance Portal for scheme administration and in capturing crop loss assessment etc. Issues faced by stakeholders in adopting the new technology regimen, in following seasonality discipline alongwith the fact that claim settlement is primarily dependent on receipt of clear yield data from States as well timely payment of their share of premium subsidy to insurance companies are some of the major challenges in implementing PMFBY.

The scheme provides for setting up of Technical Support Unit (TSU) with crop insurance expert to track and evaluate the scheme implementation. Initially, the Agriculture Insurance company of India Ltd. (AIC) and subsequently the GIC Re were designated as TSU. Government has recently engaged a team from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to set up Project Monitoring Unit (PMF)/TSU.

Operational Guidelines of PMFBY also contain provisions for bidding/notification of PMFBY by States for three years so that insurance companies concerned may be able to create infrastructure and manpower in the clusters allocated to them. The

Government is impressing upon the States at various platforms for bidding/notification for longer period. Many States are now floating bids for longer periods say one year or more and even up to three years.

(e) There is a two pronged strategy for use of technology in PMFBY. Firstly, the scheme will be administered through National Crop Insurance Portal on which all stakeholders have been integrated to facilitate realtime information flow and service delivery through better coordination, transparency and auto-administration of the scheme. Secondly, for accurate assessment of yield loss, risk classification, rationalization of Crop Cutting Experiments etc. cutting edge technology viz. Remote sensing Imager-through satellites find Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV/DRONE), smartphone/CCE Agri App are being deployed.

#### **Implementation of e-Pashudhan Haat Scheme**

1939. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched an e-market portal namely, e-Pashudhan Haat, for bovine germplasm for connecting breeds and farmers of indigenous bovine breeds;

(b) if so, the benefits of the said scheme to the farmers; and

(c) the details of the progress on e-Pashudhan Haat at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Government has launched e-Pashu Haat portal ([www.epashuhaat.gov.in](http://www.epashuhaat.gov.in)) for connecting breeders and farmers of indigenous breeds. Through the portal farmers can obtain information on location of quality indigenous germplasm in the form live animals, semen doses and embryos. This portal is playing crucial role in development and conservation of indigenous breeds. As on date complete information along with pedigree and productivity details on availability of 80,433 live animals, 80.36 million semen doses and 364 embryos is available on the portal (as on 31.07.2018).

#### **Benefit to farmer by increasing ethanol mixture in petrol**

†1940. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is making effort to extend the benefit to sugarcane farmers by increasing the level of ethanol mixture in petrol;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard, so far;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that once upon a time farming of sugarcane was being done on large scale in Bihar; and
- (d) whether Government would make efforts to restart the closed sugar mills by promoting farming of sugarcane in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government, through Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), is implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme under which, OMCs sell ethanol blended petrol with 10% ethanol in petrol. Realization from ethanol is also one of the components in revenue of sugar mills / distilleries, this also affects the capability of sugar industry to pay farmers dues. Following steps have been taken by the Government to increase the availability of ethanol for blending in petrol to benefit sugarcane farmers:

- (i) In December, 2014, the Government re-introduced administered price mechanism for procurement of ethanol by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
  - (ii) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has fixed the price of ethanol derived from C-heavy molasses at ₹ 43.46 per litre and B-heavy molasses/sugarcane juice at ₹ 47.13 per litre for ethanol supply year 2018-19 in view of actual Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugar for sugar season 2018-19 declared by the Government.
  - (iii) The Government has introduced 6% Interest Subvention Scheme to infuse ₹ 1332 crore for augmenting and enhancing ethanol production capacity.
  - (iv) The Government has notified the National Policy on Biofuels 2018 on 8.6.2018 which *inter-alia* allows B-heavy molasses and sugarcane juice for production of ethanol for blending with petrol.
- (c) Sugarcane was grown in an area of 1.62 lakh ha. in Bihar during 1970-71 which was reduced to 0.94 lakh ha. in 2000-01. However it has increased to 2.43 lakh ha. during 2017-18. Area, production and yield of sugarcane in Bihar during last five decades and current year is given below:

Year	Area (lakh ha.)	Production (lakh tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ha.)
1970-71	1.62	62.09	38.35
1980-81	1.10	34.80	31.41
1990-91	1.48	78.05	52.49
2000-01	0.94	39.87	42.64
2010-11	2.48	127.63	51.46
2017-18*	2.43	165.11	67.95

\*3rd Advance Estimates

(d) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Sugarcane development programme under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in 13 major sugarcane growing States including Bihar from 2014-15. Under this scheme thrust has been given on promoting intercroops with sugarcane, transfer of technology through frontline demonstrations and training in order to extend benefits to the farmers. Besides NFSM, the States can support sugarcane development programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the State.

To restart is the sugar mill, it is the responsibility of the entrepreneur concerned to take steps to re-open / revive the closed/sick sugar mills as far as private sector is concerned and State Government/UTs concerned in the case of the public and co-operative sugar mills. The Government of India under the Sugar Development Fund (SDF), provides concessional loans for modernization/ rehabilitation of sugar plants, setting up of bagasse based cogeneration projects, production of ethanol and sugarcane development.

#### **Registration of Agricultural Produce Market Committees under e-NAM**

1941. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Agricultural Produce Market Committees which are registered with electronic National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) along with the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is about to reach its target of enrolment of 7500 such Committees and if so, the details thereof; and



(c) whether e-NAM has enabled the farmers to sell their produces at the best prices and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) So far, 585 Agricultural Produce Market Committees of 16 States and 02 Union Territories have been registered with National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) platform. State-wise number of Agricultural Produce Market Committees registered with e-NAM platform is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) As per target, 585 wholesale regulated markets were to be integrated with e-NAM platform by 31st March, 2018, which has been achieved. Further, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), Government of India, has now approved integration of additional 415 wholesale regulated markets with National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform by 2019-20.

Further, as per Union Budget 2018-19 Announcement, the Government has decided to develop and upgrade existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). In these GrAMs, physical infrastructure will be strengthened using Government Schemes such as MGNREGA (Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) etc. These GrAMs are to be exempted from regulations of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMCs) and linked to e-NAM to provide farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk consumers.

(c) No specific study has been done in this regard. However, e-NAM platform promotes better marketing opportunities for farmers to sell their produce through online competitive transparent bidding system with better and real time price discovery and online payment facility. It also promotes prices commensurate with quality of produce. All these contribute towards better marketing efficiency and also better prices to farmers.

#### *Statement*

##### *State-wise list of wholesale regulated markets integrated with e-NAM Platform*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of wholesale regulated markets integrated
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Chandigarh	01

1	2	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	14
4.	Gujarat	79
5.	Haryana	54
6.	Himachal Pradesh	19
7.	Jharkhand	19
8.	Madhya Pradesh	58
9.	Maharashtra	60
10.	Odisha	10
11.	Puducherry	02
12.	Punjab	19 -
13.	Rajasthan	25
14.	Tamil Nadu	23
15.	Telangana	47
16.	Uttar Pradesh	100
17.	Uttarakhand	16
18.	West Bengal	17
	TOTAL	585

**Ban on import of red gram**

1942. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that import of red gram is showing adverse impact on the domestic market thereby farmers are not able to sell their produces as the imported red gram is causing the decrease in the price;

(b) whether Government has received any requests from any State Government seeking temporary ban on the imports of the red gram to enable the domestic producers to sell their produce in the markets;

- (c) whether Government has taken any decision on such request; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Import statistics of red gram/ tur during 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (April- May) given in the Statement (*See below*) show that there is a significant decline in import of the said commodity in the country over the last one year. Therefore, import is not the major factor showing adverse impact on the domestic markets of red gram/ tur. Due to bumper production of pulses including red gram/ tur in 2016-17 and 2017-18, there is higher stock with traders and Government agencies which mainly lead to decrease in prices in domestic market.

(b) to (d) Government has received representation from State of Telangana to put a ban on import of red gram. Government has already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under chairpersonship of Secretary, Deptt. of Food and Public Distribution comprising representatives of Deptt. of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Deptt. of Consumer Affairs and Director General of Foreign Trade to hold meeting periodically to review the prices, availability etc. of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils etc. and suggest appropriate policy measure keeping in view the interests of farmers and consumers. Government has already imposed quantitative restriction of 2 lakh tons per annum on import of red gram/tur with effect from 5th August 2017 to minimize the import. Besides, Government has also lifted ban on export of all varieties of pulses with effect from 22nd November 2017 to enhance export of these commodities.

#### *Statement*

##### *India's import of red gram/tur*

Financial Year	Qty.	Value	(Qty. in lakh tons and value in ₹ crore)	
			% decline in import in 17-18/ 16-17 and 18-19 (Apr.-May)/ 17-18 (Apr.-May)	
			Qty	value
2016-17	7.04	4,091.5	-	-
2017-18	4.12	1,417.0	-41	-65
2017-18 (Apr.-May)	0.97	394.4	-	-
2018-19 (Apr.-May)	0.16	45.6	-84	-88

*Source:* Deptt. of Commerce.

**Allocation of funds for organic farming**

1943. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers practicing organic farming in the country, at present;
- (b) the growth of organic food market in the country during the last two years;
- (c) whether Government is aware that there is need for growing more organic foods in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken for promoting organic farming in the country;
- (d) whether Government has allocated any separate funds for the promotion of organic farming in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details of the funds allocated and spent during the said period for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The number of farmers practising organic farming in the country, at present is around 17.34 lakh under the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) and National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP).

(b) and (c) There is no authentic data, information or study available on growth of organic food market in the country. As per the study report published by the ASSOCHAM and Earnest and Young LLP, the organic food items market in India are largely spread across the food and beverages, health and wellness, beauty and personal care and textile industries. The highest growth is observed in the organic food segment, followed by textile, beauty and personal care. The Indian domestic market during 2016 for organic products was estimated at INR 40,000 million which is likely to increase to INR 100,000 million —INR 120,000 million by 2020 with a similar increase in export.

Government has been promoting organic farming through the dedicated schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) since 2015. It is also supported by other schemes viz. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Mission for Integrated Development of

Horticulture (MIDH), Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) under ICAR. In addition third party certification of organic farming has been promoted by Agriculture Processed Food and Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce.

(d) and (e) Government has provided funds under the schemes PKVY and MOVCDNER for promotion of organic farming. The details of funds allocated and released to the States under these schemes are given in the Statement-I [Refer to the Statement-II appended to answer to USQ No. 1931 Part (b) and (c)] and Statement-II [Refer to the Statement-IV appended to answer to USQ No. 1931 Part (b) and (c)] respectively.

### **MSP for agricultural commodities**

1944. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether working out MSP for agricultural commodities calls for a fundamental revision as the present three decades old methodology is based on minuscule sample size employed for major crops;

(b) whether tur or arhar is cultivated by about one million farmers in Karnataka but the department surveys only 89 farmers cultivating tur or arhar in the southern State to determine the average cost of tur cultivation; and

(c) whether the sample size of 8100 farmers across 19 States has not changed in the last three decades and needs to be recalibrated in tune with present realities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The present sampling design and methodology for collection of cost data and estimation of production cost has been developed and devised by the Committee of Experts *viz.*, Special Expert Committee on Cost of Production Estimates constituted in 1979 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S R Sen. This has been reviewed from time to time by different Committees of Experts *viz.*, Expert Committee for Review of Methodology of Cost of Production of Crops constituted in 1990 under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.H. Hanumantha Rao and Report of the Committee to Examine Methodological Issues in Fixing Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) constituted in 2013 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ramesh Chand. These Committees of Experts have observed that with the sampling design and methodology devised, the sample size of 8100 holdings in the country is adequately representative.

(b) and (c) The sample selection under the "Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India" (CS Scheme) for collection of cost data and generation of estimates of production cost, is based on combination of crops (crop complex) approach. The sample selection is done for a block period of three years *i.e.* data is collected for same sample holdings for three years. The combination of crops (crop complex) selected and corresponding sample size in each State varies from State to State and from year to year depending upon their importance in terms of its relative contribution in the production of the concerned crop at all-India level. The sample size of tur (arhar) crop in southern States including Karnataka during the 2014-17 block period *i.e.*, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 agriculture year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The Committee constituted in 2013 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ramesh Chand to examine the methodological issues in fixing MSP has, *inter-alia*, suggested certain changes in the sampling design. Two important changes have been suggested for sampling design *viz.*, (i) Selection of two sample villages in place of one village from each selected tehsil/block for wide coverage of sample villages, (ii) Classification of operational holdings into three size classes, namely, less than 1 hectare (ha.), 1-2 ha. and more than 2 ha., in place of present classification of 5 size classes and select 3, 2 and 1 operational holdings respectively from each size class *i.e.*, six units from each village. The impact of these two recommendations will lead to increase of about 20% in overall sample size under CS Scheme. In-principle approval for the implementation of these two recommendations has been accorded and will take effect from the next block period.

#### ***Statement***

##### *State-wise sample size of Tur Crop in Southern States under CS Scheme*

Sl. No.	State	Sample Size (Number)		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40	51	79
2.	Karnataka	89	63	135
3.	Tamil Nadu	NS	NS	NS
4.	Kerala	NS	NS	NS

NS: Tur crop was not selected in these two States under CS Scheme.

**Legislation on MSP**

1945. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with MSPs continue having only notional value, except, perhaps for rice, the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices has suggested the Government for bringing in legislation conferring the "right to sell at MSP" to ensure that crops are not traded below the fixed price;

(b) whether Government is aware that there are moves by farmer welfare organisations to mobilise support towards tabling a Private Members Bill in Parliament to secure a legal cushion by guaranteeing an MSP with a 50 per cent profit margin over the cost of production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in its Price Policy Reports has suggested bringing a legislation conferring on farmers the "Right to Sell at MSP" to instill confidence among farmers so that their produce is not sold/procured below Minimum Support Price (MSP) and farmers are not exploited by traders.

All non-price recommendations of the CACP are examined by Departments concerned and action taken on them if found acceptable after broad based consultations. Private Member bills are moved in Parliament on many critical issues.

Government on its part has announced the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for kharif crops 2018-19 on 4th July 2018. This decision of the Government of India is a historic one as it redeems the promise of the pre-determined principle of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19.

The Government offers to procure the agricultural produce at MSP through designated procurement agencies. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to Government procurement agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them. In addition to this the Union Budget has also announced NITI Aayog, in consultation with Central and State Governments, will put in place a fool-proof mechanism so that farmers may get adequate price for their produce. The Budget for 2018-19 has

also observed that as more than 86% of our farmers are small and marginal and they may not always be in a position to directly transact at APMCs and other wholesale markets, Government will develop and upgrade existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). The Budget for 2018-19 had further stated that these GrAMs, electronically linked to e-NAM and exempted from regulation of APMCs will provide farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.

NITI Aayog held consultations on 9th March, 2018 with State Governments and Central Government Departments concerned to ensure farmers will get a price at least equivalent to the announced MSP. Three options were discussed: Market Assurance Scheme, which entails procurement by States and compensation of losses; Price Deficiency Payment Scheme, whereby, if the sale price is below the modal price farmers may be compensated the difference between MSP and actual/modal price subject to certain conditions and ceiling; Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme, whereby procurement is made by private entrepreneurs at MSP and Government providing some policy and tax incentives and a commission to such private entities. The procurement operations may be decided on the basis of transparent criteria and bidding for the empanelment of private players by the State Government. So far no decision has been taken by the Government in this regard. It was also emphasized in the meeting that all States should undertake market reform by modifying their APMC acts in the line of the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017.

#### **Benefits to farmers under PMFBY**

†1946. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all farmers of the country are not getting the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the way insurance companies are providing its benefits to the farmers along with the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of assistance being provided by the insurance companies in comparison to the cost and labour of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The benefits under

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) are available only for the farmers growing notified crops in areas notified by the State Governments that opt for the scheme. Further, even in respect of such notified crops/areas while loanee farmers availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loans/Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans are compulsorily covered, however, the scheme is voluntary for non-loanee farmers. Further, for their coverage their insurable interest must be established. Loanee farmers may also be left out of ambit of the scheme in case their loans become sub standard due to non-repayment of their loan dues or non-loanee farmers may not opt for scheme in case they perceive less or no risk due to good monsoon etc.

Insurance companies provide claims only in case of crop damage due to non-preventable natural risk covered under the scheme and calculated as per the formula stipulated in the Operational Guidelines *i.e.* Threshold Yield (TY) - Actual Yield (AY) \_\_\_\_\_ X Sum Threshold Yield (TY) Insured Where TY = Average Yield of past seven years (excluding maximum of two calamity years as notified by State Government /Union Territory multiplied by applicable indemnity level for that crop).

Under PMFBY in order to maximize risk coverage for the farmers, sum insured has been equated to the Scale of Finance, which includes both input cost and labour of farmers.

### **Promoting Zero-Budget Natural Farming**

1947. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to promote Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) to double the income of farmers by 2022, if so, the details thereof along with details of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and whether these are related to ZBNF;

(b) whether Government has been claiming to double income of farmers by 2022 through various schemes, if so, details of all such schemes announced post 2014 till date;

(c) whether ZBNF is being practiced by the farmers anywhere in the country, if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether ZBNF is being used globally, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Government of India has been promoting organic farming in the country through the dedicated schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2015-16 and also through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In the revised guidelines of PKVY scheme during the year 2018, various organic farming models like Natural Farming, Rishi Farming, Vedic Farming, Cow Farming, Homa Farming, Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) etc. have been included wherein flexibility is given to States to adopt any model of Organic Farming including ZBNF depending on farmer's choice. Under the RKVY Scheme, organic farming/ natural farming project components are considered by the respective State Level Sanctioning Committee according to their priority/ choice.

(b) Government has articulated seven point agenda to double the income of farmers by 2022. Various schemes *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea (NCU), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Schemes relating to tree plantation (Har Medh Pe Pedh), bee-keeping, dairy and fisheries have been initiated and have been implemented to enhance production and productivity of agriculture and thereby enhancing the income of farmers.

(c) Some States in the country are practicing ZBNF under Central Assistance to State, *viz.* Scheme: Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), such as Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh districts, the programme is under implementation in 131 clusters covering 704 villages under RKVY and 1300 clusters covering 268 villages under PKVY. It will be expanded to 4000 new clusters during 2018-19 under PKVY scheme. So far, 163034 farmers are practicing ZBNF.

(d) Globally ZBNF has been categorized under climate change resilient, Agro-ecology and more specifically "Regenerative Agriculture".

#### **Adverse effects of Parthenium weed**

1948. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that invasion of Parthenium weed on fertile agricultural land has become a curse for small and marginal farmers;

(b) whether Government has conducted any scientific study on the fallouts/ adverse effects of this weed on fertility of land, crop production, human and livestock, bio-diversity, etc;

(c) if so, the details of findings thereof; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to fight the menace of this aggressive and invasive weed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Government is aware of the adverse effect of parthenium weed on agricultural land.

(b) and (c) No such study has been conducted by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S).

(d) The Department is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is being propagated through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs), two days and Five Days orientation programmes and 30 days Season Long Training Programme to sensitize farmers on weed managing practices. The farmers, *inter alia*, are advised to adopt Mechanical control by ploughing the weed before plants reach flowering stage, biological control of the weed by manipulating Natural enemies and sowing of competitive plant. Further, the bio-control agent *Zygogramma* spp has been introduced to control Parthenium.

#### **Benefit of MSP to farmers**

1949. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware that personnel of Government procurement agencies, in connivance with private traders, do not purchase crops from the farmers on MSP on one plea or the other thereby forcing the farmers to sell their produces to traders at throwaway prices; and

(d) if so, the effective measures Government proposes to take to rein in such personnel and give benefits of MSP to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season *viz.* paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, arhar, moong, urad, groundnut-in-shell, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, nigerseed and cotton; 6 rabi crops *viz.* wheat, barley, gram, masur(lentil), rapeseed/mustard and safflower and two other commercial crops *viz.* jute and copra. In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.

Government has announced its historic decision on 04.07.2018 to fix MSP at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production for kharif crops 2018-19 which redeems the promise made in the Union Budget for 2018-19. The MSPs of Kharif crops fixed by Government, and returns over all-India weighted average cost of production for 2017-18 and 2018-19 is given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 1934 Part (a) and (b)].

(c) and (d) As per the existing arrangements, procurement is made of the crops for which MSPs are announced through Central and State agencies. In so far as cereals/nutri cereals are concerned, they are procured through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and decentralized procurement system mainly for distribution under the public distribution system (PDS), for welfare schemes and buffer stocking for food security.

As per existing guidelines for procurement at MSP Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications are prescribed. There may be the case that the stocks are not accepted due to not meeting the FAQ specifications.

For maintaining greater transparency in Price Support Scheme (PSS), procurement is being undertaken through NAFED e-samridhi portal and State Governments Portal which is linked with Aadhar and payment gateway and facilitates the PSS operations right from farmers' registration up to payment to the farmers directly into their bank account.

Budget for 2018-19 has announced its intent to develop and upgrade existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). Toward this end an Agri-

Market Infrastructure Fund with a corpus of ₹ 2000 crore has been proposed. These GrAMs, electronically linked to e-NAM and exempted from regulations of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMCs), will provide farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.

Government has been promoting Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) and the Budget for 2018-19 has given hundred per cent deduction of income tax to such organisation shaving annual turnover up to ₹ 100 crore in respect of profits derived from post-harvest value addition in agriculture.

### Salinity of land in Gujarat

†1950. SHRI RATHWA NARANBHAI JEMLABHAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 12 lakh hectare of land in Gujarat has been affected with salinity;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and
- (c) the works executed by the Central Government in Gujarat during the last three years to make the said saline land fertile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), an area of about 12.18 lakh hectare inland soil is affected by soil salinity in Gujarat.

ICAR has developed various technologies for reclamation of problem soil including saline soil to improve its productivity. The various technologies developed by ICAR are sub-surface drainage, bio-drainage, salt tolerant varieties of different crops (rice, wheat and mustard) and agro forestry etc. Besides, ICAR imparts training and organises Field Level Demonstrations (FLDs) to educate farmers about latest technology adoption in these aspects.

(c) Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched a 'Reclamation of Problem Soil (RPS)' as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana during 2016-17 for reclamation of problem soil (alkalinity, salinity and acid). During 2016-17 and 2017-18, an amount of ₹ 7.20 crore and ₹ 7.50 crore (central share) respectively were provided to State of Gujarat for reclamation of problem soil including saline soil. During 2018-19, an amount of ₹ 5.50 crore (central share) has been allocated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to Gujarat for the same purpose. Government of India is also promoting Organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) to enhance the fertility of the land. Under this scheme, ₹ 4.17 crore has been released for the formation of 100 clusters to the State of Gujarat during the last three years (2015-2018). Further, for remedial measures of salinity, gypsum and other micro-nutrients are also provided under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to various States including Gujarat. During the last three years, an area of 1,32,386 ha. has been covered under NFSM in the State of Gujarat.

In addition, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Watershed Development Component under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) for development of rainfed areas in Gujarat. This scheme also helps in enhancing the productivity of degraded land. Under this programme, during the last three years (2015-18), an amount of ₹ 302.55 crore (central share) has been provided to the State of Gujarat.

#### **Implementation of PMFBY in Jammu and Kashmir**

1951. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers benefited under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to streamline the identification of farmers who really deserve to be under this scheme; and
- (c) the total amount released to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir under PMFBY during the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) State Government of Jammu and Kashmir implemented Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2017 season. District-wise details of farmer applicants covered, claims paid and number of farmer applicants who received claims during 2017-18 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

The scheme provides for coverage of all farmers growing the notified crops in the notified areas in States that opt for the scheme, including sharecroppers and tenant farmers provided they have insurable interest. While the scheme is compulsory for loanee farmers availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO)/ Kisan Credit Card

(KCC) loans it is optional for the non-loanee farmers. To facilitate coverage of tenant farmers the State may prescribe the requisite documents. Further, individual farmer-wise granular data is being captured on National Crop Insurance Portal, which facilitates deduplication and elimination of multiple insurance cover.

**Statement**

*District-wise details of farmer applicants covered and claims paid in Jammu and Kashmir under PMFBY*

**Kharif 2017**

District	Farmer Applicants Covered	Claims			Farmers wrt Paid Claims
		Estimated Claims	Approved Claims	Paid Claims	
		No.	In ₹ Lakh		
Jammu	18,805	59	59	59	3,221
Kathua	16,723	14	14	14	1,329
Udhampur	12,681	-	-	-	-
Samba	5,118	7	7	7	636
Rajouri	6,625	18	18	18	309
Kishtwar	2,086	207	207	207	1,975
Poonch	4,970	0		-	
Reasi	7,909	9		6	377
Ramban	4,128	-			
Doda	6,862	254		191	5,105
TOTAL	85,907	568	305	502	12,952

**Rabi 2017-18**

District	Farmer Applicants Covered	Claims			Farmers wrt Paid Claims
		Estimated Claims	Approved Claims	Paid Claims	
		No.	In ₹ Lakh		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Jammu	19,631		Not Reported.		

1	2	3	4	5	6
Kathua	17,383				
Udhampur	9,931				
Samba	5,241				
Rajouri	6,971				
Kishtwar	1,363				
Poonch	2,709				
Reasi	1,999				
Ramban	5,765				
Doda	2,274				
TOTAL	73,267				

#### **Indiscriminate use of pesticides**

‡1952. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indiscriminate use of hormones like 'Oxytocin' and pesticide like 'Monophotos' in fruits and vegetables has adversely affected the human health and increased the threat of deadly diseases like cancer;

(b) if so, the report with the Government in this context; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government together with farmers to deal with this serious situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (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. Pesticides used as per the approved label claims and leaflets are unlikely to cause any harm. Further, no pesticide by the name of 'Monophotos' is registered under the Insecticides Act, for use in the country. However, the Department is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach'

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



(SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.

As per the information received from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, concerns have been raised from time to time for misuse of oxytocin in dairy and vegetable industry in the country. In view of above, various regulatory measures have been taken in this regard. The Government has published Notification *vide* GSR No.411 (E) dated 27.04.2018, which will be effective from 1st September 2018 for restricting the manufacture of Oxytocin formulations for domestic use to public sector only, under section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 in the following manner:

- (i) The manufactures of Oxytocin formulations for domestic use shall be by public sector undertakings or companies only and the labels of the products shall bear barcodes.
- (ii) The manufactures of Oxytocin formulations for export purposes shall, however, be open to both public and private sector. The packs of such manufacture for export shall also bear barcodes.
- (iii) The manufactures of active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) of Oxytocin shall supply the API only to the public sector manufacturers for manufacture of formulations for domestic use.
- (iv) However, for manufacture of formulations for export purpose, the API will be supplied to the manufacturers in both public and private sector.
- (v) The Oxytocin formulations meant for domestic consumption will be supplied by the manufactures to the registered hospitals and clinics in public and private sector directly.
- (vi) The manufacturers can also supply the formulations to the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) and Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implant for Treatment (AMRIT) outlets or any other Government entity which may be specified by the Central Government for this purpose. However, these outlets will further supply the drug to the registered hospitals and clinics in public and private sector.
- (vii) The Oxytocin in any form or name shall not be sold through Retail Chemist.

**Bye-laws of Multi-State Cooperative Societies**

1953. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Body of Directors of a Multi-State Cooperative Society can take decisions in contravention of the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act and Rules, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the bye-laws of a Multi-State Cooperative society can supplant or substitute the provisions of MSCS Act, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Krishi Karman awards in the field of agricultural production**

†1954. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the features of the Krishi Karman Awards given in the field of agricultural production in the country and the ground on which this award is given; and

(b) the names of the States awarded Krishi Karman award during last ten years, year-wise and the grounds on which the awards were given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Krishi Karman Awards were instituted in the year 2010-11 to encourage and motivate the States to enhance production and productivity of foodgrains and individual crops of Rice, Wheat, Pulses and Coarse Cereals. Oilseed crops were also included since 2013-14.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

There are eight awards including three for the States with highest foodgrains production in three identified categories (Category I - where production is >10 million tonnes during the particular year; Category II - where production is between 1-10 million tonnes during the particular year; and Category III - where production is <1 million tonnes) during the particular year and five awards for highest production under each of the individual crops of Rice, Wheat, Pulses, Coarse Cereals and Oilseeds.

There is no categorization of States for individual crops of Rice, Wheat, Pulses, Coarse cereals and Oilseeds.

The selection of States for awards involves 2 phases. The first phase is given 80% weightage and includes the following criteria:—

- (i) Increase in production over highest of last five years;
- (ii) Increase in productivity over highest of last five years;
- (iii) Proportion of actual production of State procured during the year;
- (iv) Expenditure incurred under NFSM/ BGREI/ NMOOP scheme;
- (v) Increase in productivity in the state over all India productivity for the year;
- (vi) Product of Sl.No.(i) and Percentage share of the state in all India production;
- (vii) S.No. (iii) is not applicable to Total Foodgrains Category-III, Pulses, Coarse Cereals and Oilseeds;
- (viii) S.No. (v) is not applicable to category-III of Total Foodgrains production;
- (ix) S.No. (vi) is not applicable for Total Foodgrains category-I & II in respect of Total Foodgrains and Rice and Wheat.

The second phase is assigned 20% weightage and screening committee evaluates the performance of the States. The Screening Committee headed by Secretary (AC&FW) on the following criteria:—

- (i) Strategies and measures taken during the year for enhancing agricultural production and productivity, future plans and road map for agriculture;
- (ii) New innovations/initiatives adopted and experiences in up-scaling the same including post harvest management and marketing support;
- (iii) Effective coordination with other line Departments;
- (iv) Level of participation in the presentation by the States.

List of States awarded with Krishi Karman Awards since 2010-11 to 2015-16 is given in the Statement.

*Statement**Year-wise List of States awarded with Krishi Karman Awards since 2010-11 to 2015-16*

Category/Crop	States Awarded for the year					
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Food grains:</b>						
Category-I	Punjab and Uttar Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Punjab	Madhya Pradesh	Tamil Nadu
Category-II	Odisha and Assam	Tamil Nadu	Odisha	Odisha	Odisha	Himachal Pradesh
Category-III	Tripura	Manipur and Nagaland	Manipur	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	Tripura
Rice	Chhattisgarh	Bihar	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh.	Haryana	Punjab
Wheat	Haryana	Haryana	Bihar	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Madhya Pradesh
Pulses	Maharashtra and Rajasthan	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	Assam and Tamil Nadu	Chhattisgarh	West Bengal
Coarse cereals	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	West Bengal	Tamil Nadu	Bihar
Oilseeds	-	-	-	Gujarat	West Bengal	Assam

**Krishi karman awards to Madhya Pradesh**

†1955. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the occasions when the State of Madhya Pradesh was given Krishi Karman award during the past years and the basis on which these awards were given; and
- (b) the details of foodgrain production, State-wise, including Madhya Pradesh during each of the last five years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh has, so far, been given Krishi Karman Award five times *i.e.* during the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2014-15 for Foodgrains Category-I having foodgrains production more than 10 million tonnes and during the year 2013-14 and 2015-16 for Wheat category.

The selection of States, including Madhya Pradesh for awards involved 2 phases. The first phase was given 80% weightage and included the following criteria:—

- (i) Increase in production over highest of last five years;
- (ii) Increase in productivity over highest of last five years;
- (iii) Proportion of actual production of state procured during the year;
- (iv) Expenditure incurred under NFSM/ BGREI/ NMOOP scheme;
- (v) Increase in productivity in the state over all India productivity for the year;
- (vi) Product of S.No.(i) and Percentage share of the state in all India production;
- (vii) S.No. (iii) is not applicable to Total Foodgrains Category-III, Pulses, Coarse Cereals and Oilseeds;
- (viii) S.No. (v) is not applicable to category-III of Total Foodgrains production;
- (ix) S.No. (vi) is not applicable for Total Foodgrains category-I & II in respect of Total Foodgrains & Rice and Wheat.

The second phase was assigned 20% weightage and screening committee evaluates the performance of the States. The Screening Committee headed by Secretary (AC&FW) on the following criteria:—

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) Strategies and measures taken during the year for enhancing agricultural production and productivity, future plans & road map for agriculture;
- (ii) New innovations/initiatives adopted and experiences in up-scaling the same including post harvest management and marketing support;
- (iii) Effective coordination with other line Departments;
- (iv) Level of participation in the presentation by the States.

The State-wise details of foodgrain production for the last five years and current year including Madhya Pradesh is given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of production of total foodgrains for the last five years and current year*

(000 tonnes)						
States/UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	10429.8	10522.3	10494.1	10633.7	10365.4	11711.8
Arunachal Pradesh	369.6	384.6	409.0	327.5	343.3	
Assam	5280.6	5096.8	5458.8	5358.6	4952.5	5395.0
Bihar	15939.6	12905.8	13208.6	14507.9	16530.8	14946.1
Chhattisgarh	7643.6	7598.0	7463.1	6654.3	9324.1	5583.1
Goa	131.8	135.5	128.6	115.3	119.1	
Gujarat	7056.2	9179.6	7109.3	6279.3	7422.0	7844.8
Haryana	16226.4	16974.1	15235.1	16358.7	17162.7	16685.5
Himachal Pradesh	1480.7	1528.4	1432.0	1615.0	1740.6	1433.1
Jammu and Kashmir	1831.9	1777.9	1220.3	1732.6	1618.9	1625.3
Jharkhand	4557.5	4285.7	4777.0	4092.1	5664.4	5889.4
Karnataka	10863.3	12208.9	12138.0	9924.0	9794.7	10443.7
Kerala	511.8	512.4	563.8	553.8	439.0	517.8
Madhya Pradesh	23690.4	22978.0	28687.0	30386.6	33224.4	33368.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	10973.3	13846.2	11311.9	8754.4	15331.6	13341.8
Manipur	336.7	492.6	429.3	435.7	525.1	
Meghalaya	2650	320.0	353.8	357.7	260.1	
Mizoram	41.8	72.8	75.3	77.4	75.2	
Nagaland	600.6	624.6	649.6	515.8	536.9	
Odisha	8008.8	8359.4	8980.5	6408.1	9061.3	7145.5
Punjab	28543.0	29480.4	26698.0	28400.8	28536.9	30953.6
Rajasthan	18367.7	17899.6	19621.9	18039.9	19353.6	19442.0
Sikkim	106.0	102.4	102.2	94.1	101.3	
Tamil Nadu	5592.8	8783.2	9623.7	11478.5	4141.6	10232.1
Telangana	8232.7	9142.9	7114.8	5129.0	8484.6	9368.6
Tripura	725.2	726.7	761.5	818.3	859.6	
Uttar Pradesh	50745.4	50027.5	39594.0	42550.8	49903.4	51410.5
Uttarakhand	1827.7	1776.5	1626.0	1746.0	1873.0	1886.0
West Bengal	16546.5	17078.9	16531.8	17980.6	17146.3	16854.1
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22.4	16.8	14.6	14.7	13.3	
Chandigarh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34.4	32.7	33.2	41.1	38.9	
Delhi	90.3	122.1	118.1	111.7	111.2	
Daman and Diu	3.8	4.0	6.3	2.6	2.5	
Puducherry	47.5	50.4	54.0	44.7	52.8	
Others						3427.4
ALL INDIA	257124.7	265047.7	252025.0	251541.7	275111.4	279505.5

\* as per 3rd advance estimates

**Elections in Multi-State Cooperative Societies**

1956. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 which prohibits a Member of the Multi-State Cooperative Society from contesting election for the post of Delegate/Director; and

(b) the rights of a Member of a Multi-State Cooperative Society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The prohibition of member of the Multi-State Cooperative Society from contesting election for the post of delegate is as per the bye-laws of the Multi-State Cooperative Society approved by the Central Registrar which is consistent with the provisions of the MSCS Act, 2002 and Rules made thereunder. The provision of section 43 of the MSCS Act, 2002 prohibits/disqualifies a member/delegate of the Multi-State Cooperative Society from contesting election for the post of Director of the multi-State cooperative society.

(b) A member who is holding share capital in the Multi-State Cooperative Society can avail the services provided by the society, may participate in the general body meeting of the society, cast his vote during election of the delegates/Board of Directors and also contest for the same.

**Promoting beekeeping**

1957. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any scheme for promotion of beekeeping;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which ordinary farmers get benefited from the scheme; and

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to popularize the scheme for the benefit of farmers and ordinary citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India is implementing "Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a centrally sponsored scheme, w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector in the country. Under MIDH, among others, for promotion of beekeeping, assistance is provided for: production of nucleus stock (public sector) @ 100% up to ₹20.00 lakh; production of bee colonies by bee breeder @ 40% of cost of



₹ 10.00 lakh for producing minimum of 2000 colonies per year; honey bee colony @ 40% of cost of ₹2000/colony of 8 frames limited to 50 colonies per beneficiary; bee hives, supers, etc. @ 40% of ₹2000/hive limited to 50 hives, supers, etc. per beneficiary and for beekeeping equipments (including honey extractor, food grade plastic containers, etc.) @ 40% of cost of ₹20,000/ set limited to one set per beneficiary under the component of "Pollination Support through Beekeeping".

Further, the assistance is also made available for various capacity building/ HRD programmes (trainings/ exposure visits for farmers/ beekeepers, officers, field workers, etc., seminars/ workshops, etc.). The State Departments of Horticulture/ Agriculture are the implementing agencies for implementation of Mission's programmes/ components in the State/ field. National Bee Board (NBB), a National Level Agency under MIDH is also providing technical support as well as implementing activities relating to beekeeping for development of scientific beekeeping in the country.

Integrated Beekeeping Development Centres (IBDCs)/ Centres of Excellence (CoE) on beekeeping are also being set up by NBB under MIDH in the country. 16 IBDCs/ CoE, as role model for beekeeping, have been commissioned by NBB, DAC&FW in 16 States, one each in Haryana, Delhi, Bihar, Punjab, MP, UP, Manipur, Uttarakhand, J&K, TN, Karnataka, HP, Tripura, WB, Arunachal Pradesh and AP.

The registration of beekeepers is being done by NBB to address the problem of traceability source of honey. Insurance cover of ₹ 1.00 lakh to all registered beekeepers is also provided.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched Honey (Bee) Mission in July, 2017 for promotion of scientific beekeeping, generating employment and income in beekeeping potential States of the country. Under the Mission, each beneficiary is provided 10 Bee Colonies, 10 Bee Boxes along with tools with a total worth of ₹ 45,000/- for *Apis Mellifera* and ₹ 35,000/- for *Apis Cerana*. The interested persons are given training by charging ₹1500/- per person as training fees from general category candidates. The fee is exempted for SC and ST candidates. The pattern of assistance under the scheme is 90% to SC and STs and 80% for General category for Non NE States. For NE States the assistance is 100% for all.

M/o Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a Scheme for Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) for promotion of processing/preservation of agro food products and modernization/capacity enhancement of food processing units. Assistance @ 35% of eligible project cost in General areas and @ 50% of eligible project cost in North Eastern States including Sikkim and difficult areas/ Himalayan States (HP, J&K, Uttarakhand) subject to ₹ 5.00 crores per project is available.

(c) and (d) Farmers can contact the State Deptt. of Horticulture/ Agriculture, NBB at field/ District/ State/ National level for getting trainings and other benefits of the

scheme. Trained farmers who wants to start beekeeping can avail assistance @ 40% of the total cost, as per MIDH norms, for 50 honeybee colonies with beehives, supers, etc. and beekeeping equipments. The progressive beekeepers are developed as Bee Breeder for which subsidy @ 40% of the total cost of ₹ 10.00 lakhs is provided. By adopting scientific beekeeping, farmers are also benefitted by way of increase in yield of the crops through pollination support in addition to production of honey, bee pollen, bees wax, propolis, etc.

To popularize the scheme, among others, provision is available under the scheme for organizing Seminars/ Conferences/ Workshops at Field/District/State/National Levels. The Kisan Melas, Agri./Horti. Expos, Krishi Unnati Melas, etc. are also organized, time to time, for creating awareness and popularizing the scheme for the benefits of farmers and ordinary citizens. The member beekeeping and honey societies of NBB are also involved in implementation of the scheme.

Details of the scheme are uploaded/ available on websites of MIDH and NBB, DAC&FW. Quarterly Magazine "Bee World" and Souvenirs having information on latest technologies, developments, etc. in beekeeping are also being published by NBB and distributed to the participants of the Seminars/farmers, etc.

Under the Honey (Bee) Mission, KVIC has also taken the following steps to popularize the scheme for the benefits of farmers and ordinary citizens:—

- (i) All the field offices will implement the programme in coordination with State KVIBs/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)/ Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)/ Beekeeping NGOs/Agriculture and Forest Department/Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK).
- (ii) State and Divisional offices of KVIC invite applications from potential beneficiaries through advertisement in local newspaper and State Designated Authorities of Agricultural and Horticultural Department.
- (iii) Zonal/State level workshops will be organized to sensitized the programme.
- (iv) Beekeepers Meet, awareness programme and training programme are organized frequently under Honey Mission.

#### **Compensation to farmers for losses due to natural calamities**

†1958. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the welfare schemes by the Central Government for the farmers who suffered losses due to the natural calamities in last three years, State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the total number of affected farmers benefited under these welfare schemes, district-wise; and

(c) whether Government would contemplate to benefit the affected farmers by conducting a survey in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) The State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from the State Government, in accordance with established procedures.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is concerned with providing relief under NDRF to farmers who have lost their crops due to drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost. An amount of ₹22972.30 crore has been approved from NDRF during 2015-16 to 2017-18 to the States affected by the above said calamities.

The Government of India has evolved several schemes/programmes to address the need for drought mitigation and other requirements of the farmers under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), besides implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), etc. for protecting farmers' interests. The States have been given flexibility under RKVY to plan region specific interventions for the farmers.

The agriculture is a State subject. The State Governments are responsible for disbursement of funds to the affected farmers. All individual beneficiary-oriented assistance is mandatorily/necessarily disbursed through the bank account of the beneficiary. In order to improve the disbursement and transparency in providing relief to the beneficiaries under various items, the State Government has to prepare a consolidated list of individual beneficiaries in whose bank account funds have been transferred. The list so prepared should be displayed on their website as well as the State/District and block/taluk levels for the purpose of verification and social audit.

**Releasing of funds under NDDB for Alwar, Udaipur, Pali,  
Ajmer and Sikar districts**

†1959. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to release the amount of approved cost in time to Alwar, Udaipur, Pali, Ajmer and Sikar district for the year 2018-19 under schemes of National Dairy Development Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) This Department is implementing a scheme named "National Programme for Dairy Development" (NPDD) in the country since 2014-15 Under the programme, funds are released after receipt of complete Utilization Certificate, Physical Progress Report, Audited Expenditure Statement and any other information relevant to project implementation for the previous releases made by the Department.

The statement of fund released, utilization certificate received and unspent balance for NPDD projects in Alwar, Udaipur, Pali Ajmer and Sikar districts is as under during 2014-15 to 2017-18:

(₹ in lakh)				
Districts covered	Funds released	Year of last release	Fund utilized	Unspent (30.7.2018)
Alwar	288.71	2017-18	181.20	107.51
Udaipur	577.09	2017-18	487.27	89.82
Pali	517.62	2018-19	367.62	150.0
Ajmer	412.51	2017-18	412	0.51
Sikar and Jhunjhun	397.88	2017-18	174.95	222.93

As only Ajmer Milk Union has utilized the amount under NPDD, Department has approved an amount of ₹882.49 lakh has been approved for release to Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Ltd; for release to Milk union.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Agriculture Input Subsidy**

1960. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government intends to release the sum of ₹1424 crore as mentioned in the memorandum under Agriculture Input Subsidy immediately as per the actual numbers/figures of the Girdawari Report for the Government of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) if no, action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) to (c) The State Government of Rajasthan declared drought in 41 tehsils of 13 districts during Kharif 2017 and submitted a Memorandum seeking financial assistance of ₹3075.26 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), which included ₹ 1274.99 crore as Agriculture Input Subsidy. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the drought affected areas during 21.01.2018 to 24.01.2018. The IMCT submitted its report on 01.03.2018, based on the parameters of the Manual for Drought Management, 2016 and the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms. The report of the IMCT was considered by the Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) in the meeting held on 19.03.2018. The recommendation of the SC-NEC was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC) in the meeting held on 14.05.2018 and Central assistance of ₹526.14 crore was approved, subject to the adjustment of 50% of balance available in the SDRF account for the drought - kharif of 2017.

**Settlement of claims under PMFBY**

1961. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the private insurance companies are not settling claims put forth by several farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) even after collecting huge premiums;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers covered under PMFBY, claims made and claims settled, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government has any strategy for early and time-bound settlement of claims under PMFBY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the admissible claims of farmers under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) are being settled by the insurance companies, both private and public sector general insurance companies. During 2016-17, out of total estimated claims of ₹ 16495, ₹ 15924 crore have been approved and ₹ 15352 crore have been paid to the farmers. Similarly, during Kharif 2017 season alone claims of ₹ 16448 crore have been estimated and ₹ 13768 crore have been approved, of which ₹ 11899 crore have already been settled by the insurance companies.

(c) and (d) State-wise details of farmer applicants covered, estimated claims, claims approved and claims settled under PMFBY during 2016-17 and 2017-18 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

For early and time-bound settlement of claims under PMFBY, the guidelines provide for seasonality discipline including the stipulation of claim settlement within 21 days of receipt of clear yield data from the States provided State share of subsidy has been provided. To facilitate accurate and transparent assessment of crops yield and realtime capture/transfer of yield data, Government has also introduced the use of smartphone/CCE Agri-App which captures yield data alongwith latitude-longitude - date stamp and photo/video. Likewise provision has been made for 50% release of State share of premium subsidy in advance on the basis of estimated coverage and 50% on receipt of final data from the insurance companies. Lastly, various modules have been developed on the National Crop Insurance Portal for seamless flow of information and service delivery. Apart from all these provisions the Government also consistently follows up with the stakeholders to resolve issues and fast-track claim settlement.

**Statement***Details of farmers covered and claims during 2016-17 and 2017-18 under PMFBY*

Sl. No.	States	2016-17					2017-18*				
		Farmers Covered	Estimated Claims	Approved Claims	Claim Paid	Farmers Benefited wrt Approved Claims	Farmers Covered	Estimated Claims	Approved Claims	Claim Paid	Farmers Benefited wrt Approved Claims
		No.		₹ in crore		No.	No.		₹ in crore		No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	324	15	15	15	295	364	-	-	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,771,957	90,759	90,049	86,414	882,573	1,799,021	55,929	47,906	28,129	541,086
3.	Assam	60,265	515	515	515	23,446	56,791	380	27	26	1,324
4.	Bihar	2,714,270	35,062	29,142	20,192	208,835	2,234,483	41,582	5,000	-	28,000
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,549,139	16,005	16,005	15,989	136,734	1,471,587	134,646	130,406	130,384	567,521
6.	Goa	757	3	3	3	111	538	0	0	0	22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7.	Gujarat	1,975,139	126,197	126,197	126,172	678,796	1,754,470	104,120	104,024	24,310	228,962
8.	Haryana	1,336,028	29,484	29,484	29,191	216,907	1,335,764	49,318	36,207	29,189	128,682
9.	Himachal Pradesh	379,925	4,513	4,513	4,409	113,131	378,105	312	312	312	23,573
10.	Jammu and Kashmir						150,302	603	568	533	11,119
11.	Jharkhand	877,754	3,157	2,632	2,178	44,777	1,197,438	4,956	1,356	-	54,780
12.	Karnataka	2,737,667	209,777	180,204	162,870	1,054,749	1,601,511	67,320	49,932	36,141	425,024
13.	Kerala	77,405	4,392	2,139	2,067	23,334	46,136	900	-	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7,181,316	199,321	198,612	198,022	1,315,775	6,890,930	467,931	454,931	424,764	1,235,029
15.	Maharashtra	12,001,215	231,586	231,586	231,045	2,921,465	10,053,750	273,453	266,761	261,226	4,387,275
16.	Manipur	8,366	196	196	127	8,358	9,109	-	-	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	89	3	3	-	48	2,945	30	-	-	-
18.	Odisha	1,820,236	43,134	43,134	43,128	168,490	1,899,034	167,131	105,371	103,524	457,780
19.	Puducherry	8,537	757	757	757	4,299					
20.	Rajasthan	9,150,224	181,961	177,827	177,303	2,714,057	6,012,084	163,090	131,724	115,206	2,073,980
21.	Sikkim	574	11	11	10	225	1,391	-	-	-	-



22.	Tamil Nadu	1,450,427	354,082	341,731	322,861	1,388,529	1,284,714	4,886	1,500	-	-
23.	Telangana	973,343	18,075	17,844	17,717	222,582	1,077,641	48,272	8,500	-	-
24.	Tripura	12,760	58	24	11	853	11,674	0	0	0	32
25.	Uttar Pradesh	6,767,276	55,489	55,489	55,420	1,156,140	5,290,261	30,643	27,643	27,419	438,959
26.	Uttarakhand	261,571	2,747	2,747	2,747	61,705	184,427	2,527	2,527	2,527	44,068
27.	West Bengal	4,133,279	42,237	41,522	36,011	549,946	4,004,596	26,787	2,116	2,297	43,242
GRAND TOTAL		57,249,843	1,649,534	1,592,380	1,535,174	13,896,160	48,749,066	1,644,818	1,376,811	1,185,987	10,690,458

\* Claims data for Kharif 2017 season only.

**FPOs operating in the country**

1962. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all States have adopted the Model Act on Contract Farming;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total number of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) operating in the country, at present;
- (d) the total number of farmers covered or represented by FPOs at present; and
- (e) the total number of FPOs registered in the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Model Act on Contract Farming "The.....State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" was released recently in May, 2018. There was general unanimity in the meeting of the States' Agricultural Marketing Ministers held to release the Model Act to adopt the same. States are now in the process of consultation on this Model Act. However, 21 States have made provisions for Contract Farming following the circulation of earlier model Agriculture Produce Market Committee Act, 2003.

(c) and (d) Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium a registered society under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has helped 744 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in registering as companies. Presently, a total of 7,37,761 farmers are covered or represented by these FPOs.

Further, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is also promoting FPOs. NABARD has promoted 4000 FPOs since 2014-15, of which 2058 FPOs are registered till date. The total number of farmers covered is appx. 8 lakh.

So far, 5733 number of Producer Companies have been registered in the country.

(e) During last four years, total number of FPOs registered through SFAC and NABARD are 521 and 2058 respectively.

So far, 4669 number of Producer Companies have been registered in last four years.

**Transparency in recruitment of agricultural scientists**

†1963. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that Government is contemplating to bring about a change in the selection process, towards making the recruitment process for agriculture Scientists, more transparent;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any action in this regard, so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

- (c) (i) For enhancing objectivity and transparency, after elaborate consultations, a revamped scorecard has been framed for recruitment of the Scientists in ICAR. The Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) has already taken steps for implementing the scorecard and the same has been notified by ASRB vide notification dated 16.2.2018. It has been decided that henceforth all the screening and selection process for all lateral entry senior scientific positions shall be governed by the revamped scorecard framework.
- (ii) The essential qualification for recruitment to various Scientific and Research management positions have been defined by an Expert Committee constituted with the approval of President, ICAR in order to avoid subjectivity and to maintain uniformity in case of essential qualifications. On the basis of essential qualifications prescribed by the Committee, recruitment process have been initiated through ASRB.
- (iii) An expert Committee was constituted with the approval of President, ICAR for restructuring and revamping of ASRB. The proposal for restructuring of ASRB has been submitted for Cabinet Approval.

**Pharma companies selling medicines at higher price**

1964. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any information about the pharma companies which are selling medicines at higher than the price capped by NPPA;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the detailed list thereof, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons for no such information thereof; and
- (d) whether any action has been taken/ notices been issued, so far, by NPPA to such companies and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) monitors the prices of both scheduled and non-scheduled formulations on regular basis to check overcharging by pharmaceutical companies. Whenever companies are found to be overcharging the consumer in sale of medicine, NPPA issues notices to the companies.

Since inception of NPPA till May 2018, 1794 demand notices (including *suo-moto* deposits) have been issued to pharmaceutical companies for their having overcharged patients on the sale of formulations at prices above the ceiling price notified by NPPA. Demand Notices have been issued for total amount of ₹ 6058.07 crore. Amount to the tune of ₹ 829.88 crore has been recovered from the companies to the Government in overcharging cases. The detailed list of overcharging cases where demand notices have been issued is available on NPPA website [www.nppaindia.nic.in](http://www.nppaindia.nic.in).

**Selling of medicines at exorbitant prices by pharmacies in private hospitals**

†1965. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that pharmacy shops in private hospitals sell drugs at higher rates than in the open market;
- (b) if so, whether Government has issued any guidelines to stop this practice; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) The Government under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) fixes the ceiling prices of drugs which are applicable on both the private hospital as well as open market sales. 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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

price violation 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)'.

**Benefits derived after increase in the limit of FDI**

1966. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government could not derive benefit of increase in FDI limit up to 100 per cent for Greenfield pharmaceutical projects and up to 74 per cent for Brownfield pharmaceutical projects through automatic route;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, including the total FDI received since 2014, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government has drafted any specific plan for future to attract greater FDI in pharmaceutical sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government amended the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy on Pharmaceutical sector in June 2016 by allowing 100% FDI through automatic route for Greenfield pharmaceutical projects and allowing up to 74% FDI through automatic route and beyond that through Government approval for Brownfield pharmaceutical projects. In 2015-16, the FDI equity inflows to Drugs and Pharmaceutical Sector was ₹ 4,975 crores. It increased to ₹ 5,723 crores in 2016-17 and further to ₹ 6,502 crores in 2017-18.

FDI is largely a matter of private business decisions and FDI inflows depend on a host of factors such as availability of natural resource, market size, infrastructure, political and general investment climate as well as macro-economic stability and investment decision of foreign investors. The details of FDI equity inflows received in Drugs and Pharmaceutical Sector in the country since 2014 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial year	Total FDI Inflow (₹ Crores)
1	2014-15	9,052
1.	2015-16	4,975
3.	2016-17	5,723
4.	2017-18	6,502

(c) The Government reviews FDI Policy on an ongoing basis with a view to liberalise and simplify the FDI Policy progressively, so as to improve the country's investment climate by providing ease of doing business in the country. Further, various measures are taken under "Make in India" initiatives facilitating investment, fostering innovation thereby promoting robust business environment in the country.

**Cluster Development Programme for pharma sector**

1967. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the broad objectives and the details of the Cluster Development Programme for Pharma sector;
- (b) the funds allocated to various Clusters/ Parks in the country, including those at Visakhapatnam;
- (c) whether Government has proposals to help further growth of the Pharmaceutical industry in Visakhapatnam; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) Department is operating a scheme namely Cluster Development Programme for Pharma Sector (CDP-PS) in Public Private Partnership mode through one time grant -in- aid to be released for creation of identified infrastructure and common facilities to Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) set up for the purpose. The objectives of the Scheme are as follows:—

- (i) Increase the competitiveness, easy access to standard testing facilities and value addition in the domestic pharma industry especially to SMEs through creation of common world class facilities.
- (ii) Strengthening the existing infrastructure facilities in order to make Indian Pharma industry a global leader in pharma exports.
- (iii) Reducing the cost of production by 20% in the clusters leading to better availability and affordability of medicines in domestic market.
- (iv) To help industry meet the requirements of standards of environment at a reduced cost through innovative methods of common waste management system.

- (v) Exploit the benefits arising due to optimization of resources and economies of scale.
- (vi) To provide information of latest global developments in the sector related to regulations, IPR issues, new products, new markets etc.

(b) For implementing Cluster Development Programme for Pharma Sector (CDP-PS), Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) has been chosen as the Project Management Consultant (PMC). They had called for the Expression of Interests (EoIs). Of the total four EoIs received, only one SPV viz. M/s Chennai Pharma Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Complex (CPIIUC), Alathur District Kanchipuram, Chennai, Tamilnadu was qualified for selection. A grant of ₹ 2,22,57,000/- has been released to CPIIUC as the 1st installment.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, The Government is committed to make India sufficiently self-reliant in end to end indigenous drug manufacturing by reducing the import dependence on drugs and to make Indian Pharma Industry globally competitive. The policies formulated by Government from time to time are made so that the country's dependence on imports are minimized and to give fillip to indigenous manufacturing. In this direction, the Government *vide* its notification dated 28th January, 2016 has withdrawn exemption of customs duty of certain categories of Bulk Drugs/APIs. The Government is also facilitating all kinds of clearances required by the manufacturers to give a boost to domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs. Further, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has prepared an umbrella scheme namely 'Scheme for Development of Pharmaceutical Industry' with the objective to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of domestic pharmaceutical industry so as to enable them to play a lead role in the global market and to ensure accessibility, availability and affordability of quality pharmaceuticals of mass consumption. The umbrella scheme has the following sub-schemes:—

- (i) Assistance to Bulk Drug Industry for Common Facility Centre;
- (ii) Assistance to Medical Device Industry for Common Facility Centre;
- (iii) Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS);
- (iv) Assistance for Cluster Development; and
- (v) Pharmaceutical Promotion Development Scheme (PPDS)

**Fixing profit margins for inexpensive medicines**

1968. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to fix profit margin for inexpensive medicines as reported in the media and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether heavy profit is being earned by the wholesalers and retailers of drugs in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) No Sir. However, The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) provides that 16% of price to retailer shall be allowed as a margin to retailer, while fixing ceiling prices of scheduled formulations and retail prices of new drugs. As regards non-scheduled formulations, the manufacturers are not allowed to increase the price by more than 10 per cent per annum. The prices are either fixed in case of scheduled medicines or monitored in case of non-scheduled medicines by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and in case of violation, action for overcharging is taken.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

**Setting up of new rake points**

†1969. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government is considering to open new rake points for fertilizers at Obedullaganj, District Raisen, Singrauli Bargwana, District Singrauli and Budani, District Sehore and if so, by when these rake points would be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): Yes, Sir. Development of a full rake goods shed has already been sanctioned at Obedullaganj station along with ongoing 3rd line work on Itarsi-Habibganj section over Bhopal Division. Singrauli and Bargewana stations are already open for fertilizer loading/unloading. A private freight terminal has already been commissioned near Budani.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



As mentioned above except Obedullaganj, which at present is a part of another project, rest of the above mentioned stations have already been opened.

**Surging prices of DAP and complex fertilizers**

1970. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of surging prices of fertilizers like DAP and complex fertilizers, which is posing a serious impact on Farming sector;

(b) whether Government has increased prices of fertilizers by up to ₹ 300/- per bag, which has become an extra burden on farmers and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any representation seeking reduction in prices of fertilizers to enable the farmers to purchase fertilizers at normal rates; and

(d) whether Government has taken any decision on such requests and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, MRP of DAP has increased by ₹ 175 (approx.) per 50 Kg. bag and MRP of complex fertilizers has increased slightly during the last 6 months. Statement showing increased MRP is given in the Statement (*See below*).

As per the NBS Policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level which is monitored by the Government.

(c) and (d) No representation has been received from January 2018 seeking reduction in prices of P&K fertilizers. However, a grievance petition has been received during the month of June 2018 which was replied suitably.

Under the NBS policy, NBS rates are fixed annually with the approval of CCEA, taking into account the international prices of P&K fertilizers and its raw material, domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, Inventory level of P&K fertilizers and exchange rate prevailing at that time. NBS rates for the year 2018-19 have already been announced during the month of April 2018.

## Statement

Month-wise MRP of DAP and Complex Fertilizers from April-2017 to June-2018

Product Name	2017											
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
DAP	21773.661	21791.61	21822.39	21934.77	21951.97	21951.22	21945.74	21946.5	21962.45			
Zincated DAP	22424	22416.47	22400.7	22277.97	22348.08	22390	22140	22140	22140			
10-26-2026	21301.432	21494.47	21541.95	21435.12	21434.67	21499.94	21510.19	21383.28	21406.78			
12-32-16	21473.42	21603.51	21627	21555.17	21540.38	21619.46	21628.38	21297.62	21485.56			
14-35-14	22478.333	22678.33	22712.21	22440	22440	22440	22440	22440	22440			
15-15-15	18003.081	18013.03	18077.52	17745	17745	17745	17745	17745.22	17745			
16-20-0-13	16223.103	16378.24	16368.57	16420	16420	16420	16420	16420	16420			
17-17-17	19415.421	19433.03	19450.64	19716.7	19737.27	19735.62	19790	19790	19790			
19-19-19	21682.857	21520	21625.27	21420	21420	21420	21420	21420	21420			
20-20-0	16213	16213	16213	16257.88	16254	16254	16254	16254	16254			
20-20-0-13	16982.063	17075.94	17084.1	17020.9	17049.78	17047.28	17013.41	17036.4	17046.27			
20-20-0-13(UAP)								18510	18510			
24-24-0	20469.192	20456.8	20410.48	20288.48	20307	20307	20299.98	20303.03	20307			

24-24-0-8	19342.5	19443	19710	19320	19320	19320	19320	19320	19320
28-28-0	22595.122	22665.06	22657.73	22440	22440	22440	22440	22440	22440
Zincated 20-20-0-13	18750	18750	18750	18580	18580	18580	18388.39	18360	18360
• Data from mfms.nic.in									
Product Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Difference between June and January	Difference for 50 Kg bag	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
DAP	21966.23	23910.92	24177.65	24297.12	24731.28	25449.68	3483.45	174.1725	
Zincated DAP	22321.25	24800		24800	25069.23	25500	3178.75	158.9375	
10-26-26	21409	22465.68	23151.66	23129.04	23301.33	23550.26	2141.26	107.063	
12-32-16	21499.24	22520.11	22895.64	22949.16	23344.96	23733.78	2234.54	111.727	
14-35-14	22440	24637.24	24800	24800	25140	25500	3060	153	
15-15-15	18018.49	19425	19425	19425	19425	19425	1406.51	70.3255	
16-20-0-13	16420	17600	17600	17600	17890.32	18100	1680	84	
17-17-17	19788.97	20775.24	21195.62	21300	21300	21300	1511.03	75.5515	
19-19-19	21420	22320	22800	22800	22666.43	23514	2094	104.7	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20-20-0	16257.88	16254	17300	17300	17300	17300	1042.12	52.106
20-20-0-13	17046.91	18128.2	18375.54	18542.73	18722.31	18980.42	1933.51	96.6755
20-20-0-13(UAP)	18510	19600	19600	19600	19820.91	20140	1630	81.5
24-24-0	20307.33	21483.36	22189.8	22200	22535.48	22786.67	2479.34	123.967
24-24-0-8	20362.76	20400	20400	20400	21514.84	23100	2737.24	136.862
28-28-0	22440	24774.21	24787.58	24800	25080.6	25500	3060	153
Zincated 20-20-0-13	18360	18360	18360	19288	19320	19320	960	48

• Data from mfms.nic.in

**Impact of GST on domestic production of fertilizers**

1971. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether high GST rates on chemical inputs for fertilizers have impacted their domestic production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has made any recommendation to the GST Council to lower GST rates on such chemicals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the volume of imports of chemicals used to manufacture fertilizers since 2014, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) There are 31 Urea manufacturing units in the country, out of which 28 use Natural Gas as feedstock while 3 urea units use Naphtha. The Natural Gas is out of the purview of Goods and Services Tax (GST). Naphtha/Furnace Oil which are used as raw material for producing urea are levied 18% GST and the Urea units get benefit of Input Tax Credit. Post implementation of GST w.e.f. 1st July 2017, the production of urea from, the three Naphtha based Urea units was 14.98 LMT (2017-18) *vis-a-vis* 14.11 LMT (2016-17). The production of P&K fertilizers during the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 were 172.39 LMT and 173.39 LMT respectively. Accordingly, GST rates have not impacted domestic production of fertilizers.

(c) to (e) The following recommendations have been made by the Department of Fertilizers to GST council to lower GST rates on such chemicals:—

- Reduction in rate of GST on Phosphoric Acid from 12% to 5%.
- Reduction in rate of GST on Naphtha from 18% to 5%.
- Reduction in rate of GST on Ammonia from 18% to 5%.
- Rate of 5% on Urea and Muriate of Potash (MOP) used as input for manufacture of complex fertilizers.

(f) The data related to import of chemicals used to manufacture fertilizers is not maintained by the Government.

**Institutional audit of CIPET**

1972. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total budget for the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) for the year 2018-19;

(b) the details pertaining to the total number of staff, number of officers and activities or projects undertaken along with other relevant aspects of the CIPET;

(c) whether Government has, at any point of time, undertaken institutional audit or review of CIPET and if so, the details thereof along with the major observations and recommendations that emerged out of such review; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) The total budget allocation from the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) for 2018-19 is ₹83.64 crore.

(b) The total number of working regular staff is 1,013, out of which 314 are officers. The activities and projects undertaken by CIPET include Long-Term Professional Skill Development Programmes *i.e.* Ph.D., Post-Graduate, Undergraduate, Post Diploma, Diploma and Short-Term Skill Training Programmes in different job roles of plastics industry. CIPET also offers Technology Support Services to industries, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in the key sectors of Indian Economy through Design, Tooling, Processing and Testing and Quality Assurance to the plastics and its allied industry. CIPET has successfully accomplished a number of R&D projects through their laboratories in the field of Polymer Science and Technology which include filing of 21 patents in polymeric materials and technology and publication of more than 350 research papers.

(c) Following institutional audit systems are in place in CIPET for the purpose of auditing of various activities:—

(i) All the CIPET Centres are audited by Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of India and CIPET has reported that no adverse remark/irregularities have been pointed out in the audit report.

- (ii) In order to ensure Quality Management Systems, CIPET and its centres are certified under systems and procedures of International Organization for Standardization (ISO), which are renewed regularly.
- (iii) The laboratories of CIPET are accredited with National Accreditation Board for Laboratories and Calibration (NABL) and audit team reviews the Laboratory's documented management system and verifies its compliance with requirements of ISO.
- (iv) CIPET has been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) as inspection body for carrying out third party inspection for plastics and allied products as per ISO standards.
- (v) CIPET's Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) programs are recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and affiliated with respective universities where the CIPET centres are located. AICTE teams and Universities inspect the concerned CIPET centres on regular basis for renewal of affiliations.
- (vi) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India undertakes half yearly and annual reviews of CIPET's performance. The last two reviews were undertaken on 28th December, 2017 and 13-14th April, 2018. Some of the major observations and recommendations during these reviews include formation of strategy for improvement in academic procedures, revision of existing guidelines in financial, accounting and administrative matters, implementation of Government of India's guidelines on digitization, improving the performance of CIPET centres, appropriate usage of social media, expeditious establishment of new approved centres etc. During annual reviews, the achievements of CIPET centres are also reviewed with reference to targets of the previous year. During these reviews, targets for subsequent year are also fixed, based on which Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed between Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and CIPET as per General Financial Rules 229 of 2017.
- (d) Does not arise.

#### **Recommendations on coal linkage rationalization**

1973. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the six State-owned power plants had rationalized

less than 13 MT in 2017, resulting in estimated annual savings of ₹ 774 crore in transportation costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has approved the recommendations of inter-Ministerial task force on coal linkage rationalization for private power plants, which apart from yielding savings to power plants from lower coal transportation costs, might also ease railway infrastructure by reducing coal ferrying distance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) In 2017, CIL has done source rationalization of 12 State-owned power plants based on the requests from these plants. The quantity rationalized was about 13 MT. The approximate potential annual savings in transportation cost by these power plants would be to the tune of ₹ 774 crore, details of which are as under:—

Sl. No	State/Developer	Power Plant	Quantity Rationalized (in MT)	Potential Annual Savings (in crore)
1.	Maharashtra	Bhusawal	2.312	
		Paras	1.204	415
		Chandrapur	1.525	
2.	Haryana	RGTPP	1.33	50
3.	(JV of NTPC & HPGCL)	APCPL, Jhajjar	1.13	31
		Wanakbori		
4.	Gujarat	Ukai	3	240
		Gandhinagar		
		Bakreshwar	1.2	
5.	West Bengal	Kolaghat	2	
		Santalidih		
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Paricha	1.2	36
TOTAL			12.901	774



Total coal movement rationalization of 54.76 MT has taken place with annual potential savings of ₹ 3354 crore.

(c) and (d) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) was constituted in July, 2017 to undertake a comprehensive review of existing coal sources of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) having linkages and consider the feasibility for rationalization of these sources with a view to optimize transportation cost given the various technical constraints. The underlying objective behind the exercise was to reduce the landed cost of coal due to reduction in transportation cost. The methodology for linkage rationalization for IPPs has been accepted by the Government and the same has been circulated on 15.05.2018 to the CIL/SCCL to implement the methodology.

#### **Increase in production of coal**

†1974. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of increase in the mining and production of coal during the tenure of present Government since 2014 till date; and

(b) the amount of royalty received by Government on account of such increase alongwith the amount likely to be received as royalty by the end of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The All India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 676.48 MT in 2017-18. Absolute increase in all India coal production from 2013-14 to 2017-18 (four years) is 110.71 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 33.73 MT from 2009-10 to 2013-14 (four years).

Coal India Limited (CIL) has also increased its production from 462.42 MT in 2013-14 to 567.36 MT in 2017-18 (four years), an absolute increase of 105 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 31.15 MT between 2009-10 and 2013-14 (four years).

During 2018-19 (upto 31.07.2018), coal production of CIL was 177.43 MT with a growth rate of 14.1% over the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) The total amount of royalty paid from 2014-15 to 2017-18 by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) is given below:—

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(₹ in crores)

Year.	CIL	SCCL
2014-15	7760.10	1341.06
2015-16	8209.25	1560.94
2016-17	8745.84	1440.55
2017-18 (Provisional)	9993.84	1797.23

Data for the current financial year is not available.

In addition, 30% of the royalty in respect of mining lease granted before 12th January, 2015 and 10% of the royalty in respect of mining lease granted on or after 12th January, 2015, is being collected by the State Governments as District Mineral Fund (DMF).

#### **Setting up of new coal washeries**

1975. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) proposes to set up new coal washeries in the country, especially in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the location identified therefor along with their capacity;

(c) whether these washeries would help in improving the quality of coal in terms of ash percentage and heat value; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) CIL proposes to set up 18 (eighteen) new coal washeries/CPP (Coal Preparation Plant)-9 (nine) Coking coal and 9 (nine) non-coking coal-in the country. 11 (eleven) of them are proposed to be set up in Jharkhand-8 for coking coal and 3 for non-coking coal. The details of these 18 washeries are given below:—

Sl. No.	Washery/CPP	Capacity (Mty)	CIL Subsidiary	Location
1	2	3	4	5

#### **(A) Coking Coal:**

1.	Madhuband	5.00	BCCL	Dhanbad Distt, Jharkhand
2.	Patherdih-I	5.00	BCCL	Dhanbad Distt, Jharkhand

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Dahibari	1.60	BCCL	Dhanbad Distt, Jharkhand
4.	Patherdih-II	2.50	BCCL	Dhanbad Distt, Jharkhand
5.	Bhojudih	2.00	BCCL	Purulia Distt, West Bengal
6.	Dugda (New)	2.50	BCCL	Bokaro Distt, Jharkhand
7.	Moonidih (New)	2.50	BCCL	Dhanbad Distt, Jharkhand
8.	Tapin	4.00	CCL	Ramgarh Distt, Jharkhand
9.	Kathara (New)	3.00	CCL	Bokaro Distt, Jharkhand
SUB-TOTAL		28.10		
<b>(B) Non-Coking Coal:</b>				
10.	Ashoka	2.00	CCL	Chatra Distt, Jharkhand
11.	Konar	7.00	CCL	Bokaro Distt, Jharkhand
12.	Karo	3.50	CCL	Bokaro Distt, Jharkhand
13.	Basundhara	10.00	MCL	Sundergarh Distt, Odisha
14.	IB Valley	10.00	MCL	Jharsuguda Distt, Odisha
15.	Hingula	10.00	MCL	Angul Distt, Odisha
16.	Jagannath	10.00	MCL	Angul Distt, Odisha
17.	Kusmunda	10.00	SECL	Korba Distt, Chhattisgarh
18.	Baroud	5.00	SECL	Raigarh Distt, Chhattisgarh
SUB-TOTAL		67.50		
GRAND TOTAL		95.60		
(Coking and Non-coking)				

(c) and (d) The coal washing will improve the quality of domestic coal by reducing Ash content and improving Calorific (heat) value of the coal. Coal is washed to remove the inherent and extraneous impurities so that the carbon content per unit weight is increased. Increased Carbon content leads to an enhancement of Heat Value (GCV) and thus improves the quality. For coking coal, too, the quality is improved as impurities are removed through washing.

**Inadequate coal transportation facilities**

1976. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of coal in the country is being affected due to inadequate transportation facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total quantum of coal which could not be transported to the destination due to lack of transportation facilities during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the details of the projects affected, so far; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by Government for providing adequate infrastructural facilities for the transportation of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Transport facility is not a constraint on coal production. There was an increase of 105 MT in production of Coal India Limited between 2013-14 and 2017-18 (four years) compared to an increase of only 31.15 MT in the preceding four years between 2009-10 to 2013-14. However, there are a few mines in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Limited and South Eastern Coalfields Limited which are unable to operate at optimal capacity due to coal evacuation constraint.

(c) The off take of Coal India Limited has increased from 534.20 MT in 2015-16 to 581.5 MT during 2017-18. The increase in off take of CIL between 2013-14 and 2017-18 (four years) is 109.12 MT as compared to an increase of 55.04 MT between 2009-10 to 2013-14 (four years). Annual average rakes provided by Railways to CIL for transportation of coal has increased from 212.8 (rakes/day) in 2015-16 to 229.2 (rakes/day) in 2017-18. Transportation by other modes (MGR, Belt and Rope) by CIL have also increased from 105.52 MT in 2015-16 to 110.22 MT in 2017-18. Therefore, there is adequate transportation facility to transport coal to the destination.

(d) The projects-partially affected due to transport constraint are Kulda and Basundhara (West) Extension of MCL in Odisha, Magadh and Amrapali of CCL in Jharkhand and Chhaland Baroud of SECL in Chhattisgarh. However, high level meeting of the monitoring committee of Ministry of Coal and Railways is held regularly to address the issue of evacuation bottlenecks, A 50.30 km. Jharsuguda-Barpali-Sardega single rail line has been constructed which can despatch 10 to 12 rakes per day.

With the opening of Tori-Balumath railline, at least 3 MT additional production is likely to take place from the Magadh-Amarpali area of CCL.

(e) The following railway infrastructure projects have been taken up for improving coal evacuation in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha:—

- (1) **Tori-Shivpur-Kathotia New BG Line (Total length 93.45 Km.) in Jharkhand:** Tori-Balumath Railline section has been inaugurated on 09.03.2018 and currently coal dispatch is going on. Remaining work beyond Balumath is under progress.
- (2) **Mahanadi Coal Railway Limited (MCRL) Projects:** The project consists primarily of 3 components: Angul-Balaram (12.9 km.), Balaram-Putagadia and Jarapada-Putagadia-Tentuloi (55 km.) in Odisha.
- (3) **Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. (CERL) (Length: 132 km.):** Bhupdeopur-Gharghoda-Dharamjaigarh upto Korba with a spur from Gharghora to Donga Mahuain Chhattisgarh.
- (4) **Chhattisgarh East-West Railway Ltd. (CEWRL) (Length: 135 km.):** Gevra Road to Pendra Road *via* Dipka, Katghora, Sendurgarh, Pasan in Chhattisgarh.

#### **Allocation of coal blocks to private companies**

1977. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of coal blocks allocated to private companies under the command areas of BCCL, ECL and CCL;
- (b) the details of the coal produced and transported by these companies, so far, company-wise;
- (c) whether any complaints regarding sale of such coal to coal washeries and in open market has been received;
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government against such companies along with remedial measures taken in this regard; and
- (e) the revenue earned by the Central Government and the State Governments, including Jharkhand, through the auction?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Auction of Coal Blocks is undertaken as per provisions contained in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. These auctions are not on the basis of command area of any CIL subsidiary. So far, 26 Coal Mines have been auctioned (out of originally 31 auctioned Coal Mines, Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements have been terminated in respect of 5 Coal Mines). Out of 26 auctioned Mines, 25 have been auctioned to Private Companies and one to Government Company. Details of Coal Blocks allocated to private companies are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). Details of Coal produced and transported by these companies are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

(e) The entire revenue through auction of Coal Mines devolves to the coal bearing State Government concerned and is being deposited with them. Details of revenue earned by the State Governments through the auction are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Revenue generated (₹ in crore)
1.	Chhattisgarh	1428.6
2.	Jharkhand	482.78
3.	Madhya Pradesh	743.19
4.	Maharashtra	134.85
5.	Odisha	51.57
6.	West Bengal	419.4
TOTAL		3260.39

***Statement-I***

*Details of coal blocks allocated to private companies*

Sl. No.	Name of Coal Mine	State	Successful Allottee
1.	Chotia	Chhattisgarh	Bharat Aluminum Co.Ltd (BALCO)
2.	Gare Palma IV-4	Chhattisgarh	HINDALCO (HIL)
3.	Gare Paima IV-5	Chhattisgarh	HINDALCO (HIL)
4.	Gare-Palma Sector-IV/8	Chhattisgarh	Ambuja Cement Ltd.
5.	Kathautia	Jharkhand	HINDALCO (HIL)

Sl. No.	Name of Coal Mine	State	Successful Allottee
6.	Tokisud North	Jharkhand	Essar power MP Ltd.
7-8.	Brinda and Sasai	Jharkhand	Usha Martin Ltd.
9.	Dumri	Jharkhand	HINDALCO (HIL)
10.	Lohari	Jharkhand	Aranya Mines Pvt. Ltd.
11.	Meral	Jharkhand	Trimula Industries Limited
12.	Moitra	Jharkhand	JSW Steel Ltd
13.	Ganeshpur	Jharkhand	GMR Chhattisgarh Energy Limited (GMR)
14.	Jitpur	Jharkhand	Adani Power Limited
15.	Bicharpur	Madhya Pradesh	UltraTech Cement Limited
16.	Sial Ghoghri	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Cement Co. Pvt. Ltd. (RCCPL)
17.	Amelia North	Madhya Pradesh	Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd. (JPVL)
18.	Belgaon	Maharashtra	Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Limited (SIL)
19.	Marki Mangli III	Maharashtra	B.S. Ispat Limited
20.	Nerad Malegaon	Maharashtra	Indrajit Power Pvt. Ltd.
21.	Marki Mangli-I	Maharashtra	Topworth Urja and Metals Ltd. (TUML)
22.	Majra	Maharashtra	Jaypee Cement Corporation Limited
23.	Talabira-I	Odisha	GMR Chhattisgarh Energy Limited (GMR)
24.	Ardhagram	West Bengal	OCL Iron and Steel Ltd.
25.	Sarisatolli	West Bengal	CESC Limited (CESC)

**Statement-II***Details of coal produced and transported by private companies*

Name of the Company/ Coal Block	Dispatch (in Million Tonnes)		Production (in Million Tonnes)	
	2017-18	2018-19	2017-18	2018-19
	(upto July-18)		(upto July-18)	
CESC/Sarisatolli	1.77	0.60	1.83	0.75
GMR-Talabira -1	0.25	0.00	0.27	0.00
HIL-Gare Palma IV/5	0.75	0.11	0.68	0.11
BALCO/Chotia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HIL-Gare Palma IV/4	0.91	0.29	0.90	0.39
SIL/Belgaon	0.27	0.08	0.27	0.09
HIL/Kathautia	0.59	0.27	0.93	0.00
JPVL/Amelia (North)	2.80	1.56	2.80	1.47
RCCPL/Sial Ghogri	0.07	0.02	0.06	0.02
TUML/Marki Mangli -I	0.17	0.10	0.45	0.11

*Note:* The figures are provisional.

**Health issues of labourers employed in coal mining sector**

1978. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any comprehensive study regarding health issues of labourers employed in coal mining sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government, while undertaking such study, adopted/followed the international practices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) While no comprehensive study has been undertaken regarding health issues of labourers employed in coal sector, studies have been conducted regarding health facilities in coal mining sector. All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was entrusted with a study to suggest



actions to be taken to improve medical facilities by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies. AIIMS has since given its recommendations on the matter.

Further, CIL conducts initial medical examinations in respect of newly joined employees and periodical medical examinations for existing employees at prescribed regular intervals. Moreover, coal mine workers have to undergo Medical Checkup every five years as per the provisions of the Mines Rules, 1955. Those who are more than 45 years old have to undergo medical checkup after every three years as per recommendation of 10th Conference on Safety in Mines.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

#### **Unauthorized coal mining activities**

1979. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that unauthorized coal mining activities are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has put any mechanism in place for reporting, monitoring and taking suitable action on unauthorized coal mining activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the incidents of unauthorized coal mining activities which were reported in the country during last three years till date, along with the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise;

(f) whether Government has taken stringent action against the persons involved in such activities; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) Law and Order is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action against the persons involved in such unauthorised and illegal activities. As informed by Coal India Ltd (CIL), illegal mining activities are done stealthily and clandestinely in abandoned/disused and outcrop regions.

While, exact assessment of the quantity of illegally mined coal is not possible, details of quantity of coal seized, value of coal seized and number of FIRs lodged during last three years and till 1st Quarter 2018-19 are given below on the basis of raids by CIL security personnel and joint raids with law and order authorities of the concerned States:—

*Illegal mining of coal-Subsidiary-wise and State-wise*

Co.	State	2015-16				2016-17				2017-18				2018-19 (upto 1st Quarter)			
		Qty.		Approx.		FIR		Qty.		Approx.		FIR		Qty.		Approx.	
		Recovered	(te)	Value	(₹ in Lakh)	Lodged	(te)	Value	(₹ in Lakh)	Lodged	(te)	Value	(₹ in Lakh)	Lodged	(te)	Value	(₹ in Lakh)
ECL	West Bengal	0.0		0.0		17	973.90	48.69		8	115.29	5.76		72	274.11	13.7	42
	Jharkhand	1.110.77		5.54		0	285.50	13.6		8	0.0	0.0		12	3.00	0.15	8
		110.77		5.54		17	1259.4	62.29		16	115.29	5.76		84	277.11	13.85	50
BCCL	Jharkhand	0.0		0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0	0
	West Bengal	0.0		0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0	0
		0.0		0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0	0
CCL	Jharkhand	2.00		0.02		1	33.00	0.330		0	333.00	10.538		3	0.0	0.0	3
NCL	Uttar Pradesh/ Madhya Pradesh	0.0		0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0	0
WCL	Maharashtra	0.0		0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0	0
	Madhya Pradesh	0.0		0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0	0

		0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0
SECL	Madhya Pradesh	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0
	Chhattisgarh	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0
		0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0
MCL	Odisha	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0
NEC	Assam	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0	40.00	1.55	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
TOTAL CIL		112.77	5.56	18	1292.4	62.62	488.29	17.848	94	277.11	13.85	53	

Following steps are being taken by subsidiaries of CIL to check illegal mining:—

- (i) Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS) and 'Khanan Prahari' App have been launched on 4th July 2018 to monitor unauthorized coal mining activities. The Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS) is a web based application which can be used to detect, monitor and take action on any kind of illegal coal mining activities being carried on within the leasehold boundaries in the coalfield areas.

Salient features of CMSMS: It uses the platform of National Centre of Geo-Informatics (NCoG), which is a Platform of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY). On this platform, Village level GIS map of India is already available which are being used for e-governance applications of various government departments. Coal mining related information has been provided in the form of layers. Presently the layers available on this system are-Coalfield Boundaries, Boundaries of Geological Coal blocks (CIL and SCCL), Leasehold Boundaries and Information/report of land reclamation.

Illegal coal mining activity can be detected in 2 ways:—

- Through scanning of satellite data - This will be done at CMPDI wherein satellite data will be scanned to detect any coal mining activity which is extending outside the authorised leasehold area.
- Through report by citizens by 'Khanan Prahari' Mobile application - Any citizen can report any illegal coal mining activity through the mobile app in the form of textual or geo-tagged photographs.

Reports generated through the above sources will be automatically forwarded to Nodal Officers who have been nominated by CIL/SCCL as well as various State Governments. The Nodal Officers will verify the reported activity and take action like filing a police report for taking action as per law or informing the law enforcing agencies. The action taken will also be fed into the system so that any person can see the status of his complaint through the complaint tracking system in the CMSMS. The identity of the complainant shall not be revealed.

- (ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iii) Surprise raids/checks are being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.

- (iv) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones.
- (v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points.
- (vii) Training of existing security/CISF personnel, refresher training and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.
- (viii) Maintaining close liaison with the State authorities.
- (ix) Committee/task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, state level) in some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.

(f) and (g) Law and Order is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action against the persons involved in such unauthorised and illegal activities. FIR is lodged by units of subsidiary companies with local police stations to take necessary action.

#### **Imported coal for power generation**

1980. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any estimated costs of using imported coal to generate power over the next year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry is engaged in any discussion with the Ministry of Shipping to address the increase in the volume of imported coal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, it may be mentioned that coal import by power plants has reduced from 80.58 MT in 2015-16 to 56.41 MT in 2017-18.

(c) and (d) 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. Ministry of Coal does not interfere in either the import of coal by domestic consumers or its transportation.

#### **BSNL Mobile towers in Sundargarh, Odisha**

1981. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new mobile towers planned in the Sundargarh district of Odisha during the financial year 2018-19 by BSNL; and

(b) whether all the BSNL mobile towers in Sundargarh district of Odisha would have high speed data service (3G/4G)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) During the financial year 2018-19, a total 12 new mobile towers are planned by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for Sundargarh district of Odisha.

(b) At present a total of 217 mobile towers are working in Sundargarh district of Odisha. Of these, 155 towers have both 2G and 3G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) and 82 towers have only 2G BTSs.

34 new 3G BTSs are planned to be added in financial year 2018-19 in Sundargarh District.

#### **Introduction of internet telephony**

1982. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to introduce internet telephony system in the country;

(b) if so, the details of benefits to consumers therein;

(c) whether the facility would allow in-flight connectivity; and

(d) if so, whether the telecom operators would charge more than the usual rates for such services and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Sir, the Unified licensees under the Access Service authorization

are already permitted to provide Internet Telephony. A copy of Unified Licence amendment is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has also issued a clarification dated 19th June, 2018 in this regard. A copy of the clarification is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(b) This will enable subscribers to make calls from places where cellular network coverage is poor but internet service of any internet service provider is available.

(c) At present, in-flight connectivity on aircraft is not permitted in India. The facility of internet telephony can be offered once in-flight connectivity is allowed by the Government.

(d) Tariff for telecom access services is under forbearance except for national roaming and rural fixed telephony services. No tariff is specified for Internet Telephony services or in-flight services. The charges to be levied for different types of calls/data are decided by the service provider taking into account several factors including the input costs, level of competition and other commercial considerations.

***Statement-I***

**No. 20-573/2017 AS-I**

**Government of India**

**Ministry of Communications**

**Department of Telecommunications**

**20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -110001**

Dated 19th June 2018

To

All the UL Licensees.

**Subject: Amendment to the Unified License on Internet Telephony**

In pursuance to Condition 5.1, the Licensor hereby amends the Unified License Agreement as under:—

Existing Clause	Amended Clause
1.	<b>Chapter VIII</b> 2.6(ii) Internet Telephony calls originated by International out roamers from international

Existing Clause	Amended Clause
	<p>locations shall be handed over at the International gateway of licensed ILDOs and International termination charges shall be paid to the terminating access service provider. In case the Licensee is not able to ensure that Internet Telephony call originated outside of the country is coming through ILDO gateway, International out-roaming to Internet Telephony subscribers of the access provider shall not be allowed. Further, the calls originated outside the country using internet telephony shall be routed through ILD (International Long Distance) Gateway like any other international call.</p>
2.	<p><b>Chapter VIII</b></p> <p>2.6(iii) The mobile numbering series should be used for providing Internet Telephony by Licensee. TSPs are allowed to allocate same number to the subscriber both for Cellular Mobile service and Internet Telephony service. The access service licensee should use private ENUM in its network for Telephone number mapping from E.164 to SIP/H.323 addresses and <i>vice-versa</i>.</p>
3.	<p><b>Chapter VIII</b></p> <p>2.6(iv) The licensees should comply with all the interception and monitoring related requirements as specified in the licence as amended from time to time for providing Internet Telephony.</p> <p>The Public IP address used for originating/terminating Internet Telephony calls should be made a mandatory part of CDR in case of</p>



Existing Clause	Amended Clause
	Internet Telephony. The location details in form of latitude and longitude should also be provided wherever it is feasible. CLI Restriction (CLIR) facility should not be provided for Internet Telephony Subscribers.
4. "IP Address assigned to a subscriber for Internet Telephony shall conform to IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) only. Translation of E.164 number/private number to IP address and <i>vice-versa</i> by the licensee for this purpose shall be as per directions/instructions issued by the Licensor."	<p><b>Chapter VIII</b></p> <p>2.6 (v) IP Address assigned to a subscriber for Internet Telephony shall conform to IP addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) only.</p>
5.	<p><b>Chapter VIII</b></p> <p>2.6 (vi) The Licensees providing Internet Telephony service may facilitate access to emergency number calls using location services; however it is not mandated to provide such services at present. The subscribers may be informed about the limitation of providing access to emergency services to Internet Telephony subscribers in unambiguous terms.</p>
6.	<p><b>Chapter VIII</b></p> <p>2.6 (vii) The Licensees must inform QoS parameter supported by them for Internet Telephony so that the subscribers can take an informed decision.</p>

2. These amendments shall be part and parcel of the Unified License Agreement and all others Terms and Conditions shall remain unchanged.

3. These Amendments come into force with immediate effect.

(R.K. Soni)

**Director (AS)**

Ph. No. 23036284

Copy to,

1. Secretary (TRAI)
2. Sr. DDG (TEC)/ Wireless Advisor/Sr. DDG (DGT-HQ)/Sr. DDG (LFP)/DDG (LFA) and DDG (WPF)
3. DDG (CS)/DDG (DS)/DDG (A/C)/CVO
4. Coal.
5. Director (IT) may kindly arrange to upload this letter on the website of DoT.
6. All Directors of AS Division.

**Statement-II**

*No. 20-573/2017 AS-I*

*Government of India*

*Ministry of Communications*

*Department of Telecommunications*

*20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001*

Dated 19th June, 2018

To,

All the UL/UL(VNO)/UASL/CMTS Licensees.

**Subject:** Clarification regarding Internet Telephony.

With reference to the Internet Telephony services envisaged in the Licenses it is clarified that the said service is un-tethered from the underlying access network. Hence

Internet Telephony service can be provided by Access Service Provider to the customers using Internet Service of the other service providers.

**(R.K. Soni)**

Director (AS)

Ph. No. 23036284

Copy to,

1. Secretary (TRAI).
2. Sr. DDG (TEC)/ Wireless Advisor/ Sr. DDG (DGT-HQ)/ Sr. DDG (LFP)/ DDG (LFA) and DDG (WPF).
3. DDG (CS)/ DDG (DS)/ DDG (A/C)/ CVO.
4. COAI.
5. Director (IT) may kindly arrange to upload this letter on the website of DoT.
6. All Directors of AS Division.

**Broadband penetration in urban and rural areas**

1983. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that broadband penetration is 64.84 per cent in urban areas and a measly 20.26 per cent in rural areas in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 aims to provide universal broadband coverage with 50 Mbps speed to every citizen and 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022; and

(c) if so, given the existing low level of penetration, in what manner Government plans to achieve such an optimistic target within such a short span of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As on 31.03.2018 the number of Broadband connections in the country are 412.59 million of which 306.07 million (74.18%) are in urban areas and 106.52 million (25.82 %) are in rural areas. The broadband connection in the country in terms of per 100 inhabitants is 74.50% in urban areas and 12 % in rural areas as on 31.3.2018.

(b) and (c) The draft National Digital Communications Policy-2018 was released on 1st May, 2018 for public consultations. The goals outlined in the draft policy include (a) providing Universal broadband coverage at 50 Mbps to every citizen by 2022 and (b) Providing 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.

It may be mentioned that as on date, the draft National Digital Communication Policy is at a draft stage. However, a gist of the measures envisaged in the draft policy for broadband connectivity is given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Gist of the measures for Broadband access and connectivity in draft National Digital Communications Policy-2018*

The draft National Digital Communications Policy - 2018 was released on 1st May, 2018 for public consultations. The draft National Digital Communications Policy - 2018 recognizes the importance of continued improvement in the regulatory framework for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve the needs of citizens. It aims to attract long-term, high quality and sustainable investments by pursuing regulatory reforms to ensure that the regulatory structures and processes remain relevant, transparent, accountable and forward-looking. It also aims to remove regulatory barriers and reduce the regulatory burden that hampers investments, innovation and consumer interest. All these measures aim for growth and revival of the sector.

As on date, the draft National Digital Communication Policy is at a draft stage

As far as Broadband connectivity is concerned, the first major strategic objective that the draft National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) aims to accomplish by 2022 is of 'Provisioning of Broadband for all'. In pursuit of accomplishing its objectives by 2022, the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 envisages three Missions which will cover rural areas as well:

1. Connect India for Creating Robust Digital Communications infrastructure.
2. Propel India for enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation and BPR generation.
3. Secure India for Ensuring Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications.

Among the major goals outlined in the draft policy by 2022 the following are particularly important as far as rural areas are concerned:-

- (i) Provide Universal broadband coverage at 50Mbps to every citizen.
- (ii) Provide 1Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
- (iii) Enable 100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions; including all educational institutions.
- (iv) Enable fixed line broadband access to 50% of households.
- (v) Achieve 'unique mobile subscriber density' of 55 by 2020 and 65 by 2022.
- (vi) Enable deployment of public Wi-Fi Hotspots; to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022.
- (vii) Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas.

In terms of Strategy, the draft NDCP envisages establishing a 'National Broadband Mission- Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan' to secure universal broadband access. The implementation of the following broadband initiatives is proposed to be funded through USOF and Public Private Partnerships:

- (i) BharatNet:- Providing 1 Gbps to Gram Panchayats upgradeable to 10 Gbps.
- (ii) GramNet:- Connecting all key rural development institutions with 10 Mbps upgradeable to 100 Mbps.
- (iii) NagarNet- Establishing 1 Million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas.
- (iv) JanWiFi - Establishing 2 Million Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas.

The draft NDCP 2018 also proposes to implement a 'Fibre First Initiative' to take fibre to the home, to enterprises and to key development institutions in Tier I, II and III towns and to rural clusters through.

- Promoting collaboration models involving State, local bodies and private sector as necessary for provision of shared duct infrastructure in municipalities, rural areas and national highways.
- Facilitating Fibre-to-the-tower programme to enable fiberisation of at least 60% base stations thereby accelerating migration to 4G/5G.

- Leveraging existing assets of the broadcasting and power sector to improve connectivity, affordability and sustainability.
- Incentivising and promoting fibre connectivity for all new developmental construction.
- By making requirement for telecom installations and the associated cabling and in building solutions mandatory in all commercial, residential and office spaces by amending National Building Code of India (NBC), through Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Apart from this, the draft policy includes the following proposals for substantially augment the broadband in the country, and especially in the rural areas:

(i) Establishment of a National Digital Grid by:

- Creating National Fibre Authority
- Establishing Common Service Ducts and utility corridors in all new city and highway road projects, and related elements
- Creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Rights of Way, standardisation of costs and timelines; and removal of barriers to approvals
- Facilitating development of Open Access Next Generation Networks;

(ii) Facilitate the establishment of Mobile Tower Infrastructure by:

- Extending incentives and exemptions for the construction of telecom towers
- According accelerated Rights of Way permissions for telecom towers in Government premises
- Promoting deployment of solar and green energy for telecom towers;

(iii) Improve international connectivity and reduce the cost of international bandwidth by facilitating setting up of International Cable Landing Stations by rationalising access charges and removing regulatory hurdles;

- (iv) Encourage sharing of active infrastructure by enhancing the scope of Infrastructure Providers (EP) and promoting deployment of common sharable, passive as well as active, infrastructure;
- (v) Enabling Infrastructure Convergence of IT, telecom and broadcasting sectors:
  - Amending the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and other relevant acts for the purpose of convergence in coordination with respective ministries
  - Establishing a unified policy framework and spectrum management regime for broadcast and broadband technologies
  - Restructuring of legal, licensing and regulatory frameworks for reaping the benefits of convergence;
- (vi) Creating a Broadband Readiness Index for States/ UTs to attract investments and address RoW challenges;
- (vii) Encouraging investment in broadband infrastructure through fiscal incentives, including accelerated depreciation and tax incentives; and incentivizing fixed line broadband;
- (viii) By encouraging innovative approaches to infrastructure creation and access including through resale and Virtual Network Operators (VNO);
- (ix) Promoting broadband connectivity through innovative and alternative technologies.

Further the draft NDCP 2018 outlines strategies for Ensuring Inclusion of uncovered areas and digitally deprived segments of society by channelizing the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for ensuring connectivity for all uncovered areas in the North Eastern States, Himalayan region, LWE areas, and Islands and Border Areas.

#### **Penalty for PESKY calls**

1984. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether TRAI has proposed stringent penalty on telecom operators, who together besiege the subscriber with more than 30 billion unsolicited telemarketing messages every month, as provided in the draft Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018, now put in public domain to elicit stakeholders' comments;

(b) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India has raised concerns over the TRA! draft rules to curb pesky calls to subscribers by telemarketing agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Sir, TRAI had undertaken public consultation on the framework for controlling Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) and after considering the comments of stakeholders during public consultation, a new framework for controlling UCC was released through draft regulations for public consultation. TRAI had, *inter-alia*, proposed Financial Disincentive (FD) not exceeding ₹ 50,00,000 in the proposed regulations. After considering the views of stakeholders received on the draft consultation, TRAI has notified a new framework for controlling UCC through Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 dated 19.7.2018.

(b) and (c) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has submitted its response on draft Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 dated 29.05.2018. The response of COAI, *inter-alia*, includes the following submission:

- (i) A number of obligations contained in the draft regulations require operators to incur additional CAPEX and OPEX in the new systems and technology which proposes to completely change the existing system. Hence, the Authority should undertake and provide Cost Benefit analysis in consultation with all the stakeholders before finalizing the draft regulations on the UCC.
- (ii) The Draft regulations do not address existing problem of Voice UCC from unregistered telemarketers effectively and also of mixing of promotional content with transactional content/piece.
- (iii) The Draft regulations will lead to complex processes and huge costs for TSPs, without any substantial benefits. This will encourage migration of traffic to OTT players.
- (iv) Complexity in customer preference, in view of the complex sub-categories, mode, day, time-band etc. would lead to more complaints and dissatisfaction for the consumers.
- (v) There should not be any financial disincentive on the TSPs.



- (vi) The TSPs require at least 3 months time for finalizing Code of Practice (CoP) and for system architecture designing and sectioning at least 9 months time is required. Further, the migration of the existing system requires at least 6 months time.

The comments received on the draft regulation are uploaded on TRAI's website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).

### **Curbing of PESKY calls**

1985. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Cellular Operators Association of India has raised concerns over TRAI's draft rules to curb pesky calls;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the draft rules do not effectively deal with pain-points faced by users;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that they have urged for a cost-benefit analysis before financially stressed telecoms are asked to overhaul the existing system; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Sir, TRAI had undertaken public consultation on the framework for controlling Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) and after considering the comments of stakeholders during public consultation, a new framework for controlling UCC was released through draft regulations for public consultation. After considering the views of stakeholders received on the draft consultation, TRAI had notified a new framework for controlling UCC through Telecom Commercial Communications Customers Preference Regulations, 2018 dated 19.7.2018.

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which proposes to completely change the existing system. Hence, the Authority should undertake and provide Cost Benefit analysis in consultation with all the stakeholders before finalizing the draft regulations on the UCC.

- (ii) The Draft regulations do not address existing problem of Voice UCC from unregistered telemarketers effectively and also of mixing of promotional content with transactional content/pipe.
- (iii) The Draft regulations will lead to complex processes and huge costs for TSPs, without any substantial benefits. This will encourage migration of traffic to OTT players.
- (iv) Complexity in customer preference, in view of the complex sub-categories, mode, day, time-band etc. would lead to more complaints and dissatisfaction for the consumers.
- (v) There should not be any financial disincentive on the TSPs.
- (vi) The TSPs require at least 3 months time for finalizing Code of Practice (CoP) and for system architecture designing and softening at least 9 months time is required. Further, the migration of the existing system requires at least 6 months time.

The comments received on the draft regulation are uploaded on TRAI's website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).

(c) to (e) The TRAI has intimated that the new framework prescribed through these regulations is user friendly and automated using latest technological advancements to curb the menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC). The concern of few stakeholders that implementation of these regulations will have enhanced financial burden for regulatory compliance has also been analysed by TRAI. TRAI noted that the use of advanced technology not only smoothen various processes but also drastically reduces the compliance cost. These regulations also permit access providers to authorize Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) network operators to establish the infrastructure, operate and maintain the same which will further reduce the financial burden on access providers. Such infrastructures may also be in shared mode among access providers which would further reduce implementation and operation cost. Technology solutions further unbundles the functions required to be performed for regulatory compliances. This opens up the opportunity for various stakeholders to consolidate infrastructure resource requirements and share resources among themselves to bring down the cost

of compliance. These entities will have a business model considering large number of commercial communication messages flowing through telecom networks. In this regard, it is observed by TRAI that such messages are in order of 20 to 30 billion in a month and it is expected that cost of compliance to implement these regulations if calculated on per message basis would be minuscule while it will give flexibility to consumers to exercise various options relating to receipt of commercial communications, manage their consent effectively and also reduce the regulatory burden of the telecom service provider due to automation of processes and sharing various functions with participating entities.

**Clarifications sought by CVC in award of contract for expansion of  
national internet backbone**

1986. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 229 and Unstarred Question 4557 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16 March, 2018 and 6 April, 2018 respectively and state:

- (a) whether clarifications sought by the CVC into the ₹300/- crore scam in BSNL, in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contracts along with purchase of hardware, have been sent to CVC;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of advice by CVC, till date;
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (d) the details of action taken against the erring companies and officials, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Clarifications sought by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) have been sent to CVC on 29.6.2018. Advice of CVC is awaited. Action, if any, will be taken as per advice of CVC.

**Opposition to public Wi-Fi model**

1987. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the telecom operators have opposed public Wi-Fi model recommended by the TRAI, saying it will adversely impact debt ridden industry and compromise with the national security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposal to sell internet services without a licence would be a complete bypass of present licensing framework and detrimental to massive investments already made in spectrum and telecom infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Certain submissions have been received by Department of Telecommunication, *inter-alia*, from telecom operators and their associations in relation to recommendations made by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the subject "Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks". These submissions include: internet services to be provided only through License, level playing field, security, investments already made by telecom operators and perceived revenue loss to the exchequer.

This matter, including the submissions received, is under consideration and decisions, as appropriate, will be taken in due course.

#### **India Post Payments Bank in Tamil Nadu**

1988. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to set up India Post Payments Bank by Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of India Post Payments Bank branches to be set up in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A license authorizing the bank to carry on Payments Bank business has been obtained from the Reserve Bank of India in terms of Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on 20/01/2017. The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) launched its two pilot branches in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi (Jharkhand) with 8 access points on 30/01/2017 with basic products and banking services in partnership with Punjab National Bank (PNB).

(c) It is proposed to set up 37 Branches and 11876 access points of IPPB in Tamil Nadu Circle by 31st December 2018. The details are given in the Statement.

**Statement**

*Details of IPPB Branches in Tamil Nadu Circle*

Sl. No.	Branch name	District	No. of access points
1	2	3	4
1.	Udayarpalayam Branch	Ariyalur	290
2.	Anna Road Branch	Chennai	304
3.	Coimbatore Branch	Coimbatore	453
4.	Chidambaram Branch	Cuddalore	520
5.	Cuddalore Branch	Cuddalore	262
6.	Dharmapuri Branch	Dharmapuri	255
7.	Dindigul Branch	Dindigul	457
8.	Erode Branch	Erode	322
9.	Kanchipuram Branch	Kanchipuram	428
10.	Nagercoil Town S.O	Kanniyakumari	267
11.	Karaikal Branch	Karaikal	27
12.	Karur Branch	Karur	332
13.	Krishnagiri Branch	Krishnagiri	302
14.	Tallakulam Branch	Madurai	334
15.	Mayiladuthurai Branch	Nagapattinam	292
16.	Velur Branch	Namakkal	342
17.	Perambalur Branch	Perambalur	131
18.	Puducherry Branch	Pondicherry	88
19.	Pudukkottai Branch	Pudukkottai	342
20.	Ramanathapuram Branch	Ramanathapuram	306
21.	Salem Branch	Salem	522
22.	Manamadurai Branch	Sivaganga	315

1	2	3	4
23.	Kumbakonam Branch	Thanjavur	482
24.	Thanjavur Branch	Thanjavur	381
25.	Charing Cross Branch	The Nilgiris	181
26.	Thenibranch	Theni	221
27.	Tiruvallur Branch	Thiruvallur	323
28.	Tiruvarur Branch	Thiruvarur	108
29.	Tiruchirappalli Branch	Tiruchirappalli	344
30.	Palayankottai Branch	Tirunelveli	330
31.	Tirupur Branch	Tiruppur	349
32.	Tiruvannamalai Branch	Tiruvannamalai	468
33.	Kovilpatti Branch	Tuticorin	346
34.	Tuticorin Branch	Tuticorin	295
35.	Tirupattur Branch	Vellore	568
36.	Villupuram Branch	Villupuram	308
37.	Virudhunagar Branch	Virudhunagar	281
TOTAL			11876

### **Suspension of internet services**

1989. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of instances where internet services were suspended, 2014 onwards along with details of reasons for ordering suspension, places where it was suspended, duration of suspension and the law invoked to suspend services, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether, in future, such suspensions would be ordered by invoking the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017;

(c) if so, the consultations that were held with stakeholders, civil society, etc., before finalising these Rules; and

(d) how these Rules are an improvement over the earlier rules/laws using which, internet services could be suspended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) The Section 5 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 empowers Central/State Government, on occurrence of public emergency or in the interest of public safety, to take temporary possession of licensed telegraphs and to order interception or detention or non-transmission of messages.

In pursuance of these provisions of Indian Telegraph Act and in order to streamline the process of temporary suspension of telecom services, the Department of Telecommunications has notified "Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017" on 07.08.2017. As per these rules, the directions for temporary suspension of telecom services, including internet services in an area, can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary or the State Home Secretary, as the case may be, due to public emergency, or in the interest of public safety. These directions are then reviewed by the Review Committee constituted in the Central or State Government under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary or Chief Secretary, as the case may be, within five working days of issue of such directions.

Before finalizing these rules, inter-ministerial consultations were held with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog.

Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that it has not exercised its power under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 till date. State Governments are also empowered to issue the directions for temporary suspension of telecom services, including internet services. Records related to temporary suspensions of telecom services by State Governments are not maintained by Department of Telecommunications.

### **Cool EMS service between India and Japan**

1990. SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's 'Cool EMS Service' between India and Japan has been implemented and is running;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits that would accrue there from along with its working mechanism;

(c) the efforts made by Government, so far, to get the benefits of this facility to the common citizens; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Cool EMS Service between India and Japan has started from 29th March, 2018. Under this service, the Japanese food items permissible under Indian regulations are transported in cool boxes from Japan to India (one way only) through postal channel. Currently this service is available in Delhi only.

(c) and (d) Efforts have been made by the two Governments through their Embassies to create awareness about this limited service among citizens in both countries.

#### **Revenue earned through spectrum auctions**

1991. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue earned by Government through auctions of spectrum conducted during the last four years, auction-wise, including targets fixed and results achieved;

(b) whether the auctions ended well below the targets and there were no buyers for premium 700 MHz and 900 MHz band of spectrum; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The details of revenue earned by the Government through auctions of spectrum during last four years are as follows:

Auction Year	Bid Amount (₹ crore)	Upfront Payment (₹ crore) **
2013	3639.00	Nil*
2014	61162.00	18267.00
2015	109875.00	32377.85
2016	65789.12	32434.10

\* Upfront amount due was set-off against entry fee of quashed licensees.

\*\* Balance amount is payable in equated annual instalments.



Valuation of spectrum depends upon a large numbers of socio-economic and regulatory factors and is ultimately determined by bidders in an auction. Hence it is difficult to determine targets for spectrum auction. Only Reserve Price of each band of spectrum in each Licensed Service Area (LSA) put to auction had been fixed by the Government on the basis of recommendations of TRAI.

However, auction revenue estimates for budgeting purpose, and actual revenue realization against the estimates, are as follows:

Year	Revenue Estimate (₹ in cr.)*	Achievement (Actual Receipts) (₹ in cr.)*
2013-14	11343	18267.18
2014-15	Nil	10791.08
2015-16	16000	21587.00
2016-17	34,586	32434.10

\* This includes receipts from deferred payments apart from the upfront auction amounts

(b) and (c) No bid was received in any of the 22 LSAs in 700 MHz band, nor in 4 LSAs in 900 MHz bands respectively. Absence of ecosystem including the non-availability of devices together with industry perception of high reserve price appears to be the main reason for no bids in the 70Q MHz band. The other possible reasons could be high debt level of many major players and need for bidders to preserve cash for roll-out and defending market share in view of new launches.

#### **TRAI's suggestions on net neutrality**

1992. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the interministerial Telecom Commission cleared the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's suggestions on Net Neutrality that bars service providers from discriminating against internet content and services by blocking, throttling or granting them higher speed access;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018, which aims to attract US \$ 100 billion investment and ensure a broadband speed of 50 Mbps for all citizens, was also cleared; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Telecom Commission, in its meeting held on 11th July, 2018, has granted its approval to the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Net Neutrality, with minor modifications, upholding the principles of Net Neutrality.

(b) The Telecom Commission has also cleared the draft National Digital Communications Policy - 2018, which was released on 1st May, 2018 for public consultations, with minor modifications in its meeting held on 11th July, 2018.

(c) Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of Net Neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to Internet for all citizens of the country. To ensure that the regulatory framework adheres to the fundamental principles and concepts of Net Neutrality, the policy directives on Net Neutrality have been issued incorporating the principles of non-discriminatory treatment of content.

The draft National Digital Communications Policy - 2018 has several goals to achieve the overall objectives of the policy. The policy *inter-alia* contains following goals:

- (i) Attract investments of USD 100 Billion in the Digital Communications Sector,
- (ii) Provide Universal broadband coverage at 50 Mbps to every citizen.

It is proposed to achieve the goals by catalysing investments for digital communications sector and establishing a 'National Broadband Mission - Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan' to secure universal broadband access.

#### **Collection from licence fee and spectrum charges**

1993. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's collection from licence fee and spectrum charges has fallen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this reflects financial difficulties being faced by the Telecom sector;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the overall collection of licence fee and spectrum charges during the year 2017-18 was less than that collected in 2016-17; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) The details of Government's collection from licence fee and spectrum charges for two years is as under:

		(₹ in crore)
Licence Fee	15615	13262
Spectrum Charges	7244	4985
TOTAL	22859	18247

Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted on 16/05/2017 with following terms of reference:

- To examine systemic issues affecting viability and repayment capacity in telecom sector and furnish recommendations for resolution of stressed assets,
- Policy reforms and strategic interventions for Telecom sector.

As per the IMG, there are pockets of financial difficulties in the sector. However, each TSP has varying levels of debt exposure, cash flows and different capital structure.

Based on the recommendations of the IMG the Government has *inter-alia* taken the following steps to help the sector:

- (a) Increase in number of instalments from 10 to 16 for "Deferred Payment Liability of TSPs".
- (b) Relaxation of Spectrum cap to enable optimal utilization of Spectrum.

#### **Survey for broadband/internet facility in gram panchayats**

1994. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted/proposed to be conducted across the country for linking the Gram Panchayats with broadband/internet facility;

(b) if so, the details of such Gram Panchayats which are likely to be linked with this facility and the action taken by Government in this regard, so far, State-wise, including Karnataka; and

(c) by when the work related to linking such Gram Panchayats with broadband/internet facility is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. As part of project execution, the survey is conducted by the Implementing Agency for connecting the Gram Panchayats.

(b) The State/Union Territory-wise current status of BharatNet is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The Telecom Commission has approved the implementation model for Phase-II GPs as given below:

- (i) 8 States namely Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Telangana are being implemented under State-led model and MoUs have been signed with the States.
- (ii) Bihar and Punjab are being implemented under Private sector model through Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).
- (iii) 2 States namely Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and 8 States namely Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, West Bengal and Sikkim are being implemented through PGCIL and BSNL respectively under CPSU led model.
- (iv) About 6407 GPs, located in remote and hilly locations with poor connectivity, are being connected on Satellite media.

In Karnataka, 6076 GPs have been connected under BharatNet project and the remaining 9 GPs are under implementation.

Further, as part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is being provided at all the GPs in the country, including Karnataka, through CSC-SPV, State Government and BBNL. At each GP, 5 Access Points (APs) are being provided, out of which 3 APs are at Government institution and 2 APs at public places.

(c) The BharatNet project is targeted to be completed by March, 2019.

**Statement***The State/UT-wise current status of BharatNet (as on 30.07.2018)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	850
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
4.	Assam	1520
5.	Bihar	5667
6.	Chandigarh	13
7.	Chhattisgarh	4041
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21
9.	Daman and Diu	17
10.	Gujarat	4986
11.	Haryana	6123
12.	Himachal Pradesh	205
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	232
14.	Jharkhand	2107
15.	Karnataka	6076
16.	Kerala	1129
17.	Madhya Pradesh	12661
18.	Maharashtra	14191
19.	Manipur	173
20.	Meghalaya	122
21.	Mizoram	19
22.	Nagaland	61

Sl. No.	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
23.	Odisha	3303
24.	Puducherry	101
25.	Punjab	7616
26.	Rajasthan	8386
27.	Sikkim	4
28.	Telangana	2047
29.	Tripura	489
30.	Uttar Pradesh	27843
31.	Uttarakhand	1502
32.	West Bengal	2020
TOTAL		113549

#### **Disaster relief network upgradation**

1995. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom regulator, TRAI, has mooted a new disaster relief network upgradation;

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

(c) whether the existing means of communication in regard to disaster relief are inadequate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Sir, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have made a recommendations on Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication network on 4th June, 2018. The summary of recommendations with reasons therefor is given in the Statement (*See below*). All available resources including satellite communication are used in case of disaster. The recommendations of TRAI are being examined by the Department.

**Statement**

*TRAI recommendations on "Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication networks"*

1. Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication supports a wide range of services related to day to day life of public such as maintenance of law and order, protection of life and property, disaster relief and emergency responses.
2. The advancement of technology has provided PPDR networks with latest and enhanced features in terms of capability, capacity and interoperability. Broadband PPDR supports wide range of applications such as sending live images, videos and texts apart from the voice communication. Existing PPDR networks in the country are analog and digital systems supporting narrowband voice and data communications. Introduction of advanced broadband PPDR communication networks can be a great enabler in decision making and handling of PPDR operations for personnel and organizations involved.
3. Keeping in view the need to have a robust policy framework for the introduction of an advanced, reliable, robust and responsive broadband PPDR communication system in the country, the Authority, consequent upon powers conferred upon it, under section 11 (1)(a)(ii) and (vii) of the TRAI Act 1997 (as amended), had *suo-motu* on 9th October, 2017 issued a Consultation Paper (CP) on 'Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication networks' for the comments of the stakeholders.
4. Written comments on CP were invited from the stakeholders by 4th December, 2017 and counter-comments by 18th December 2017. The Authority received comments from seventeen (17) stakeholders and counter comments from two (02) stakeholders. An Open House Discussion (OHD) was also convened on 15th February, 2018.
5. The Authority has formulated its recommendations based on inputs received from the stakeholders, views expressed during the OHD and its own internal analysis. The salient features of the recommendations are:

- (i) Government to set up pan-India integrated Broadband PPDR (BB-PPDR) Communication Network (to be called "National BB-PPDR Network") based on 3GPP PS-LTE technology.
- (ii) A hybrid model of BB-PPDR network in India should be put in place in which dedicated network for BB-PPDR communication funded by Government be created in metro cities, border districts, disaster prone areas (identified by NDMA) and sensitive areas like J&K and North East by PSU like BSNL/MTNL and existing commercial network can be leveraged in other regions through any TSP.
- (iii) Stringent SLAs to be put in place and operators should be mandated to provide mobile BTS and backpack devices in case terrestrial network gets destroyed in order to make available communication facilities for PPDR agencies.
- (iv) Setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to plan, coordinate and steer the nationwide BB-PPDR communication network implementation and its subsequent operation.
- (v) An advisory committee should be constituted that includes representatives from all disciplines of public safety, state government, central government and Ministry of Communications to provide domain specific advice to the SPV.
- (vi) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) should study the feasibility to do away with CMRTS license for PPDR agencies in a phased manner.
- (vii) SPV shall be the nodal agency to coordinate with DoT for allocation of spectrum and other issues. The PPDR agencies and details of equipment deployed by them can be registered with DoT through SPV.
- (viii) DoT should work out timelines to Phase out existing analog networks in PPDR in a phased manner. New spectrum assignments may be done only for deploying digital equipment.
- (ix) Carrying out pilot testing of BB-PPDR dedicated network (dedicated spectrum and network) to be implemented through BSNL/MTNL, funded by the central



Government, at five zones identified as disaster prone /sensitive areas to evaluate the efficacy of the proposed network.

- (x) Testing the efficacy of PPDR trunking service roaming on public telecom/ networks during pilot testing, and if found feasible, it should be implemented on pan-India basis.
- (xi) 2x10 MHz of dedicated spectrum should be allocated nationwide to the SPV on no-cost basis for LTE based broadband PPDR networks.
- (xii) 814-824/859-869 MHz should be assigned for nationwide BB-PPDR ' services as per APT Frequency Arrangement number G 3-1-4.
- (xiii) 20 MHz of spectrum in the frequency range 440-470 MHz (preferably 450- / 470 MHz) should be allocated for future evolution of broadband PPDR.

#### **New Telecom Policy**

1996. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is formulating a new Telecom Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether this policy would help to sustain success story of the Telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The draft National Digital Communications Policy - 2018 which was released on 1st May, 2018 for public consultations is given in the Statement (*See below*). The draft National Digital Communications Policy - 2018 recognizes the importance of continued improvement in the regulatory framework for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve the needs of citizens. It aims to attract long-term, high quality and sustainable investments by pursuing regulatory reforms to ensure that the regulatory structures and processes remain relevant, transparent, accountable and forward-looking. It also aims to remove regulatory barriers and reduce the regulatory burden that hampers investments, innovation and consumer interest. All these measures would help to sustain success story of the Telecom Sector.

***Statement****National Digital Communications Policy 2018 - Draft for Consultation*

01-May-2018

**Preamble**

1. Digital infrastructure and services are increasingly emerging as the key enablers and critical determinants of a country's growth and well-being. With significantly advanced capabilities in both telecommunications and software, India, more than most countries, stands poised to benefit from harnessing the new digital technologies and platforms; as a means to unlock productivity, as well as to reach unserved and underserved markets; thus catalysing economic growth and development, generating new-age jobs and livelihoods, and ensuring access to next generation services for its citizens.
2. The task before India's policy makers is to ensure that the advantages of the new technologies are accessible to all equitably and affordably; while securing them against existing and emerging threats. India needs to particularly ensure that its communications infrastructure supports the entire population, whose demographic profiles vary widely across various indices such as literacy, economic conditions and urbanisation. It is important for India to remain sensitive to these factors and promote policies that increase opportunities for their social and economic development.
3. Digital India is already unfolding. India's digital profile and footprint is one of the fastest growing in the world. With over a billion mobile phones and digital identities and half a billion internet users, India's mobile data consumption is already the highest in the world. Over 200 million Indians regularly use social media and in the last year alone, over 200 million Indians took to mobile banking and digital payments. At the current pace of digitisation and digitalisation, it is estimated that India's digital economy has the potential to reach one trillion USD by 2025. The rapid and unprecedented proliferation of the mobile phone, the internet, social media platforms, digital payments, data consumption and generation across India indicate that the data economy and digital technologies and services are no longer the prerogative of the privileged few; but that they have indeed

evolved into widespread instruments of access and empowerment for more than a billion Indians.

4. The objective of this document is to lay out a policy and principles framework that will enable creation of a vibrant competitive telecom market to strengthen India's long term competitiveness and serve the needs of our aspiring nation. It has been broadly estimated that a 10% increase in broadband penetration in a country could potentially lead to an over 1% increase in GDP. However, studies in India estimate that the impact could be significantly higher for the country, given the increased productivity and efficiency gains that are likely to accrue to the economy.
5. Currently, India has approximately 1.5 million kilometres of OFC, and less than one-fourth of the towers are fibre-connected. In order to expand mobile and broadband connectivity across the country, it is necessary to explore and utilise the opportunities presented by next-generation-networks like 5G and other pioneering network access technologies including satellite communications. It would be critical to focus on fixed infrastructure development initiatives related to fibre deployment and Right of Way clearances that will form the bedrock of next generation technologies.
6. While India has embarked on one of the world's largest rural optic fibre roll-outs in the world, aiming to connect 600,000 of its villages by broadband through its flagship initiative called 'BharatNet'; the convergence of a cluster of revolutionary technologies including 5G, the cloud, IOT and data analytics, along with a growing start-up community, promise to accelerate and deepen its digital engagement, opening up a new horizon of opportunities. As the world prepares for what is increasingly being called as the fourth industrial revolution, India, and indeed every single sector of its economy, need to be readied to embrace this wave.
7. A robust, competitive landscape, which ensures availability of new communications technologies, services and applications, is central to the growth of GDP, productivity and creation of new jobs in the economy. For consumers, competition leads to innovation, access to new technologies, improved quality, affordable prices and wider choice. Indian consumers need and deserve the widest range of services at competitive rates. The Policy seeks to promote and protect fair competition across the communications and digital economy sector.

8. Improvement in regulation and ongoing structural reforms are the pillars of a sound policy initiative. Regulatory reform is not a one-off effort, but a dynamic, long-term and multi-disciplinary process. The Policy recognises the importance of continued improvement in the regulatory framework for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve the needs of Indian citizens. Given the sector's capital-intensive nature, the Policy aims to attract long-term, high quality and sustainable investments. To serve this objective, the Policy further aims to pursue regulatory reforms to ensure that the regulatory structures and processes remain relevant, transparent, accountable and forward-looking. Additionally, the Policy aims to remove regulatory barriers and reduce the regulatory burden that hampers investments, innovation and consumer interest. The Policy also identifies steps to strengthen the sector's institutional mechanism and legislative framework, to ensure that India's economy and citizens can derive the full potential of its digital communications sector.
9. If India's economic, social and political interests in the emerging data economy are to be effectively secured, its 'digital sovereignty' encompassing the data privacy, choice and security of its citizens requires to be kept in prime consideration while participating in the global digital economy.
10. The objective of a national policy on digital communications is to prepare the country and its citizens for the future. Achieving these goals would require that the key stakeholders - namely the Centre, the States, local Governments and agencies, Telecom Service Providers, Internet Service Providers, handset and equipment manufacturers, the academic community, the innovators and start-ups come together to forge a coalition to deliver this national policy and its missions.

### **The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018**

The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 seeks to unlock the transformative power of digital communications networks - to achieve the goal of digital empowerment and well being of the people of India; and towards this end, attempts to outline a set of goals, initiatives, strategies and intended policy outcomes.

The National Communications Policy aims to accomplish the following Strategic Objectives by 2022:

1. Provisioning of Broadband for All

2. Creating 4 Million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector
3. Enhancing the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from 6% in 2017
4. Propelling India to the Top 50 Nations in the ICT Development Index of ITU from 134 in 2017
5. Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains
6. Ensuring Digital Sovereignty.

### **Vision**

To fulfil the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises by establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient, secure and affordable Digital Communications Infrastructure and Services; and in the process, support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society.

### **Missions**

In pursuit of accomplishing these objectives by year 2022, the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 envisages three Missions:

1. **Connect India:** Creating Robust Digital Communications Infrastructure  
To promote Broadband for All as a tool for socio-economic development, while ensuring service quality and environmental sustainability.
2. **Propel India:** Enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation and IPR generation.  
To harness the power of emerging digital technologies, including 5G, AI, IoT, Cloud and Big Data to enable provision of future ready products and services; and to catalyse the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) by promoting Investments, Innovation and IPR.
3. **Secure India:** Ensuring Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications  
To secure the interests of citizens and safeguard the digital sovereignty of India with a focus on ensuring individual autonomy and choice, data ownership, privacy and security; while recognizing data as a crucial economic resource.

1. Connect India: Creating a Robust Digital Communication Infrastructure

2022 Goals:

- (i) Provide Universal broadband coverage at 50 Mbps to every citizen.
- (ii) Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
- (iii) Enable 100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions; including all educational institutions.
- (iv) Enable fixed line broadband access to 50% of households.
- (v) Achieve 'unique mobile subscriber density' of 55 by 2020 and 65 by 2022.
- (vi) Enable deployment of public Wi-Fi Hotspots; to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022.
- (vii) Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas.

**Strategies:**

1.1 Establishing a 'National Broadband Mission - Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan' to secure universal broadband access

- (a) Implementation of the following broadband initiatives, to be funded through USOF and Public Private Partnerships:
  - (i) BharatNet - Providing 1 Gbps to Gram Panchayats upgradeable to 10 Gbps.
  - (ii) GramNet - Connecting all key rural development institutions with 10 Mbps upgradeable to 100 Mbps.
  - (iii) NagarNet - Establishing 1 Million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas.
  - (iv) JanWiFi - Establishing 2 Million Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas.
- (b) Implementing a 'Fibre First Initiative' to take fibre to the home, to enterprises and to key development institutions in Tier I, II and III towns and to rural clusters:
  - (i) According Telecom Optic Fibre cables the status of Public utility.

- (ii) Promoting collaboration models involving State, local bodies and private sector as necessary for provision of shared duct infrastructure in municipalities, rural areas and national highways.
  - (iii) Facilitating Fibre-to-the-tower programme to enable fiberisation of at least 60% base stations thereby accelerating migration to 4G/5G.
  - (iv) Leveraging existing assets of the broadcasting and power sector to improve connectivity, affordability and sustainability.
  - (v) Incentivising and promoting fibre connectivity for all new developmental construction.
  - (vi) By making requirement for telecom installations and the associated cabling and in-building solutions mandatory in all commercial, residential and office spaces by amending National Building Code of India (NBC), through Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- (c) Establishment of a National Digital Grid by:
- (i) Creating National Fibre Authority.
  - (ii) Establishing Common Service Ducts and utility corridors in all new city and highway road projects, and related elements.
  - (iii) Creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Rights of Way, standardisation of costs and timelines; and removal of barriers to approvals.
  - (iv) Facilitating development of Open Access Next Generation Networks
- (d) Facilitate the establishment of Mobile Tower Infrastructure by:
- (i) Extending incentives and exemptions for the construction of telecom towers.
  - (ii) According accelerated Rights of Way permissions for telecom towers in Government premises.
  - (iii) Promoting deployment of solar and green energy for telecom towers.

- (e) Improve international connectivity and reduce the cost of international bandwidth by facilitating setting up of International Cable Landing Stations by rationalising access charges and removing regulatory hurdles

Encourage sharing of active infrastructure by enhancing the scope of Infrastructure Providers (IP) and promoting deployment of common sharable, passive as well as active, infrastructure.

- (f) Enabling Infrastructure Convergence of IT, telecom and broadcasting sectors:
  - (i) Amending the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and other relevant acts for the purpose of convergence in coordination with respective ministries.
  - (ii) Establishing a unified policy framework and spectrum management regime for broadcast and broadband technologies.
  - (iii) Restructuring of legal, licensing and regulatory frameworks for reaping the benefits of convergence.
- (g) Creating a Broadband Readiness Index for States/UTs to attract investments and address RoW challenges.
- (h) Encouraging investment in broadband infrastructure through fiscal incentives, including accelerated depreciation and tax incentives; and incentivizing fixed line broadband.
  - (i) By encouraging innovative approaches to infrastructure creation and access including through resale and Virtual Network Operators (VNO).
  - (j) Promoting broadband connectivity through innovative and alternative technologies.

1.2 Recognizing Spectrum as a key natural resource for public benefit to achieve India's socio-economic goals, optimise availability and utilisation by:

- (a) Making adequate spectrum available to be equipped for the new broadband era:
  - (i) Identifying and making available new Spectrum bands for Access and Backhaul segments for timely deployment and growth of 5G networks.
  - (ii) Making available harmonized and contiguous spectrum required for deployment of next generation access technologies.



- (iii) Further liberalizing the spectrum sharing, leasing and trading regime.
  - (iv) Coordinating with Government departments for freeing underutilised/substitutable spectrum, and its auctioning and/or assignment along with unutilised spectrum for efficient and productive use.
  - (v) Optimal Pricing of Spectrum to ensure sustainable and affordable access to Digital Communications.
  - (vi) Simplifying the process of obtaining permissions from various agencies such as WPC and SACFA in order to promote efficiency.
  - (vii) Enabling Light Touch licensing/de-licensing for broadband proliferation.
  - (viii) Promoting the co-use/secondary use of spectrum.
  - (ix) Constituting a Spectrum Advisory Team (SAT) consisting of experts, industry and academia to facilitate the identification of new bands, applications and efficiency measures to catalyse innovation and efficient spectrum management.
- (b) Transparent and fair mode of spectrum allocation by developing a fair, flexible, simple and transparent method for spectrum assignments and allocations.
- (c) Efficient spectrum utilisation and management:
- (i) Ensuring the optimum utilisation of spectrum by management of interference free spectrum and encouraging new technologies and consolidation.
  - (ii) Monitoring efficient utilization of spectrum by conducting systematic audits of the spectrum allocated to both commercial and government organizations and deploy dynamic database systems for interference assessment.
  - (iii) Publishing annual spectrum utilization and availability roadmap for communication needs including those of aircraft and vessels.
- (d) Promoting Next Generation Access Technologies in India through the following actions:
- (i) Encouraging licensed service providers to utilise next generation access technologies to ensure cost optimization, service agility and new revenue streams.

- (ii) Recognising mid-band spectrum, particularly the 3 GHz to 24 GHz range, as central to India's strategy for Next-Generation Networks.
- (iii) Promoting the effective utilisation of high capacity backhaul E-band (71-76/81-86 GHz) and V-band (57-64 MHz) spectrum in line with international best practices.
- (iv) Rationalizing annual royalty charges for microwave links for backhaul connectivity.

### 1.3 Strengthening Satellite Communication Technologies in India.

- (a) Review the regulatory regime for satellite communication technologies, including:
  - (i) Revising licensing and regulatory conditions that limit the use of satellite communications, such as speed barriers, band allocation, etc.
  - (ii) Simplifying compliance requirements for VSAT operators to ensure faster roll out.
  - (iii) Expanding scope of permissible services under the Unified Licensing regime using High Throughput Satellite communication systems.
- (b) Optimise Satellite communications technologies in India, by:
  - (i) Reviewing SATCOM policy for communication services, along with Department of Space, keeping in view international developments and social and economic needs of the country.
  - (ii) Making available additional transponders and new spectrum bands (such as Ka band) for satellite-based commercial communication services.
  - (iii) Rationalizing satellite transponder, spectrum charges and charges payable to WPC.
  - (iv) Assessing the bandwidth demands across various spectrum bands used for satellite communications, in consultation with stakeholders.
  - (v) Prioritising international engagement with ITU on spectrum management issues, specifically with respect to satellite communications in India.

- (c) Develop an ecosystem for satellite communications in India, with focus on:
  - (i) Streamlining administrative processes for assignment and allocations, clearances and permissions related to satellite communication systems.
  - (ii) Promoting local manufacturing and development of satellite communications related infrastructure through appropriate policies.
  - (iii) Promoting participation of private players, with due regard to national security and sovereignty.
- 1.4 Ensuring Inclusion of uncovered areas and digitally deprived segments of society by:
  - (a) Channelizing the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for:
    - (i) Ensuring connectivity for all uncovered areas in the North Eastern States, Himalayan region, LWE areas, Islands and Border Areas.
    - (ii) Marginalised communities, women and persons with differential capabilities, and for economically and socially weaker sections in urban pockets.
    - (iii) Promoting innovative, effective and scalable alternate technologies for remote areas.
    - (iv) Enabling access provision by any entity capable of fulfilling the Universal Service Obligation.
  - (b) Reviewing the scope and modalities of USOF:
    - (i) Redesigning the USOF and broadening its objectives to enable universal broadband access.
    - (ii) Strengthening institutional capacity of USOF to ensure effective rollout of services in uncovered, remote and rural areas.
- 1.5 Ensuring Customer Satisfaction, Quality of Service and effective Grievance Redressal
  - (a) Establishing effective institutional mechanisms to protect consumers' interests including:
    - (i) Telecom Ombudsman.

- (ii) A centralised web based complaint redressal system.
  - (b) Focussing on public health and safety standards to promote the well-being of citizens:
    - (i) Framing a comprehensive policy to encourage the adoption of environmental and safety standards and building trust by enabling self-certification.
    - (ii) Generating awareness around Electro Magnetic Fields Emissions based on international experience and global best practices.
    - (iii) Generating awareness on hazards of e-waste and encouraging proper disposal management of equipment used.
  - (c) Incentivising the use of renewable energy technologies in the communications sector, including:
    - (i) Encouraging the utilisation of small cell fuel batteries, lithium-ion batteries or other similar technologies to improve energy consumption efficiencies.
    - (ii) Promoting research and development of green telecom through active participation of stakeholders across Government, industry and academia.
    - (iii) Rationalising of taxes and levies on the manufacture, production and import of such equipment for digital communication technologies.
2. Propel India: Enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation, Indigenous Manufacturing and IPR Generation
- 2022 Goals:
- (i) Attract investments of USD 100 Billion in the Digital Communications Sector.
  - (ii) Increase India's contribution to Global Value Chains.
  - (iii) Creation of innovation led Start-ups in Digital Communications sector.
  - (iv) Creation of Globally recognized IPRs in India.
  - (v) Development of Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) in the field of digital communication technologies.

(vii) Train/Re-skill 1 million manpower for building New Age Skills.

(viii) Expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices.

(viii) Accelerate transition to Industry 4.0.

**Strategies:**

The recent past has witnessed an unprecedented transformation in the Digital Communications Infrastructure and Services sector with the emergence of new technologies, services, business models and players. There is hence an imperative need to review the existing licensing, regulatory and resource allocation frameworks to incentivize investments and innovation to optimise new technology deployments and harness their benefits.

**2.1 Catalysing Investments for Digital Communications sector:—**

(a) According Telecom Infrastructure the status of Critical and Essential Infrastructure:—

By recognizing communication systems and services as essential connectivity infrastructure at par with other connectivity infrastructure like Roadways, Railways, Waterways, Airlines etc. for development of India, and in the process, enable low cost financing for development of communication infrastructure.

(b) Reforming the licencing and regulatory regime to catalyse Investments and Innovation, and promote Ease of Doing Business by:—

- (i) Reviewing levies and fees including License Fee, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) levy and concept of pass through revenues in line with principles of input line credit.
- (ii) Rationalising Spectrum Usage Charges (SUCs) to reflect the costs of regulation and administration of spectrum.
- (iii) Rationalising taxes and levies on Digital Communications equipment, infrastructure and services.
- (iv) Enabling unbundling of different layers (*e.g.* infrastructure, network, services and applications layer) through differential licensing.

- (v) Establishing light touch licensing regime for the proliferation of Public Data Offices and Public Data Office Aggregators for providing internet access through Wi-Fi Hotspots.
- (v) Introducing various fiscal and non-fiscal benefits for development of telecom clusters around cable landing stations to foster innovation in Digital Communications Technologies.
- (c) Simplifying and facilitating Compliance Obligations by:—
  - (i) Reducing license and regulatory compliance requirements keeping in view best international practices.
  - (ii) Simplifying all existing technical systems and online systems applicable for grant of licenses, approvals, clearances, permissions and developing a comprehensive end-to-end online platform.
  - (iii) Specifying time-lines within which various types of licenses, permissions and clearances shall be provided by the relevant administrative offices.
  - (iv) Improving the Terms and Conditions for 'Other Service Providers', including definitions, compliance requirements and restrictions on inter-connectivity.
  - (v) Reforming the Guidelines for Mergers and Acquisitions, 2014 to enable simplification and fast tracking of approvals.
  - (vi) Establishing exit norms for licensees including alignment to bankruptcy code to maximize telecom sector system efficiencies and consumers interest.
  - (vii) Fixing the penalty provisions to ensure proportionality and reasonableness.
  - (viii) Creating a regime for fixed number portability to facilitate one nation - one number including portability of toll free number, Universal Access numbers and DID numbers.
  - (ix) Simplify ETA (Equipment Type Approval) process for low powered (< 1 watt) radio devices.

## 2.2 Ensuring a holistic and harmonised approach for harnessing Emerging Technologies

- (a) Synergising deployment and adoption of new and emerging technologies by:—
- (i) Creating a roadmap for emerging technologies and its use in the communications sector, such as 5G, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing and M2M.
  - (ii) Simplifying licensing and regulatory frameworks whilst ensuring appropriate security frameworks for IoT/M2M/future services and network elements incorporating international best practices.
  - (iii) Earmarking adequate licensed and unlicensed spectrum for IoT/M2M services.
  - (iv) Encourage use of Open APIs for emerging technologies.
- (b) Promoting innovation in the creation of communication services and network infrastructure by Developing a policy framework for 'Over The Top' services.
- (c) Ensuring the Transition to IPv6 for all existing communications systems, equipment, networks and devices.
- (d) Enabling Hi-speed internet, Internet of Things and M2M by rollout of 5G technologies:—
- (i) Implementing an action plan for rollout of 5G applications and services.
  - (ii) Enhancing the backhaul capacity to support the development of next-generation networks like 5G.
  - (iii) Ensuring availability of spectrum for 5G in <1 GHz, 1-6 GHz and >6 GHz bands.
  - (iv) Reviewing industry practices with respect to traffic prioritisation to provide 5G-enabled applications and services.
  - (v) Developing framework for accelerated deployment of M2M services while safeguarding security and interception for M2M devices.

- (vi) Defining policy for EMF radiation for M2M devices, with accompanying institutional framework to coordinate Government-funded and India-specific research in this regard.
- (e) Ensuring adequate numbering resources, by:—
  - (i) Allocating 13-digit numbers for all M2M mobile connections.
  - (ii) Developing a unified numbering plan for fixed line and mobile services.
- (f) Establishing India as a global hub for cloud computing, content hosting and delivery, and data communication systems and services:—
  - (i) Evolving enabling regulatory frameworks for promoting the establishment of International Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks and independent interconnect exchanges in India.
  - (ii) Enabling a light touch regulation for the proliferation of cloud based systems.
- (g) Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in a synchronized and effective manner to enhance the overall quality of service, spectrum management, network security and reliability.
- (h) Recognizing Digital Communications as the core of Smart Cities by:—
  - (i) Developing, in collaboration with Ministry of Urban Development, a Common Service Framework and Standards for Smart Cities.
  - (ii) Facilitating and supporting deployment of innovative solutions in identified Smart Cities.

### 2.3 Research and Development

- (a) Promoting research and development in Digital Communication Technologies by:—
  - (i) Restructuring C-DOT as a premier Telecom Research and Development Centre for identification, customization, and development of digital products and services in the country as per indigenous needs.
  - (ii) Simplifying approvals/processes for R&D procurements/imports.



- (iii) Creating a framework for testing and certification of new products and services.
- (b) Creating a Fund for R&D in new technologies for start-ups and entrepreneurs to enable innovation in cutting edge communications, 5G, software, content, security and related technologies and applications; and commercialization of products and services through grants, scholarships, venture capital, etc.
- (c) Establishing Centres of Excellence including in Spectrum Management, Telecom Security and Next Generation Access Technologies.
- (d) Fostering an Intellectual Property Rights regime that promotes innovation, by:—
  - (i) Implementing key recommendations in the National IPR Policy pertaining to Digital Communications, including a review of the legal regime around copyright, patents and trade marks.
  - (ii) Assisting start-ups in filing copyright, patent and trademarks applications.
  - (iii) Providing financial incentives for the development of Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) in the field of digital communications technologies.
  - (iv) Promoting Indian IPR through international collaborations and active participation in standard development processes and IPR related events.
- (e) Simplifying the process of obtaining Experimental Licenses and establishing regulatory sandboxes; viz.:—
  - (i) Enabling creation of suitable infrastructure for testing of new products and services with due regard to safety and security concerns.
  - (ii) Facilitating allocation of spectrum for R&D and experimentation at affordable prices.
  - (iii) Simplifying and fast-track approvals for products and services for experimental purposes through de-licensing and other mechanisms; and promoting establishment of test beds, incubators, innovation centres, etc. in collaboration with industry and academia.

## 2.4 Promoting Start-ups

- (a) Supporting Start-ups with various fiscal and non-fiscal benefits, including:—
  - (i) Academic collaborations, permissions for pilots and testing, concessions on imported software, mentoring support, etc.
  - (ii) Promoting participation of Start-ups in Government procurement.
- (b) Reducing the entry barriers for start-ups by reducing the initial cost and compliance burden, especially for new and innovative segments and services
- (c) Prescribing a simple and enabling regulatory framework for application service providers in order to promote innovation in Application Services for Digital Communications.

## 2.5 Local Manufacturing and Value Addition

- (a) Maximising India's contribution to global value chains, by focussing on domestic production, increasing exports and reducing the import burden, by:—
  - (i) Rationalising taxes, levies and differential duties to incentivize local manufacturing of equipment, networks and devices to the extent of domestic value addition.
  - (ii) Introducing Phased Manufacturing Program for identified product segments in Digital Communication Technologies.
  - (iii) Attracting Global OEMs and Generic Component players to setup manufacturing base in India.
  - (iv) Ensuring the availability of essential background IPR in Fair, Reasonable And Non-Discriminatory (FRAND) terms required for promoting local manufacturing.
  - (v) Promoting design led manufacturing in India by leveraging indigenous software/R&D capabilities.
  - (vi) Incentivizing fab and/or fab-less design and manufacturing of chips and system on a chip (SOC) for network and devices in emerging technologies.
  - (vii) Attracting global talent from Indian diaspora to create best in class enterprises.

- (b) Ensuring strict compliance to Preferential Market Access requirements:—
  - (ii) Preferring domestic products and services with domestically owned IPR in the procurement by Government agencies, especially for the procurement of security related products.
  - (iii) Incentivizing private operators to buy domestic telecom products.

## 2.6 Capacity Building

- (a) Building human resource capital to facilitate employment opportunities in Digital Communications Sector:—
  - (i) Building national capacity and institutional capabilities in telecom security tools, standards and forensics including in manufacturing of critical telecom equipment.
  - (ii) Creating educational resources relating to the communications sector and making them available in an open and accessible format to promote self-directed and collaborative learning through interactive formats, including audio, video and text.

## 2.7 Strengthening of PSUs

- (a) Focus on building technical expertise and knowledge management for Public Sector Units, through the following initiatives:—
  - (i) Building internal capacity within PSU's to promote secure and efficient service delivery, infrastructure development and domestic manufacturing.
  - (ii) Identifying and exploiting operational synergies in service provisioning, infrastructure creation, R&D, standardization and manufacturing.
  - (iii) Using the training infrastructure available with telecom PSUs for skill development.
  - (iv) Upgrading the manufacturing PSUs under DoT to effectively harness strategic and operational synergies.

## 2.8 Accelerating Industry 4.0

- (a) Create a roadmap for transition to Industry 4.0 by 2020 by closely working with sector specific Industry Councils.

- (b) Establish a multi-stakeholder led collaborative mechanism for coordinating transition to Industry 4.0.
- (c) Developing market for IoT/M2M connectivity services in sectors including Agriculture, Smart Cities, Intelligent Transport Networks, Multimodal Logistics, Smart Electricity Meter, Consumer Durables etc. incorporating international best practices.

3. Secure India: Ensuring Digital Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications

2022 Goals:—

- (i) Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals and facilitates India's effective participation in the global digital economy.
- (ii) Ensure that net neutrality principles are upheld and aligned with service requirements, bandwidth availability and network capabilities including next generation access technologies.
- (iii) Develop and deploy robust digital communication network security frameworks.
- (iv) Build capacity for security testing and establish appropriate security standards.
- (v) Address security issues relating to encryption and security clearances.
- (vii) Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

Strategies:—

3.1 Establish a strong, flexible and robust Data Protection Regime

- (a) Harmonising communications law and policy with the evolving legal framework and jurisprudence relating to privacy and data protection in India, including:—
  - Amending various licenses and terms and conditions, wherever necessary, to incorporate provisions with respect to privacy and data protection.

- (b) Addressing issues of data protection and security in digital communications sector, by:—
  - (i) Ensuring that core data protection and security principles are applied and enforced.
  - (ii) Promoting the usage of indigenous communication products and services.

### 3.2 Provide Autonomy and Choice for every citizen and enterprise

- (a) Recognising the need to uphold the core principles of net neutrality:—
  - (i) Amending the license agreements to incorporate the principles of non-discriminatory treatment of content, along with appropriate exclusions and exceptions as necessary.
  - (ii) Ensuring compliance with net neutrality principles, by introducing appropriate disclosure and transparency requirements.

### 3.3 Assure Security of Digital Communications

- (a) Addressing security issues across layers:
  - (i) Infrastructure Security (physical infrastructure, cyber-physical infrastructure, hardware and network elements), Systems Security (equipment, devices, distributed systems, virtual servers).
  - (ii) Application and Platform security (web, mobile, device and software security).
- (b) Developing security standards for equipment and devices:—
  - (i) Telecom Testing and Security Certification (TTSC) to develop and enforce security standards for digital communications products and services.
  - (ii) Aligning with global standards on safety and security.
  - (iii) Harmonising the legal and regulatory framework applicable to security standards such as the BIS Act, Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, Indian Telegraph Act, etc.
- (c) Participating in global standard setting organizations to ensure consideration for local needs of the Indian communications industry.

- (d) Strengthening security testing processes by:—
  - (i) Enhancing institutional capacity to perform testing, including establishing domestic testing hubs and laboratories with state-of-the-art facilities.
  - (ii) Establishing comprehensive security certification regime based on global standards.
- (e) Formulating a policy on encryption and data retention, by harmonising the legal and regulatory regime in India pertaining to cryptography with global standards, as applicable to communication networks and services.
- (f) Facilitating Security and Safety of Citizens, Institutions and Property by:—
  - (i) Facilitating establishment of a Central Equipment Identity Registry for addressing security, theft and other concerns including reprogramming of identity of mobile handsets.
  - (ii) Facilitating lawful interception agencies with state-of-the-art lawful intercept and analysis systems for implementation of law and order and national security.
  - (iii) Increasing awareness amongst users about security related issues concerning digital communications networks, devices and services.
- (g) Establishing a Security Incident Management and Response System for Digital Communications Sector by:—
  - (i) Instituting a sectoral CERT.
  - (ii) Improving information sharing and coordination between various security agencies, including CERT-In and sectoral CERTs as may be necessary.
  - (iii) Enforcing obligations on service providers to report data breaches to authorities and affected users, based on specific parameters.
  - (iv) Strengthening the Security Audit Mechanism.

3.4 Developing a comprehensive plan for network preparedness, disaster response relief, restoration and reconstruction

(a) Strengthening network resilience by:—

- (i) Framing and enforcing standard operating procedures to be followed during disasters and natural calamities, including sectorial guidelines for disaster response applicable to various service providers.
- (ii) Establishing institutional framework to promote monitoring of activities, rapid dissemination of early warning disaster notifications and better coordination and collaboration between relevant Ministries/ Departments, including the National Disaster Management Authority of India.

(b) Developing a Unified Emergency Response Mechanism, by:—

- (i) Creating an institutional framework with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, Standard Operating Procedures and technical guidelines.
- (ii) Incorporating obligations under the license terms and conditions for implementation of Next Generation 112 services in all areas, based on geo-location technologies, and provide online access to caller location and details to authorised Central and State Agencies.
- (iii) Enforcing obligations of service providers to share infrastructure, and ensure interoperability in emergency situations in a network-agnostic, operator-agnostic and technology-agnostic manner.

(c) Enhancing the Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) plan for India by:—

- (i) Facilitating the establishment of a Pan-India network for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR).
- (ii) Making necessary spectrum available for PPDR including by establishing INSAT satellite-based mobile communication systems.
- (iii) Implementing global and regional harmonized spectrum plans for PPDR.

It is hoped that this policy will facilitate the unleashing of the creative energies of citizens, enterprises and institutions in India; and play a seminal role in fulfilling the aspirations of all Indians for a better quality of life.

**Expansion of BSNL infrastructure**

1997. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has decided to expand its infrastructure coverage in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of total number of existing functional towers of BSNL in Assam and the total number of villages covered by the existing towers; and
- (d) the details of number of towers proposed to be added as a result of expansion programme and the additional number of villages proposed to be covered in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is expanding its mobile coverage, increasing GSM radio capacity based on techno commercial technical feasibility and commercial viability. At present, Phase VIII, 4 GSM expansion project is under rollout. This GSM expansion project envisages installation of 20035 number of 2G, 22517 number of 3G and 10000 number of 4G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) across India. State/Circle-wise details is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Presently, 1605 2G BTSs and 1173 3G BTSs are functional in Assam Circle. 20702 villages in Assam Circle are covered by these BTSs.

(d) 285 3G and 272 4G BTSs are proposed to be added as a result of expansion programme in Assam. About 150 villages are expected to be covered with these BTSs.

***Statement***

*State/Circle-wise details of BTSs to be installed under Expansion  
Plan Phase-VIII*

Circle	2G BTSs (Including replacement)	3G BTSs (Node Bs)	4G BTSs (Node Bs) (No. of e-Node Bs)
1	2	3	4
Haryana	580	839	232
Himachal Pradesh	241	305	74



1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	320	340	108
Punjab	798	1224	362
Rajasthan	1062	1770	328
Uttarakhand	176	223	122
Uttar Pradesh (East)	1850	1449	350
Uttar Pradesh (West)	607	664	324
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	56	80	30
Assam	225	285	272
Bihar	0	429	266
Kolkata	44	745	226
Jharkhand	197	249	290
North East-I	201	294	98
North East-II	101	95	88
Odisha	446	348	430
West Bengal	638	952	200
Chhattisgarh	1332	834	220
Gujarat	1978	1948	1088
Maharashtra	3508	2979	1184
Madhya Pradesh	1568	1453	528
Andhra Pradesh	640	700	600
Telangana	373	582	550
Chennai	365	463	288
Kerala	855	1083	882
Karnataka	747	946	534
Tamil Nadu	1127	1428	558
TOTAL	20035	22517	10000

**Procurement of surplus farm produces**

1998. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has developed proper mechanism to ensure that the farmers essentially get enhanced MSP on their surplus farm produce;
- (b) the action Government proposes to take against wholesale merchants who purchase Kharif produce at cost lower than enhanced MSP; and
- (c) whether Government would procure the surplus farm produce directly from the farmers, against MSP fixed, in case the wholesale merchants do not pay MSP to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) There exists a transparent and Uniform Policy for procurement by Government Agencies across the country. Under this policy, whatever wheat and paddy are offered by farmers within the stipulated period, conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India (GoI), is purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Government Agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI), for Central Pool.

The different types of coarsegrains are procured by State Governments itself in consultation with FCI to the extent that the concerned State Government may utilise the same for distribution under National Food Security Act (NFSA) as well as Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

Price Support Scheme (PSS) is implemented for procurement of oil seeds, pulses and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government. 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, provide working capital for State agencies, creation of revolving fund for PSS operations etc. as required under the Scheme guidelines. The basic objectives of PSS are to provide remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices with low cost of intermediation.

However, if any producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, he is free to sell his produce in Open market.

The various steps like wide publicity of procurement operations, opening of adequate procurement centre by State Government Agencies/FCI and making timely payment to farmers through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and account payee cheque are taken to ensure remunerative price to farmers.

### **Regulating e-commerce market**

1999. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is in the process of framing rules or legislation for regulating e-commerce market in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry is consulting all the necessary and important players of the industry to be the part of the consultation process in framing the rules/legislation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 has been introduced in Lok Sabha by this Ministry on 5th January, 2018 which seeks to provide for an executive agency to be called the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) which will, *inter alia*, deal with unfair trade practices. There are also provisions in the Bill to frame rules for preventing unfair trade practices in e-commerce and to protect the interest and rights of the consumers. Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce has also initiated and exercise and established a Think Tank on "Framework for National Policy on e-Commerce". A Task Force under it has deliberated on the challenges confronting India in the arena of the digital economy and electronic commerce (e-commerce).

### **Procurement of paddy in Maharashtra**

2000. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the paddy procured on Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the State Government of Maharashtra during the last four years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the details of the procurement centres opened in Maharashtra during the said period;

(c) whether the farmers are compelled to sell their produce at a price lesser than the production cost due to inadequate number of procurement centres; and

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details of the paddy procured on Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the State of Maharashtra during the last four years and the current year is as under:

Kharif Marketing Season (KMS)	Paddy Procurement (in MTs)
2013-14	239899
2014-15	296886
2015-16	343168
2016-17	460909
2017-18	267096

(b) Presently, Maharashtra is a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State and procurement of paddy/rice is carried out through its agencies namely MARKFED and Tribal Development Corporation (TDC) under Minimum Support Price (MSP). The details of procurement centres opened in Maharashtra for procurement of paddy/rice in last 4 years and current years are as under:

KMS	Purchase Centres
2013-14	459
2014-15	408
2015-16	744
2016-17	985
2017-18	1019

(c) and (d) The State Government Agencies operate large number of procurement centres so that the farmers are not denied the benefit of MSP. The payment of MSP

is directly made into the account of the farmers through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/ Electronic Clearing System (ECS).

**Farmers not getting MSP in official mandis**

2001. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers have complained at some places that they did not get MSP even in official mandis;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) in what manner the enhanced MSP is going to benefit the farmers without addressing the underlying causes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) There exists a transparent and Uniform Policy for procurement by Government Agencies across the country. Under this policy, whatever wheat and paddy are offered by farmers within the stipulated period, conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India (GoI), is purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Government Agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI), for Central Pool.

The different types of coarsegrains are procured by State Governments itself in consultation with FCI to the extent that the concerned State Government may utilise the same for distribution under National Food Security Act (NFSA) as well as Other Welfare Schemes (OWS).

Price Support Scheme (PSS) is implemented for procurement of oil seeds, pulses and cotton through Central Nodal Agencies at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government. This scheme is implemented at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt to procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies in logistic arrangement including gunny bags, provide working capital for State agencies, creation of revolving fund for PS operations etc. as required under the Scheme guidelines. The basic objectives of PSS are to provide remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices with low cost of intermediation.

However, if any producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, he is free to sell produce in Open market.

The various steps like wide publicity of procurement operations, opening of adequate procurement centre by State Government Agencies/FCI and making timely payment to farmers thro Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)/ National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and account payee cheque are taken to ensure remunerative price to farmers.

(c) Government's price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. This price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. Towards this end, the Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities.

Enhanced MSP will give signal to farmers to increase acreage. Further, increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) will boost production and encourage farmers to get higher prices for their produce, which will strengthen farmers' trust in Government's procurement policy and expanding outreach of procurement operation of Government of India.

#### **Action on complaints against TPDS**

†2002. SHRI RATHWA NARANBHAI JEMLABHAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the complaints regarding Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the accused on the basis of complaints received, if so, the details of the action taken during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including leakage/diversion of foodgrains, foodgrains not reaching the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

intended beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to ineligible persons, etc. in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the State/UT Governments concerned. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years is given in the Statement (*See below*).

An offence committed in violation of the provisions of TPDS (C) Order, 2015 is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Thus, the Order empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders.

#### ***Statement***

*Complaints on TPDS received in the Department from individuals, organisations through media reports etc. from 2015 to 2017*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016	2017
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	5	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	-
3.	Assam	34	32	17
4.	Bihar	106	81	169
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	9	9
6.	Delhi	113	91	98
7.	Goa	-	1	2
8.	Gujarat	8	12	9
9.	Haryana	35	34	47
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4	5	6
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	3	4
12.	Jharkhand	32	29	35
13.	Karnataka	16	22	28
14.	Kerala	16	22	13

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015	2016	2017
15.	Madhya Pradesh	17	24	21
16.	Maharashtra	48	62	77
17.	Manipur	6	4	2
18.	Meghalaya	7	9	-
19.	Mizoram	-	-	2
20.	Nagaland	-	2	2
21.	Odisha	22	43	22
22.	Punjab	10	7	5
23.	Rajasthan	33	59	82
24.	Sikkim	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	22	33	31
26.	Telangana	10	1	4
27.	Tripura	1	1	
28.	Uttarakhand	24	21	22
29.	Uttar Pradesh	197	461	445
30.	West Bengal	32	29	49
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	1	-
32.	Chandigarh	6	2	-
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	1	-
34.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-
35.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
36.	Puducherry	-	-	1
TOTAL		818	1106	1213

#### **Rise in prices of essential food items**

2003. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wholesale and retail prices of essential food items have drastically surged during the last six months;



- (b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise;
- (c) whether retail inflation of essential items has increased;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Item-wise details of All India Daily Average Retail and Wholesale Prices of 22 essential food items is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) All India Inflation rates (%) based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) on year on year basis (2018 over 2017) for the last six months, as brought out by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation are as under:

Month	Inflation rate (%)	
	CPI	CFPI
January	5.07	4.70
February	4.44	3.26
March	4.28	2.81
April	4.58	2.80
May	4.87	3.10
June	5.00(P)	2.91(P)

(P): Provisional

Increase in prices of food items is mainly on account of demand supply mis-match owing to shortfall in production because of adverse weather condition and seasonality, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing.

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

advising States for effective action against hoarders and black marketers and provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Government is also implementing Schemes which, *inter alia*, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), etc for increasing agricultural production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato.

***Statement***

*Variation in Retail and Wholesale Prices (All India Average) on  
28.07.2018 over 28.02.2018*

Commodities	Retail Price (₹/ Kg)			Wholesale Price (₹/ Qtl)		
	Price As	6 Months	Variation	Price As	6 Months	Variation
	On	Ago	(%)	On	Ago	(%)
	28.07.2018	28.01.2018		28.07.2018	28.01.2018	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice	29.5	29.53	-0.10	2641.59	2640.34	0.05
Wheat	23.18	23.15	0.13	2080.61	2062	0.90
Atta (Wheat)	25.49	25.48	0.04	2244.88	2220.86	1.08
Gram Dal	64.25	71.8	-10.52	5760.04	6490.91	-11.26
Tur/Arhar Dal	69.87	75.09	-6.95	6351.26	6818.95	-6.86
Urad Dal	68.36	76.09	-10.16	6082.68	6868.39	-11.44
Moong Dal	72.54	73.84	-1.76	6602.47	6625.18	-0.34
Masoor Dal	60.32	61.36	-1.69	5341.07	5434.39	-1.72
Sugar	38.53	40.49	-4.84	3562.64	3800.27	-6.25
Milk <sup>@</sup>	42.11	40.84	3.11	3937.24	3872.59	1.67
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	124.26	123.92	0.27	11716.75	11780.42	-0.54
Mustard Oil (Packed)	104.34	101.03	3.28	9587.05	9406.05	1.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Vanaspati (Packed)	80.95	77.87	3.96	7467.4	7286.05	2.49
Soya Oil (Packed)	90.21	84.75	6.44	8414.81	7975.26	5.51
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	98.2	91.05	7.85	9205.44	8640.76	6.54
Palm Oil (Packed)	78.31	71.19	10.00	7368.46	6717.75	9.69
Gur	41.79	43.67	-4.31	3677.38	3884.2	-5.32
Tea Loose	207.39	206.82	0.28	18234.97	18204.41	0.17
Salt Pack (Iodised)	15.82	15.38	2.86	1332.01	1314.39	1.34
Potato	21.39	13.69	56.25	1666.89	963.16	73.06
Onion	21.62	40.91	-47.15	1669.62	3375.18	-50.53
Tomato	30.63	20.33	50.66	2352.42	1521.23	54.64

@ Milk Prices - ₹ per ltr. In retail and ₹ per 100 ltr. In wholesale  
Source: State Civil Supplies Departments

### Inflation in foodgrains

2004. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) in June, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018; and

(b) the effective measures that have so far been taken by Government to arrest the retail inflation based on CPI in the food basket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Retail Inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), in June, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 as brought out by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation are as under:

Year	Inflation (%)
June, 2014	6.77
June, 2015	5.40
June, 2016	5.77

Year	Inflation (%)
June, 2017	1.46
June, 2018	5.00 (P)

(P): Provisional

(b) 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 advising States for effective action against hoarders and black marketers and provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Government is also implementing Schemes which, *inter alia*, include Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), etc. for increasing agricultural production and productivity through appropriate interventions. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, onion, and potato.

#### **Agitation by farmers**

†2005. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of several States are agitating even after declaring the so called Minimum Support Price (MSP) 1.5 times of agricultural cost price;

(b) the reasons due to which farming is called business of loss in spite of declaration of MSP for farmers; and

(c) the names of the produces of the farmers for which the so called 1.5 times MSP has been declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No such

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

representation is received in Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

(c) Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season viz. paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, arhar, moong, urad, groundnut-in-shell, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, nigerseed and cotton; 6 rabi crops viz. wheat, barley, gram, masur (lentil), rapeseed/mustard and safflower and two other commercial crops viz. jute and copra. In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.

Government has announced its historic decision on 04.07.2018 to fix MSP at a level of at least 150 per cent of the cost of production for 14 kharif crops 2018-19 season which redeems the promise made in the Union Budget for 2018-19.

Earlier, the MSP fixed for copra for 2018 and jute for 2018-19 are at level of 150 per cent and 163.21 per cent of cost of production respectively.

The details indicating MSPs and return over cost of production for Kharif Crop of 2018-19 is given in the Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and Return over Cost of Production for Kharif crop*

		(₹/quintal)	
Sl. No.	Kharif Crops (Commodity)	2018-19	
		MSP	% Return over Cost
1	2	3	4
1.	Paddy (Common)	1750	50.09
	(Grade A) ^	1770	
2.	Jowar (Hybrid)	2430	50.09
	(Maldandi) ^	2450	
3.	Bajra	1950	96.97

1	2	3	4
4.	Maize	1700	50.31
5.	Ragi	2897	50.01
6.	Arhar (Tur)	5675	65.36
7.	Moong	6975	50.00
8.	Urad	5600	62.89
9.	Cotton (Medium Staple)	5150	50.01
	(Long Staple) ^	5450	
10.	Groundnut in shell	4890	50.00
11.	Sunflower Seed	5388	50.01
12.	Soyabean	3399	50.01
13.	Sesamum	6249	50.01
14.	Nigerseed	5877	50.01

^ Cost is not separately compiled for Paddy (Grade A), Jowar (Maldandi) and Cotton (long staple), hence return is not calculated.

#### **Availability of storage capacity**

2006. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ration shops using PoS machines have stable, 24x7 internet connectivity, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken steps to increase the overall storage capacities of foodgrains in the country keeping in view the need to procure and store more foodgrains in coming years and if so, the details thereof and the total volume of foodgrains in Government's storage, till date, along with the details of the capacity increase made in the last five years; and

(c) the details of quantity of foodgrains that rotted or were lost from Government's storage mechanism over the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Provisions for financial assistance to States/UTs has been made under NFSA for purchase, operations

and maintenance of ePoS devices in the form of additional dealer margin at the rate of ₹17/quintal of foodgrains distributed through ePoS devices. Such expenditure would be shared between Centre and State Governments on 75:25 basis for 13 special category States/UTs and on 50:50 basis for 23 general category States/UTs. As per information received from States/UTs, out of total 5.29 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) across the country, about 3.33 lakh FPSs have been automated so far. State/UT-wise number of automated FPSs is given in the Statement (*See* below). As reported by States/UTs, there are a few areas of poor internet connectivity and temporary unavailability of network. This department has issued clear instructions to States/UTs that no beneficiary/household should be denied of entitled quantity of foodgrains even if their authentication is not successful or due to unavailability of internet connectivity/technical failure.

(b) On the basis of peak stock requirement during normal procurement season, the overall storage capacity required for central pool food grains in the country is about 650 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT). Against this, the total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the State Agencies (both owned and hired capacity), is 855.98 LMT as on 30.06.2018 comprising 724.74 LMT in covered godowns and 131.24 LMT in Cover and/Plinth (CAP) storage. As such, there is sufficient capacity for storage of central pool foodgrains at the national level.

Under the scheme Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG), storage capacity is created by private parties, CWC, SWCs and other State Agencies for guaranteed hiring by FCI.

Additional capacities created by FCI under the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme and CWC in the last five years are as under:

(in LMT)		
Year	Capacity created under PEG Scheme	Capacity created by CWC
2014-15	8.30	1.79
2015-16	6.46	1.62
2016-17	3.83	1.06
2017-18	4.01	0.28
2018-19	0.06	0.70
	(as on 30.06.2018)	(Planned)

(c) As reported by FCI, the quantity of foodgrains that got damaged due to various reasons during the last 5 years is as under:

Year	Offtake (Handled) qty. (excluding DCP States) in lakh tonnes	Damage Accrual in FCI (in lakh tonnes)	% Damaged foodgrain against offtake qty.
2013-14	523.16	0.25	0.05%
2014-15	501.75	0.19	0.04%
2015-16	490.15	0.03	0.01%
2016-17	473.31	0.09	0.02%
2017-18	452.16	0.027	0.006%

The year-wise details of quantity of foodgrains involved in theft/pilferage cases, as reported by Regions, during the last five years is given as under:

Year	Quantity (in MT)
2013-14	39.75
2014-15	85.26
2015-16	62.89
2016-17	26.4
2017-18	92.73

***Statement***

*State/UT-wise number of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) with operational ePoS*

(as on 17.07.2018)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of Fair Price Shops	No. of FPSs with Operational ePoS
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28,663	28,663
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	482	401
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,731	0
4.	Assam	38,236	109
5.	Bihar	41,483	62



1	2	3	4
6.	Chandigarh	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	12,294	11,914
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	62	62
9.	Daman and Diu	51	51
10.	Delhi	2,254	0
11.	Goa	446	42
12.	Gujarat	17,210	17,210
13.	Haryana	9,399	9,399
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4,934	4,933
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6,583	6,392
16.	Jharkhand	23,356	23,356
17.	Karnataka	20,114	18,849
18.	Kerala	14,335	14,334
19.	Lakshadweep	39	39
20.	Madhya Pradesh	23,661	23,661
21.	Maharashtra	52,532	52,532
22.	Manipur	2,154	0
23.	Meghalaya	4,651	10
24.	Mizoram	1,250	0
25.	Nagaland	1,691	0
26.	Odisha	12,577	12,577
27.	Puducherry	0	0
28.	Punjab	16,657	16,000
29.	Rajasthan	26,361	26,225
30.	Sikkim	1,421	109
31.	Tamil Nadu	34,774	34,774
32.	Telangana	17,170	17,170

1	2	3	4
33.	Tripura	1,806	1,806
34.	Uttar Pradesh	81,137	13,202
35.	Uttarakhand	9,212	8
36.	West Bengal	20,278	0
	TOTAL	5,29,004	3,33,890

**BPO in rural areas**

2007. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment generated through Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) operations in rural areas during the last two years;

(b) whether Government is considering to implement it in all the rural areas of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the State of Haryana has also been benefited by this scheme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The BPO/BPM sector accounts for a total employment of 11.52 lakh out of the total employment of 39,68,000 in IT BPO/BPM Sector in FY 2017-18, an increase of about 6% from 10.86 lakhs in FY 2016-17.

The Government has launched India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) under Digital India programme with the aim to incentivize setting up of BPO/BPM operations across the country, particularly in small town/cities including rural areas, to create employment opportunities, promote dispersal of the industry, and tap local infrastructure and talent pool.

Till now, nearly 120 BPO/ITeS units are operational under these schemes providing direct employment to over 15,000 persons.

(b) Madam, the schemes cover all the regions of the country. However, to promote BPO/BPM in small town/cities including rural areas, the metropolitan cities (Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, NCR and Pune) are excluded from

these schemes. Further, special incentives are provided to the units for setting up operations at locations other than the respective State Capitals, promoting local entrepreneurs and employment to women and especially abled.

(c) Yes, Madam. A total of 300 seats to 4 Units, a 25-seat Unit in Ambala and three Units for a total of 275 seats in Panchkula, have been approved in Haryana under the IBPS scheme.

### **Tapping of citizen's WhatsApp messages by Government**

2008. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to tap citizen's WhatsApp messages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether tapping of personal and private data is allowed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); and

(d) if so, the details of Government plan and if not, then how Government would monitor online data or take it under surveillance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Article 29(2) of United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 states that "In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society."

(d) Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers Government to issue direction for interception or monitoring or decryption of information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any Computer Resource in the interest of: (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States, or (v) public order, or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above or (vii) for investigation of any offence.

**Erroneous publishing of Aadhaar details by Government websites**

2009. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Aadhaar agencies blacklisted by Government along with the details thereof;
- (b) the number of Government websites which have erroneously published the Aadhaar details of persons and the number of persons so affected along with the details thereof;
- (c) the details of initiatives taken by Government to protect the Aadhaar details of citizens; and
- (d) the action initiated by Government against public websites for leaking the details of citizens by publishing their Aadhaar details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) UIDAI has suspended enrolment operations/not extended the empanelment of 15 Enrolment agencies for violations of UIDAI processes/non-adherence to security provisions/non compliance to Aadhaar Act, 2016 and the Regulations framed thereunder.

(b) to (d) Approximately 210 websites of Central Government, State Government departments and some 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/websites 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 *vide* OM No. 10(36)/2015-EG(Vol.-V) dated 25th March, 2017 and D.O. No. NIC/DDG (SBS)/IT Act/2017 dated 24th April, 2017.

Further, UIDAI has a well-designed, multilayered robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity. UIDAI has adequate legal, organisational and technological measures in place for the security of the data stored with UIDAI. Data protection

measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to ensure the security of data. 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. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data.

There are multiple layers of security at physical level in UIDAI Data Centres and is being managed by armed CISF personnel round the clock. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. Further, Chapter VI (Protection of Information) of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 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.

Security Audits are conducted on regular basis by Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, which is an attached office of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. UIDAI has been declared ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. Further, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

#### **Report of Committee on Data Protection and Privacy**

2010. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Srikrishna Committee has submitted its report on Data Protection and Privacy;
- (b) if not, the reasons for delay and the expected date of submission of report;
- (c) whether the Ministry would make the complete report, as and when submitted and any draft Bill recommended, public, for comments;
- (d) if so, the expected date of same;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Ministry had itself recommended a Bill to Srikrishna Committee at the time or after the Committee was formulated; and

(g) if so, the reasons for not making it public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir, the report of Srikrishna Committee was submitted on 27.07.2018.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The report had been made public and is available on [www.meity.gov.in](http://www.meity.gov.in).

(d) published on 27.07.2018

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) No, Sir.

**Leakage of Aadhaar data and bank details of Andhra Pradesh  
Housing Corporation beneficiaries**

2011. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aadhaar data and bank details of over 1,34,000 beneficiaries of Andhra Pradesh Housing Corporation have been leaked online, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has denied any occurrence of a leak in answer to Unstarred Question 421 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6 April, 2018, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the substantial action taken, so far, in this case by the Ministry or UIDAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) There has been no leakage of Aadhaar data from UIDAI database.

(c) Does not arise.

**Instances of breach of Aadhaar database**

2012. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the meta-data collected by UIDAI of country's citizens;
- (b) whether there is a possibility of linking of other data, like caste and religion, etc., with the Aadhaar data by Governments or authorised bodies/agencies/institutions and the steps by UIDAI to curb this scenario;
- (c) the number of cases of misuse/leaks/hackings of Aadhaar database to which the Ministry is aware of; and
- (d) the details of all breaches in the last four years and the action taken reports on all cases, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) In accordance with the Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Regulations 3 and 4 of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulation 2016, UIDAI collects only name, date of birth, gender, residential address, facial image, all ten finger prints and scans of both eyes. Resident may optionally provide their mobile number and email Id. UIDAI does not collect metadata of citizens.

As per Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Regulation 4(6) of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulation 2016, UIDAI do not collect race, religion, caste, tribe, ethnicity, language, record of entitlement, income or medical history of the resident.

In case of Aadhaar Authentication or e-KYC, UIDAI does not get any information related to location or purpose of authentication.

- (c) There have been no cases of misuse or leaks or hackings of Aadhaar data from UIDAI database.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

**Identification of fictitious beneficiaries of welfare schemes on account of Aadhaar**

2013. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has been able to identify any fictitious beneficiaries of welfare schemes due to Aadhaar;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to remove such fictitious beneficiaries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details regarding amount saved by identifying and eliminating fictitious beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The scheme implementing Ministries/Departments have been able to identify fictitious/fake beneficiaries in welfare schemes due to Aadhaar.

(b) and (e) Details on number of beneficiaries weeded out from the system in various schemes due to reasons including fake, duplicate and other reasons and the amount of estimated gains/savings, as reported by various Ministries/Departments, is given in the Statement (*See* below). This information is also available at [www.dbtbharat.gov.in](http://www.dbtbharat.gov.in)

(c) and (d) Fictitious beneficiaries are removed from the system by implementing the de-duplication process by the scheme implementing Ministries/Departments.

#### ***Statement***

##### ***Estimated Benefits/Gains from DBT and Other Governance Reforms***

(Updated Status unto 31st March, 2018)

Sl. No.	Ministry/ Department	Scheme	Estimated Savings/ Benefits (in ₹ crore)			Remarks
			Cumulative upto March 2017	Total during 2017-18	Cumul- ative upto March 2018	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Petroleum and Natural Gas	PAHAL	29,769	12,506	42,275	3.79 crore duplicate, fake/ non-existent, inactive LPG connections eliminated. In



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						addition 2.22 crore consumers stopped claiming subsidy (including 1.04 crore 'Give It Up' consumers).
2.	Food and Public Distribution	PDS	14,000	15,708	29,708	Deletion of 2.75 crore duplicate and fake/non-existent Ration Cards (including some due to migration, death etc.)
3.	Rural Development	MGNR-EGS	11,741	4,332	16,073	Based on field studies, Ministry has estimated 10% savings on wages on account of deletion of duplicate, fake/ non-existent, ineligible beneficiaries.
		NSAP	399	39.6	438.6	Deletion of 2.2 lakh duplicate, fake/ non-existent, ineligible beneficiaries (including some due to migration, death etc.).
4.	Minority Affairs	Scholarship Schemes	-	159.15	159.15	Deletion of 5.26 lakh duplicate, fake/non-existent beneficiaries.
5.	Social Justice and Empowerment	Scholarship Schemes	-	238.27	238.27	Deletion of 1.79 lakh duplicate, fake/non-existent beneficiaries.
6.	Others	Others	1,120	0.69	1,120.69	-
TOTAL			57,029	32,983.71	90,012.71	

**Revisions in various food processing schemes under SAMPADA**

2014. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the major revisions carried out in the various food processing schemes under the Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA);
- (b) the details of the investment to be made by Government under the SAMPADA;
- (c) whether the SAMPADA would benefit lakhs of farmers and generate more direct/indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which the SAMPADA would be beneficial to farmers and would prevent food wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) Government has approved a new Central Sector Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana - (PMKSY) on 3rd May, 2017 with an allocation of ₹ 6000 crores for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. PMKSY is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure and Human Resources and Institutions and 3 new schemes *viz.*: Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities; Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters and Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages.

(c) to (e) The PMKSY is expected to leverage investment of ₹ 31400 crore, handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing ₹ 1,04,125 crore, benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate 5,30,500 direct/indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20. PMKSY is a comprehensive package resulting in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. Not only it provides a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better prices to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

The components of PMKSY like Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure and Creation of Forward and Backward Linkages are very crucial in reducing the Harvest and Post-Harvest losses of the Agricultural produce.

**Low exports due to lack of food processing industries**

2015. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the second largest producer of food in the world but its share in world's exports is very low despite its inherent strength in apple, apricots, peaches, cherries, pears and rice, due to lack of world class food processing industries and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to overcome this issue other than granting food parks to the corporate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) As per the latest world trade data maintained by International Trade Centre-Trade Map, in 2017, India accounts for 2.07 per cent of the total world export of food.

For overall growth and development of food processing industries and to boost export of processed and value added food products by ensuring robust modern infrastructure along the entire value/supply chain of food processing, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing various Central Sector Schemes under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with an allocation of ₹6000 crore for the period up to 2019-20, co-terminus with 14th Finance Commission cycle. Government has also taken a number of policy initiatives like permitting 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route in manufacturing of food products and 100% FDI under Government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products produced and/or manufactured in India; creation of a special fund of ₹2000 crores in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide affordable credit to food processing industries; classification of food and agro-based processing units and cold chain as agriculture activity for Priority Sector Lending (PSL); lower Goods and Service Tax (GST) rates for majority of food products, 100% exemption of income tax on profit for new food processing units, concessional import duty for plant and machinery under project imports benefit scheme etc. In Union Budget 2018-19, the Government has announced setting up of the state-of-the-art Testing facility at 42 Mega Food Parks to promote Agri export.

Also, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOC&I) launched the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) in the year 2017. The objective of this scheme is to enhance export competitiveness by bridging gaps in export infrastructure, creating focused export infrastructure, first mile and last mile connectivity for export-oriented projects and addressing quality and certification measures. The Central and State Agencies etc. are eligible for financial support under this scheme. The financial assistance under Agriculture and Processed Food Export Promotion Scheme of Agriculture and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) is the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The scheme is available to private exporters for export development of agricultural and processed food products. Financial assistance is provided for development of export infrastructure, quality development and market development.

**Ongoing food processing projects in Jammu and Kashmir**

2016. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ongoing projects, in private and public sector, and the details of action taken for their timely completion, State-wise;
- (b) the status of food processing sector in Jammu and Kashmir; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to promote food processing in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central Sector Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana - (PMKSY) for promotion and development of Food Processing Industries in the country including Jammu and Kashmir. State-wise details of number of projects assisted under various schemes of the Ministry including projects in Jammu and Kashmir is given in the Statement (*See* below). As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries, 2015-16 conducted by the Central Statistics Office, the total number of factories in the registered food processing sector in Jammu and Kashmir was estimated at 152 (22nd Position) with total fixed capital of ₹ 467.04 crores. The total number of persons engaged in these registered food processing industries was about 7,348. As per the NSSO 73rd Round, 2015-16 the number of unincorporated enterprises of food processing industries in Jammu and Kashmir was 28,089 (17th Position).

**Statement**

*State-wise details of Number of Projects assisted under various schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries as on 31.05.2018 and sanctioned Projects under new schemes of the Ministry as on 26.07.2018*

Sl. No.	State	Mega Food Parks			Cold Chain Projects			Abattoirs			Food Testing Laboratories		Sanctions under New Schemes as on 26.07.2018			
		Comp- leted Projects	Ongoing Projects	Total	Comp- leted Projects	Ongoing Projects	Total	Comp- leted Projects	Ongoing Projects	Total	Comp- leted Projects	Ongoing Projects	Total	Agro Proce- ssing Clusters	Food Proce- ssing Units	Food Backward and Forward Linkages
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	2	3	3	4	7	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	4	1	1	0
5.	Bihar	0	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
7.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5(1*)	2	7	0	0	0
8.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9.	Gujarat	0	2	2	8	10	18	0	0	0	8(2*)	2	10	1	4	2
10.	Haryana	0	2	2	6	3	9	0	2	2	7	5	12	2	1	0
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	1	9	3	12	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	1
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	1	1	3	4	7	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	1
13.	Jharkhand	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
14.	Karnataka	1	1	2	4	5	9	0	4	4	4	1	5	0	5	3
15.	Kerala	0	2	2	1	3	4	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	1
16.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	1	4	2	6	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	3	0
17.	Maharashtra	1	2	3	28	27	55	1	1	2	14 (1*)	4	18	6	10	10
18.	Manipur	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
19.	Mizoram	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Nagaland	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	3	0
21.	Odisha	1	1	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	2
22.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Punjab	1	2	3	9	8	17	0	2	2	3	4	7	1	4	3

24. Rajasthan	1	0	1	4	6	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	5	1
25. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
26. Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	3	6	9	1	1	2	8	3	11	0	19	5
27. Telangana	0	4	4	2	5	7	1	0	1	3	1	4	0	0	1
28. Tripura	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
29. Uttar Pradesh	0	3	3	8	13	21	1	0	1	5(1*)	1	6	2	14	1
30. Uttarakhand	2	0	2	14	8	22	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	1
31. West Bengal	1	0	1	6	2	8	0	5	5	5	3	8	0	0	0
TOTAL	12	30	42	122	116	238	10	25	35	73 (5*)	37	110	17	83	32

\* The number(s) indicated in the parentheses is the number of Laboratories assisted for setting up [before May, 2014] and the same Labs [4] upgradation also after May, 2014

**Processing of farm produces produced in remote and tribal areas**

2017. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken by Government to promote food processing of farm produces produced in remote and tribal areas of the country, many of which have high nutritive and medicinal value, to enable them to be used by other people in the country as well as benefiting the producers thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (c) Government has approved a new Central Sector Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) on 03rd May, 2017 with an allocation of Rs 6000 crores for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. The components of PMKSY are given below:

- (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
- (vii) Human Resources and Institutions

The Ministry of Food Processing industries does not set up any food processing industry/unit/project on its own. Under various component schemes of PMKSY, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of Grant-in-Aid ranging from 50% to 75% of eligible project cost in North-Eastern Region and in difficult areas *viz.* Himalayan States (Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), State Notified Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) Areas and Islands as compared to 35% to 50 % of eligible Project Cost in General Areas subject to maximum limit of the grant prescribed in the scheme guidelines. The grant assistance can be availed by the



individuals, farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Entrepreneurs, Cooperatives, Societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Private Companies and Central/State PSUs etc. under its various schemes for setting up of food processing industries/units/projects. The Schemes are not any region specific or State specific, but are demand driven. Financial Assistance to the eligible applicants is provided against the Expression of Interest issued by the Ministry from time to time.

PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. Not only it provides a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country but also help in providing better prices to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers income, creating huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

**Opposition to idea of holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies**

2018. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that majority of the political parties have opposed the idea of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there are many pressing electoral reforms pending to be made, including curbing the use of black money to fund elections, etc., recommended by a Committee on Electoral Reforms; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction to initiate some urgent electoral reforms to make the elections transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had examined the issue of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies in consultation with various stake-holders including the Election Commission of India. The Committee has given certain recommendations in this regard in its 79th report. The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination to work out practicable road map and framework for simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

(c) and (d) Further, the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety, was examined by the Law Commission in the recent past. After consulting various stake-holders, the Law Commission has submitted its 255th report containing, *inter alia*, recommendations on Election Finance aimed at curbing use of black money in election funding. The recommendations are under examination of the Government at present.

#### **Suggestions of Law Commission for Uniform Civil Code**

2019. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with barely a few months to go for the term of 21st Law Commission to expire, the Government expects that the Commission would finalise and submit its report on codification of personal laws soon;

(b) whether codification being a precursor to the Uniform Civil Code, would identify defects in personal laws of different communities to rationalise them;

(c) whether the Commission has examined in depth more than 67,000 comments it received so far to a questionnaire on the issue it posted on its website; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Presently, the Law Commission is examining various issues relating to the uniform civil code and it may not be possible to answer as to whether the Commission may finalise and submit the Report before the end of its term.

(b) Since the matter is under examination of the Law Commission, it is not possible to answer this question before submission of the Report.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Law Commission, about 73,000 responses to the Questionnaire have been received by them throughpost/e-mail and responses are still being received and the same are being examined by them.

#### **Establishment of rural courts at Panchayat level**

†2020. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of litigations pending in the High Courts and Lower Courts of the country alongwith the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a possibility of manifold reduction in the number of the above mentioned pending litigations if rural courts are established at Panchayat level and empowered with the jurisdiction of hearing cases of limited nature; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to establish rural courts at Panchayat level and empower them to hear the cases of limited nature, 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) Data on pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively. As per information available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 17,44,961 Civil Cases, 11,46,577 Criminal Cases and 14,66,036 Writs (Total - 43,57,574 cases) are pending in various High Courts as on date; and 83,27,923 Civil Cases and 1,92,28,308 Criminal Cases (Total -2,75,56,231 cases) are pending in various District and Subordinate courts of the country (excluding State/Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Puducherry) as on date.

(b) To provide access to justice to the citizens at their door steps, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. It provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level. The State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. As per information made available by State Governments/High Courts, 343 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far by 11 States, out of these, 210 are operational in 9 States at present.

(c) Civil and criminal cases pending before District/Session Courts or courts subordinate to it falling within the jurisdiction of the Gram Nyayalayas can be transferred to Gram Nyayalayas.

The issues affecting operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas were discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April, 2013. It was decided in the Conference that the State Governments and High Courts should decide the question of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situation.

**Websites managed by the Ministry**

2021. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of websites or portals being currently managed and monitored by the Ministry along with their URLs;

(b) the record of visitors' traffic to these websites in general and response mechanism for complaints received through these portals since 2014;

(c) the number of Twitter handles and Facebook pages, if any, being maintained by the Ministry and organisations under it; and

(d) the performance of these Twitter and Facebook accounts in general since they were opened, as also the performance of monitoring mechanism, if any, of these accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The information is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Website alongwith URL	Currently managed / monitored by the Ministry	Visitor Count	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	<a href="http://legalaffairs.gov.in">http://legalaffairs.gov.in</a>	Department of Legal Affairs	The data has been provided in the link Visitors Analytics	—
2.	<a href="http://limbs.gov.in">http://limbs.gov.in</a>	Department of Legal Affairs	4,38,001 (Dec.2015 to July 2018)	This website hosts the database of all the court cases wherein Union of India is a party.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	<a href="http://legislative.gov.in">http://legislative.gov.in</a>	Legislative Department	The data has been provided in the link Visitors Analytics	—
4.	<a href="http://indiacode.nic.in">http://indiacode.nic.in</a>	Legislative Department	The data has been provided in the link India Code Analytics.	This website hosts the database of all the central Acts.
5.	<a href="http://doj.gov.in">http://doj.gov.in</a>	Department of Justice	The data has been provided in the link Visitors Analytics	—

The complaints are received through Centralized Public Grievance Redressed and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), which are handled by the concerned Departments of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(c) and (d) A Facebook account has been created for the Legislative Department with the URL -[www.facebook.com/ld.goi/](http://www.facebook.com/ld.goi/) - and is operational with 985 followers as on date. A Nodal Officer at the level of Joint Secretary (IT Manager), to be assisted by three designated officers, has been nominated to monitor its performance. No Twitter handle is maintained by this Ministry.

### Fast Track Courts

2022. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set up a total of 727 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of FTCs have increased from 281 during 2015 to 727 in 2018;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the FTCs are meant to expedite trials of cases, including cases against women, SC/STs, children and senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Setting up of subordinate courts, which includes Fast Track Courts (FTCs) lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such Courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

The 14th Finance Commission had endorsed the proposal of the Government for strengthening the judicial system in States, which, *inter alia*, included establishing 1800 FTCs for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children, persons with mental disability and having terminal illness etc. and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the 14th Finance Commission's award in the form of enhanced tax devolution to the states (from 32% to 42%) to meet their funding requirements.

The Government has also followed up the matter and requested State Governments/High Courts for setting up FTCs for expeditious disposal of cases of crimes against women, senior citizens and children as per the recommendations of the 14th FC.

As per information received from various High Courts, FTCs functional during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

***Statement***

*Details of FTCs functional during the year 2015 to 2017*

Name of the States/UTs	FTCs functional in calendar year 2015	FTCs functional in calendar year 2016	FTCs functional in calendar year 2017
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	38	38	38
Assam	0	3	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Bihar	0	0	55
Chandigarh	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	14	21
Delhi	15	13	14
Goa	3	5	4

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	0	0	0
Haryana	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	5	0	5
Jharkhand	11	12	14
Karnataka	0	0	0
Kerala	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0
Maharashtra	80	100	100
Manipur	2	0	3
Meghalaya	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0
Nagaland	2	0	0
Odisha	0	0	0
Punjab	2	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	0
Rajasthan	0	0	0
Sikkim	1	1	2
Tamil Nadu	0	39	69
Telengana	34	34	34
Tripura	0	1	3
Uttar Pradesh	0	183	273
Uttarakhand	0	4	4
West Bengal	88	77	88
TOTAL	281	524	727

**Sanctioned and vacant posts of Judges of High Courts**

2023. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned and vacant posts of Judges in High Courts of various States of the country, along with the details thereof;

(b) the number of vacant posts of Judges in the High Courts which have been filled up during the last two years and by when the remaining posts would be filled up; and

(c) whether Government has set a timeline for filling up of the vacant posts so as to reduce pendency of cases in various High Courts along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Details indicating approved strength, working strength and vacant posts of Judges, appointments made during 2016-2018 in the Supreme Court and High Courts is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process of the Judiciary and Executive involving various Constitutional Authorities. Hence, the precise time frame for filling up the post of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts cannot be indicated.

***Statement***

*Approved, Working Strength, Vacancies and Appointment made during 2016-2018 in the Supreme Court and High Courts (As on 30.07.2018)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies as per Sanctioned Strength	Fresh Appointment made during 2016-2018
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	31	22	09	10
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Court</b>				
1.	Allahabad	160	90	70	51
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	61	29	32	11



1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bombay	94	69	25	20
4.	Calcutta	72	37	35	14
5.	Chhattisgarh	22	16	06	10
6.	Delhi	60	35	25	09
7.	Gauhati	24	17	07	07
8.	Gujarat	52	29	23	05
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13	08	05	04
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	17	08	09	03
11.	Jharkhand	25	17	08	09
12.	Karnataka	62	30	32	14
13.	Kerala	47	35	12	09
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53	34	19	23
15.	Madras	75	63	12	44
16.	Manipur	05	03	02	01
17.	Meghalaya	04	02	02	00
18.	Odisha	27	14	13	00
19.	Patna	53	30	23	12
20.	Punjab and Haryana	85	50	35	09
21.	Rajasthan	50	30	20	16
22.	Sikkim	03	02	01	01
23.	Tripura	04	03	01	01
24.	Uttarakhand	11	08	03	03
TOTAL		1079	659	420	275

#### Measures to reduce huge pendency of cases

2024. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government to reduce the huge pendency of cases at all levels of the judiciary;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to appoint the Justice of a High Court from the same State to curtail unnecessary delay in filling up the vacancies in the High Courts; and

(c) if so, the view of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Government has taken several steps to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication and Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court. The major achievements during the last four years under various initiatives to make the functioning of subordinate judiciary more efficient are as follows.

- (i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, ₹ 6,302 Crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. Out of this, ₹2,858 Crores (which is 45.35% of the total amount released till date) have been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,444 as on date and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 15,853 as on date under this scheme. In addition, 2,709 court halls and 1,472 residential units are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Scheme beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated additional outlay of ₹3,320 crore.
- (ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Number of computerised District and Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,089 registering an increase of 2,417 during 2014 to 2018. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) has been developed which provides citizens with online information about case filings, case status and electronic copies of orders and judgments from district and subordinate courts that have already been computerized. Information regarding 10.15

crore including 2.75 crore pending cases and more than 6.97 crore orders / judgments are available on this portal. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerised courts, eCourts Mobile App email service, SMS push & pull services. eCourts Project has been consistently amongst the top 5 Mission Mode Projects of country with a total number of transactions during Phase II at 127.06 crore.

- (iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts:** During May 2014 - July 2018, 18 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court; 349 new Judges were appointed and 316 Additional Judges were made Permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1079 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has been increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned strength	Working strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.03.2018	22,545	17,109

- (iv) **Reduction in Pendency through/follow up by Arrears Committees:** Further, in pursuance of resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in 24 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (v) **Nyaya Mitra Scheme:** In order to reduce cases pending in courts for over 10 years, the Government launched the Nyaya Mitra Scheme in April 2017. Under the Scheme, retired judicial officers are engaged and designated as 'Nyaya Mitra' to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years. In the first Phase, 15 Nyaya Mitra have been engaged in 15 Districts of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, UP and Tripura.
- (vi) **To reduce pendency through Lok Adalats:** A total of 140.63 lakh pending cases were settled by National Lok Adalats during 2015 to 2017. 86.14 lakh pending cases and 103.73 lakh pre-litigative cases were settled in Regular

Lok Adalats during 2015-16 to 2017-18. 3.21 lakh pre-litigative cases relating to public utility services were settled in Permanent Lok Adalats during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

- (vii) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division High Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 has been promulgated on 3rd May, 2018, whereby mandatory pre-Institution mediation mechanism has been introduced for settlement of commercial disputes.

A Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 01.08.2018.

- (viii) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. At present, 727 such Fast Track Courts are functioning across the country. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs, twelve (12) Special Courts have been set up in eleven (11) States (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. The Government also promulgated 'The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018' to amend the IPC, Cr PC, the Indian Evidence Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual offences Act, 2012, and the Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by Lok Sabha on 30.07.2018.

(b) and (c) Judges of High Courts are appointed under Articles 217 (1) and 224 of the Constitution. As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts, 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.

#### **Slow pace of justice system**

2025. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that country's justice system is very slow and understaffed, resulting in cases taking so long to be heard and justice has long been denied to many people due to this, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether currently the time taken to register a case and going to Lower Courts and High Courts or the Supreme Court takes several years and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pending before Lower Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court; and

(d) the details of the proposals before the Government to tackle this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of judiciary. The actual time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and Applicable rules of procedure. A number of expert committees including Law Commission of India have gone into reasons for delayed disposal and, consequent, pendency of cases. Based on the recommendations made, Government has carried out amendments to Code of Civil Procedure (C. P. C.) and Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. P. C.) for expediting the disposal of cases and, consequent, reduction in pendency in courts.

(b) In the Supreme Court of India and all High Courts fresh cases are filed only before the computerized Filing Counters. The Data Entry Operator enters preliminary details required for registration such as party names, advocate details, etc. Operator at the query counter attends to the queries of the litigants on the spot. The defects, if any, are listed out and handed over to the litigants/advocates for rectification. Time limitation is also checked by the system automatically. The amount collected towards court fee is automatically calculated thus saving the time of all concerned. Hence, the filing process is orderly and saves time and efforts of advocates and court officials.

(c) Data on pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively. As per latest information available on the website of Supreme Court of India, the total number of pending cases in the Supreme Court is 54,013. As per information available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 43,57,574 cases are pending in various High Courts as on 30.07.2018. As on 30.07.2018, a total of 2,75,56,351 cases are pending in various District and Subordinate courts of the country (excluding State/Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Puducherry).

(d) The Government has taken several steps to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court. The major achievements during the last four years under various initiatives to make the functioning of subordinate judiciary more efficient are as follows.

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- (ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Number of computerised District and Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,089 registering an increase of 2,417 during 2014 to 2018. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) has been developed which provides citizens with online information about case filings, case status and electronic copies of orders and judgments from district and subordinate courts that have already been computerized. Information regarding 10.15 crore including 2.75 crore pending cases and more than 6.97 crore orders / judgments are available on this portal. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders and final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerised courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push and pull services. eCourts Project has been consistently amongst the top 5 Mission Mode Projects of country with a total number of transactions during Phase II at 127.06 crore.

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- (v) **Nyaya Mitra Scheme:** In order to reduce cases pending in courts for over 10 years, the Government launched the Nyaya Mitra Scheme in April 2017. Under the Scheme, retired judicial officers are engaged and designated as 'Nyaya Mitra' to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years. In the first Phase, 15 Nyaya Mitra have been engaged in 15 Districts of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, UP and Tripura.
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for settlement of commercial disputes. A Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by Lok Sabha on 01.08.2018.

- (viii) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, *inter-alia*, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. At present, 727 such Fast Track Courts are functioning across the country. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs, twelve (12) Special Courts have been set up in eleven (11) States (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. The Government also promulgated The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018<sup>†</sup> to amend the IPC, Cr PC, the Indian Evidence Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and the Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by Lok Sabha on 30.07.2018.

#### **Amendment to Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**

†2026. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether Central/State Governments or the Supreme Court of India/High Courts are capable of merging National Legal Services Authority with the State Legal Services Authority by further amending the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 enacted for the purpose of providing free legal aid/advice and benefits of Lok Adalats/mediation to the weaker sections of the society and to further strengthen the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): As per section 4 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) performs functions such as framing effective and economical schemes for making legal services available; making appropriate allocations of funds to the State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authorities; take necessary steps by way of social justice litigation with regard to consumer protection, environmental protection or any other matter of concern to the weaker sections of the society; organise legal aid camps; encourage the settlement of disputes through Lok Adalats; undertake and promote research in the field of legal

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<sup>†</sup>Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



services; and monitor and evaluate implementation of the legal aid programmes. NALSA also coordinates and monitors the functioning of State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authorities.

As per section 7 of the above mentioned Act, State Legal Services Authority gives effect to the policy and directions of the NALSA in general, and performs functions accordingly, such as conducting Lok Adalats and undertaking preventive and strategic legal aid programmes.

Thus, as per the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987, the functions of the National Legal Services Authority and the State Legal Services Authority have been clearly defined to enable their effective functioning to fulfill the objectives of the legislation.

#### **Creation of Integrated Legal Divisions**

2027. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has any proposal to create Integrated Legal Divisions (ILDs) in all the Government Ministries and Departments that would give day to day legal advice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria fixed by Government for selection of officials for ILDs;
- (d) the number of cases related to litigation that are with legal information management and briefing systems; and
- (e) by when these ILDs would be created and made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Ministry intends to set up Integrated Legal Divisions (ILDs) on the pattern of Integrated Finance Divisions (IFDs) for Ministries or cluster of Ministries to be manned by the Indian Legal Service (ILS) Officers. As part of ILD, officers of the Indian Legal Service are proposed to be posted in different Ministries/Departments as per grouping on functional basis. The objective is that assistance on matters relating to Legal Advice and legislative drafting is readily available to Ministries/Departments of the Central Government. The ILS officers will continue to be selected and appointed in accordance with the provisions of ILS Rules, 1957.

- (d) There are 3,11,568 cases uploaded with the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBs) till date.

(e) The ILD proposal is being firmed up for obtaining the approval of the Competent Authority. It is likely to take few months for ILDs to become operational.

#### **Functioning of EVMs and VVPATs**

2028. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission has received several complaints by political parties regarding tampering of EVMs and failure of EVMs and WPATs as well as interruption of polls during the recently held parliamentary/assembly elections, particularly in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the smooth and accurate functioning of EVMs and WPATs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that during the bye-elections to the Parliamentary/Assembly constituencies of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, held on 28th May 2018, out of a total of 15621 EVMs and 6690 WPAT units used, 108 EVMs and 689 WPAT units malfunctioned which were replaced during actual poll.

(c) The Commission has informed that the malfunctioning of WPAT units was due to errors caused by excessive exposure to illumination in the Polling Station. The Commission has further informed that they have decided to reiterate its Standard operating Procedures in this regard. The Commission has decided to make the First Level Checking process stricter. The Commission has also adopted the hardware improvement recommended by Technical Expert Committee to prevent auto shutdown of WPATs due to excessive light. The Commission has directed that the training of the polling officials be further strengthened and streamlined, so that failures due to human errors are minimized.

#### **Missing case files in the Supreme Court and High Courts**

2029. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of very important/important case files or important documents which were found to be missing from the supreme court and high courts during the last 10 years along with the details thereof;

(b) the safety measures government is proposing to take to avoid such losses; and

(c) whether government would consider digitizing all the case files, starting with the most important and sensitive case files, for their proper and safe preservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The details of very important/important case files or important documents which were found to be missing from the supreme court and high courts during the last 10 years along with details, as received from the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The Government is considering digitizing all case files for their proper and safe preservation to avoid losses of case files and important documents. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission inter-alia pertaining to digitization of court records of all High Courts, district and subordinate courts. The 14th Finance commission has urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the 14th Finance Commission in the tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirement. Digitization of case records of High Courts across the country has been initiated and is at varying levels of implementation in different High Courts in the country. The process of digitization of case records in the Supreme Court of India is in progress, where 5,65,522 case files of disposed matters and 41,397 case files of live matters have been scanned till date.

#### *Statement*

*Details of very important/important case files or important documents found to be missing from the Supreme Court and High Court during the last 10 years*

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Number of missing case files or important documents during last 10 years	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Supreme Court of India	Nil	Various safety/security measures including CCTV, safe vaults, movement registers, physical verification and digitisation have been undertaken to avoid loss of any case files and document.

1	2	3	4
2.	Allahabad High Court	1	Appropriate preventive and security measures have been taken to avoid such losses.
3.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	Nil	Closed Circuit cameras are installed, movement of outsiders is restricted in the administrative block and the High Court is a high security zone. Digitization of pending and disposed off records is also undertaken.
4.	Bombay High Court	Nil	Pursuant to the directions of Hon'ble High Court all important matters/ documents are kept in the custody of the Ld. Prothonotary and Sr. Master. All Arbitration, Company and testamentary matters are being digitalized.
5.	Calcutta High Court	106	The figures are on the basis of compiled reports from the Original Side. Initiatives are taken to digitize all case records.
6.	Chhattisgarh High Court	12	Digitization and scanning of case records is in progress. Fire extinguisher system has been installed.
7.	Delhi High Court	Nil	CCTV cameras have been installed. Digitization of case files started in 2006. As on date, all files of decided cases received in scanning branch upto December, 2017 have been digitized.
8.	Gauhati High Court	Nil	Digitization of case records have been started in 2017.
9.	Himachal Pradesh High Court	Nil	Digitization of case records have been started in 2013.

1	2	3	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir High Court	Nil	Nil
11.	Jharkhand High Court	Nil	Installation of CCTV cameras, installation of fire extinguishers and digitization of case records.
12.	Manipur High Court	Nil	Nil
13.	Meghalaya High Court	Nil	Nil
14.	Odisha High Court	Nil	Digitization of all important and sensitive case files of High Court has commenced.
15.	Punjab Haryana High Court	Nil	File Tracking, scanning and digitization of fresh files are done on a day to day basis.
16.	Rajasthan High Court	31	Standing orders to prevent losses have been issued in this regard. Digitization is underway.
17.	Sikkim High Court	Nil	Records are preserved safely in record room. All case records are digitized.
18.	Tripura High Court	Nil	Infrastructure is being developed for digitization of case files
19.	Uttarakhand High Court	Nil	Nil
20.	Patna High Court	Nil	For proper safe preservation of files, digitization of disposed of cases has been started and about 1,17,35,000 pages has been digitized.
21.	Gujarat High Court	Nil	Access to Judicial departments has been restricted to authorized persons only. High Court has resolved that Closed Circuit Cameras be installed in all Judicial departments and the work of digitization has already started.

**Bench of Odisha High Court**

2030. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration of Central Government to set up a bench of Odisha High Court at any place in western Odisha, as recommended by the State Government;

(b) if so, the details with current status thereof; and

(c) by when the bench is likely to be set up along with the hindrances therein, if any, and the steps Government is taking to accelerate the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000, Bench(es) of the High Court are established after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government, which is to provide infrastructure and meet the expenditure, along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, who is required to look after the day to day administration of the High Court and its Bench. The proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

The Government of Odisha has written to the Central Government in September, 2013, for establishment of two Benches of the Odisha High Court in the Western and Southern region of Odisha and the matter was referred to the Chief Justice, Odisha High Court in October, 2013. Setting up bench of Odisha High Court can be initiated by the Central Government only on receipt of all the requisite approvals from the State Constitutional Authorities and High Court of Odisha. Complete proposal has not been received by the Central Government.

**Mechanism for resolution of disputes among various  
Departments of Central Government**

2031. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed all Ministries, Departments and Government Undertakings to furnish details of cases involving each other, aiming at reducing litigations;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of cases pending in various courts where Central Government is a party and the number of cases pending in courts across the country; and
- (d) the efforts made to introduce mechanism for resolution of disputes among various Departments and to reduce the burden on the judiciary along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) In August 2014, the then Law Secretary wrote to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India requesting them to desist from inter-ministerial/departmental litigations in any Court of Law and for issuing necessary instructions in this regard to all Public Sector Undertakings/Boards/Authorities under their administrative control. It has been the endeavor of the Government to see that disputes between various Ministries/Departments/Boards/Authorities under the control of the Government do not go to court. In case it is not possible to resolve the dispute amicably by mutual consultation or through the good offices of Empowered Agencies of the Government.

#### **Reduction in burden on jails through speedy trials**

†2032. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the under trial prisoners in the jails the country are imprisoned in criminal cases;
- (b) if so, whether fast and speedy hearings of the criminal cases would not only assure the basic rights provided by the Constitution but will also lessen the burden on the jails; and
- (c) if so, the policy-related measures taken/being taken by Government towards the fast and speedy hearings of criminal cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir. As on 31.12.2016 (provisional), a total of 2,93,058 under trial prisoners were lodged in various jails in the country out of which 2,93,029 under trial prisoners were lodged for offences under IPC and various Special and Local Laws (SLL).

(b) and (c) The Government has been committed to the cause that every accused person receives a fair trial and does not languish in jail longer than is absolutely

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

necessary, as per law. Various policy related measures taken in this regard are as under:—

- (i) There are legal provisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Cr.P.C.) to resolve the plight of under trial prisoners (UTPs). Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 05.09.2014 in the Writ Petition No.310 of 2005 - *Bhim Singh versus Union of India & Ors.* had directed judicial officers to hold sittings in jails for effective implementation of section 436A of the Cr.P.C.

Minister of Law and Justice, *vide* a letter dated 3rd February 2017, had requested the Chief Justices of all 24 High Courts to advise the district judiciary to ensure effective implementation of section 436A of Cr. P.C and ensure periodic monitoring of the associated Under Trial Review Committee Mechanism.

- (ii) Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs), headed by the District and Session Judges, who are also the Chairperson of the District Legal Services Authorities, have been established in all the districts. The said Committees holds quarterly meetings. The areas which are primarily looked into by the UTRCs include UTPs covered under section 436A Cr.P.C; UTPs who have been released on bail by the court, but have not been able to furnish sureties; UTPs accused of compoundable offences; UTPs eligible under section 436 of Cr.P.C; convicts who have undergone their sentence or are entitled to release because of remission granted to them; UTPs who are imprisoned for offences which carry a maximum punishment of 2 years; UTPs who are sick or infirm and require specialized medical treatment; UTPs women offenders.
- (iii) Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *vide* its order dated 31.10.2017 in W.P. (Civil) No.406 of 2013 titled *Re-Inhuman Conditions in 1382 prisons*, directed the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to draft a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for smooth functioning of UTRCs right from the identification of UTPs, processing the data, passing of recommendations, and moving of Bail Applications of the recommended UTPs. NALSA has since prepared the SOP and has submitted the same to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

#### **Fast Track Courts to try rape cases**

2033. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has come up with a proposal to set up special Fast Track Courts (FTCs) across the country to try rape cases as part of a larger scheme to strengthen infrastructure for better investigation and swift prosecution in such cases;



(b) whether the Ministry has prepared a draft scheme for setting up of such special FTCs to try rape cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to formulate a Scheme for creation of Fast Track Special Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of rape cases involving women and children.

#### **Pending cases in various courts**

2034. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases are pending in various courts across the country;

(b) if so, details thereof, including number of cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts during each of last four years, court-wise and reasons therefor;

(c) sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judges in such courts and action taken by Government to fill these vacancies at the earliest;

(d) whether Government has taken note of delay in delivery of justice to litigants for various reasons; and

(e) if so, details thereof along with corrective measures taken by Government for expeditious disposal of cases pending in various courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Data on pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively. As per information available, details of cases pending in Supreme Court during last four years are given below:-

Year	Number of Cases pending
As on 31.12.2015	59,272
As on 31.12.2016	62,537
As on 31.10.2017	55,259
As on 04.05.2018	54,013

As per information available High Court-wise details of cases pending during last four years are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The details of sanctioned and working strength of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts as on 27.07.2018 are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). Similar details in respect of District and Subordinate Courts, as on 31.03.2018 as provided by the High Courts and the respective State Governments are given in the Statement-III (*See below*).

Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process, between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies in High Courts keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges (to the Supreme Court) and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and the State Governments concerned. In so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States.

The Department of Justice had written a letter in March, 2018 to the Registrars General of High Courts as well as State Governments to share the action plan for 2018-19 to fill up vacancies in subordinate judiciary. All the High Courts have shared the action plan which they propose to follow to fill up vacancies in subordinate judiciary in the year 2018-19. The sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 19,518 as on 31.12.2013 to 22,545 as on 31.03.2018 and the working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 15,115 as on 31.12.2013 to 17,109 as on 31.03.2018.

(d) Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of judiciary. The actual time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders *viz.* bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable

rules of procedure. A number of expert committees including Law Commission of India have gone into reasons for delayed disposal and, consequent, pendency of cases. Based on the recommendations made, Government has carried out amendments to Code of Civil Procedure (C. P. C.) and Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. P. C.) for expediting the disposal of cases and, consequent, reduction in pendency in courts.

(e) The Government has taken several steps to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure for courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, and filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court. The major achievements during the last four years under various initiatives to make the functioning of subordinate judiciary more efficient are as follows.

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate**

**Courts:** As on date, ₹ 6,302 crore have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. Out of this, ₹2,858 crore (which is 45.35% of the total amount released till date) has been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,444 as on date and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 15,853 as on date under this scheme. In addition, 2,709 court halls and 1,472 residential units are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Scheme beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period i.e. from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated additional outlay of ₹3,320 crore.

(ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved**

**justice delivery:** Number of computerised District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,089 registering an increase of 2,417 during 2014 to 2018. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) has been developed which provides citizens with online information about case filings, case status and electronic copies of orders and judgments from district and subordinate courts that have already been computerized. Information regarding 10.15 crore including 2.75 crore pending cases and more than 6.97 crore orders / judgments are available on this portal. eCourts services such as details of

case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerised courts, eCourts Mobile App email service, SMS push & pull services. e-Courts Project has been consistently amongst the top 5 Mission Mode Projects of country with a total number of transactions during Phase II at 127.06 crore.

- (iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts:** During May 2014 - July 2018, 18 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court; 349 new Judges were appointed and 316 Additional Judges were made Permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1079 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has been increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned strength	Working strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.03.2018	22,545	17,109

- (iv) **Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** Further, in pursuance of resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in 24 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (v) **Nyaya Mitra Scheme:** In order to reduce cases pending in courts for over 10 years, the Government launched the Nyaya Mitra Scheme in April 2017. Under the Scheme, retired judicial officers are engaged and designated as 'Nyaya Mitra' to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years. In the first Phase, 15 Nyaya Mitra have been engaged in 15 Districts of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, UP and Tripura.
- (vi) **To reduce pendency through Lok Adalats:** A total of 140.63 lakh pending cases were settled by National Lok Adalats during 2015 to 2017. 86.14 lakh pending cases and 103.73 lakh pre-litigative cases were settled in Regular Lok Adalats during 2015-16 to 2017-18. 3.21 lakh pre-litigative cases relating

to public utility services were settled in Permanent Lok Adalats during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

- (vii) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 has been promulgated on 3rd May, 2018, whereby mandatory pre-Institution mediation mechanism has been introduced for settlement of commercial disputes. A Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by Lok Sabha on 01.08.2018.
- (viii) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, *inter-alia*, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. At present, 727 such Fast Track Courts are functioning across the country. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, twelve (12) Special Courts have been set up in eleven (11) States (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. The Government also promulgated The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018' to amend the IPC, Cr PC, the Indian Evidence Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and the Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by Lok Sabha on 30.07.2018.

**Statement-I**

*Pending Cases in various High Courts during last four years*

Sl. No.	High Court	As on 31.12.2015*	As on 31.12.2016*	As on 31.12.2017**	As on 30.07.2018.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	9,18,829	9,16,046	\$	7,12,715
2.	Punjab and Haryana	2,88,351	3,02,313	3,84,098	4,03,238
3.	Madras	2,84,428	2,97,617	3,14,345	3,14,345
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2,73,827	2,89,445	3,07,384	3,22,885
5.	Andhra Pradesh	2,70,272	2,91,761	3,25,119	3,53,635

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Bombay	2,46,441	2,61,649	4,64,074	4,64,074
7.	Rajasthan	2,44,866	2,54,131	2,63,103	2,64,878
8.	Karnataka	2,37,454	2,77,620	2,11,110	2,25,365
9.	Calcutta	2,21,282	2,19,064	2,32,116	2,34,835
10.	Odisha	1,69,453	1,68,003	1,68,375	1,67,234
11.	Kerala	1,57,369	1,66,735	1,81,114	1,90,171
12.	Patna	1,28,738	1,34,459	1,45,056	1,50,771
13.	Gujarat	87,072	75,098	1,09,709	1,09,692
14.	Jharkhand	80,419	85,757	57,944	89,456
15.	Delhi	68,784	67,082	69,546	72,932
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	56,453	59,404	\$	87,695
17.	Chhattisgarh	50,111	55,642	59,463	62,805
18.	Uttarakhand	26,680	32,004	36,910	35,421
19.	Himachal Pradesh	26,533	25,147	37,955	37,827
20.	Gauhati	25,948	29,469	39,191	37,733
21.	Manipur	3,315	3,286	16,889	15,622
22.	Tripura	3,037	2,545	2,798	2,969
23.	Meghalaya	597	700	951	1,036
24.	Sikkim	114	170	212	240
TOTAL		38,70,373	40,15,147	34,27,462	43,57,574

\* As per information furnished by High Courts

\*\* As per data available on the web-portal (National Judicial Data Grid)

\$ Data as on 31.12.2017 was not available on National Judicial Data Grid.

**Statement-II***Sanctioned/Working Strength and Vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts as on 27.07.2018*

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength			Working Strength			Vacancies as per approved strength		
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court of India</b>	31			22			9		
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Courts</b>	Pmt.	Addl.	Total	Pmt.	Addl.	Total	Pmt.	Addl.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Allahabad	76	84	160	64	26	90	12	58	70
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	46	15	61	29	0	29	17	15	32
3.	Bombay	71	23	94	55	14	69	16	09	25
4.	Calcutta	54	18	72	23	14	37	31	04	35
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	05	22	9	07	16	08	-02	6
6.	Delhi	45	15	60	35	0	35	10	15	25
7.	Gauhati	18	06	24	07	10	17	11	-04	07
8.	Gujarat	39	13	52	29	0	29	10	13	23
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	03	13	8	0	08	02	03	05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	04	17	8	0	08	05	04	09
11.	Jharkhand	19	06	25	10	07	17	09	-01	08
12.	Karnataka	47	15	62	16	14	30	31	01	32
13.	Kerala	35	12	47	32	03	35	03	09	12
14.	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	34	0	34	06	13	19
15.	Madras	56	19	75	41	22	63	15	-03	12
16.	Manipur	04	01	05	3	0	03	01	01	02
17.	Meghalaya	03	01	04	02	0	02	01	01	02
18.	Odisha	20	07	27	14	0	14	06	07	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19.	Patna	40	13	53	18	12	30	22	01	23
20.	Punjab and Haryana	64	21	85	40	10	50	24	11	35
21.	Rajasthan	38	12	50	27	4	31	11	08	15
22.	Sikkim	03	0	03	2	0	02	01	0	01
23.	Tripura	04	0	04	3	0	03	01	0	01
24.	Uttarakhand	09	02	11	7	01	08	02	01	02
TOTAL		771	308	1079	516	144	660	255	164	419

***Statement-III***

*Sanctioned/Working Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in  
District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.03.2018.*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	987	912	75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	17	11
3.	Assam	430	350	80
4.	Bihar	1837	1153	684
5.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	399	376	23
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	7	6	1
8.	Delhi	799	518	281
9.	Goa	55	44	11
10.	Gujarat	1496	1116	380
11.	Haryana	645	496	149
12.	Himachal Pradesh	159	148	11
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	261	224	37



1	2	3	4	5
14.	Jharkhand	672	462	210
15.	Karnataka	1303	1061	242
16.	Kerala	536	479	57
17.	Lakshadweep	3	2	1
18.	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1315	706
19.	Maharashtra	2097	1914	183
20.	Manipur	50	39	11
21.	Meghalaya	97	39	58
22.	Mizoram	67	46	21
23.	Nagaland	33	21	12
24.	Odisha	862	649	213
25.	Puducherry	26	12	14
26.	Punjab	674	538	136
27.	Rajasthan	1237	1121	116
28.	Sikkim	23	19	4
29.	Tamil Nadu	1121	913	208
30.	Tripura	107	75	32
31.	Uttar Pradesh	3224	1864	1360
32.	Uttarakhand	292	231	61
33.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar	967	919	48
TOTAL		22,545	17,109	5,436

#### Socio-economic activities undertaken by Railways

2035. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to undertake a number of socio-economic activities to benefit both rural and urban communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the skill development may also be added in the proposed socio-economic activities that the Railways intend to undertake; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Railways had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on 14th July, 2015. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through Directorate General of Training (DGT) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and in consultation with Railways, identifies areas within Railway premises where MSDE will undertake skill development programmes for unemployed youth. Railways would provide only sparable infrastructure to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, who in turn, through their authorized representatives would conduct Skill Development Programmes.

#### **Introduction of global benchmarks in Indian Railways**

2036. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to learn from the experiences of German railway in many respects;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Railways in this regard;

(c) whether Railways also propose to introduce a global benchmark in customer satisfaction, punctuality, cleanliness, business strategies to help young recruits visualize Indian Railways' own success story; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The following instruments of cooperation have been signed with the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of the Federal Republic of Germany/DB Engineering and Consulting GMBH Germany:

- Joint Declaration of Intent on further development of cooperation in the field of Railways with focus on High Speed Rail system on 5.10.2015;

- Protocol on cooperation in Rail Sector in May 2016;
- Memorandum of Understanding for technological cooperation in Rail Sector on 14.10.2016 (with DB Engineering and Consulting GMBH Germany);
- Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation in field of Railway Safety on 30.5.2017; and
- Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation in Semi High Speed Rail on 10.10.2017.

Activities undertaken under the above include:

- (i) Feasibility study of High Speed Rail system in Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru section;
- (ii) Visit of German Safety Experts to India in January 2018 and visit of Indian Railway's Safety team to Germany in May 2018; and
- (iii) Visit/training of Probationary Officers of Indian Railways to German Railway in June 2018.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no formal proposal to introduce global benchmark in customer satisfaction, punctuality, cleanliness, business strategies etc. However, effort to improve the services in these areas is a continuous ongoing process. Benchmarking and evaluation of performance of Zonal Railways is done for this purpose.

### **European Train Control System**

2037. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Railways is going for modern signalling, like European Train Control System (ETCS), with a view to enhance safety and punctuality;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the routes where the new signalling system is under evaluation along with the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the total cost that would be involved in the introduction of this new signalling system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The work of modernization of signaling system on Indian Railways, which includes works of ETCS L-2, has been included in the Works Programme 2018-19 for complete 60,000 Route kilometres on Broad Gauge network of Indian Railways subject to expenditure on this project will be made only after following due processes, mandatory approvals and sanctions.

(c) The ETCS L-2 system is yet to be implemented on Indian Railways.

(d) The cost of the above work sanctioned for modernization of signaling system on Indian Railways is around ₹ 77,912 crore.

**Wait-list prediction tool**

2038. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have developed a wait-list prediction tool for all bookings made through IRCTC website;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the facility would be available for all the passengers who use IRCTC website without logging in and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) since when the services have been made available along with the percentage of accuracy of the predictions made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) A tool has been developed to predict the probability of waitlisted ticket getting confirmed at the time of booking as well as during Passenger Name Record (PNR) enquiry of waitlisted ticket. The tool has been developed using the algorithm of Machine learning. The machine learning model has been developed using the waitlisted PNR data of past 2 years. This model creates the pattern for the various waitlist scenarios and predicts the probability for the future date journey. The salient features of the scheme are as under:

(i) It predicts the probability of waitlist status for General Quota.

- (ii) The tool considers the high waitlist scenario of Holiday rush.
- (iii) It displays the trend of last waitlist ticket got confirmed for the same journey during previous year.
- (iv) Prediction of dynamic probability is based on current status.

Currently this feature is integrated with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website only. In IRCTC website this feature is operational w.e.f. 13 June, 2018 as under:

- (i) When the user is doing the booking transaction, and if the status of accommodation availability of the input journey is waitlisted, then the user can check the probability of confirmation.
- (ii) At the time of PNR enquiry of waitlisted ticket, the user can check the probability of confirmation. This facility is not available without login. Further, prediction is based on past trend analysis and gives fairly good probability of right waitlist prediction.

#### **VIKALP scheme for train passengers**

2039. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the VIKALP scheme introduced by Government has been received well by the train passengers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the procedure/follow up adopted by Government under VIKALP scheme to provide alternate train with confirmed ticket in next 12 hours and 24 hours of intended travel by passengers; and
- (d) the number of passengers to whom confirmed tickets have been provided in alternate trains since the inception of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and also to ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, an Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) also known as "VIKALP" has been introduced on Indian Railways. Under this scheme, waiting list passengers can choose

maximum of 7 alternate trains running within 72 hours from the journey date and time. The response to 'VIKALP' has been good as large number of passengers are opting for this scheme.

(c) At the time of preparation of first reservation chart of the passenger's original train, the VIKALP opted passenger who is not confirmed in the original train itself is transferred in the chosen alternate train in the same class subject to availability. After transferring, SMS (Short Message Service) is sent to the passenger informing about the new train/date, etc. No fare difference is charged or refunded if passenger is transferred in different train type. Passenger is marked as cancelled in original train. Passenger's name appears in the charts of the alternate trains.

(d) This scheme was introduced in November 2015. During the financial year 2015-16 (November 2015 to March 2016) only one passenger was shifted whereas in financial year 2016-17, 73 passengers were shifted. Keeping in view the poor response, the scheme was modified in the year 2017 and in financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19 (upto June 2018) a total of 16291 and 4533 passengers respectively have been provided confirmed accommodation under this scheme.

#### **Revised programmes for station redevelopment scheme**

2040. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was not so encouraging response to Government's Station Redevelopment Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to formulate any revised programme for station redevelopment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Indian Railways had advertised its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on Indian Railways for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties duly providing for amenities and other requirements of the Railways. The cost of station redevelopment was to be met by

leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. Twenty three stations were taken up for bidding in first phase by Zonal Railways under the Program. Out of these 23 stations, bids were received for two stations only, viz. Jammu Tawi (Northern Railway) and Kozhikode (Southern Railway) stations, which are under evaluation. No bids were received for other stations.

During various interactions with developers, investors and other stakeholders, various issues including longer lease period for commercially developed assets, multiple sub leasing, no restrictions on usage, guaranteed time bound approval by Railways' functionaries and simplified bid procedures were repeatedly raised. Ministry of Railways has formulated revised schemes for station redevelopment on fast track. A road map to further strengthen and empower Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC), as nodal agency to undertake redevelopment of more stations through simpler and transparent bidding procedures has been prepared. Accordingly, a Cabinet note has been initiated seeking Cabinet approval on this revised strategy of station redevelopment programme.

#### **Incidents of theft in the Jammu Mail**

2041. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of incidents of theft have been reported in the running trains, especially in reserved bogies of trains from Delhi to Jammu like the Jammu Mail;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of theft reported during the month of July, 2018, date-wise;

(c) the number of women who have reported thefts during the period, date-wise; and

(d) the action taken by Government in each case and whether involvement of the staff of Railways and Railway Protection Force has come to Government's notice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District

Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers. Cases of Indian Penal Code (IPC) crime including theft in trains are registered and investigated by the concerned Government Railway Police. Railways does not maintain any data on Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes. Whenever any information about status of crime on Railways is sought, State GRP is requested to provide the information.

Based on the data provided by the Government Railway Police Stations, a total of two cases of theft of passengers' belongings, one on 06.07.2018 and another on 14.07.2018, have been reported in reserved bogies of running trains on Delhi-Jammu route during the month of July-2018 (Upto 23<sup>rd</sup> July). The second case of theft of passengers' belongings was reported on 14.07.2018 in the Jammu Mail. In both cases, the complaint was lodged by male passenger.

(d) Action is taken on each and every case by the Government Railway Police as per legal provisions. In addition, whenever any staff of Railways or Railway Protection Force is found involved in such cases, severe departmental and legal action is taken against them. However, no staff of Railways and Railway Protection Force has been found involved in the above said two cases of theft of passengers' belongings reported in trains on Delhi-Jammu route in the month of July-2018 (upto 23<sup>rd</sup> July).

#### **Delayed train services in Kerala**

2042. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the inordinate delay of train services in Kerala since last few months;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Railways to normalise the train services; and

(c) whether Railways have fixed any time-limit to complete the works on rail-tracks in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Additional block hours have been permitted to complete track repair, renewal, overhaul works and other safety related works in all divisions especially Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad and Salem. These works led to excess speed restrictions from September 2017 resulting in late running of trains.



- (b) Steps taken to improve punctuality includes:-
- (i) Timings of certain Mail/Express trains has been rearranged and rationalized, which has improved punctuality of trains to some extent.
  - (ii) Shadow corridor blocks are being used to get optimum usage of corridor blocks to avoid repeated blocks.
  - (iii) Continuous efforts are taken to improve asset reliability to reduce failures to bare minimum level, so that detentions to trains are minimized.
- (c) 357.52 Kms track renewal sanction is available in Kerala State. Out of this, 202.07 Kms has been planned for current financial year 2018-19.

**Construction of Nanjakode-Nilamboor railway line**

2043. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to take up the construction of Nanjakode-Nilamboor railway line;
- (b) if so, the steps taken therefor, so far; and
- (c) whether Government has received the consent of Forest department to use their land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Construction of Nilambur-Nanjangud line has been included in Capital Investment Programme 2016-17. However, Government of Kerala has not identified this project to be taken up through the State Joint Venture Company.

- (c) No, Sir.

**Deaths and injuries due to rail accidents**

2044. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people who have lost their lives and injured in railway accidents since 2010, year-wise;
- (b) whether Government is aware that there has been a sharp increase in deaths and injuries as a result of railway accidents;

(c) the reasons of this increase in casualties, including deaths and injuries, in railway accidents over the last four years; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that there are fewer railway accidents and fewer casualties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The year wise number of persons died/ injured in Railway accidents since 2010 onwards is as below:

Year	Dead	Injured
2010	390	572
2011	276	670
2012	192	350
2013	136	157
2014	252	213
2015	148	186
2016	192	314
2017	97	187
2018	18	16

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The plans formulated and efforts made to check train accidents include replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. The safety devices/systems being used to prevent accident include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Colour Light LED Signal, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 kg rails, Pre- Stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches and Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc.

**Effect on punctuality of trains due to tussle between Railway Traffic  
Service and Engineering Service**

2045. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a tussle between Railway Traffic Service and Engineering Service which has affected punctuality of trains resulting in delays and also causing revenue loss to Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for such tussle and how the Ministry is going to address them; and

(c) whether the Ministry would hold concerned officials accountable for delaying trains and take departmental action, including stopping promotions, against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Incidents of theft in trains**

2046. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thefts that took place in trains in the last three years and the current year, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the number of cases wherein the investigation has been concluded;

(c) the number of cases wherein the guilty party was a member of the railway staff or staff of contractors hired by the Railways; and

(d) whether an investigation or analysis has been conducted by the Railways regarding the thefts committed by railway staff or staff of contractors hired by the Railways and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State

Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers. Cases of Indian Penal Code (IPC) crime including theft of passengers' belongings in trains are registered and investigated by the concerned Government Railway Police. Railways does not maintain any data on Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes. Whenever any information about status of crime on Railways is sought, State GRP is requested to provide the information. Based on the data provided by the Government Railway Police Stations, the zone-wise number of cases of theft of passengers' belongings that took place in trains during the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto June) over Indian Railways is given in the Statement (*See* below). The latest status of each case is not available.

(c) During the years 2015 to 2018 (upto June), in 53 cases of thefts of passengers' belongings in trains over Indian Railways, guilty party was either a member of the railway staff or staff of contractors hired by the Railways as per data obtained from respective State GRP.

(d) Since, Policing on Railways is a State subject, investigation into the cases of theft of passengers' belongings is conducted by the Government Railway Police concerned. However, if any Railway staff or staff of contractor hired by the Railways, found involved in the cases of crime against passengers, strict action is taken against them by the Railways as per extant provisions.

The zone-wise number of cases of theft of passengers' belongings that took place in trains during the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto June) over Indian Railways as per data obtained from respective State GRP.

Zonal Railway	No. of cases of theft of passengers' belongings in trains registered			
	2015	2016	2017	2018 (upto June)
1	2	3	4	5
Central	2325	2952	8164	5657
Eastern	557	522	768	128
East Central	783	1240	867	429
East Coast	435	560	544	288
Northern	3037	3356	3245	1137

1	2	3	4	5
North Central	754	802	1198	976
North Eastern	403	431	456	131
Northeast Frontier	143	220	252	98
North Western	475	419	445	245
Southern	588	537	1330	1717
South Central	1664	1728	2527	1376
South Eastern	288	463	434	260
South East Central	481	537	860	400
South Western	358	450	514	158
Western	1882	1811	4262	2742
West Central	2227	2712	3138	1878

**Late running of Seemanchal Express due to lack of rakes**

†2047. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Seemanchal Express, that runs from Jogbani to Anand Vihar and back to Jogbani, generally runs late by 12 to 24 hours due to non-availability of rakes as per requirement;

(b) whether Government has any plan of providing the facility of additional rakes for this train; and

(c) if so, by when along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 12487 Jogbani-Anand Vihar, Seemanchal Express reached destination more than 12 hrs late on 9 days and 12488 Anand Vihar-Jogbani Seemanchal Express reached destination more than 12 hrs late on 19 days during last three months (May to July 2018).

Trains including 12487/12488 Jogbani-Anand Vihar, Seemanchal Express get delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but also external factors which are beyond the control of Railways.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Factors such as line capacity and terminal capacity constraints on account of increasing passenger and freight traffic, asset failure, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches), intermittent natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates across the Indian Railways network, mid-section run over cases involving cattle and humans etc. adversely affect the punctuality of trains over Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) In order to improve punctuality of 12487/12488 Jogbani-Anand Vihar, Seemanchal Express, one extra rake has been inducted into services w.e.f 02.07.2018.

#### **Trains originating and terminating from Katihar**

†2048. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of trains originating and arriving at Katihar are negligible even though it is an old Railway Division, connecting about 8 districts falling under Purnia and Koshi Divisions;

(b) whether Railways propose to run additional trains from Railway Headquarters of Katihar Division; and

(c) if not, the details of reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Thirty two (32) trains presently originating from/terminating at Katihar are considered adequate for the present level of traffic. Further, to cater to the needs of passengers of Katihar, a new train service namely 15705/15706 Katihar- Delhi Champaran Humsafar Express has recently been introduced w.e.f. 10.04.2018. Moreover, introduction of trains is an on-going process on Indian Railways, subject to operational feasibility, resource availability and traffic justification.

#### **Irregularities in Tatkal bookings**

2049. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irregularities are taking place on a large scale in Tatkal bookings by way of illegal software;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has initiated any investigation into the use of such illegal software and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government on unscrupulous elements along with the protection methods adopted to ward off such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. It is not correct to state that large scale irregularities are taking place in Tatkal booking due to illegal software. Railways have already taken various steps to reduce the scope of misuse of Tatkal scheme by unscrupulous elements. However, during checks conducted by the Railways three cases of use of illegal (scripting) software for booking of tickets on the website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) were detected and cases have been registered against the culprits.

The matter was examined and it was found that the software does not breach any security arrangement done by IRCTC and facilitates booking by feeding the details in automated manner.

However, a number of validation checks for booking of tickets in opening ARP (Advance Reservation Period) under General Quota, Tatkal Quota and Premium Quota have been implemented on *www.irctc.co.in*. Till date, no case has been observed which has by-passed the minimum time check for booking.

In addition to the checks already available *viz.* staggered timings for booking Tatkal in Air Conditioned and non-Air Conditioned classes, restricting authorised ticketing agents from booking Tatkal tickets during first 30 minutes of opening of booking, restriction on number of tickets to be booked, regular security audit by Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, etc., some other changes that have been incorporated in NGeT (Next Generation e Ticketing) application are as under:

- (i) Random Security questions have been implemented for Tatkal and premium Tatkal booking.
- (ii) Variable minimum time check has been implemented at passenger input and payment process during peak time.
- (iii) Dynamic variable for user ID and password has been implemented.

- (iv) Blocking of Foreign IP(Internet Protocol) addresses at peak time has been done at network level.

**Accidents at unmanned railway crossings**

2050. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the number of accidents at the unmanned level crossings across the country and if so, the details thereof during the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government proposes steps to avert these accidents in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. During the last two years *i.e.* from 2016-17 to 2017-18 and the current year 2018-19 upto June, 2018, the number of consequential train accidents at unmanned level crossings have decreased significantly. Details regarding the number of consequential train accidents at unmanned level crossings occurred during the last two years *i.e.* 2016-17, 2017-18 and the current year 2018-19 upto June, 2018 are as follows:

Number of consequential train accidents at unmanned level crossings occurred in the year 2016-17	Number of consequential train accidents at unmanned level crossings occurred in the year 2017-18	Number of consequential train accidents at unmanned level crossings occurred in the current year 2018-19 upto June, 2018
20	10	01

(b) Indian Railways have taken the following proactive measures to ensure the safety of road users at unmanned level crossings:

- (i) SMS-based campaigns to create awareness amongst road users.
- (ii) Social awareness campaigns to educate road users with the use of various print and electronic media for observance of safe practices prescribed in Motor Vehicles Act and Indian Railways Act.



- (iii) Public awareness campaigns at different places like villages, Gram Panchayat, weekly market, -bus stands, schools and other public places.
- (iv) Nukkad Nataks organized at public places with theme "Safety at Level Crossings".
- (v) Drives to ensure availability of basic infrastructure at unmanned level crossings including whistle boards, road warning boards, speed breakers, visibility etc. as per the laid down standards.
- (vi) Periodic inspection of such crossings by Railway officials to ensure the above and for taking corrective actions, if any.
- (vii) Level crossing awareness week is organized each year by the Zonal Railways, which also includes the 'International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD)
- (viii) Joint awareness and safety campaigns are being done with RTO officials to ensure safety measures and observance of rules by road users to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings.
- (ix) Elimination of unmanned level crossings through closure/merger/grade-separator/manning etc. on a programmed basis.

#### **Increasing the speed of all express trains**

2051. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to increase the speed of all Express trains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to check railway tracks to run trains at enhanced speed; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Speeding up of trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches

and better tracks. During 2017-18, speed of 769 Mail/Express/Passenger trains has been increased.

(c) and (d) Indian Railways have a laid down system of monitoring of Railway tracks through scheduled inspections and patrolling by Railway officials which *inter-alia* includes daily monitoring by Keyman, monitoring at predefined interval by various level of inspecting officials and monitoring of track parameters by Track Recording Cars (TRCs) and Oscillation Monitoring Systems (OMS). Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) of rails and welds is carried out at predefined periodicity to detect internal flaws in rails/welds.

#### **Increase in passenger fares**

†2052. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is going to increase the railway passenger fare, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, how Government proposes to control the increasing expenditure of trains; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to avoid this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalisation of passenger fare is an on going process. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is taking measure on a continuing basis to improve the financial position and to bring the Operating Ratio to a reasonable level. The endeavour comprises of a combination of initiatives aimed at maximizing revenue receipts and minimizing controllable revenue expenses. Earnings enhancing measure, *inter alia*, include targeting progressively higher traffic throughput, effective and innovative marketing strategies to capture more and more traffic, creation of additional capacity and optimum utilization of the existing rail infrastructure including rolling stock, enhancement in productivity and efficiency, improvement of passenger interface, periodic rationalisation of fare and freight rates and focus on increasing the share of non-fare revenue sources in Railways' earnings. Other measures to enhance revenue are: Introduction of Flexi Fare system in higher category of trains *i.e.* Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains. In view of special attempts/arrangements made for running of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

special train services during peak period, higher fares have been fixed for running of special trains. Suvidha trains are introduced on variable fare structure during the peak seasons depending on the demand pattern. Humsafar Express, Tejas Express, Antyodaya Express and Mahamana Express have been introduced on higher fare on cost recovery basis. The endeavor is to realise higher fare for better facility trains and continue to provide service at affordable and economic rates to common man. Expenditure control measures include strict economy and austerity measures, improved man-power planning, better assets utilization, inventory management, optimizing fuel consumption etc.

**Increase in fare for lower berths**

2053. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is planning to increase the fare of the lower berth during festival season and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government would define the festival season, *i.e.*, time/sector/class-wise basis;
- (c) whether Government has rationale for such fare increase, when the facilities in the trains are not up to the mark; and
- (d) whether Government has conducted any research regarding this fare hike and 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) At present, there are no such proposals.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Loss to railways due to non-adhering to commodity-wise quota  
accepted by Bangladesh railway**

2054. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the EDTT(F) has not been adhering to the commodity-wise acceptance given by the Bangladesh Railway for release of quota for the month of April, May and July, 2018;
- (b) if so, the reasons for non-compliance and non-acceptance of the requirement of Bangladesh Railway;

(c) the number of rakes that could not be utilised through Darsana and Benapole during April, May, June and July, 2018; and

(d) the amount of loss of railway traffic, and loss of railway's revenue, national loss and loss of foreign exchange due to decrease in export traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The quota for loading of commodities for Bangladesh is given as per extant rules.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Beautification and modernisation of Kharagpur and Balichak stations**

2055. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has any plan for beautification and modernisation of Kharagpur and Balichak stations under SER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Kharagpur is a Non Suburban Grade-2 category station and beautification of Kharagpur station (Painting) has been done by local artist. All the amenities/facilities have already been provided at this station as per norms.

Further, for modernisation of Kharagpur station, provision of 2<sup>nd</sup> Foot Over Bridge, 6.1M wide with ramp of 6.1 M wide at both side entrance with 3 Nos. of ramps 3M wide from Platform Nos. 2, 5 & 6 and 7 & 8 has been sanctioned. Renovation of platform surface, water vats, replacement of damage platform shelter, construction of 2 Nos. ground reservoirs, improvement of circulating area and booking office at both side entrance have been included in umbrella works for 2018-19.

Further, stainless steel water booth, land scaping and green patches are also being provided at Kharagpur station.

Also Balichak station has already been developed as Adarsh station. All the work as per norms of Adarsh station has already been completed at this station. All these works have been planned for completion by 2019-20.

**Construction of road overbridge at Tori railway station**

2056. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal for construction of road overbridge on railway crossing at Tori railway station in Latehar, Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the current status of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Construction of Road Over bridge *in lieu* of level crossing No.12/ A/T between Tori and Mahuamilan station falls on National Highway. Therefore, the same is to be constructed by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) at their own cost on single entity basis as per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 10.11.2014 between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH).

**Making railway stations in Maharashtra disabled-friendly**

2057. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make all the railway stations of Maharashtra disabled-friendly within a time-frame; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Provisions of Passenger Amenities facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) are to be provided at all stations over Indian Railways including those in the State of Maharashtra.

In order to provide better accessibility to Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), following short term facilities and long terms facilities have been planned at all stations, beginning within Non Suburban Group (NSG) NSG-1 to NSG-4 category stations:

The details of railway stations provided with facilities as on 31.05.2018 for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under all categories of stations over Indian Railways including those in the State of Maharashtra are as under:

Sl. No.	Facility for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	Approximate number of stations, where facility provided
1.	Standard ramp for barrier free entry	2586
2.	Earmarking at least two parking lots	1429
3.	Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to station building	1465
4.	Signages of appropriate visibility	1474
5.	At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	1989
6.	At least one toilet (on the ground floor)	1908
7.	May I help you booth	1131

Long-term amenities are to be provided for Divyangjan at NSG 1 to 4 categories of stations, which are as follows:

1.	Engraving on edges of platforms	1816
2.	Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer	1288

All efforts are being made to provide all the short term facilities at stations in Maharashtra State on priority basis. 78 escalators at 32 Railway stations and 63 Lifts at 28 Railway stations have been provided in the State of Maharashtra, so far.

#### **Construction of Kauwa Bagh level crossing underpass**

†2058. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame set for the completion of under construction Kauwa Bagh level crossing underpass under the Gorakhpur headquarters of North-Eastern Railway;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the date on which this work had been started along with the cost thereof; and

(c) up to what extent the work of this underpass has been completed at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Construction of underpass at Kawa Bagh level crossing has been sanctioned at ₹15.81 crore. The work has been started on 06.03.2018. The target for completion of work of underpass at Kawa Bagh is July 2019. Being in city area, major utility shifting was involved. Now, all utilities have been shifted. Excavation of earth at Kawa Bagh end and thrust bed for casting of Boxes has been completed.

**Payment of royalty for minerals etc. used in Sambalpur  
to Bagbahara rail line**

†2059. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid as royalty, so far, from year 2013-14 till date, for the use of minerals such as mud, sand, stones, etc., for the railway line under construction from Sambalpur to Bagbahara in Odisha State to the capital city of Chhattisgarh, Raipur and Abhanpura; and

(b) the details of amount paid as royalty from year 2013-14 till date for the materials used for the said works, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) ₹9.29 crore has been paid as Royalty for the doubling project of Sambalpur-Titlagarh and Titlagarh-Raipur section. Year-wise break up of the amount paid to both Chhattisgarh and Odisha is as under:

Year	Odisha (₹ in crore)	Chhattisgarh (₹ in crore)
2013-14	0.16	0.05
2014-15	3.53	Nil
2015-16	3.10	0.47
2016-17	0.61	1.02
2017-18	Nil	0.29

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Odisha (₹ in crore)	Chhattisgarh (₹ in crore)
2018-19 (upto June 2018)	Nil	0.06
	7.40	1.89
TOTAL	9.29	

#### **Unsafe and unclean condition of railway coaches**

2060. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the unsafe, unclean and pathetic conditions of railway coaches of trains passing through Kerala; and

(b) if so, whether the Minister would take personal care in order to resolve this sorry state of affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The railway coaches running in Kerala are in safe condition. The coaches are given periodic maintenance as per norms wherein all the safety and amenity fittings are examined for good working condition and defective components are repaired or replaced. During maintenance, no compromise with reference to safety related aspects is allowed. Proper cleaning and full watering of all coaches is also ensured during Primary Maintenance. On identified long distance trains, On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) has also been provided to tackle cleanliness issues arising in the course of journey.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Shortage of trains in Northern Kerala**

2061. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of difficulties faced by the passengers of northern Kerala due to the shortage of trains;

(b) whether the Railways have made any survey regarding passengers commuting daily up and down between Kannur and Kozhikode; and

(c) whether Railways would operate a MEMU/passenger train between Kannur and Kozhikode during the peak hours?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) At present ten passenger trains serve the traffic between Kannur and Kozhikode. Passenger census in unreserved coaches of passenger and Mail/Express trains plying in various sections was undertaken, which revealed that there is a demand for introduction of new train. However, introduction of additional trains between Kannur and Kozhikode is not feasible at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

**Introduction of new trains and construction of railway track**

2062. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new trains introduced by Railways during the last four years; and

(b) the total length of the railway tracks constructed across the States, including the State of Jammu and Kashmir, in the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) During the last four years *i.e.* from 2014-15 to 2017-18, Indian Railways has introduced 374 Mail/Express trains (excluding Premium Express rechristened as Suvidha Express).

(b) State-wise commissioning of New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling including the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the last four years are as under:

State	New Line (km.)	Gauge Conversion (km.)	Doubling (km.)
1	2	3	4
Assam and other NE States	178	1324	0
Andhra Pradesh	221	0	51
Bihar	229	304	165
Chhattisgarh	34	0	257
Gujarat	33	30	244
Haryana	160	0	132
Jammu and Kashmir	25	0	7

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand	436	0	162
Karnataka	240	0	252
Kerala	0	29	42
Madhya Pradesh	235	270	179
Maharashtra	39	0	288
Odisha	118	0	315
Punjab	0	0	106
Rajasthan	73	634	161
Telangana	186	0	25
Tamil Nadu	0	290	441
Uttar Pradesh	262	288	289
Uttarakhand	0	36	0
West Bengal	86	191	461

#### **New MEMU trains in Telangana**

2063. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to introduce new MEMU trains in Telangana in view of heavy demand for these trains; and

(b) if so, whether any sectors have been identified in Telangana for these trains and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal. However, 77291/77292 Vijayawada-Bhadrachallam Road DEMU service has been replaced by MEMU service w.e.f 01.04.2018.

#### **Delayed rail projects for Amritsar**

2064. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the present status of Amritsar-Ferozepur railway link, Rego over bridge and Jaura Phatak railway over bridge at Amritsar along with the reasons for delay in the implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Status of Amritsar-Firozpur Railway Link:- The direct link between Amritsar to Firozpur can be established by constructing 25 km. new railway line from Gharayala station on Amritsar-Khemkaran railway line to Mallanwala station on Jalandhar-Firozpur Railway line. Ministry of Railways has sanctioned ₹299.74 crores for construction of new rail line between Firozpur and Patti (Mallanwala Khas-Gharayala) on 10.04.2017. Final Location Survey for this project has been completed. Land acquisition has been taken up.

**Rego Bridge:-** There is a proposal from State Government for widening of the Rego Road Over Bridge (ROB) on deposit term. The General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has not been received from State Government. Work will be taken after receipt of GAD and funds from State Government.

**Jaura Phatak:-** The proposal of Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Jaura Phatak *in lieu of* twin level crossing No.B-27 on Amritsar-Pathankot line and level crossing No. S1/E2 on Amritsar-Jalandhar City line on cost sharing basis has been received from State Government on 19.07.2018 from Amritsar Improvement Trust. Its feasibility is being examined and case will be processed accordingly.

#### **Projects for upliftment of Amritsar and Chheharta railway stations**

2065. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the proposed, sanctioned and ongoing projects for the upliftment of Amritsar and Chheharta railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Redevelopment of Amritsar Railway Station has been entrusted to Indian Railways Station Development Corporation (IRSDC). Presently IRSDC is preparing the Master plan and Detailed Project Report (DPR). Topographic cum traffic survey has started on 18.06.2018. At Chheharta Railway station, following works have been completed or are in progress:

- work of 2 No. washing line completed,
- Carriage & Wagon (C&W) office complex structure completed, finishing work in progress,
- Station cum. Signal & Telecommunication (S&T) building in progress and completed till lintel level,

- Electrical substation completed till roof level.
- S&T tender awarded.
- Signal Interlocking Plan (SIP) approved.
- Traction Distribution (TRD) work awarded and foundation work in progress.
- Work of yard remodelling, platform can be started after shifting of Goods siding from Chheharata to Khasa.

**Substandards steel structures used in electrification of rail lines**

†2066. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel structures used in electrification of Jammu to Udhampur, Udhampur to Katra, Ghaziabad to Moradabad and Kozhikode to Kannur rail lines were found to be of less than the standard weight;

(b) if so, whether the supply of substandard material has been investigated by Vigilance Department and CBI;

(c) if so, the details of the investigation report;

(d) the details of the defaulter company and the action taken against it; and

(e) whether the said defaulter company has again been awarded the supply contract and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In Railway Vigilance check, some steel structures received during 2012 to 2015 at the depots under Ambala and Chennai Railway Electrification Projects were found under weight.

(b) and (c) The matter has been investigated by Railways Vigilance and report has been submitted to competent authority.

(d) Following firms were identified as responsible for the under weight structures:

- (i) M/s. Jain Steel Industries Limited, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab. Action taken: Recovery/replacement has been initiated.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) M/s. Kaytx Industries Limited, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab. Action taken: Recovery has been effected.

Further, both the Firms have been restricted for further extension as approved vendor.

- (e) Supply contract for steel structures are not awarded by Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) directly to steel manufacturers.

#### **Dilapidated rail bridges**

2067. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of bridges in the Indian Railway network and the date of their construction, State-wise;
- (b) whether many bridges of the Railways are in bad condition and it is necessary to refurbish them immediately or construct new bridges in their place;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, division-wise and the action taken in this regard; and
- (d) whether Government has given heritage status to some of these bridges and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As on 01.04.2018, there are 1,47,523 Railway bridges of varying ages on Indian Railways' network. The information on bridges is maintained Zone-wise and not State-wise. The Zone-wise breakup is as under:

Zonal Railway	No. of Bridges more than 100 years	No. of Bridges less than 100 years	Total no. of bridges
1	2	3	4
Central	4425	5893	10318
Eastern	3076	1952	5028
East Central	2754	4780	7534
East Coast	933	9654	10587
Northern	8767	11044	19811
North Central	2254	4540	6794

1	2	3	4
North Eastern	596	3362	3958
Northeast Frontier	219	7096	7315
North Western	871	5567	6438
Southern	2634	14985	17619
South Central	3040	11298	14338
South Eastern	2219	5342	7561
South East Central	919	4086	5005
South Western	191	7301	7492
Western	2937	7684	10621
West Central	1854	5250	7104

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, on Indian Railways, repair / strengthening / rehabilitation / rebuilding of Railway bridges is a continuous process and is undertaken whenever so warranted by their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections. All bridges are safe for train movement at permitted speed. During last five years (2013-14 to 2017-18), a total of 3758 Railway bridges have been repaired / strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt on Indian Railways. As on 01.04.2018, a total of 4027 Railway bridges are sanctioned for repairing/ strengthening/ rehabilitation/ rebuilding.

(d) All the Railway bridges in Kalka - Shimla section (842 bridges) and Pathankot - Joginder Nagar section (1074 bridges) in Northern Railway have been given heritage status. Besides this, 27 more bridges on Indian Railways have also been given heritage status.

#### **Renovation of dilapidated rail bridges**

2068. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of railway bridges in the country have outlived their life span and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that renovation work of these bridges and safety of passengers is being compromised and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to undertake renovation work of these bridges; 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) to (d) As on 01.04.2018, there are 1,47,523 Railway bridges of varying ages on Indian Railways' network. However, the age of the bridge does not have any direct relevance on the physical condition of the bridge. There is a well established system of inspection of bridges on Indian Railways. All the bridges are inspected twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon and one detailed inspection after the monsoon. In addition, certain bridges are also inspected more frequently depending upon their condition. Repair / strengthening / rehabilitation / rebuilding of railway bridges is a continuous process and is undertaken whenever so warranted by their physical condition as ascertained during these inspections and not on the basis of age. If the corrective / remedial measures are expected to take a long duration due to the complexity of the site situation, etc., suitable safety measures like imposing speed restrictions and keeping such bridge under close watch are taken till the bridge is repaired / strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt. During last five years (2013-14 to 2017-18), a total of 3758 railway bridges have been repaired / strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt on Indian Railways. As on 01.04.2018, a total of 4027 railway bridges are sanctioned for repairing / strengthening / rehabilitation /rebuilding.

#### **High speed rail connectivity between Delhi and Alwar**

2069. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for High Speed Rail connectivity between Delhi and Alwar or any other city in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of costs involved therein;
- (c) the details regarding sharing of project cost between the Centre and the State; and
- (d) the details regarding time-frame within which the project is likely to be completed and made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (MAHSR) is the only sanctioned high speed project in India with an estimated cost of ₹1,08,000 crore with financial assistance from Government of Japan.

However, Delhi-Gurugram-Rewari-Alwar is one of the three Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors identified by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. The project has not been sanctioned by the Government. Therefore, its funding pattern and expected time for completion cannot be indicated at present.

#### **Expansion of railway network**

2070. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total network expansion of the Indian Railways in the last two years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) whether Railways have faced any hurdles in their network expansion in Karnataka in the last five years and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) State-wise commissioning of New Line, Doubling and Gauge Conversion in the past two years are as under:

Name of State	Commissioning of New Line, Doubling and Gauge Conversion (in km)	
	2016-17	2017-18
1	2	3
Assam and rest of North East	456	26.5
Andhra Pradesh	146	21
Bihar	286.1	36
Chhattisgarh	61.5	159.82
Delhi	0	26
Gujarat	84	74
Haryana	118	0
Jharkhand	176.1	94.8
Karnataka	160.57	196.45
Kerala	38.96	21
Madhya Pradesh	292.5	113.14



1	2	3
Maharashtra	75	118.88
Odisha	66.27	172.7
Punjab	16	2.5
Rajasthan	289	204.9
Telangana	124.6	19
Tamil Nadu	150.26	232.46
Uttar Pradesh	207.33	147.81
Uttarakhand	0	36
West Bengal	106.87	158.86

(b) The completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities etc. which imparts hurdles in completion of projects.

#### Delayed railway projects in Kerala

2071. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of railway projects concerning Kerala which are running behind schedule;
- (b) the main reasons for the delay; and
- (c) by when each of the project is likely to be completed to avoid further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Details of projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala which are in various stages of execution are as under:

Sl. No.	Project
<b>New Line</b>	
1.	Tirunavaya-Guruvayur (35 Km.)
2.	Angamali-Sabrimala (116 Km.)

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**Doubling**

1. Kuruppantara-Chingavanam (27 Km.)
  2. Chingavanam-Chengannur (27 Km.)
  3. Ernakulam-Kumbalam (7.71 Km.)
  4. Kumbalam-Turavur (15.59 Km.)
  5. Turavur-Ambalapuzha (50 Km.)\*
  6. Ambalapuzha-Haripad (18.13 Km.)
  7. Thiruvananthapuram-Kanniyakumari (86.50 Km.)
  8. Shoranur-Ernakulam (107 Km.)\*
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\* Projects are included in the Budget subject to requisite clearances.

Completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries for acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities etc. leading to delay in completion of projects. Many of these factors are beyond the control of the Ministry of Railways. Further, in view of abnormal increase in land cost, State Government of Kerala has been requested for cost sharing of few new line/doubling projects.

**Unauthorised boarding in trains on the New Delhi-Chennai Central Route**

2072. DR. SASIK ALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified any vulnerable point(s) which pose serious threat to passengers and their belongings on New Delhi-Chennai Central railway route through which many important trains *viz.*, T.N. Express, G.T. Express, Rajdhani Express, Durgam Express, Garib Rath Express etc., are being operated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also identified points/stations which are notorious for unauthorised boarding of reserved coaches, including sleeper class, of trains being operated between New Delhi-Chennai Central route; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area & passengers. After collation of available details, no vulnerable point(s) which pose serious threat to passengers and their belongings on New Delhi-Chennai Central railway route, could be identified as crimes have not been reported repeatedly at any particular point(s) on the said route.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, surprise/preventive checks are conducted regularly against unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches. Special efforts are also taken to ensure only bonafide passengers board in reserved coaches at originating stations by deploying additional staff to man the gates of reserved coaches at platforms.

**Placing orders for generators with BHEL-EML, Kerala**

2073. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering to place orders for generators with BHEL-EML, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there are any specific reasons for Railways to stop placing orders with BHEL-EML?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of orders of Generator set placed by Railways are as under:

Production Units	Purchase Order details	Quantity (Sets)
1	2	3
Integral Coach Factory	(i) P.O. No. ICF/08/15/1167/1530/F dated 16.09.2015	34
	(ii) P.O. No. ICF/08/15/0134/1223/F dated 02.05.2016	18

1	2	3
Rail Coach Factory	(i) P.O. No. 025170172.T1720562 dated 06.02.2018	57
	(ii) P.O. No. 026150166.T1620039 dated 21.04.2016	36
	(iii) P.O. No. 025140172.T1520067 dated 25.05.2015	33
Modern Coach Factory	P.O. No. 05660114.R1650208 dated 09.12.2016	10

Few orders have been cancelled by Production Units due to non-supply of items by M/s BHEL-EML, Kerala within the stipulated delivery period.

#### **Enhancing digital transactions in railways**

2074. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to enhance the use of digital transactions across their networks, especially by using the BHIM app;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that presently, only some percentage of tickets are being booked digitally;
- (d) if so, whether the Railways are considering to initiate digital transactions in other areas of railway operations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways have made efforts to enhance digital transactions as per policy of the Government by enabling additional modes of payment for ticket booking on the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website as well as on the ticket booking counters and by giving incentives as detailed below:-

- (i) The payment for tickets booked through IRCTC website is made through various cashless modes such as net banking, through credit/debit cards, cash cards, e-wallets and Unified Payment Interface (UPI)/Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM). To incentivise payment through digital means, service charge on online booking of tickets was withdrawn for the tickets booked from 23.11.2016. The facility has been extended upto 31.08.2018.

- (ii) UPI/BHIM is also accepted as payment option while booking tickets through counter. 5% discount on the total value of basic fare in Passenger Reservation System (PRS) reserved counter ticket is given for payments made through UPI including BHIM subject to maximum amount of discount of ₹50 on a ticket and value of ticket being ₹100 and more.
  - (iii) Indian Railways have tied up with State Bank of India to install 10,000 Point of Sale (POS) machines at various locations of Indian Railways *i.e.* Passenger Reservation System (PRS)/Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) ticket booking counters and Parcel/Goods locations.
  - (iv) Booking of tickets through mobile phone has also been introduced wherein payment can be made through credit/debit cards, net banking, e-wallets etc. Bonus of 5% of the recharge value is given at the time of recharge of R-wallet for a period of three months in case of unreserved ticket booking through mobile phone.
  - (v) Service charge applicable on transactions against credit/debit cards for purchasing journey tickets at UTS/PRS counters has been withdrawn.
  - (vi) International credit/debit cards issued outside India are accepted for booking of e-tickets through IRCTC website.
  - (vii) Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) have been introduced to facilitate sale of unreserved tickets which have provision of payment through smart cards. Bonus of 3% of recharge value is given on every recharge of the ATVM smart card for promoting use of ATVM bookings.
  - (viii) 0.5% discount is given on purchase of season tickets through digital means with effect from 01.01.2017 upto 31.08.2018.
  - (ix) 5% discount is given on booking of Retiring rooms through digital means.
  - (x) Free of cost accidental insurance cover upto ₹10 lakh has been extended to confirmed/Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC) online ticket holders upto 31.08.2018.
- (c) The percentage share of tickets booked through digital modes of payment has been increasing particularly in the case of reserved ticket booking. The reserved tickets booked through digital means constituted approximately 66% of total reserved

tickets booked in Financial Year (F.Y.) 2017-18 as compared to approximately 60% in F.Y. 2016-17. During the current year 2018-19 (upto June, 2018) approximately 68% of total reserved tickets were booked through digital means.

(d) and (e) Apart from passenger ticket booking which is the key operational area for enhancing digital transactions, Railways have also introduced digital payment modes viz. POS machines at Goods/Parcel locations and also Catering. Further, instructions have been given in Catering Policy 2017 to promote digital transactions through static catering units on Indian Railways. It is mandatory for the licensees providing catering service under IRCTC to have BHIM app and Paytm as payment options and all vendors to have BHIM/QR code for processing receipts of payments. Online booking of retiring rooms has also been made available to passengers at selected stations.

#### **Electronic mechanism to monitor running of trains**

2075. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have introduced electronic mechanism on railway systems to monitor the actual running of the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are studying the reasons for trains running late in recent time across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways has implemented Control Office Application(COA) in the year 2009 in all Divisional/Area Control Offices of Indian Railways for electronic capturing and monitoring of the actual running of trains. Progressive implementation of Computerization of Train Signal Register at 650 stations is a step further in electronically mechanizing operations in which the train movements are captured automatically at the station.

Automated data updation is also being done in COA through data received from Data Loggers which have been integrated at 72 stations of Indian Railways.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Trains get delayed owing to both internal and external factors such as asset failures, line and terminal capacity constraints on account of increasing

passenger and freight traffic, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches), intermittent natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates, mid-section run over cases involving cattle and humans etc. also adversely affect the punctuality of trains over Indian Railways.

#### **Increasing the speed of long distance passenger trains**

2076. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to increase the speed of long distance passenger trains to reduce their present travel time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of trains which would be covered under this proposal; and
- (d) by when the process of increasing the speed of all long distance trains in the country would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Reduction of travel time/speeding up of trains is a constant endeavor and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches, better tracks, operational feasibility, availability of path, platform availability, infringement of corridor maintenance blocks, type of signalling system, maximum permissible speed of the section on which the train is passing etc. In its endeavour to speed up trains, Indian Railways during 2017-18 have speeded up 769 train services.

#### **Railway committees**

2077. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the various issues dealt by various Committees like ZRUCC, DRUCC, NRUCC constituted under the Ministry;
- (b) whether such Committees are performing as desired at the time of their constitution;
- (c) the need to continue with such Committees;

(d) the list of all the members of such Committees and the manner of their appointment;

(e) what objectives have been achieved till date from such Committees; and

(f) the powers and functions of such Committee members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) With a view to facilitating consultation with Rail Users, Indian Railway constitutes Users' Consultative Committees at various levels like National Railway Users' Consultative Council (NRUCC), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUCC), Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC), Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committee (SRUCC), Station Consultative Committee (SCC). These committees/council broadly discuss the matters falling within their jurisdiction relating to:-

(i) Provision of amenities.

(ii) Improvement of passenger services and facilities provided by the railways.

(iii) Opening of new stations.

(iv) Arrangement regarding time-table.

(v) Any subject of general public interest or public convenience or such matters affecting the passenger services and facilities which have been the subject of representation by users or which has been referred to them for consideration by other consultative committees/council or by the administration/Minister of Railways.

(b) Railway users' consultative committees constituted at various levels render the suggestions/views from the Members in the periodical meetings for improving the services to the rail users and passenger amenities over the Railway. This mechanism has been useful in providing valuable feedback on the services delivered by Railways.

(c) As developmental activities of Railways are a continuous phenomenon, Railway Users' Consultative Committees are required to be continued for getting feedback/opinion on the services provided by the Railways with a view to providing best possible services to the Rail Users.

(d) The lists of all members (category-wise) nominated on such committees *i.e.* NRUCC, ZRUCC, DRUCC, SRUCC and SCC along with their mode of nomination are appended.



(e) Since the members represent local users in the territories served, they have been able to bring to the notice of the administration the requirements for provision of passenger amenities and other facilities/ services to passengers. These inputs have been helpful in processing various work proposals.

(f) These committees are consultative in nature. The members give suggestions/ views to the Railway to improve the services. They can visit various units which deals with passengers' interest like booking, catering, waiting room facilities, etc. and submit their observations with specific remarks, if any. They can also enter the platform without purchasing platform ticket. In case of suspicion of ticketless passengers, they can also call upon Station Master/ticket checking staff to check tickets.

#### **Statement**

*The compositions of National Railway Users' Consultative Council (NRUCC), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUCC), Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC), Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committee (SRUCC) and Station Consultative Committee*

#### **(A) Composition of National Railway Users' Consultative Council (NRUCC)**

Sl. No.	Description	Number of persons to be nominated	Mode of Nomination
1	2	3	4
(1)	Secretaries of the Ministries of Government of India	03 (Industry, Commerce and Civil Aviation)	<i>Ex-Officio</i>
(2)	Chairman and Members of Railways Board.	07	<i>Ex-Officio</i>
(3)	Members of Parliament (10 from Lok Sabha and 5 from Rajya Sabha)	15	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
(4)	A representative of each of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee	16 + 2 (one each from Konkan Railway Users and Consultative Committee Metro Railway Users' Consultative Committee)	Elected by respective Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees

1	2	3	4
(5)	One Member each from the All India Commerce and Trade Associations	07	Ministry of Railways (For Cement Industry nomination is sought from Ministry of Industry)
(6)	Agricultural Interest	01	Ministry of Agriculture
(7)	Handicapped Association	01	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(8)	Retired Officers of the Railway (Members of the Board/General Managers)	02	Ministry of Railways
(9)	Special Interest	Such other members as the Minister may appoint to represent interests which he considers are necessary to be represented on the Council.	Minister of Railways

**(B) Composition of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUCC)**

Sl. No.	Description	Number of persons to be nominated	Mode of Nomination
1	2	3	4
(1)	State Government Representatives -one each from the States served by the Railway - To be recommended by the concerned State Government	Depends upon the Statas served by the Zone.	State Governments concerned

1	2	3	4
(2)	One Member each from the State Legislature - To be recommended by the concerned State Governments.	Depends upon the States served by the Zone	State Governments concerned
(3)	Principle Chambers of Commerce & Trade Associations having a standing of not less than five years.	05	Zonal Railways
(4)	Representatives of Agricultural Associations - To be recommended by the State Government.	02	State Government concerned
(5)	One elected representative from each of the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC)	Depends upon the number of Divisions being served by the Zone.	Elected by respective Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees
(6)	Representative from Public Sector Undertakings including Ports in the case of Railways serving Ports (on Northeast Frontier Railway only one Public Sector Undertaking is given representation)	02	Zonal Railways
(7)	Registered Passengers' Association	One from each of the States, which have a sizable route kilometer.	Zonal Railways
(8)	Consumer Protection Organisation	01	Zonal Railways
(9)	Handicapped Association	01	Zonal Railways

1	2	3	4
(10)	Members of Parliament (7 from Lok Sabha and 3 from Rajya Sabha)	10	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
(11)	One nominee each of Union Minister	Depends upon the number of Union Ministers whose constituency falls within the jurisdiction of the Zone.	Union Ministers concerned

**Special Interests:-**

(i) Nomination by General Manager	(i) 01	General Managers of Zonal Railways
(ii) Nomination by Minister of Railways	(ii) Such other members as the Minister may appoint to represent interests which he considers are necessary to be represented on the Committee	Minister of Railways

**(C) Composition of Konkan Railway Users' Consultative Committee (KRUCC)**

Sl. No.	Description	Number of persons to be nominated	Mode of nomination
1	2	3	4
(1)	Two Members of Parliament (MPs) from each of the four States (Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra) as nominated by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.	08	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
(2)	One Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from each of the four States as nominated by the respective Speaker of State Assemblies.	04	State Governments concerned

1	2	3	4
(3)	Two representatives of Chamber of Commerce including industries from the State of Maharashtra.	02	Konkan Railway
(4)	One representative of Chamber of Commerce including industries from State of Karnataka	01	Konkan Railway
(5)	One representative of Chambers of Commerce including industries from State of Goa	01	Konkan Railway
(6)	One representative of Chambers of Commerce including industries from State of Kerala	01	Konkan Railway
(7)	Four representatives, one each from the four States, as covered by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), from the recognized passenger's associations.	04	Konkan Railway
(8)	One representative from each of the four States as nominated by the respective State Government.	04	State Governments concerned
(9)	Representative from Ports	01	Konkan Railway
(10)	Representative from Agriculture Sector	01	Konkan Railway
(11)	Representatives from special interest group as nominated by Chief Managing Director (CMD)/Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.	01	Chief Managing Director of Konkan Railway
(12)	Representatives from special interest group as nominated by Minister of Railways.	02	Minister of Railways

**(D) Composition of Metro Railway Users' Consultative Committee (MRUCC)**

Sl. No.	Description	Number of Persons to be nominated	Mode of Nomination
1	2	3	4
1.	Representative of the Government of the States served by the Railway as recommended by such Governments	One from each State	State Governments concerned.
2.	Member of Legislatures recommended by the State Governments	One from each State	State Government
3.	Representative of principal Chambers of Commerce (having a standing of not less than five years) of the State on which metro railway is located by rotation.	One from each State	Metro Railway
4.	Representatives to be sent by State Government	Not more than two	State Government
5.	Representative of Registered Passengers Association	One	Metro Railway
6.	Representative of Consumer Protection Organisation	One	Metro Railway
7.	Three Members of Parliament	2 from Lok Sabha and 1 from Rajya Sabha belonging to state on which Metro Railway is located	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
8.	One nominee of each Minister to be given representation on Metro Railway Users' Consultative Committee whose constituency is being served by Metro Railway Users Consultative Committee.	Depends upon number of Union Ministers whose constituency is served by Metro Railway.	Union Ministers concerned

1	2	3	4
9.	Member to represent special interests to be nominated on the recommendation of the General Manager of the Railway; and	One	General Manager of Metro Railway
10.	Members as the Minister may appoint to represent the interests which he/she considers are necessary to be represented to the committee.	Eight	Minister of Railways

**(E) Composition of Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC)**

Sl. No.	Description	Number of persons to be nominated	Mode of Nomination
1	2	3	4
1.	One representative each of local Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations and Industries and Agricultural Associations.	06	Zonal Railways
2.	Registered Passengers Association	02	Zonal Railways
3.	State Government Representatives-one each from the States served by the Division - To be recommended by the concerned State Government	Depends upon the States served by the Division	State Governments concerned
4.	One Member each from the State Legislature - To be recommended by the concerned State Governments.	Depends upon the States served by the Division	State Governments concerned
5.	Representative of Consumer Protection Organisation.	01	Zonal Railways
6.	Representative of Handicapped Association	01	Zonal Railways

1	2	3	4
7.	One nominee each of Union Minister & Members of Parliament (MPs).	Depends upon the number of Union Ministers and Members of Parliament (MPs) whose constituency falls within the jurisdiction of the Division.	Union Ministers concerned
8.	Special Interests: - (i) Nomination by General Manager  (ii) Nomination by Minister of Railways	i) 01  ii) Such other members as the Minister may appoint to represent interests which he considers are necessary to be represented on the Committee	General Managers of Zonal Railways  Minister of Railways

**(F) Composition of Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committee (SRUCC)**

Sl. No.	Description	Mode of Nomination
1	2	3
1.	Chief Operating Manager	Zonal Railways
2.	Head of Commercial and Engineering Department	Zonal Railways
3.	Deputy General Manager (General)	Zonal Railways
4.	One representative of the City Corporation or the Municipality where the headquarters of the Railway is located.	Zonal Railways
5.	If there are any municipalities in the area of the suburban services, one representative each from not more than two municipalities in the area.	Zonal Railways



1	2	3
6.	One member from the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative within whose jurisdiction the suburban sections fall (to be elected)	Elected by Divisional Railways Users' Consultative Committee
7.	One representative from the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (to be elected).	Elected by Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee
8.	Four representatives of Associations of Suburban Passengers on Central and Western Railways and two representatives on other Railways	Zonal Railways
9.	One nominee of the General Manager	General Managers of Zonal Railways
10.	In addition, 4 members in each Committee are nominated by Minister of Railways under the category of "Special Interest".	Minister of Railways
11.	One Member of Parliament to be nominated by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to be intimated by the Ministry of Railways.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

**(G) Composition of Station Consultative Committee (SCC)**

Sl. No.	Description	Mode of Nomination
1.	Representatives of Chambers of Commerce, local Trade and Industry	Zonal Railways
2.	Registered Passengers' Associations	Zonal Railways
3.	Local educational institutions	Zonal Railways
4.	Local self-Government bodies and general public	Zonal Railways

Note:- The Membership of Station Consultative Committee should, however, not exceed 10.

**Poor quality of food in Duronto express**

2078. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently a number of passengers fell ill after consuming poor quality of food in the Duronto Express;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what measures are adopted to put a check on such incidents; and
- (d) whether any action has been initiated against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Few passengers complained about under-cooked chicken in Sealdah-Puri Duronto Express train on 30.06.2018. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) conducted an enquiry into the matter and imposed adequate monetary fine on the catering licence for the serious lapses. Apart from the monetary fine, the contract of the same train has been given to another catering licensee after 30.06.2018.

**Survey for Samastipur-Bhagwanpur rail line**

†2079. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has conducted a survey for Samastipur-Bhagwanpur new railway line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would make budgetary provision for the construction of this rail stretch as it is a very important project which is related to the development of transportation in this very backward and unfathomable area; and
- (d) by when this project would materialise?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways have taken up a Reconnaissance Engg-cum-Traffic Survey (RETS) for New Line between Bhagwanpur- Samastipur *via* Mahua, Tajpur (60 km) and tenders for the same have been invited.

(c) and (d) Allocation of funds to the project is made only after it is sanctioned and sanction/materialisation of this project depends upon its financial viability projected in survey report.

The survey requires interaction with various departments of State Government, District Administration, trade and industries, etc. for assessment of traffic projection. It also involves preparation of plan, drawing, calculation of cost, rate of return, etc. Since this is an extensive exercise, no time frame has been fixed for completion of this survey.

**Gauge conversion and electrification of railway lines in  
Assam and North Eastern States**

2080. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed any new broad gauge line and electrification of railway tracks in Assam and other North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of the funds released by Government for the purpose during the last four years;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey for the new broad gauge lines and electrification of railway tracks in Assam; 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) 3 New Line projects have been included in Budget subject to requisite Government approvals in North Eastern Region including Assam during the last 4 years. Details of these projects including funds released during last four years are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No	Name of project	Year of inclusion in Budget	Length (in km)	Latest Anticipated Cost	Outlay for 2017-18	Outlay for 2018-19
1.	Salona-Khumtai	2017-18	99	5958	0.10	5
2.	Sibsagar-Jorhat	2017-18	62	1296	0.10	5
3.	Tezpur-Silghat	2017-18	25	2025	0.10	5

Further, following Electrification projects have been taken up in North Eastern Region including Assam during last 4 years. Details of these projects including funds released during last four years are as under:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of project	Year of inclusion in Budget	Route kilometers	Latest Anticipated Cost	Outlay for 2017-18	Outlay for 2018-19
1.	Guwahati-Dibrugarh via Tinsukia and Simaluguri-Dibrugarh	2017-18	661	674.23	0.02	44.00
2.	New Bongaigaon-Goalpara-Kamakhya	2017-18	175	282.24	0.02	28.00
3.	7 Sections of Assam/ North Eastern States included as part new work of electrification of balance un-electrified Broad Gauge routes of Indian Railways (108 section)	2018-19	1729	2000.54	0	0.89

(c) and (d) Following surveys of new lines falling partly or fully in the State of Assam have been completed in the last three years and in current year:

Sl. No.	Name of survey with length of line (in km.)	Year of completion	Cost (₹ in cr.)	Rate of Return (%)	Present status
1.	Sairang-Habichhuah (223)	2016-17	15007	7.27	Under examination
2.	Dhubri-Mendipather with provision of double line bridge over Brahmaputra at Dhubri (79)	2017-18	7112	-8.45	Under examination
3.	Harmuti-Majuli <i>via</i> Bihpuria (45)	2017-18	2369	-7.07	Under examination
4.	Lekhapani-Kharsang (26)	2017-18	993	-3.51	Under examination
5.	Margherita-Deomali (26)	2017-18	999	-7.97	Project shelved
6.	Moirabari-Jagiroad (46)	2017-18	1094	-0.90	Project shelved
7.	Tetelia-Moirabari <i>via</i> Komarpur-Boha-Manaha-Manipur-Barangabari-Bhurbandha-Charaibahi-Mikirbheta-Habibarangabari-Patekibori (70)	2017-18	1772	-3.12	Under examination
8.	Bongaigaon-Agthori <i>via</i> Barpeta, Hajo, Sarthebari (136)	2017-18	3336	-8.18	Under examination

Further, following surveys of new lines sanctioned in the last three years, falling partly or fully in the State of Assam, are yet to be completed:

Sl. No.	Name of survey	Length (km)	Year of sanction
1.	Chaparmukh-Jowai <i>via</i> Dalimbari, Bhokchung, Rajagaon, Baithalangso, Dongkamukam, Jengkha, Kheroni and Umrangso	180	2016-17
2.	Dangri-Roing	60	2016-17
3.	Dhalaibil-Itakhola-Seijosa	24	2016-17
4.	Dumduma-Wakro <i>via</i> Simalguri, Namsai, Chowkham	96	2016-17
5.	Lekhapani-Nampong-New Khamlang-Deban	75	2016-17
6.	Naharkatia-Deomali	20	2016-17
7.	Rangiya-Dekargaon <i>via</i> Bezera, Dumnichowki, Sipajhar, Mangaldoi, Kharupetia, Dalgaon, Orang	140	2016-17
8.	Tinsukia(Longpatia), Pasighat <i>via</i> Kanubari, Deomali, Lekhapani, Jairampur, Kharong, Miao, Diyun, Tezu, Bhishmaknagar, Roing, Dambuk	300	2016-17
9.	Extension of Dharmanagar-Pencharthal survey upto Belonia <i>via</i> Kamalpur-Khowai-Agartala	170	2017-18
10.	Gogamukh-Dhakuakhana-Kamalabari-Garmur-Jorhat	100	2017-18

**Survey for Electrification:** Ministry of Railways has planned to optimally electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) routes of Indian Railways including Assam and other North Eastern States.

1.00 P.M.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Statement by Minister correcting answers to questions.  
Shri Rajen Gohain.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each of the following Statements (in English and Hindi):—

- (i) Statement correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 1406 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th December, 2017 regarding 'Backlog of SC, ST and OBC vacancies'; and
- (ii) Statement correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 917 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th February, 2018 regarding 'Employees in various cadres of Railways'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. The House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

*The House then adjourned for lunch at one  
minute past one of the clock.*

*The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-one  
minutes past two of the clock,*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA) *in the Chair*

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Private Members' Legislative Business; Bills for introduction.

**The Universal Health Insurance and Healthcare Coverage Bill, 2018**

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि सभी नागरिकों को सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य बीमा और स्वस्थ देखभाल कवरेज और तत्संसक्त अथवा 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 Illegal Immigrants (Identification and Deportation), Bill, 2018**

**श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया:** महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि देश में अवैध आप्रवासियों की पहचान करने और उन्हें विकसित करने हेतु एक संस्थागत प्रणाली तथा तत्संबंधित या आनुषंगिक मामलों 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।

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, I would request the Chair that since the Bill has been introduced, fix up a date for discussion.

**The Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2018**

**श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया:** महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000 का और संशोधन 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 National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws  
(Special Provisions) Bill, 2018**

SHRI SANJAY SINGH (NCT of Delhi): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to make special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for a period upto the 31st day of March, 2020 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): The Protection of Farmers Families Bill, 2018, Shri Rajkumar Dhoot, not present. The Prevention of Contamination of Groundwater Bill, 2018, Shri Rajkumar Dhoot, not present. The Compulsory Yoga and Sports Education in Schools Bill, 2018, Shri Rajkumar Dhoot, not present.



**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (Amendment of Article 19)**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): 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 V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

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

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Agricultural and Other Rural Workers (Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2018**

श्री अमर शंकर साबले (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि कृषि और अन्य ग्रामीण कर्मकारों का शोषण किए जाने से संरक्षण प्रदान करने वाले उपायों और राज्य द्वारा न्यूनतम मजदूरी, पेंशन, भविष्य निधि सुविधाएं और दुर्घटनाओं की स्थिति में सवेतन छुट्टी सहित वित्तीय मुआवज़ा, महिला कर्मकारों को चिकित्सा, प्रसूति और शिशु सदन सुविधाएं, बच्चों के लिए शिक्षा एवं पोषण और ऐसे अन्य कल्याणकारी उपायों को सुनिश्चित करने और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में ऐसे कर्मकारों के लिए कल्याण प्राधिकरण तथा कल्याण निधि की स्थापना करने और तत्संसक्त या 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 अमर शंकर साबले: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**The Downtrodden, Backward and Oppressed Youth  
(Development and Welfare) Bill, 2018**

श्री अमर शंकर साबले: महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि अनुसूचित जातियों, अनुसूचित जनजातियों और अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों तथा धार्मिक और भाषायी अल्पसंख्यकों के दमित वर्गों के युवाओं का समग्र विकास सुनिश्चित करने के लिए व्यापक राष्ट्रीय नीति बनाने और उसे कार्यान्वित करने तथा राज्य द्वारा किए जाने वाले उनके कल्याण और उससे संबंधित 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 अमर शंकर साबले:** महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया** (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष** (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया): जी।

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सर, मेरा आइटम लगा था और प्राइवेट...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष** (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया): नहीं, अभी यह हो जाने दीजिए।

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सर, यह होने के बाद ही तो है, उसी के बाद है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष** (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया): राष्ट्रपति महोदय के यहां से हो जाने दीजिए।

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सर, इसको टेक अप नहीं किया जा रहा है, क्योंकि वित्त विभाग के द्वारा अभी रिकमंडेशंस प्राप्त नहीं हुई और न उन्होंने यह बताया कि रिकमंडेशंस क्यों नहीं दी गई।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष** (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया): यह तो आने पर ही पता लगेगा।

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सर, मैं यह इसलिए उठाना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि बड़ी मुश्किल से लॉटरी में आता है और फिर वह लिस्टेड होता है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष** (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया): जब तक यह सारी कार्यवाही विधिक रूप से संपन्न नहीं हो जाती, तब तक इसको...

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया:** सर, आप पीठ से यह निर्देश दे दें कि वहां से इस पर जल्दी रिपोर्ट आ जाए, तो मैं आपका आभारी होऊंगा।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष** (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया): ठीक है, कार्यालय इस बारे में आवश्यक कार्रवाई करेगा। The Exploited, Indebted and Poverty Stricken Farmers (Protection, Prevention of Suicides and Welfare) Bill, 2014. Shri Rajkumar Dhoot; not present. Next, the Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill, 2017. Shri Naresh Gujral.

#### **The Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill, 2017**

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an effective system to prevent and address the decline in productivity of Parliament due to disruptions of sittings, by means of an appropriate legal framework to fix the minimum number of days in a year for which Parliament shall be in Sessions, introduction of special Session in addition to the existing three Sessions, compensation for the hours unutilized due to disruptions, and to provide obligations of the Presiding Officers of both Houses

and the Members of Parliament and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I have introduced this Bill earlier and the whole idea was that we have seen over the years how Parliament meets for hardly 60-70 days in a year now. Sir, you would recall that after Independence, when the Rajya Sabha started meeting in 1952, the Parliament would meet—I have the figures with me here—for, say, 100 days, 103 days, 111 days, 113 days and so on, but, gradually, over the period of time, successive Governments made sure that the duration of the Session gets reduced. Naturally, as a result, Bills are piled up, action is not taken and public is caused inconvenience. Sir, the people of India are spending a lot of money to ensure that this temple of democracy works and they want their issues to be taken up. They want the Bills to be passed. But, apart from the fact that we are not meeting enough the way we should be, we are also disrupting the Parliament all the time. One feature of my Bill is, if Parliament proceedings are disrupted, then automatically, the number of hours that are lost in disruptions should get added to the Session and once that happens, then automatically whichever Government is in power, they will be held accountable. Sir, I personally feel and as you see in Western democracies, Parliament meets for almost six months of the year, that is, for 200 days. But successive Governments—very frankly, whichever Government is in power and, today, of course, we are sitting with the Government—don't want to be held accountable. Parliament is an accountability forum. So I would urge upon all my fellow Members and the Government to make it official so that the Parliament meets, to my mind, for, at least, four to five months in a year. At least, we should make sure that it is not less than 120 days. Similarly, today when we disrupt the House, that time is wasted. But, if a Member knows that if he disrupts the House, automatically, that much time will be added to the Session, then, I am certain, even disruptions will not be that many. This will serve as a disincentive to the Members disrupting the House. Sir, I feel very strongly about this. Every day, we have Members complaining about this. I have been a backbencher for a long time and it is a pity that during my eleven years in Parliament, I have never got more than nine minutes to speak on any subject because we are meeting for such a short while, and it is the small parties which suffer, it is the backbenchers who suffer. The main parties get time, but, because the Session is not long enough, the issues which the small parties have, they are overlooked. There is a Member of Parliament sitting here. Now, they are only three, like we are three from Akali Dal, and we were ruling in Punjab till recently. When you represent a State, there are issues of the State which have to be brought before the House. After all, this is a Council of States, and if we are not given time, then, how

[Shri Naresh Gujral]

can the issues which are facing our people in our State, be reflected in Parliament? And that can only happen if all of us are given adequate time, and adequate time can only be given if the Session is long enough.

Similarly, there are burning issues before the country. In the morning, in the Business Advisory Committee, people were fighting with each other that their issues be taken up. They are not taken up primarily again because Parliament is in session for, we have seen that, eighty-ninety days, at the most, in a year. There are some Cabinet Ministers sitting here, who are seasoned Parliamentarians. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is also here. I hope, the Government will accept my recommendation, and will enact this law because, today, we may be sitting here, we may be there tomorrow, and then, we can hold them accountable, because this is a process of democracy. But, unless Parliament meets, it is a waste of people's money; it is a waste of Government's money, and also I wish to point out one thing, all of us are collectively making sure that as Parliamentarians, we are bringing disrepute to ourselves by frequent disruptions, by fighting all the time with each other. Sir, I have heard brilliant debates here. Individually, who do I name? There are brilliant people sitting here. Each time they speak, you learn something. But, two things happen. Rather than debating, we are only bickering. This is number one. Number two, again, I would say that many of my colleagues, I know I can see them. In fact, we made an Independent Group only for that, which was recognised by the Chairman so that we could get some time to speak. But, if you look at the Parliamentary records, every time, there is an important debate, we people, who are representing small parties, they are given two minutes, three minutes, to speak. For example, I am supposed to speak on the Budget, and they give me three minutes. It is not possible, and the main reason again is, because successive Governments do not want to increase the time of the Parliament. So, Sir, I do hope that the Government is listening, and I do hope that this will be officially taken up by the Cabinet. Thank you very much.

*The question was proposed.*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Bill presented by my good friend, Shri Naresh Gujral, who has also forecast today that those who are sitting there, will soon be sitting here. So, I welcome the forecast, the भविष्यवाणी that he has given before us. But, I what happens to the people sitting in the middle? I don't know, whether they will also be sitting here, or, on that side.

**अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी):** इन्होंने 20-25 साल बाद की बात की है, अभी की बात नहीं की है।

**श्री जयराम रमेश:** दूध का दूध और पानी का पानी हो जाएगा, बेफिक्र रहिए।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** ऊपर वाले की मेहरबानी पर निर्भर करेगा।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, as Mr. Gujral said, there used to be a time when Parliament used to meet for more than 120 days. There have been years in which Parliament has met for 125 days. Those were the good old days of the 1950s. Then, progressively, it started coming down, and over the last decade, the average is less than seventy days. However, it is still much less than the time taken in the 50's and 60's. I think, the suggestion made by the hon. Member that both Houses should meet for a minimum of one hundred days in a year is acceptable.

Sir, I would like to further make a point distinguishing Lok Sabha from Rajya Sabha. When the debate on Rajya Sabha took place in the Constituent Assembly, one of the reasons given for having an Upper House, the Council of States, was that this is a permanent body unlike the House of the People which changes once in five years. This is a permanent body to which Members get elected when one-third of Members retire every two years. This is a permanent body unlike Lok Sabha. It was also felt that Rajya Sabha is a place which is not only important for legislation, but more importantly for deliberation and discussion because in Lok Sabha you have passions, you have people who are wedded to the ground. It was expected that in the Council of States you will have elders, that you will have knowledgeable people who can look beyond party-lines and discuss national issues.

I would make one small change to what Mr. Gujral has suggested. Even if Lok Sabha is not able to meet for a hundred days, Rajya Sabha should meet for a hundred days because I can understand a Lok Sabha Member catering to almost one-and-a-half to two million constituents. It may not be possible to have a hundred days for Lok Sabha. But no such compulsion, no such pressure is on a Rajya Sabha Member. Therefore, at least, let us make a beginning in Rajya Sabha by meeting for a minimum of hundred days a year even if it is not possible to do it in Lok Sabha.

Sir, the second point I would like to make is—and this is a suggestion I had made to Mr. Chairman as well—we must have a system of Special Sessions. I am glad that the hon. Member has made it a part of the Bill. We must have a fifteen day Session in

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

a year in which no Government Business is transacted but the issues raised by different parties, not just big parties like ours but small parties like SAD, AAP or YSRCP who may have two, three or four Members, but whose issues may be very important which get drowned out because of the ruling party or the main opposition party. So, in this Special Session, let there be no Government Business. However, national issues should be taken up for discussion and, as a result of the discussion, there would emerge some clarity and consensus. This second suggestion of the hon. Member, I want to wholeheartedly endorse.

Sir, thirdly, why should Rajya Sabha start meeting at eleven o'clock? I did some research into this. Why do Parliament Sessions begin at eleven o'clock? All over the world, Parliament Sessions start at 9.30 or 10 o'clock. Why when half the day is over we come to Parliament? One of the reasons that was given in the 50's was that constituents come and meet Members of Parliament and, therefore, the mornings are taken up meeting the constituents and hence it should meet at a relatively later hour. This pressure again is more on Lok Sabha Members of Parliament than Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament. There is no reason why Rajya Sabha should not begin at ten o'clock. There is absolutely no reason. I can understand Lok Sabha beginning at eleven o'clock but I don't see any reason why Rajya Sabha can't begin at ten o'clock because the pressure on a Member of Council of States is quite different from the pressure of a Member of Parliament belonging to the House of the People.

I think, Sir, these should be part of the law. It can't be a part of convention or tradition like the British Parliament. It should be the law. I request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to take this very seriously, bring forward legislation and take credit for it that you have passed legislation mandating hundred days for both Houses; if it is not for both Houses, at least for the Upper House mandate a Special Session to discuss national issues. Mandate that both Houses, or, at least the Upper House, begin at ten o'clock instead of eleven o'clock. Finally, Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that the time lost must be compensated. If we lose two hours in protest and agitation, we must make it up either the same day or make it up the next day, or make it up during the Session. I think this is the least that the public expects from us. Sir, with these words, I commend this Bill and I wish that the hon. Minister gives an assurance that this will actually be introduced as a Government Bill, maybe, not in this Session of Parliament, but in the last Session before they migrate from that side to this side. Thank you, Sir.

**डा. अशोक बाजपेयी** (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक पर आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको हृदय से साधुवाद देता हूँ। महोदय, यह लोकतंत्र का सर्वोच्च मंदिर है, सर्वोच्च सदन है और देश के तमाम राज्यों की विधान सभाएं यहां की गतिविधियों से, यहां के कार्य-संचालन से प्रभावित होती हैं। हम सबको, जो लोकतंत्र का एक सर्वोच्च सदन है, यहां पर कुछ ऐसी मिसाल प्रस्तुत करनी चाहिए, जिससे लोकतंत्र में आस्था रखने वाले लोगों को यह विश्वास हो कि यह वह सदन है, जहां आपसी बातचीत से बड़े-बड़े मामले हल होते हैं और यह वह सदन है, जहां महत्वपूर्ण विधेयकों को बनाने का काम होता है। मान्यवर, जब बिना किसी कारण के सदन adjourn होता है, छोटी-छोटी बातों को लेकर वाद-विवाद होता है और ऐसी स्थिति बनती है, जिससे सदन को adjourn करना पड़ता है, वह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। यहां पर सारे वरिष्ठजन वे लोग हैं, जिनका सार्वजनिक जीवन में लम्बा अनुभव है और उनसे लोग सीखना चाहते हैं, उन्हें देखना चाहते हैं। जब यहां पर इस तरह से कार्यवाही बाधित होती है, तो यह देखकर चिंता होती है।

महोदय, यह परम्परा थी कि राज्य सभा कम से कम सौ दिन चलेगी, लेकिन जिस तरह से पिछले वर्षों में देखा गया है, यह अवधि निरंतर घटती चली जा रही है। इस पर सभी माननीय सदस्यों का चिंतित होना स्वाभाविक है कि कैसे सदन का समय, जो minimum 100 दिन है, उसे पूरा किया जा सकता है - अच्छा हो वह उससे ज्यादा चले, लेकिन कम से कम जो न्यूनतम सौ दिन की अवधि राज्य सभा के चलने की है, उसे तो किसी भी स्थिति में प्राप्त करना आवश्यक है। यहां पर महत्वपूर्ण विधेयकों पर चर्चा होती है, बहुत सारे ऐसे विधेयक हैं, जो बहुत लोक-महत्व के हैं, जिन पर बहुत सारे सदस्य चर्चा करना चाहते हैं, चर्चा में हिस्सा लेना चाहते हैं, लेकिन समय के अभाव में उन्हें बोलने का अवसर नहीं मिलता। बहुत सारे लोक-महत्व के ऐसे सवाल हैं, जो प्रदेश से जुड़े हुए हैं, क्षेत्र से जुड़े हुए हैं, माननीय सदस्यों की उन सवालों को भी सदन में उठाने की उत्कंठा होती है, लेकिन जब सदन नहीं चलता है या कम समय के लिए चलता है तो उन्हें बहुत कम समय मिल पाता है - विशेषकर नए सदस्यों को लगातार इसका शिकार होना पड़ता है कि उन्हें अपनी बात को रख पाने का मौका नहीं मिलता। महोदय, यह विधेयक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है, मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार इस पर गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार करे। यह प्रश्न केवल सरकार का ही नहीं है, सदन के जो भी सदस्य हैं, दलों से ऊपर उठकर इस पर बैठकर कोई सामूहिक नीति बनाएं, इस बात पर विचार करें कि सदन की कार्यवाही बाधित न हो, सदन पूरे समय तक चले और महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर सदन में गंभीर चर्चा हो। महोदय, जैसा मैंने कहा कि यह लोकतंत्र का सबसे बड़ा मंदिर है, यहां से इस देश के करोड़ों लोगों की अपेक्षाएं जुड़ी रहती हैं। जिस समय यहां की कार्यवाही चलती है, देश के करोड़ों लोग टीवी पर आंख गड़ाए बैठे रहते हैं कि राज्य सभा में क्या चर्चा हो रही है, किस विषय पर क्या बहस हो रही है और राज्य सभा किस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंची, लेकिन जब यहां हंगामा हो जाता है, राज्य सभा adjourn हो जाती है तो लोगों को निराशा होती है। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि इस गंभीर विषय पर पूरे सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित हो और सभी दलों के नेता मिल-बैठकर कोई ऐसी रणनीति बनाएं जिससे सदन अपने पूर्ण कार्यकाल में चले और महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर सभी सदस्यों को अपनी राय रखने का अवसर मिले।

महोदय, मैं एक और निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि नए सदस्यों के प्रति सदन का विशेष ध्यान होना चाहिए कि उन्हें ज्यादा अवसर मिलें ताकि वे अपनी बातों को रख सकें। इसके अतिरिक्त

[डा. अशोक बाजपेयी]

**3.00 P.M.**

backbenchers की ओर विशेष ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। मेरा पीठ से भी निवेदन है कि पीछे की सीटों की तरफ भी दृष्टिपात करें, जिससे हम लोग भी अपनी बात रख सकें। आपने मुझे इस विधेयक पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यावाद।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा, चूंकि श्री वि. विजयसाई रेड्डी जी को कहीं जाना है, इसलिए यदि आप और सदन अनुमति दे तो मैं उन्हें बुला लेता हूं। श्री वि. विजयसाई रेड्डी।

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Sir, the Bill that has been introduced by my colleague, Shri Naresh Gujral is very much essential and requires to be passed in the interest of Parliamentary democracy. In fact, I support the Bill. Sir, I would like to highlight a few points in this regard. Sir, as he has pointed out, the minimum number of working days should be at least, 120 and if you see, in the recent past, the number of working days have significantly and substantially come down to 90 or even below 90, which is not acceptable to any Parliamentarian, particularly to the Members who are sitting in the Opposition benches. The Government has given a reasoning stating that because of the sittings of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees, the number of working days for the Parliament has been reduced, the explanation of which is not acceptable because the Parliamentary Standing Committees can only make the recommendations and that cannot be the reason. And because they are recommendatory in nature, these are not binding on the Government. Therefore, it is imperative and necessary for the Parliament to sit, for at least, a minimum of 120 days. That is the most viable thing. Sir, the next thing, I have been observing for the last two years, is that the sitting of Rajya Sabha has always been linked to the sitting of Lok Sabha. I really don't understand why the sitting of Rajya Sabha should be linked to Lok Sabha. Even if some of the Bills have not been passed, because of disruptions in the House or for whatever reason, the Rajya Sabha can independently sit and the number of 120 working days, I feel, we can complete in all respects. Therefore, the linking of Rajya Sabha's working with that of Lok Sabha should be separated. Sir, as Jairam Rameshji has pointed out, Special Session of Parliament, particularly of Rajya Sabha is very much essential. If we carefully observe the proceedings of Rajya Sabha for the last few years, I could, see that the time that is given to the small opposition parties is significantly less. For example, before speaking on the Budget in the House, we carefully study the Economic Survey; so also other reports that are presented in the House and



also the Papers that are being tabled everyday by the Ministers are being perused by the hon. Members. And, hon. Members are not given sufficient time and opportunity, particularly the small parties. What purpose will it serve by the Ministers placing the various issues on the Table unless they are studied by Members and present their views? Therefore, sufficient time should be given to all the Members. Probably, in the Business Advisory Committee, you always fix the time. It depends upon the proportion of the strength of the various political parties. Once a Member enters the House, it is not the political parties which is important. A Member is a Member irrespective of the party he represents. Therefore, I contend that sufficient opportunity to be given to every Member of the House irrespective of the political party he represents. Sir, coming to the time lost, Shri Jairam Ramesh has rightly pointed it out. In fact, I will go one step forward. Time is lost because of disruptions of the House. Disruption may occur because of the Opposition Parties but, I have observed in the last Session that the Treasury Benches, in fact, have disrupted the House. Therefore, I sincerely feel, irrespective of the fact whether Opposition Benches disrupted or the Treasury Benches disrupted the House, the time that is lost due to disruptions should be compensated. There are two ways of doing it. The number of days should proportionately be increased. Secondly, I suggest, as a penal provision, the Members responsible for disruption of the House should not be paid salary and other allowances.

With these observations, I support the Bill and this Bill should be passed by the House in its present form.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I begin by complimenting Shri Naresh Gujralji for bringing this Bill. This is one of the best things that have happened to me as a new Member of Parliament.

Sir, all of us, whether we are sitting there or here, entered into politics due to certain fundamental reasons. And the reasons are that we wanted to intervene in the distribution of resources and in associating with structures/institutions that determine public policy. These are the fundamental reasons behind entering into politics, irrespective of the place — right, left or centre — we occupy in our public life. But, we all put forth the same kind of arguments, the same kind of approach ताकि यह लगे कि सत्ता और संसाधन में भागीदारी के सवाल पर हम चुप नहीं हैं।

Sir, I became a Member of this House on 3rd April, this year. The last three days of Budget Session were washed out. On the 5th April, I remember, hon. Chairman invoked Pandit Jawharlal Nehru and his views on the Upper House *i.e.*, Rajya Sabha.

[Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha]

यह मौसम ज़रा पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी के लिए बेमुरव्वत सा मौसत है। मैं समझता हूँ कि चेयरमैन साहब द्वारा उनको उद्धृत करने पर मुझे बेहद खुशी हुई। हम में से अधिकांश लोग उस नेहरूवियन मूल से आते हैं, जहां लगता है कि हम एक दूसरे से बिना दुश्मनी की जुबान के भी बातें कर सकते हैं।

सर, मैं एक चीज़ का उदाहरण देना चाहूंगा। 1789 में French Revolution के बाद जब Objective Resolution पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने इसी सेंट्रल हॉल में प्रस्तुत किया होगा। Constituent Assembly में, तो उन्होंने कई सारी चीज़ें कहीं, जो Fundamental Rights में आयीं, Directive Principles of State Policy में आयीं और अलग-अलग धाराओं में आयीं। सर, उन्होंने एक Oath of Tennis Court का जिक्र किया। सर, French Revolution के बाद जो बादशाह थे, उन्हें लगा कि मैं इनके साथ बैठकर संविधान बनाऊंगा, तो उसमें मेरी उपेक्षा नहीं होगी। सर, शुरू में बादशाह पुरखुलूस थे, बहुत प्रसन्न थे, सबको बहुत साधुवाद दे रहे थे, बैठो, आओ, बात करें, ये करें। हुआ यह कि अचानक राजा को लगा कि मेरे अधिकारों में कटौती की जा रही है, तो उन्होंने दो कमरे बंद करवा दिए। सर, वे इसी तरह के कमरे रहे होंगे। फिर Constituent Assembly तीसरे कमरे में चली गई, उन्होंने उस कमरे को भी बंद करवा दिया। होते-होते कोई कमरा Constituent Assembly के लिए नहीं बचा था। उसके बाद पूरे मेम्बरान Tennis Court में गए और उन्होंने Oath ली, उसको Oath of Tennis Court कहते हैं। यह पार्लियामेंट की हिस्ट्री है। यह हिस्ट्री, चाहे हम दक्षिण में हों, चाहे हम पश्चिम में हों, चाहे मध्य में हों, हमें नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि पार्लियामेंट फंक्शन करेगी, तो बड़ी से बड़ी, बुरी से बुरी बीमारी का हल निकल सकता है। यह मेरा निवेदन है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** अब आप समाप्त करिए।

**प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा:** सर, एक मिनट का समय और दीजिए। सर, मैंने अपनी मेडन स्पीच को बचाकर रखा हुआ है। मुझे ऐसे वक्त का इंतजार है, जब ...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** आप उसको बचाए रखिए। वक्त पर काम आएगी।

**प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा:** उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं एक छोटी सी टिप्पणी करना चाहता हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री नरेश गुजराल:** उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह बात इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि यदि हमें 100 दिन या 120 दिन मिलेंगे, तो आज माननीय सदस्य को बोलने के लिए आधा घंटा मिलता। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा:** सर, मैंने पहले ही कह दिया कि मेरी यह speech, maiden speech नहीं है। वह मैंने बचा कर रखी है।

महोदय, आज जब मैंने श्री नरेश गुजराल साहब का बिल देखा, तो यकीन मानिए, हो सकता है, मैं आपकी राजनीति से इत्तेफाक न रखता होऊँ, लेकिन आपके इन सरोकारों से शत-प्रतिशत इत्तेफाक रखता हूँ। हम कोशिश करेंगे कि आज की इस बहस के बाद एक precedent set हो, जिसमें disruption कहीं से भी हो, चाहे सत्ता पक्ष से हो, प्रतिपक्ष से हो, नीचे से हो या कभी-कभी ऊपर से भी

हो जाता है, तो उस disruption को हमें avoid करना है। मैं समझता हूँ कि disruption ने democracy की आत्मा को काफी हद तक लील लिया है।

महोदय, इनका एक Chapter-3 है। उसमें एक बहुत अच्छा सुझाव है। मेरी अक्सर मीडिया के दोस्तों से बात होती है। अभी देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में आरक्षण की चिंगारी चली हुई है। जब मेरी मीडिया के दोस्तों से बात होती है, तो मैं कहता हूँ कि Parliament का एक committed session होना चाहिए, क्योंकि Article 15, Clause 4 और Article 14 और Clause 4 की आत्मा को समझे बिना और डा. भीमराव अम्बेडकर साहब की भावना को समझे बिना, लोग इस पर अपनी टिप्पणी देते हैं। मैं अपने दोस्तों से अक्सर कहता हूँ कि आरक्षण गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम नहीं है या यह income generation programme नहीं है। हमारे उच्च समाज में भी अलग-अलग जातियों में कई तरह की दिक्कतें हैं, लेकिन वे faulty आर्थिक प्राथमिकताओं की वजह से हैं, जिन्हें दूर करने के लिए हमें वक्त ही नहीं मिलता है।

महोदय, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। National Party और Regional Party हैं, या binary हमें बहुत परेशानी करती है। ये जो क्षेत्रीय शब्द है, इसे देखकर लगता है कि यह कोई बहुत बुरी बात है। क्षेत्रीय दलों का World vision बड़ा हो सकता है। उनकी राष्ट्रीय सोच, राष्ट्रीय पार्टियों की सोच से बड़ी हो सकती है। आप उदाहरण देख लीजिए। मेरा सिर्फ इतना कहना है कि इस binary की वजह से भी हम संख्या में छोटे होते हैं।

महोदय, आखिर मैं एक छोटी सी टिप्पणी कर के मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। जब मैं पहली बार आया, तो मैंने देखा कि आगे बैठने वाले सभी के पास desk है, मतलब presume किया जाता है कि लिखने-पढ़ने का सारा काम वे ही करेंगे और हमारे पास कुछ नहीं है। ये कुछ-कुछ मौलिक चीजें हैं। Once again, I compliment Mr. Naresh Gujral. And, I believe, the kind of consensus, we have in this House today on the said agenda, makes sure that the Lok Sabha works for 100 days or not, we work for 100 days and if possible, from 9.30 in the morning to 8.00 in the evening.

Thank you, Sir.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** श्रीमती छाया वर्मा जी, श्री महेश पोद्दार जी, कहीं जाने वाले हैं। इसलिए यदि आप अनुमति दें, तो ये बोलकर जा सकते हैं।

**श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़):** उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है।

**श्री महेश पोद्दार (झारखंड):** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आपको धन्यवाद और श्रीमती छाया वर्मा जी को भी धन्यवाद, क्योंकि उन्होंने मुझे accommodate किया।

महोदय, समाज का एक बहुत बड़ा वर्ग आज पार्लियामेंट की गतिविधियों में रुचि ले रहा है और खासकर तब, जब से टेलिविजन से लाइव प्रसारण शुरू हुआ। मुझे भी आश्चर्य होता है कि अनेक लोग, जिनके बारे में हम सोचते थे कि उन्हें पार्लियामेंट की proceedings में कोई रुचि नहीं होगी, लेकिन वे

[श्री महेश पोद्दार]

भी बोलते हैं कि पार्लियामेंट में फलां ने ऐसा बोला और फलां ने वैसा बोला। उन सारे लोगों को इस बात की चिन्ता होती है कि जब आप लोगों को सारी सुविधाएं दी जाती हैं, फिर भी आप लोग काम क्यों नहीं करते? मुझे बड़ी खुशी है और मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं, अपने साथी श्री नरेश गुजराल जी को, क्योंकि वे एक बहुत अच्छा मुद्दा सही समय पर लेकर आए हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि हमारी यह समस्या अब बढ़ती जा रही है, यानी disruption बढ़ता जा रहा है और number of days या हमारी productivity कम होती जा रही है।

महोदय, जब दो साल पहले मैं यहां आया था, तो मैंने भी सदन में कुछ नारे लगाए थे और जब अगले दिन proceeding आती थी, तो उसमें लोगों की जो निन्दा की जाती थी, उसमें अपना नाम देखकर मुझे जो ग्लानि होनी चाहिए, वह ग्लानि नहीं होती थी, लेकिन अब, जबकि थोड़ी maturity आई है, तब मुझे लगता है कि नहीं, यह उचित नहीं है और नारे लगाने का जो काम मैंने किया, वह गलत किया। इससे मैं समझता हूं कि मुझ में अपने को नियंत्रित करने की प्रवृत्ति कुछ बढ़ी है।

महोदय, एक अच्छा सुझाव यह है कि जिन लोगों के कारण, चाहे वे किसी भी पक्ष के हों, यदि House को स्थगित करना पड़े और number of working hours कम हों, तो उन्हें किसी न किसी चीज से वंचित जरूर करना चाहिए, फिर चाहे कुछ भी करें, चाहे पैसे से करें। उन्हें किसी न किसी चीज से वंचित जरूर रखना चाहिए। यह परम्परा तो होनी ही चाहिए। हां, मैं यह स्वीकार नहीं करूंगा कि पूरे हाउस में कुछ भी टोका-टाकी न हो, क्योंकि मैं समझता हूं कि इससे यह थोड़ा नीरस भी हो जाएगा। इसलिए जैसा चेयर करते हैं कि थोड़ी-बहुत टोका-टाकी और थोड़ा-बहुत ट्रैक से उतरना, उतना तक तो allowed होना चाहिए।

महोदय, इन्होंने जो सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण बात कही है कि there should be a focus on productivity. It is not that आप number of days बढ़ा दीजिए, लेकिन productivity अधिक नहीं हो। संसद का जो मुख्य काम है, वह कानून बनाना है और देश की हालत पर गौर करना है। यह हम कैसे करें? केवल अधिक घंटों तक काम करें या quality of discussion, quality of deliberation भी अच्छा हो।

महोदय, इसके साथ ही मैं इसका समर्थन करते हुए यह उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा कि सारे राज्यों में जो सदन के मिलने और सदन के दिनों में कमी होती जा रही है, हमें उस पर भी चिन्ता करनी चाहिए। मुझे बहुत सारे विषय ऐसे लगते हैं, जिन पर राज्यों में बहस की जा सकती थी, लेकिन वे बहस वहां न होकर संसद में बहस के लिए आती हैं। साथ ही साथ मैं सरकार से कहूंगा कि वह इसके लिए एक व्यवस्था करे कि राज्यों में भी इसकी चिन्ता की जाए कि उनके दिन भी कैसे अच्छे हों।

महोदय, एक और बात यह है कि पार्लियामेंटरी कमिटी की मीटिंग्स को अधिक सशक्त बनाया जाए। मैंने कुछ कमिटीज में देखा है कि वहां जो deliberations होते हैं, उनमें कम लोग होते हैं। मैं वहां एक बड़ी अच्छी चीज देखता हूं, जो मैं यहां शेयर करना चाहता हूं कि there is a discussion across party lines. वहां एकमत होकर चिन्ता पार्टी लाइन पर divide किए मुद्दे पर ज्यादा बहस होती है, न

कि इस पर कि उस पार्टी ने ऐसा कहा, तो मुझे उसका विरोध करना है। वहां मुद्दों पर ज्यादा बहस होती है, यह एक बहुत अच्छी बात है।

महोदय, कुल मिलाकर मैं इस बात का स्वागत करता हूं कि हमें किस तरह से इसको productive बनाना चाहिए। इस पर सरकार को चिन्ता करनी चाहिए, चाहे number of days बढ़ा कर, चाहे number of hours बढ़ा कर या बहस के तरीकों को बढ़ा कर। धन्यवाद।

**श्रीमती छाया वर्मा:** सर, राज्य सभा देश का सर्वोच्च सदन है और इस सर्वोच्च सदन में बैठने वाले सभी मूर्धन्य लोग विभिन्न राज्यों से आते हैं। आदरणीय गुजराल जी ने बहुत सुंदर issue रखा है कि इसका समय बढ़ाया जाए, इसके दिन बढ़ाए जाएं। मैं उनके इस महत्वपूर्ण बिल का पूरी तरह से हृदय से समर्थन करती हूं। मैं चाहती हूं और इसमें बैठने वाले सभी लोग यह चाह रहे होंगे कि यह ज्यादा दिन चले। यह न केवल ज्यादा दिन चले, बल्कि सदन की उपस्थिति भी ऐसी रहती है कि टीवी में देखें, चाहे यहां बैठें, देखने में शर्म आती है कि इतने बड़े देश का यह सर्वोच्च सदन है और यह सदन खाली-खाली है। मैं चाहती हूं कि यह भी नियम बने कि सभी सदस्य इस सदन में हाउस के adjourn होने तक बैठें।

सर, सदन को चलाना सरकार में बैठे हुए लोगों की जिम्मेदारी है। यह मैं नहीं कह रही हूं, इस बात को सुषमा स्वराज जी ने भी कहा था और जेटली जी ने भी कहा था। जब आप इधर थे और हम उधर थे, तो उन्होंने यह कहा था कि सदन को चलाना शासन की जिम्मेदारी है। अभी सदन नहीं चल रहा है, तो जिम्मेदारी किसकी है, यह मैं नहीं कहूंगी, आप समझ सकते हैं, सदन समझ सकता है कि सदन क्यों नहीं चल रहा है। इसके लिए 100 दिन निश्चित रूप से होने चाहिए। सभी सदस्यों को लगता है कि हम अपनी बात रखें, लेकिन सदन में हम उसे रख नहीं पाते हैं। जब प्रश्न-उत्तर होता है, तो दो बार पूरक प्रश्न पूछने का मौका मिलता है। अगर उसका उत्तर सही नहीं आता है, तो हम वापस प्रश्न नहीं कर पाते हैं। यहां भी अभाव खलता है। कई मेम्बर्स अपनी-अपनी स्टेट्स की बात रखना चाहते हैं, लेकिन वे रख नहीं पाते हैं। इसलिए इसका समय निश्चित रूप से बढ़ाना चाहिए। यहां तक कि आपने बजट सेशन में भी कटौती कर दी है। बजट सत्र को भी बहुत कम दिनों का कर दिया गया है। इसलिए बजट सत्र के दिनों को भी बढ़ाना चाहिए।

अभी जैसा भाई साहब कह रहे थे कि कमिटी की मीटिंग्स भी ठीक से नहीं होती हैं। मैं मानती हूं कि कमिटी में 30-30 मेम्बर्स रहते हैं, लेकिन कभी चार, तो कभी पांच लोगों की उपस्थिति रहती है। अब तो TA/DA की कटौती होने के बाद कोरम के अभाव में भी कमिटी की मीटिंग्स नहीं हो पा रही हैं। इसलिए यह भी इस सदन के लिए चिन्ता का विषय है। सभी सदस्यों को कमिटी मीटिंग्स में अनिवार्य रूप से रहना चाहिए। कमिटी की जो मीटिंग्स होती हैं, वे महत्वपूर्ण होती हैं, लेकिन हम उनको उतनी तवज्जो नहीं देते हैं। कमिटी की मीटिंग है, हमने signature किया और हम चले आते हैं, लेकिन असली बात उस कमिटी में होती है। जो भी नियम बनता है, उस कमिटी में बनता है। तो हमें उस कमिटी की मीटिंग को गंभीरता से लेना चाहिए और उसमें अपनी उपस्थिति अवश्य दर्शानी चाहिए, साथ ही अपनी एवं अपनी स्टेट की बात निश्चित रूप से कहनी चाहिए। पहले, जब मनमोहन सिंह जी प्रधान मंत्री हुआ करते थे, उस समय सदन में जब कभी भी विवाद की स्थिति निर्मित होती थी, तो वे स्वयं

[श्रीमती छाया वर्मा]

तुरंत यहां आ करके उस समस्या को सुलझाते थे और सदन चलता था। लेकिन अभी जो प्रधान मंत्री हैं, वे केवल गुरुवार को ही आते हैं और 10 मिनट बाद चले जाते हैं। मैं कहना चाहती हूं कि उन्हें अपनी जवाबदारी और जिम्मेदारी फील करनी चाहिए। यह देश का सर्वोच्च सदन है, जिसे पूरी दुनिया देख रही है। यह गुजरात की विधान सभा का सदन नहीं है। सदन को चलाना सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है, साथ ही सभी सदस्यों की जिम्मेदारी है कि वे सदन में उपस्थित रहें। श्री गुजराल जी जो प्रस्ताव लेकर आए हैं मैं उसका हृदय से समर्थन करती हूं। मेरी राय है कि सदन 100 दिन ही नहीं, बल्कि 120 दिन चलना चाहिए, धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

It is a great opportunity for all of us to open up our minds to think about the effective parliamentary process and also how to be an effective parliamentarian. We have to all think about this. I am extremely grateful and I also express my wholehearted gratitude to our colleague MP., Naresh Gujralji, for bringing this Bill because we have to make Parliament more effective. He wants the Parliament to function more and be productive also. He has brought this Bill at a time when we all have to make more sensible contributions to this highest institution, the Parliament.

To place my views, first and foremost, we all should agree that Private Members' Bill should be given more space and respect. As you all know, this is an effective Bill. Also, the other Private Member's Bill, the one which was brought by my DMK colleague, Shri Tiruchi Siva, actually made the whole country to think about the transgenders. All of us have to think about it. We all together unanimously passed that Private Member's Bill and after that, the Government brought it as a Government Bill. As you know, transgenders have to undergo numerous hardships every day. They don't have even a bathroom. Bathroom will be 'male-female'; the 'other gender' has no bathrooms. Not only bathrooms. Even in the filling up of forms in the college, there is no column for them. If a transgender wants to get admitted in a college, there will be 'male-female' column; there is no 'transgender' column. So, in each and every place, this whole community, this whole group of people, who are all one among us, has been a neglected group, a discriminated group. People thought that they were all punished by God and they are earning for their livelihood. Like that, there are so many misconceptions. But the Parliament stood up for them, and we enacted a law so that they also find their due respect and live in this land with respect and dignity. So, we have to make more space for Private Members' Bills and also give more respect to these Bills. We have to open up and we have to allow a variety

of ideas to bubble up for the Government. We have to bring more productive ideas to fulfil the grassroot people's intentions. Grassroot people's intentions need to be brought out to the public. The Government will have to listen to non-mainstream points of view and provide official support whenever it is appropriate. We have to enable it, the MPs have to enable it to become the true lawmakers. We have to quickly learn the major topics and also the concerns of some sections, the neglected sections, of the public. As Shrimati Chhaya Verma said, they go to the Parliamentary Committees, just sign and then come away. As our hon. HRD Minister said, in the US, the Parliament functions for 200 days in a year. That is the practice in the western countries. But here we have to think what we need to do. Even if our Parliament is made to function for 200 days, we need to make it productive.

I now come to televising the Committee meetings. Televising the proceedings of Parliamentary Committees...

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): What would happen then is that it would also become like Parliament; there would be no work done there too.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: As rightly said by the hon. Member here, there is bipartisanship and well-researched discussion going on in parliamentary committees. A lot of hard work is being done in the parliamentary committees. A crucial aspect of the parliamentary process is, it is put up from the public side. People should know. If I raise an issue that a person is interested in, he would approach me. He would think, 'yesterday, madam spoke about the safety of women and so, I can approach her.' So, people would come to know that I am interested in a particular subject. We would gain public recognition and respect because we raise a wide range of issues relating to pending legislation. If I am interested in a particular legislation, the people would approach me with their genuine concerns. So, this needs to be made public. The MPs should be given competent research staff. We must be provided with research scholars so that we can be more productive.

Sir, while I was talking to my senior colleague, Shri Manish Gupta, he told me that he always gave 100 per cent attendance when he was a Member of the Legislative Assembly and also when he is an MP. How many of us actually make 100 per cent contribution to the Parliament? People are always watching us. Public Interest Litigations must be enabled. The voices must be heard. People's views must be heard through the voices of the MPs. So, we must have a parliamentary system that would enable MPs

[Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth]

to hear and reflect the viewpoints of the affected citizens, the unheard people. All of us stood up when Nirbhaya case came up, when the case of a 14 year old came up. There are many other things which do not come to the fore. Many newspapers do not project the real situation prevailing in the remotest regions. So, we must create a system so that MPs know and are enabled to hear the viewpoints of the affected citizens. Let us be the voice of the voiceless. Before any legislation is passed, various stakeholders should find a way to articulate their viewpoints in key political decisions. We need to make this more transparent also. Everything is done behind the scenes. It has to be brought to the fore. Economist, Albert Hirschman wrote a book Exit, Voice and Loyalty - responses to decline in organizations and States. This has already been referred to by my senior colleague, Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda. When people cannot express voices, they would choose to exit. Clearly, when the people of India are not able to express their voices through their elected representatives, they would choose to exit the parliamentary system and look for solutions away such as the judiciary and the civil society. We have to express their voice so that people may get confidence and may repose faith on us. So, we have to be the voice of people. Even at this point, we can learn and give a legacy by restoring Parliament's primacy and legitimacy. We can restore it in the eyes of every citizen of our country. With these words, I commend this Bill and highly accolade the great views brought forth by Shri Naresh Gujral. I want this Bill to be passed by Parliament. Thank you.

**श्री हरिवंश (बिहार):** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, समय देने के लिए धन्यवाद। संसद की उत्पादकता बढ़े, इसलिए संसद की उत्पादकता बढ़ाने संबंधी बिल पर हम आज चर्चा कर रहे हैं। जो संसद देश के लिए नीतियां बनाती हैं, उसकी उत्पादकता बढ़े, देश में बेहतर तरीके से काम हो, आज विलम्ब से ही सही कम-से-कम सदन में हम इस बात पर बहस कर रहे हैं, कि जो काम हमें शुरू से करना चाहिए था, उसे करने के लिए हमें यहां बिल लाना पड़ा। इस दृष्टि से मैं वर्तमान बिल का पूरी तरह से समर्थन करता हूं।

दरअसल यह हमारे व्यवहार में उतरे, हम इसे अपनाएं, इसके लिए हम कोशिश करें, परन्तु अपनी बात कहने के लिए मैं जिन बातों से ज्यादा प्रेरित हुआ, उन 4-5 प्वाइंट्स को यहां रखना चाहूंगा। सबसे पहले मैं यहां प्रखर सांसद, माननीय जयराम रमेश जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं। उनका पहला सुझाव आया कि यह सदन सुबह 10.00 बजे से चले, बिल्कुल सही है। इसे अपनाया जाना चाहिए। सदन का 15 दिनों का विशेष सत्र भी हो, इसका उल्लेख भी उन्होंने किया, यह भी बहुत उपयोगी है। तीसरे, उन्होंने पूछा कि हम तो उधर चले जाएंगे, वे इधर आ जाएंगे, लेकिन ये बीच वाले लोग क्या करेंगे? मैं उन्हें बताना चाहता हूं कि माननीय जयराम रमेश जी हम वही करेंगे, जो अब तक करते आए हैं। हम नीति की बात करते रहे हैं लेकिन जब आप वहां जाते हैं, तभी आपका सुझाव क्यों



आता है, तभी आपके दिमाग में क्यों आता है? जब आप यहां थे तो इन चीजों को क्यों नहीं कर सके? यही एक सवाल हम हमेशा करते रहेंगे, महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से उन्हें बताना चाहता हूं।

इस बिल पर चर्चा के दौरान यह बिन्दु भी सामने आया है कि विदेशों में जैसे Parliamentary Democracy में सदन की परंपरा है कि 200 दिनों तक सदन चले, निर्बाध ढंग से चले, यह बिल्कुल अच्छी परंपरा है, परन्तु हम सिर्फ चर्चा के लिए 200 दिन सदन बढ़ाने की बात करें, उसके साथ जो आत्म-नियंत्रण या आत्मानुशासन की चर्चा हम न करें, तो मुझे लगता है कि हमारा यही हाल रहने वाला है। मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगा कि हम चेयर को वे सब अधिकार entrust करें, जो Western Parliamentary democracy में वहां की चेयर को है। अगर हम अनुशासनात्मक तरीके से चलते हैं तो वहां चेयर को यह अधिकार है कि उस पर कार्रवाई करे। मुझे याद है, जब मैं पहली बार इस संसद में आया, हमने यहां कई प्रश्न किए और संयोग से कई बार माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी से सवाल पूछने का अवसर आया, लेकिन सदन नहीं चला क्योंकि सदन उन दिनों हंगामे में था। अगर इस प्रथा को हम तोड़ना चाहते हैं, खत्म करना चाहते हैं तो सबसे पहले मैं सुझाव देना चाहूंगा कि आत्म-अनुशासन यहां हो। आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय जयराम रमेश जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि वे इधर आकर बैठें लेकिन वे उधर क्यों चले गए, यह मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा।

गांधी जी को लगभग 150 वर्ष हो गए हैं। जिन्होंने गांधी जी का नाम सिर्फ अपने राजनीतिक मकसद से, सत्ता के लिए भुनाया, अगर उन्होंने गांधी जी को याद रखा होता, तो आज शायद उन्हें इधर ही रहना होता, उसके पास अवसर होता, फिर इस विषय पर बहस करने की हमें जरूरत ही नहीं पड़ती कि संसद कैसे चले, इसकी उत्पादकता कैसे बढ़े और बेहतर तरीके से यह कैसे कामकाज करे, क्योंकि गांधी जी ने कहा था कि साधन और साध्य एक होना चाहिए। बाद में डा. लोहिया ने उसी बात को कहा कि हमारी कथनी और करनी एक होनी चाहिए। भारतीय राजनीति में यह बात बहुत दूर तक जाएगी अगर हम कहने लगे कि संसद का सत्र छोटा क्यों होने लगा, ऐसा किन लोगों ने किया और किन वजहों से किया? हम इसके विस्तार में नहीं जाना चाहते लेकिन यह बात सही है कि कहीं से इसकी शुरुआत हो और यह काम हो। आपके माध्यम से हम सदन से अनुरोध करना चाहते हैं कि इसमें हम आपके साथ हैं। मैं इस बिल का इसलिए भी समर्थन करता हूं कि कम-से-कम देश के जो बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय हैं, जो आते ही नहीं, आज से 20 वर्ष बाद यह देश किस हालत में पहुंचने वाला है, महज 10-15 वर्षों बाद दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी आबादी वाला देश होने वाला है, तब उसके पीने के पानी की क्या स्थिति होगी, एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडक्शन की क्या स्थिति है, दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा माइग्रेशन गांवों से शहरों में होने वाला है, उसकी कोई तैयारी नहीं है और इस तरह के अनेक विषय हैं, जिन पर हमें बहस करनी चाहिए। आज मनुष्य का human survival कई चीजों से जुड़ा हुआ है, उन पर बहस नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूं कि इसके लिए सदन जरूर बेहतर तरीके से चले, लेकिन सदन चले, तो कम-से-कम गांधी जी को ही याद करके हम अनुशासित हों, मर्यादित ढंग से आचरण करें, लोकतांत्रिक आचरण हो। यह तो हम अभी भी कर सकते हैं, इसके लिए हमें बिल की जरूरत नहीं है। अगर हम ये करते हैं, तो 1950-60 के सदन की जो स्थिति थी, जो उसकी मर्यादा थी और इसका शोक गीत आज कल हम लोग अक्सर सुना करते हैं कि यह सदन वह था, आज यह हो गया, वह तो तुरंत खत्म हो सकता है। इसके लिए तो हमारे प्रयास की जरूरत है। हममें से हर एक के प्रयास की जरूरत है।

[श्री हरिवंश]

सर, मैं दो और छोटी चीजें कहना चाहूंगा। चूंकि हम देश की नीतियां बनाते हैं और कहा गया कि देश की सबसे बड़ी चौपाल, पंचायत यही है, बिल्कुल सही है, पर हमारे यहां महाभारत में कहा गया, 'महाजनो येन गतः स पन्थाः', जो लोग ऊपर बैठे हैं, श्रेष्ठ पदों पर हैं, उनका आचरण जनता फॉलो करती है। जब हमने यह काम करना शुरू किया कि 1960-70 में जो इस संसद की ग्लोरी थी, इस राज्य सभा की ग्लोरी थी, उसको खत्म करना शुरू किया, तो गांव की पंचायतों तक वह हालत पहुंच गई, इसलिए हम कम-से-कम यह आत्मनियंत्रण रखें।

महोदय, अंतिम बात यह है कि हम गांधी जी की जन्मशती का 150वां वर्ष मना रहे हैं और हर व्यक्ति, हर दल को, मैंने सुना है कि वे गांधी की बात करते ही हैं और करनी चाहिए, पर कम-से-कम गांधी जी ने अपने राजनीतिक कार्यकर्ताओं के लिए आश्रम में रहने के लिए जो आचार संहिता बनाई थी या जो लोग सार्वजनिक जीवन में जा रहे हैं, उनके लिए जो आचार संहिता बनाई थी, अगर हम कम-से-कम वह पालन करने लगे और जो सबसे पहले, जिन्होंने गांधी जी के नाम पर सत्ता पाई थी, अगर उन लोगों ने किया होता, तो आज इस मुल्क की यह हालत नहीं होती। आपको मालूम है कि गांधी जी ने उत्तराखंड में दो दिनों तक बैठ कर गीता पर टिप्पणी लिखी। उन्होंने उसमें लिखा कि जो कृष्ण ने कहा है, गीता में कहा कि ऊपर बैठे लोग जैसे करेंगे, नीचे वैसी चीज आएगी, तो कम-से-कम गांधी जी को याद करके हम सब अपना अनुशासित आचरण, बेहतर तरीके से काम, जो समय तय है, उसके तहत अपनी बात करना शुरू करें, तो अपने कंडक्ट से इस हाउस की वह ग्लोरी और रेपुटेशन हम लोग पा सकते हैं, जो पहले थी। यह बात कहते हुए मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं और मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि सदन का सत्र बढ़ेगा और सार्थक चर्चाएं होंगी, धन्यवाद।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** श्री संजय सिंह जी।

**श्री संजय सिंह:** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज सदन के माननीय सदस्य, आदरणीय नरेश गुजराल जी के बिल के समर्थन में मैं अपनी बात कहने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। मान्यवर, मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन इसलिए करना चाहता हूं क्योंकि पूरा देश लोकतंत्र के इस मंदिर की ओर बड़ी उम्मीदों से देखता है। उसको उम्मीद होती है कि इस सर्वोच्च सदन में हमारे लिए नीतियां बनेंगी, युवाओं के लिए, किसानों के लिए, बेरोजगारों के लिए, मजदूरों के लिए, रिक्शे वालों के लिए, ऑटो वालों के लिए, फुटपाथ पर रहने वालों के लिए, लेकिन जब वह आम आदमी देखता है कि सदन का पूरा समय सिर्फ आपस में बहस करने में, एक-दूसरे पर हल्ला-गुल्ला करने में, हाउस के बीच में यानी वेल के अंदर नारे लगाने में बीत जाता है, तो उसको कहीं न कहीं मन में पीड़ा होती है।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता) पीठासीन हुए]

मान्यवर, इस सदन की गरिमा के बारे में हम लोगों ने बहुत कहानियां पढ़ी हैं। मुझे हिन्दुस्तान के प्रख्यात समाजवादी चिन्तक, आदरणीय रघु ठाकुर जी के साथ 14 साल काम करने का सौभाग्य मिला और जब मैं उनके साथ प्रशिक्षण शिविर में जाता था, तो वे बताते थे कि स्वर्गीय डा. राम मनोहर लोहिया, लोक सभा के अंदर जिनका कार्यकाल मात्र 5 वर्षों का रहा, उस लोहिया के बोलने पर सात

खंडों में मोटी-मोटी, हजार पन्ने, पांच सौ पन्ने की किताबें छपी हैं। उन्होंने इतने समय तक देश के सदन में जनता की बातों को उठाने का काम किया।

मान्यवर, जहां तक सदन की गरिमा का प्रश्न है, हम लोगों को यूट्यूब पर कुछ विडियोज़ देखने को मिलते हैं, पिछले दिनों मैंने यूट्यूब पर अटल जी का एक भाषण सुना। उस भाषण में लोक सभा में परमाणु नीति पर बहस हो रही थी। उस बहस में स्वर्गीय श्री चन्द्रशेखर जी देश के पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री के तौर पर परमाणु नीति पर बोल रहे थे, उसमें उनका मत सरकार से अलग था। उसका जवाब देने के लिए खड़े हुए तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री, श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी ने कहा कि मुझे खेद है कि मैं देश के पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री श्री चन्द्रशेखर जी की बातों से असहमत हूं। महोदय, यह उनका अपनी बात कहने का तरीका था। इस सदन में इस सरलता सहजता के साथ एक-दूसरे से संवाद होता था।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, लोकतंत्र के चार स्तंभ हैं-कार्यपालिका, विधायिका, न्यायपालिका और पत्रकारिता, लेकिन आज कहीं से कोई उम्मीद नज़र नहीं आती है। आप कार्यपालिका को देखिए, उसमें अधिकारी अपनी मनमानी करते रहते हैं। भ्रष्टाचार जारी है, उस पर कोई अंकुश नहीं है। विधायिका को देखिए, उसमें काम नहीं होता है। न्यायपालिका को देखिए, उसमें करोड़ों केस पेंडिंग पड़े हुए हैं। न्यायपालिका में फरियाद सुनने वाला कोई नहीं है, लोग सालों-साल से न्यायालय के चक्कर काट रहे हैं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि पत्रकारिता की हालत यह है कि कल देश के तीन प्रतिष्ठित पत्रकारों को सत्ता पक्ष का विरोध करने के नाम पर एक टी.वी. चैनल से बाहर कर दिया गया। मुझे ऐसी घटनाओं पर शर्म आती है। लोगों से बोलने की आज़ादी छीनी जा रही है, लोकतंत्र में अपनी बातें कहने की आज़ादी छीनी जा रही है। महोदय, यह लोकतंत्र का सर्वोच्च सदन है, सर्वोच्च मंदिर है। अगर हम लोग इस मंदिर में अपनी पीड़ा, अपनी बात नहीं रख पाएंगे, तो मुझे यह नहीं लगता कि देश में कोई और माध्यम जनता की बात को आगे पहुंचाने का है। हमसे लोगों की उम्मीदें होती हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पिछले दिनों शिक्षा मित्रों के मुद्दे पर अपनी बात रखी थी। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि सुहागिन महिलाओं ने बेरोज़गारी से पीड़ित होकर अपने सिर मुंडवाए। माननीय एच.आर.डी. मिनिस्टर साहब यहां बैठे हैं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि पूरे देश में प्रेरक शिक्षक रखे गए थे, जिनकी संख्या पांच लाख से ज्यादा है। आप उनको बहुत मामूली मानदेय की राशि देते थे। अब वह राशि पिछले 32 महीने से मिलनी बंद है, वे लोग भुखमरी के कगार पर हैं। एक इक़बाल साकिब नाम के लड़के ने मुझे बिहार से फोन किया और वह फोन पर बात करते-करते रोने लगा। उसने मुझसे कहा कि आप लोग वहां बैठे हैं, आप लोग हमारी बात क्यों नहीं उठाते? हमें 30 महीने से तनख्वाह नहीं मिली है, हम लोग मर जाएंगे, हमें कौन पूछने वाला है? मैं कहना चाहता हूं, इस सदन में चर्चा नहीं होती है। यहां हम लोग एक-दूसरे पर आरोप-प्रत्यारोप में समय बर्बाद कर देते हैं और जब यहां से बाहर निकलते हैं, तो इसी गैलरी में एक-दूसरे से बहुत अच्छे से बात करते हैं, गले भी मिलते हैं। जब हम सेंट्रल हॉल में जाते हैं, तब साथ में बैठकर चाय भी पीते हैं, आराम से खाते-पीते हैं। तब एक-दूसरे के प्रति कोई दुर्भावना नहीं होती है, लेकिन सदन में जनता की बात नहीं उठती है।

महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि श्री नरेश गुजराल जी ने एक बहुत अच्छी पहल की है, बहुत ही सार्थक कदम उठाया है। मैं समझता हूं कि आज सरकार को इच्छा-शक्ति दिखानी चाहिए, क्योंकि

[श्री संजय सिंह]

आपके ऊपर सवाल उठता है कि आप सदन नहीं चलने देना चाहते हैं। आपके ऊपर सवाल उठता है कि आप इस सदन के कार्यकाल को छोटा करना चाहते हैं। यह आपके लिए बहुत अच्छा मौका है, एक सुअवसर है। जब सारा का सारा विपक्ष इस बिल के समर्थन में है और सत्ता पक्ष के लोग भी कह रहे हैं कि हम इस बिल के समर्थन में हैं, तो आप इस बिल को पास कीजिए।

महोदय, एक बात की चर्चा श्री हरिवंश जी और श्री जयराम रमेश जी ने भी की कि हमारे लिए भी कुछ आचार संहिताएं तय होनी चाहिए। अगर कोई कर्मचारी अपने ऑफिस में नहीं जाता है, दस दिन तक नहीं जाता है, तो उसको नोटिस मिल जाता है। अगर वह एक महीने नहीं जाता है, तो उसके सस्पेंशन की कार्रवाई हो जाती है। अगर वह ऑफिस नहीं जाता है, तो उसकी तनखाह कट जाती है, लेकिन यहां पर पार्लियामेंट के मेंबर्स आए या न आए, दस्तखत करें या न करें, जितनी देर मन हो, वे बैठें, फिर चले जाएं, उनके लिए किसी भी प्रकार का कोई नियम, कोई आचार संहिता नहीं है। वे अपना काम मनमाने ढंग से करते हैं। श्री वि. विजयसाई रेड्डी जी ने यहां पर जो कहा कि जो लोग इस सदन में आए हैं, और वे काम नहीं करते, तो उनकी तनखाह की कटौती का प्रावधान किया जाना चाहिए, इस बात का मैं समर्थन करता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अंत में मैं सिर्फ एक बात कहूंगा कि इस सदन ने डा. लोहिया जी को भी देखा है, श्री मधु लिमये जी को भी देखा है, इस सदन ने पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू को भी देखा है, इस सदन ने हिन्दुस्तान के ऐसे तमाम लोगों को देखा है और जय जवान-जय किसान का नारा देने वाले स्वर्गीय लालबहादुर शास्त्री जी को भी देखा है। हमारी उस परम्परा को कायम रखने के लिए, लोकतंत्र में जनता की बातों का सर्वाच्च सदन में सार्थक बहस के ज़रिए समाधान करने के लिए इस सदन का न्यूनतम 120 दिन चलना जरूरी है। आप 15 दिनों के स्पेशल सेशन की जो बात कर रहे हैं, वह प्रावधान भी लाया जाए, हम उसका भी समर्थन करेंगे। इन्हीं बातों के साथ, अंत में मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि नरेश गुजराल जी जो यह बिल लाये हैं, इसका मैं आम आदमी पार्टी की ओर से हृदय की गहराइयों से समर्थन करता हूं और आपको बधाई और धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने यह पहल की है। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया :** दिल्ली की असेम्बली कितने घंटे चलती है?...**(व्यवधान)**...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया जी।

**SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH:** Sir, I have a suggestion. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री संजय सिंह:** सर, माननीय सदस्य की ओर से एक सवाल आया है कि पूरे देश की विधान सभाओं के कार्यकाल का आकलन किया जाए और दिल्ली की विधान सभा कितने घंटे चलती है, उसका भी आकलन किया जाए। इसके लिए मैं आपका खुले तौर पर स्वागत करता हूं। विधान सभाओं पर भी नियम लागू कीजिए, कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। यह आपने अच्छी बात कही है। आप हमारी बातों का समर्थन कर रहे हैं।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** ठीक है। डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया जी।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I have a suggestion to make. ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता): आपका क्या suggestion है?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, since everybody agrees, why not call for a vote on the Bill right now? ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us call for a vote right now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विजय गोयल): फिर डिस्कशन की जरूरत क्या थी? ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपने अपना भाषण कर लिया, अब आप कह रहे हैं कि सीधा वोट कर लो! ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... There are other speakers also. Mr. Hussain Dalwai is there from that side. Dr. Sanjay Sinh is also there from that side.

श्री विजय गोयल: आप कमाल करते हैं, जयराम रमेश जी! आप अपना भाषण करने के बाद कहते हैं कि वोट कर लो! ...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता): अभी दो-तीन स्पीकर्स और हैं।

श्री नारायण लाल पंचारिया: सर, यह विषय बहुत गंभीर है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, इस पर मुझे भी बोलना है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता): जटिया जी, आप बोलिए।

डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया: माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सदन का ध्यान काम की ओर निश्चित रूप से आकर्षित करने के लिए श्रीमान् गुजराल जी ने जो एक अवसर उपलब्ध कराया है, उसके लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। हम लोकतांत्रिक परम्परा के लोग हैं। लोक सभा में अध्यक्ष की आसंदी के ऊपर जो बोध वाक्य लिखा है, वह है - "धर्मचक्र-प्रवर्तनाय।" समाज का संचालन करने के लिए जो-जो व्यवस्था देनी है, उसको निर्देशित करने का एक उपाय यह संसद भी है। हम जानते हैं कि हमारी इस परम्परा को स्थापित करने के लिए हमारे भारत के संविधान में सब प्रकार के प्रावधान किए गए हैं और भारत के संविधान का जो Preamble है, उसमें भी बड़े स्पष्ट रूप से हमारा ध्येय लिख दिया गया है। वह उद्देशिका है- "We, the People of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens, justice, social, economic and political..." यह जो Preamble में प्रारंभिक रूप से कहा गया है, वह justice है, liberty है, equality है, fraternity है, यानी वह न्याय, स्वतंत्रता, समता, समानता और बंधुता है। सबको समानता का अधिकार है, इससे कम में समझौता कैसा? कहीं स्वर्ग है, तो स्वर्ग-मोक्ष से भी इन्कार, तो ये जिन्दगी के मकसद हैं। यह कहा गया है:

"तू जिन्दा है तो जिन्दगी की जीत पर यक्रीन कर,  
यदि कहीं है स्वर्ग तो, उतार ला ज़मीन पर।"

[डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया]

हम तो इस लोकतंत्र की पद्धति से यहीं स्वर्ग बनाएंगे। इसलिए इस पद्धति में जो तीन प्रमुख विधाएं लिखी हुई हैं, उनमें से एक विधायिका है और विधायिका को समय होना चाहिए। आखिर, विधायक चुनकर क्यों आते हैं, संसद सदस्य चुनकर क्यों आते हैं? अब यह बात अलग है कि उनकी जनता के प्रति जो जवाबदेही है, उस जवाबदेही का निर्वहन करना, संसद की कार्यवाही को करना और उसके अपने जो एक बहु-उद्देश्यीय-बहुआयामी आचरण होते हैं, उन्हें बहुत सावधानीपूर्वक करने होते हैं। जो चुनकर आते हैं, जो सीधे वोटों से चुनकर आते हैं, जो विधान सभाओं में चुनकर आते हैं, जो स्थानीय स्वायत्त संस्थाओं में चुनकर आते हैं और जो वार्ड में नगरपालिका कॉरपोरेशन में चुनकर आते हैं, उनका सामाजिक व व्यावहारिक जीवन बड़ा चुनौतीपूर्ण है। हम तो राज्य सभा में हैं। हमको अनुभव के कारण से राज्य सभा में होना चाहिए, लोग ऐसा हमारे बारे में मानते हैं। उस अनुभव से हमको व्यावहारिक रूप से किस तरह से कानून और देश की सहायता करने के लिए उपाय करने चाहिए, इसके लिए कहा गया है, इसलिए हम इस संवाद की प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से कुछ निष्कर्ष निकालना चाहते हैं। जब हम किसी भी बात या hypothesis के बारे में विचार करते हैं तो वाद-प्रतिवाद और संवाद ऐसा होता ही है। इसलिए यदि किसी सरकार ने अपना पक्ष रखा है, तो उसके बारे में चर्चा करना, उसके प्रतिवाद को करना, उस चर्चा का निष्कर्ष क्या है, उसको स्वीकार करना आदि वाद-प्रतिवाद और संवाद के माध्यम से चर्चा को आगे बढ़ाते हैं और लोकतंत्र को पुष्ट करने का काम करते हैं। हमारे लिए कहा गया है कि 'सं गच्छध्वं' हम सब राष्ट्र के कार्य के लिए साथ-साथ चलें, 'सं वदध्वं', हम बातचीत करें व चर्चा करें, 'सं वो मनांसि जानताम्' हम मन से सबको समझें और मन से समझने के लिए निकट आना होता है, मन से समझने के लिए एक-दूसरे की भावनाओं का आदर करना होता है, यदि हमने एक-दूसरे की भावनाओं का आदर नहीं किया, हमने उसकी बात समझने के लिए अवसर नहीं निकाला, तो निश्चित रूप से कोलाहल होगा। कोलाहल किसी भी समस्या का हल नहीं है। यह बात अलग है कि देश में जिस प्रकार की राजनीति और जिस प्रकार का वातावरण हो गया है, उसमें जहां हर प्रकार का प्रदूषण हुआ है, उस प्रदूषण से हम भी वंचित नहीं हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में जैसा कहा गया है कि "सं गच्छध्वं सं वदध्वं, सं वो मनांसि जानताम्" अब मनपूर्वक समझना है। "समानो मन्त्रः", फिर हमारा मंत्र एक ही है।

"राष्ट्रभक्ति ले हृदय में हो खड़ा यदि देश सारा,  
संकटों पर मात कर यह राष्ट्र विजयी हो हमारा ॥"

इस राष्ट्र के लिए 'राष्ट्राय इदम् न मम, राष्ट्राय स्वाहा' राष्ट्र के लिए हमारा सब कुछ समर्पण करना, ऐसा उद्देश्य लेकर ही काम करने का ध्येय हमारा सबका है। राष्ट्र के लिए जब हम काम करने वाले हैं, तो बाकी का संसद का सारा समय इस प्रकार के कामों में चला जाए, मुझे तो कभी-कभी बड़ा आश्चर्य और अचम्भा भी लगता है। मैंने कभी नहीं सोचा था कि मैं संसद में आ पाऊंगा या नहीं आ पाऊंगा। मैं एक सामान्य कार्यकर्ता रहा और सामान्य कार्यकर्ता होने के नाते जब हम जनसंघ में काम करते थे, तो सत्ता में आना बहुत दूर-दूर की बात हुआ करती थी। हमारे यहां यदि कहीं किसी नगरपंचायत या नगरपालिका में पार्षद जीत कर आ जाता था, तो उस पार्षद के जीतने के समाचार को लेकर हम अपने-अपने स्थानों पर जुलूस निकाला करते थे कि वहां पर जीत गए हैं, यहां नहीं जीते

हैं। आज इन्हीं परिस्थितियों से निकलकर कार्यकर्ता के नाते से हम जब चले थे, तो हमें नहीं पता था कि हम कभी संसद में आ पाएंगे या कभी मैं संसद में आ पाऊंगा। सहयोग की बात है कि भारतीय जनसंघ का काम करते-करते आपातकाल का सामना करना पड़ा। आपातकाल में रहने से मुझे यह फायदा हुआ कि वहां पर मैंने अपनी लॉ की परीक्षा पास कर ली और वहीं पर हमारा थिंक्स को पढ़ने का काम हो गया, तो सारे थिंक्स कामटे से लेकर गांधी तक जितने भी थिंक्स थे, मार्क्स वगैरह को पढ़ लिया और बाहर आकर पीएचडी कर लिया। निश्चित रूप से राजनीति की राह पर और इस प्रवाह पर चलते-चलते मुझे जो संस्कार मिले हैं, उन संस्कारों के कारण जब हम यहां पर आ गए हैं, यहां पर आकर जब हम देखते हैं कि सारा दिन बिना काम किए हुए चला गया, तो मन को क्षोभ होता है, मन में क्लेश होता है कि क्या हम इसीलिए हैं? जिन्दगी का ज्यादातर समय इसी में निकल गया, क्योंकि संयोग से मुझे 9 लोक सभा के चुनाव लड़ने का मौका मिला, विधान सभा के तीन चुनाव लड़ने का मौका मिला, ऐसे कारणों से भी सब समय चुनावों में गया है। काम के लिए जितना समय चाहिए था, उतना समय नहीं निकल पाया है। जब हम ऐसा विचार करते हैं, तो मेरे मन में काफी तकलीफ होती है। स्वाभाविक रूप से हर कोई सोचता होगा, तो उसको ऐसा लगता होगा कि हम जिस उद्देश्य के लिए यहां पर आए हैं, वह पूरा नहीं हो रहा है। गुजराल जी ने कहा है कि यह सारी चर्चाओं के माध्यम से सुलझ सकता है, आखिर लोकतंत्र पद्धति क्या है? लोकतंत्र विचार-विमर्श की ही पद्धति है। उस वक्त जब युद्ध होते थे और युद्ध होने के बाद कोई जीत जाता था, पर जीत कर क्या जीतता था? इतने लोगों की क्षति हो जाती थी, जन-धन की जितनी क्षति हो जाती थी, जितना नुकसान हो जाता था, क्या कोई उसकी भरपाई कर सकता था? नहीं। हम वाणी के आधार पर, अपनी जो बुद्धि है, अपनी जो मेधा है, उस मेधा के द्वारा उपाय ढूंढकर निकाल लेते हैं। तर्कों के आधार पर तर्क होते हैं। किसी के लिए वे तर्क होते हैं, किसी के लिए कुतर्क होते हैं, तो किसी के लिए तथ्य होते हैं। इसी आधार पर हमें जो बुद्धिमानी मिली हुई है, उस बुद्धिमानी का हम इस प्रकार से उपयोग करते हैं। कभी-कभी उसका, ऐसा दूसरे लोग कहते हैं, हम उसका दुरुपयोग करते हैं। यह मेधा जो मिली हुई है, यह बुद्धि जो मिली हुई है, हमें उसको समाज के हित में लगाना चाहिए।

"ओं यां मेधां देवगणाः पितरश्चोपासते।

तया मामद्य मेधया ग्ने मेधाविनं कुरु स्वाहा॥"

जो हमें यह बुद्धि, यह मेधा मिली हुई है, यह हमारे गुरुजनों के अनुसार समाज के कामों के लिए, समाज के कल्याण के लिए और उन पर विचार करने के लिए लगनी चाहिए। यह करने के लिए हमें यह मिली हुई है। हमारे यहां कहा गया है - 'सत्यमेव जयते'। सत्य की विजय होती है। यह हमारा अपना बौद्ध वाक्य भी है। "सत्यमेव जयते नानृतम्।" सत्य की विजय होती है, असत्य की नहीं होती है। "सत्येन पंथा विततो देवयानः" यही दिव्यता का मार्ग है। "यत्र तत् सत्यस्य परमम् निधानम्" - यही हमारे लिए समाधान का कारण है। हम सब लोग यहां पर बैठकर सत्य का अनुमान ही तो कर रहे हैं - परंतु सत्य का अनुसंधान करते-करते इतने व्यवधान, तो उसमें से कहां निकलेगा समाधान? सत्य को सत्य समझना और समझाना बहुत कठिन है।

"सच को न समझा, न सच को जाना।

सच सदा से रहा अनसमझा, अनजाना॥"

[डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया]

सच यह है कि सच को सच बताएं और बताएं कैसे? और सच यह भी कि सच को सच समझाएं तो समझाएं कैसे? क्योंकि सच के रास्ते में मुश्किलें हैं ज्यादा, बोलो तुम्हारा क्या है इरादा? साथ चल सको, तो साथ में आओ और न चल सको तो यहीं ठहर जाओ। सच का कहां कारवां होता है, सच तो हमेशा अकेला चला है। तभी तो कहा है लोग आते गए और कारवां बनता गया। इसलिए सत्य और अहिंसा के मार्ग पर चलकर जिस तरह हमारे मार्गदर्शी नेताओं ने हमारा मार्गदर्शन किया है, हमें निश्चित रूप से उसका पालन करना जरूरी है - जितना समय हमें यहां पर मिलता है उतने समय में। अब यह बात मैं कह रहा हूं और मुझे पता है कि आगे क्या होने वाला है। क्योंकि कहना है और मौका मिला है तो अपनी भावनाओं को व्यक्त करना है, तो जरूर मैं इस तरह से बात को कहना चाहूंगा। मुझे याद है, मैं एक विषय को उठाना चाहता था। मैं तीन दिनों तक उस विषय को ज़ीरो ऑवर में उठाने के लिए देता रहा। एक दिन हंगामा हुआ। दूसरे दिन दिया, नहीं आया। तीसरे दिन भी दिया, वह फिर भी नहीं आया। फिर भी लगातार देता रहा, तो आखिर में आ ही गया। परंतु इतना करने के बाद आया, तो मुझे समझ में नहीं आया कि इतनी देर क्यों लगी? मैं यह प्रश्न मेरे मित्रों से पूछना चाहता हूं कि इतनी देर क्यों लगी? आखिर मैं जनहित की बात ही कहना चाहता था। ऐसी मुश्किल परिस्थितियां और चुनौतियां यदि इस लोकतंत्र के रास्ते में हैं, तो उसके लिए कोई दोषी नहीं है। हमें ही मिलकर इस पद्धति को सुधारने के लिए उपाय करना होगा। यदि हम चाहते हैं कि इस पद्धति में सुधार हो तो निश्चित रूप से हरेक व्यक्ति को अपने-अपने तरीके से सोचना होगा। यदि हम सोच लेंगे, तो निश्चित रूप से हमारा वह मार्ग कठिन भी नहीं होगा। इस रास्ते पर मनुष्य होने के नाते चलना होगा। मनुष्य होना बड़ा मुश्किल है। हमारे यहां तो कहा है:

"बड़े भाग मानुष तन पावा,  
सुर दुर्लभ सद् ग्रन्थन्धि गावा,  
कबहुंक करि करुणा नर देहि,  
देत ईस बिनु हेतु सनेही।"

यदि परमात्मा ने, प्रकृति ने हमें यह शरीर दिया है तो इस शरीर को देने के पीछे कोई तो उद्देश्य रहा होगा। यदि परमात्मा से हमें निस्वार्थ रूप से और लोक कल्याण के लिए यह जीवन मिला है तो निश्चित रूप से हमें उसे लोक कल्याण करने के लिए अर्पित करना ही चाहिए। लोक कल्याण के लिए उसे अर्पित करने की दृष्टि से हमें निश्चित रूप से बड़े उपाय करने होंगे, संयम बरतना होगा और जो हमारे लिए आचरण की मर्यादाएं हैं, उनका पालन करना होगा। हमारे जो आचरण हैं, उनमें सत्य है, अहिंसा है, अपरिग्रह है, अचौर्य है और ब्रह्मचर्य है। इस प्रकार से इन सारे नियमों का पालन करते हुए, व्यक्तिशः जीवन को आदर्श बनाकर, सामाजिक जीवन में इन सभी को अपना आदर्श बनाकर, संसद में जो हमें जनता ने भरोसा करके भेजा है, उस भरोसे पर खरा उतरने का काम करना होगा। हम एक ऐसा क्षितिज बनाएं, जिससे कि हम राष्ट्र की उन्नति के लिए, भारत में अपना यश स्थापित करने के लिए और लोक कल्याण के लिए हमें जो उद्देश्य मिला हुआ है, उसको पूरा करने का उपाय करें।

"क्षितिज तक प्रत्येक दिशि में, हम उठें नवप्राण भरने..."

मैं conclude कर रहा हूं।...(व्यवधान)...



4.00 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): He is concluding.

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया:** जब सत्यनारायण बोल ही रहा है, तो ...(व्यवधान)... मैं तो अपने कष्ट का निवेदन कर रहा हूँ। यह सत्यनारायण की कथा नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)... रमेश जी, यह सत्यनारायण की कथा नहीं है, यह मेरी व्यथा है, ये मेरे कष्ट हैं, इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि हम एक अच्छा क्षितिज बनाएं, जिससे चर्चा करके लोकतंत्र को सार्थक करने के उपाय करें।

"क्षितिज तक प्रत्येक दिशि में, हम उठें नवप्राण भरने,  
नवसृजन की साध लें, हम उठें निर्माण करने,  
साधना के दीप शुभ हों, ज्ञान का आलोक छाए,  
नष्ट तृष्णा के तिमिर हों, धाम अपना जगमगाए।"

निश्चित रूप से इस अवसर पर हम राष्ट्र के निर्माण के लिए अपना योगदान कर पाएं, ऐसी शुभकामनाएं व्यक्त करते हुए मैं पुनः यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गुजराल जी ने विधेयक लाकर एक अच्छा काम किया है और राष्ट्र को सोचने के लिए, हम सबको विचार करने के लिए प्रेरित किया है कि जो समय मिल रहा है, उस समय का अधिकतम सदुपयोग कैसे किया जा सके और अधिकतम समय चर्चाओं में कैसे निकाला जा सके, जो हमारी समितियां हैं, जो रिपोर्ट देती हैं, उन पर चर्चाएं कैसे की जा सकें, उसको सार्थक बनाने के लिए जो-जो उपाय करने चाहिए, वे हमें करने हैं - इतना निवेदन करते हुए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि:

"अंदाज़-ए-बयां गरचे बहुत शोख नहीं है,  
शायद कि उतर जाए, तेरे दिल में मेरी बाता।"  
हिन्दुस्तान ज़िन्दाबाद।

**श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र):** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया साहब का बौद्धिक सुना, मुझे अच्छा लगा। मैं भी एक ऐसी परम्परा से आया हूँ, जहां बौद्धिक चलता था - आपका अलग और हमारा अलग था। गुजराल साहब बहुत अच्छे समय पर यह बिल लेकर आए हैं। हम सब लोग बड़ी गंभीरता से इसके ऊपर बहस कर रहे हैं, यह अच्छी बात है। कुछ बातें खुल्लम-खुल्ला करना बहुत जरूरी होता है। हमेशा यह कहा जाता था कि पार्लियामेंट का सेशन चार महीने चलता है। बजट सेशन दो महीने और एक-एक महीना करके दो बार और सेशन चलता है। यह पार्लियामेंट असेंबली नहीं है, यहां बहुत सारे बिल आते हैं। कल ही माननीय पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर, गोयल साहब ने अगले हफ्ते क्या-क्या होने वाला है, क्या-क्या करना बाकी रहता है, जब यह लिस्ट पढ़ी तो ऐसा लगा कि आगे एक साल अगर पार्लियामेंट चलेगी तो यह भी लिस्ट पूरी नहीं होगी। पार्लियामेंट का जो सेशन तीन-तीन हफ्ते का किया गया है, वह बिल्कुल गैर है। मैं सरकार से विनती करूंगा कि जो चार महीने सेशन चलता था, उसे चलने दें। गुजराल साहब तो कहते हैं कि एक स्पेशल सेशन भी लाइए। कई बातें ऐसी होती हैं, जैसे अभी एनआरसी का मामला आया, उसके ऊपर दो-चार दिन तक बहस होनी चाहिए, लोगों का उस संबंध में क्या कहना है, उसे सुनना चाहिए, लेकिन इस तरह की बहस नहीं

[श्री हुसैन दलवाई ]

होती है। बहस भी लिमिटेड होती है। मैंने तीन-तीन दिन तक लगातार lynching के ऊपर प्रस्ताव दिया, लेकिन मुझे कोई मौका नहीं दिया गया। तीन दिन से मैं महाराष्ट्र के पुणे के संजय नाहर का सवाल उठाना चाहता हूँ। उनके ऊपर हमला होना संभव है, उनको threat दिया गया है, लेकिन मुझे वह सवाल उठाने का मौका नहीं मिला। कई सवाल हैं। 20 तारीख को हमारे नरेन्द्र दाभोलकर को मारा गया, उसको पांच साल हो गए हैं, आज तक, जिन्होंने मारा, किसने मारा वह सबको मालूम है। कौन सा संगठन उसके साथ है, सबको पता है। जैसे गांधी जी को मारने वाला कौन सा संगठन है, यह पटेल साहब ने लिखा था, उसी तरह से यह संगठन कौन सा है, वह सबको मालूम है, तो भी उसके ऊपर कुछ नहीं हुआ। पंसारे साहब मारे गए उसके ऊपर भी कुछ नहीं हुआ, गौरी लंकेश मारी गई, कलबुर्गी साहब मारे गए, लेकिन कुछ नहीं होता है। इस देश में इस तरह से हिंसा बढ़ना चिंता की बात है। कौन क्या खाता है, कौन क्या नहीं खाता है, इसके संबंध में हमारी महाराष्ट्र सरकार एक बिल लाने वाली थी, परंतु लाई नहीं क्योंकि गड़बड़ी हो गई। किसके घर में क्या हो रहा है यह देखने के लिए पुलिस चूल्हे तक जाएगी? अगर मेरे घर में मटन बन रहा है और पुलिस यह कहती है कि यह गौमांस है, यह सच है या नहीं है यह 3-4 महीने के बाद तय होगा, लेकिन मैं 3-4 महीने तक अंदर रहूंगा। मेरे ख्याल से तलाक का जो मामला है, उसमें भी बातचीत करके ठीक ढंग से हल निकाला जा सकता है। यह तीन तलाक इस्लाम में है ही नहीं, लेकिन इस पर ठीक ढंग से बहस ही नहीं हुई है। इस पर बहस करने के बजाय, इसका हल निकालने के बजाय, इसे इलेक्शन का मुद्दा बनाया जाता है। एन.आर.सी. के मुद्दे को भी इलेक्शन का मुद्दा बनाया गया है। किसी दूसरे देश के लोग यहां रह रहे हैं, तो उसका समर्थन कांग्रेस पार्टी नहीं करती है, हम तो बिल्कुल ही नहीं करते हैं, लेकिन उनकी जहां पर सरकार है, वहां ऐसे लोगों ने जगह ली है, बड़े पैमाने पर जमीन ली है, यहूदी लोगों ने जमीन ली है, अलग-अलग देशों के लोगों ने ली है। अगर इस पर ठीक ढंग से सवाल होते या चर्चा होती, बहस होती, तो हम यह बता देते। महिलाओं के ऊपर अत्याचार हो रहा है। बिहार का मामला आ गया कि बच्चियों के साथ बलात्कार हुए और आश्रम में हुए। यह बहुत बुरी बात है। आज हमारे देश का पूरी दुनिया में ऐसा नक्शा जा रहा है, ऐसी इमेज जा रही है कि इस देश में मत जाइए, यहां अत्याचार होते हैं। अगर इसके बारे में हमें सीरियसली बहस करनी है, तो मेरे ख्याल से वक्त की पाबन्दी लगाना गलत बात है। जावडेकर साहब यहां हैं, हम दोनों महाराष्ट्र की विधान परिषद् में थे। जब बिल के ऊपर चर्चा होती थी, तो टाइम का कोई बंधन नहीं होता था। हमारे एक साथी ने तो तीन दिन लगातार भाषण किया था। आज आप बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बिल भी घंटा-डेढ़ घंटा चर्चा करके पास कर देना चाहते हैं, क्योंकि आपके पास टाइम नहीं है। हर मसले पर ठीक ढंग से बहस करके उसका हल निकल सकता है। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि आपको छोड़कर यहां के सारे लोग उदारमतवादी हैं। आप ज़रा कट्टर मत वाले हैं, इसलिए कट्टरपंथी हैं। यहां पर बहस हुई थी कि लोग वेल में जाते हैं, वे क्यों जाते हैं? डॉ. लोहिया ने इस बारे में कहा था कि पांच साल तक ज़िंदा कौमें चुप नहीं रह सकतीं, ज़िंदा कौमें इंतजार नहीं कर सकतीं। यह सही बात है कि अगर यहां कुछ नहीं होता है, तो लोग वेल में जाएंगे। उनके साथ सरकार का बहस करना जरूरी है। अरुण जेटली साहब ने यहां पर कहा था कि हम कोई भी सवाल उठाते, उसके ऊपर बहस होनी चाहिए। वे लोग वेल में उस वक्त भी जाते थे। वे लोग जब यहां थे, तो वेल में जाने का काम वे भी करते थे। लेकिन हाउस चलाना, यह सरकार का काम है, यह बात जेटली जी बार-बार हमें बताते थे और यह

सही बात है। आज सरकार यह जिम्मेदारी नहीं ले रही है। यह अच्छी बात है, ऐसा मैं नहीं समझता हूँ। मैं एक-दो मिसालें देना चाहता हूँ। जब इस देश को आज़ादी मिली, पार्लियामेंट चल रही थी, तो पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू लगातार पार्लियामेंट में बैठते थे। एक दफा फॉरेन जर्नलिस्ट ने उनको पूछा कि आप इतनी देर तक बैठते हो, आप इतने बड़े देश के प्रधानमंत्री हो। क्यों बैठते हो इतनी देर तक? तो उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि हमारी नयी पार्लियामेंट है। मैं जो नई परम्परा डालूंगा, वह आगे जाकर चलेगी। हमारे प्रधानमंत्री गुरुवार को 15 मिनट के लिए आते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री विजय गोयल:** ऐसा नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर:** ऐसा कहना ठीक नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री विजय गोयल:** आप पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू की तारीफ करिए, उसमें कोई इंकर नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री हुसैन दलवाई:** हमारे बड़े-बड़े नेता 15 मिनट के लिए सदन में आते हैं। जब वे जाते हैं, तो उनके लोग खड़े होकर नमस्कार करते हैं, उनकी तरफ भी देखते नहीं हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह आपके लोगों ने मेरे से तकरार की है कि क्या बोलें, यह हो रहा है। मेरे ख्याल से हमें यह समझना चाहिए। जब वी.पी. सिंह साहब प्रधानमंत्री थे, मैं उनके ऑफिस में किसी काम के लिए बैठा था, हमारी बातचीत शुरू हुई थी, इतने में हाउस में कुछ गड़बड़ी हुई, वे मुझे बोले आप ज़रा ठहरिये, मैं हाउस में जाता हूँ कि वहां क्या हो रहा है। वे दौड़ते-दौड़ते हाउस में गए। मेरे ख्याल से इसको सम्भालने का काम नेता लोगों को करना पड़ता है और उनके लिए यह काम करना बहुत जरूरी है। जावडेकर साहब, यहां पर जो चर्चा होती है, उसका बहुत असर होता है। इस देश की गरीबी की चर्चा करते वक्त डा. लोहिया बोले थे कि सबसे गरीब जो आदमी है, उसकी दिन की आमदनी खाली तीन आना है। इसके ऊपर आठ दिन बहस सदन में चली, उसके बाद इकोनॉमिस्ट्स ने सही मायने में देश में कितनी गरीबी है, उसके बारे में बात की। यहां गोपालन साहब थे, भूपेश साहब थे, इन लोगों ने कुछ परंपराएं रखी हैं। हमारे मधु लिमये साहब थे, मधु दंडवते साहब थे। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, आप घंटी बजा रहे हैं।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** आपको बोलते हुए दस मिनट का समय हो गया है और भी बोलने वाले कई स्पीकर्स हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... दस मिनट का समय हो गया है। फिर सभी सदस्यों को बोलने का समय नहीं मिल पाएगा।

**श्री हुसैन दलवाई:** सर, मेरा कहना है कि ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं सरकार से दरखास्त करता हूँ कि आप सबको एक नज़र से देखिए यानी पूरे देश को एक नज़र से देखिए। यह हिन्दू है, यह मुसलमान है, यह क्रिश्चियन है, इस तरह से मत देखिए। मेरे भी समाज के कुछ लोग गलतियां करते हैं, इस बात को मैं मानता हूँ और मैं उसके खिलाफ भी बोलता हूँ, लेकिन सभी को समझदारी से चलना चाहिए। किसी के साथ मारपीट करना, जान से मारना, यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है। यहां से संदेश जाना चाहिए कि इस तरह का कोई कृत्य करेगा, तो वह बिल्कुल नहीं चलेगा। अगर कोई इस तरह का कृत्य करेगा, तो उसको अंदर करेंगे, कोई संगठन करेगा, तो उसके ऊपर पाबंदी लगायेंगे, इस तरह की बात नहीं होनी चाहिए। अगर यहां से संदेश ठीक ढंग से जाएगा, तो ऐसे कृत्य नहीं होंगे, यह मैं बोलता हूँ। जैसी बहस

[श्री हुसैन दलवाई ]

यहां पर होती है, वैसी ही बहस हर एक समाज में भी होनी चाहिए। हर बात का हल निकालना जरूरी है, ऐसा मुझे लगता है। मैंने जान-बूझकर यह बात यहां पर रखी कि सदस्यों को बोलने के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा टाइम देना चाहिए, बिल के ऊपर ठीक ढंग से बहस होनी चाहिए और जो महत्वपूर्ण सवाल आते हैं, उनके ऊपर टाइम की पाबंदी लगाना, वक्त की पाबंदी लगाना ठीक नहीं है। हर आदमी की अपनी भावना होती है, अपने जज्बात होते हैं, उनको express करने के लिए टाइम देना चाहिए। इतना ही बोलकर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं, धन्यवाद।

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to support my good friend, Shri Naresh Gujral for moving this Bill at a critical point of time in our history. Sir, Parliament is supreme in our democracy. Parliament represents the will of the people. The Independent India began its journey as a parliamentary democracy. Dr. Ambedkar and the galaxy of leaders of that period were very clear that India has to emerge as a Democratic Republic. Dr. Ambedkar made it very, very clear that India can never become and should never become a theocratic State or country. That is number one. Dr. Ambedkar rejected the idea of Presidential form of Government in India. Dr. Ambedkar rejected the two-party system in India.

That we should keep in mind. Dr. Ambedkar advocated Parliamentary democracy, a multi-party democracy. When Dr. Ambedkar underlined this, we should understand what the basic characteristics of our democracy are. That is what we should try to ponder over. Now we are hearing many times, 'maximum governance, minimum Government'. That should not lead to minimum Parliament. If that happens, that will put the entire democracy in peril. That will be the beginning of authoritarian fascist rule in India. I am making it very clear from my point of view. Sir, we saw it in the history of Germany as to how Parliament was minimized and Parliament was attacked. Finally, what we witnessed was the fascist dictatorship. In a country like India, we cannot allow such a situation to emerge. India should remain as a democracy. If Parliament becomes minimum and Parliament's function becomes minimum, then democracy will die, democracy will not survive. That is what as Members of Parliament, we should think over. Sir, in this regard, I think in a country like India, Parliament should work for more number of days and our party is one of the parties which has been consistently demanding that Parliament should have minimum hundred sitting days. Now it can go up because the situation is emerging so complex and we should work for more days. The people of India look towards Parliament. Sir, there is a saying that the last faith for common people is Judiciary. In fact, the last faith for common people is Parliament. If Parliament fails, it means we fail our people, we fail our democracy. Whether we can do it, is what we ask ourselves.

Sir, as far as adjournments are concerned, I think we cannot put an end to adjournments at all. There will be occasions when there will be uproar in the House, there will be agitations in the House. The Parliament can get adjourned, the House can get adjourned, but it does not mean that we cannot increase the number of working days. We can work for more days and we can serve the interests of the people. After all, Parliament makes law and Parliament decides policies. Parliament should find time to discuss the policies concerning the country and its progress. It is of no use that we claim to be a Welfare State. I do not know whether we really are a Welfare State at this point of time. I ask everybody. Can we claim that we are a Welfare State at this point of time? The Government claims about '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*'. It is good demagoguery, but is it happening in reality? What is happening in the country? Why is there no justice? All the time we repeat, justice—social, economic and political. Where is that justice? After 70 years of Independence, I am pleading here. Where is that justice? Have our people got social justice, economic justice, political justice? Sir, unprecedented inequality, discrimination in society, exploitation in society, ruthless exploitation, our people are living in such hardships. Parliament will have to serve our people, the toiling people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, from Manipur to Maharashtra. They build this nation. They sweat, they toil, they build this nation. But, finally, they live in poverty, they live in squalor. How to lift them from such condition? This Parliament has that responsibility. That is why Dr. Ambedkar said that Parliament is a place where issues need to be discussed and Government must be held answerable and accountable. Otherwise, where else the Government can be held accountable, answerable if not in the Parliament. If Parliament does not function, who can hold them answerable and accountable? The Government, the Executive. Dr. Ambedkar precisely underlined the need for Parliament, the parliamentary democracy to make the Government more answerable and accountable. That is what we should think over, for which this Parliament will have to work more, and in this regard, I appreciate our good friend, Shri Naresh Gujral. He has moved this Bill, and it reflects the demand of the situation in which the country today is. The country is at a critical point of time, and our democracy is at a critical point of time. We will have to save our democracy; we will have to save our Constitution. If that should happen, we will have to save, particularly, our Parliament. Parliament should not become redundant; Parliament should not become defunct; India should have a vibrant Parliament, and this Parliament will have to work for more days in the interest of the country and people. I support the Bill, and the spirit of the Bill. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The next speaker is Shri Kailash Soni.

**श्री कैलाश सोनी** (मध्य प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, नरेश गुजराल जी ने यह विधेयक प्रस्तुत करके हम सब मेम्बर्स को अपनी भीतर उतरने का एक मौका दिया है, अपने आपको समझने का एक मौका दिया है, आत्मचिंतन का एक मौका दिया है। मैं इस भाव से इस सदन में यह बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैं इस सदन का सबसे छोटी उम्र का आदमी हूँ। इस सदन में मेरी आयु कुल तीन माह की है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, वैसे मैं उस संसदीय क्षेत्र से आता हूँ, जिसे स्वर्गीय हरि विष्णु कामत जी ने, जो संविधान निर्मात्री समिति के सदस्य थे, represent किया था। वे ICS थे, उसे resign करके वे पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर हुए और पूरे हिन्दुस्तान की पहली election petition ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** यह उनकी maiden speech है, प्लीज सुनिए।

**श्री कैलाश सोनी:** हिन्दुस्तान की उनकी पहली petition सफल हुई है। वे हरि विष्णु कामत थे। इस भाव से मैं यह बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि यदि घर में भी सबसे छोटा बच्चा बुजुर्ग के किसी ऐब के संबंध में, किसी दोष के संबंध में कहता है, तो मैंने परिवर्तन होते देखा है। अभी जब से हम इस हाउस में आए, तो हम नए एहसासों के साथ यहां आए थे कि जन सरोकारों के संबंध में उनको हल करने में हम क्या कारक बन सकते हैं। कभी डा. राम मनोहर लोहिया ने कहा था कि संयोग से तुम्हारी कोई सरकार बन जाए, तो क्या करना, सम्मान प्राप्त करने में, माला पहनने में, मिठाई खाने में वक्त बर्बाद नहीं करना, ऐसे कानून-कायदे बनाना, जिनसे जनता समझ जाए कि यह हमारी अपनी सरकार है। एक कानून को अटकाने से बहुत लोगों का नुकसान होता है। अभी हम देख रहे हैं कि अकारण, जब कोई issue नहीं है, जनता के सरोकारों से जिनका कोई संबंध नहीं है, एक या दो व्यक्ति धृष्टता से इतने बड़े सदन, हिन्दुस्तान का दिमाग है, यह सदन, लोकतंत्र का सबसे बड़ा पायदान है यह सदन और इस सदन में हम कितनी नादानी करते हैं। यह सदन कितनी ही शानदार परम्पराओं को स्थापित करने वाला है। हमने पूरी जिन्दगी इसे देखा है। मैं इस देश के एक मूर्धन्य राजनेता का नाम क्वोट करना चाहता हूँ, प्रातः स्मरणीय, पंडित अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी, जो हिन्दुस्तान में सबसे ज्यादा बोलने वाले नेता रहे हैं, लेकिन वे जो भी बोलते थे, उससे उन्होंने कभी भी किसी का दिल नहीं दुखाया था, यही डेमोक्रेसी है, यही हमारी परम्परा है। हम नहीं जानते कि इसका क्या असर होगा, लेकिन आज की रात हम अपने भीतर इस पर विचार करें कि आज टोटल पोलिटिकल सर्कल के प्रति पूरे समाज में एक तरह से अनास्था का वातावरण बन रहा है। हम तो सिर्फ दो आंखों से देखते हैं, लेकिन हमें देखने वाले लाखों लोग हैं। आजकल रिकॉर्डिंग के जो साधन हो गए हैं, उनसे हमारा एक-एक एक्शन, खासने का, देखने का, चलने का, सब जनता के बीच में जा रहा है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** सोनी जी, आप चेयर को एड्रेस करें।

**श्री कैलाश सोनी:** हम यही चाहते हैं कि माननीय गुजराल जी ने सदन में जो विधेयक रखा है, इसका और एक्सपेंशन करके यह होना चाहिए कि हम जन-सरोकारों के लिए इस पवित्र संसद के एक-एक मिनट का उपयोग जनता के हित में कानून-कायदे बनाने के लिए करेंगे, उनकी समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए करेंगे। हमें इस पर बहुत उदारता से विचार करना होगा। आदरणीय वाजपेयी जी ने विरोध में रह करके भी अपने आचरण से एक अनुकरणीय परम्परा स्थापित की। इस देश में विरोधी दल का रोल प्ले करना भी आदरणीय श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी ने हमें सिखाया है।

महोदय, अभी मोदी जी की बात हो रही थी कि वे केवल 15-20 मिनट के लिए सदन में आते हैं, तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि मोदी जी यहां आकर क्या करेंगे? अभी हमने संसद में देखा कि ऐसे-ऐसे आरोप लगाए गए, जो बात संसद में कही ही नहीं गई थी। उस संदर्भ का आरोप लगा करके अभी दो दिन तक समय खराब किया गया और कहीं-कहीं तो गुजरात का हवाला भी दिया गया। हम यह कहना चाहते हैं कि आप इस बात को बहुत बारीकी से समझ लें कि इम्पैक्ट बोलने का नहीं होता, इम्पैक्ट आचरण का होता है। उस कैरेक्टर के पीछे जो चरित्र खड़ा होता है, उसका असर होता है। जयप्रकाश नारायण जी बहुत अच्छा भाषण नहीं करते थे, महात्मा जी बहुत अच्छा भाषण नहीं करते थे, लेकिन उनका असर इसलिए होता था, क्योंकि उनका आचरण ऊंचे स्तर का होता था। आज भले ही आप उन पर टीका करें अथवा कुछ और करें, लेकिन जन-सरोकारों के लिए जो आचरण नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी जी ने स्थापित किया है, वह अनुकरणीय है। कितना भी बड़ा मुद्दा रहा, केवल कैरेक्टर के कारण सुलझाया जा सका। असर इस बात का होता है कि जनता के प्रति हम कितने कमिटेड हैं। चाहे हम पक्ष में हों या विपक्ष में हों, लेकिन अच्छी बात को अच्छा कह करके भी हम अपनी लाइन को आगे बढ़ा सकते हैं, इसी भाव के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ, साथ ही आदरणीय गुजराल जी को साधुवाद भी देता हूँ।

**डा. संजय सिंह (असम):** माननीय महोदय, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे इस आवश्यक बिल पर बोलने का वक्त दिया, जो माननीय नरेश गुजराल जी ने रखा है। आप महान देश भारत, इसकी संसदीय प्रणाली, इसकी संसदीय परम्पराएं हम सबके लिए बहुत बड़ा आदर्श हैं और हम सभी लोग संसद के उन्हीं नियमों के अंतर्गत यहां पर बहस करते हैं, डिस्कशंस करते हैं। Democracy is, 'of the people, by the people, and for the people'. यहां हम अपने गांव से ले करके पूरे राष्ट्र से संबंधित मामलों पर, साथ ही विदेश का कोई मामला यदि अपने देश से संबंधित है, उस पर भी बहस करते हैं।

महोदय, हमें भी सौभाग्य से दो बार लोक सभा में और दूसरी बार राज्य सभा में, आपके बीच उपस्थित होने का मौका मिला है, इसलिए हमने भी वे परम्पराएं देखी हैं। अभी हमारे एक वक्ता ने माननीय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की बात कही, उनके प्रतिपक्ष में रहते हुए, जब पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी का देहावसान हुआ, उस समय उन्होंने जो भाषण दिया था, वह आज भी रोमांच पैदा करने वाला है। जिस समय भारत और चीन का युद्ध हुआ अथवा भारत-पाकिस्तान का युद्ध हुआ, उस समय इन्दिरा जी के बारे में उन्होंने जो भाषण दिया, जो वक्तव्य दिया, वह आज भी हमारी संसदीय व्यवस्था में लिखित है। आज जब वह पक्ष झुका रहता है और वह वही करता है, तब उसे अच्छा लगता है, लेकिन अगर हम करते हैं, तो बुरा लगता है। मुझे लगता है, भारत बदल रहा है, यह बात बिल्कुल ठीक है, लेकिन 21वीं शताब्दी में कितना गुणात्मक बदलाव है और हम विषयों पर कितनी सार्थक बहस करते हैं? यह बात सही है, माननीय नरेश गुजराल जी ने जो कहा है, यह disruption भी हमारा अधिकार है। हम अगर किसी issue पर विरोध करते हैं, wells में जाते हैं, यह भी हमारा अधिकार है। हम किसी न किसी रूप में अपनी नियमावली के अंतर्गत किसी बात का विरोध कर सकते हैं, लेकिन यह बात सही है कि हमारा समय निश्चित है।...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर:** Well मैं जाना नियम नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

**डा. संजय सिंह:** नियम में नहीं है, लेकिन यह संविधान में है कि हम अपनी बातों के लिए विरोध प्रकट कर सकते हैं। आज यह विरोध प्रकट करने में, यह बात सही है कि हमारी संसदीय व्यवस्था में जितना समय निश्चित होता है, अगर कार्यवाही में हाउस कम समय तक चल रहा है, तो बड़ा अच्छा होगा कि अगर ऐसे महत्व के सवाल, ऐसे मुद्दे उस समय आते हैं, उन पर उस समय बहस नहीं हुई, वह टल जाती है, तो मुझे लगता है कि हाउस का समय बढ़ा कर उन पर जरूर चर्चा होनी चाहिए। इसके बारे में अगर 2, 4 या 10 दिन का और समय अपनी कार्यवाही में बढ़े, तो मुझे लगता है कि इसके लिए उचित ही होगा। सभी यह चाहेंगे कि हमारे देश के जितने भी राष्ट्रीय महत्व के मुद्दे हैं, उन पर यहां पर बहस हो। मुझे यह कहते हुए गर्व है कि हमारे देश में ही नहीं, विदेशों में भी हमारी प्रणाली की, हमारी संवैधानिक संस्थाओं की चर्चा होती है और उसकी न्यायप्रियता की, उसकी ईमानदारी की और सच्चाई की चर्चा होती है। लेकिन अगर आज हम किसी चीज पर बहस कर रहे हैं और हाउस disrupt होता है, समय बीत जाता है और उसके बाद समय भी खत्म हो जाता है, हमारा यह हाउस साल में limited समय के लिए चलता है, तो मुझे लगता है कि अगर इसके लिए समय कुछ और बढ़ेगा, तो उसमें कोई बुराई नहीं है।

आज देश में जो हालात हैं, जिनके बारे में आज हमें भी चिन्ता है, आपको भी चिन्ता है, हरेक सदस्य अपने सदन के माध्यम से, सदन के अन्दर और सदन के बाहर मीडिया के माध्यम से और किन्हीं माध्यमों से अपनी बातों को रखते हैं। यह बात सही है कि यह 21वीं शताब्दी है और आज सोशल मीडिया भी है। आज तमाम सारे टेलीविजन चैनल्स पर भी बहुत सारी बातें हुईं, उन पर भी चर्चा हुई। कौन कैसी बात करता है, तो निकाल दिया जाता है और कौन कैसे करता है, तो प्रशंसा होती है। मुझे लगता है कि ये सारी बातें आज संसद के संज्ञान में हैं, देश के संज्ञान में हैं, हमारी व्यवस्था के संज्ञान में हैं। मुझे लगता है कि यह बहुत बड़ा गम्भीर विषय भी है, बहुत बड़ी गम्भीर चिन्ता का भी विषय है। माननीय महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूं कि इसके बारे में बहस भी हो। आने वाले इस बदलाव में, बदलते भारत में, 21वीं शताब्दी में इसके बारे में भी बहस हो कि:-

"हम कौन थे, क्या हो गये और क्या होंगे अभी,

आओ विचारें आज मिल कर, ये समस्याएं सभी।"

महोदय, हमें यह विचार करना ही होगा। आज जो चीजें हमारे सामने, आपके सामने, हमारी-आपकी जेनरेशन के सामने हो रही हैं, और आने वाले भविष्य में, आने वाली जेनरेशन के सामने क्या दिक्कतें आने वाली हैं, क्या और कैसा वातावरण होगा, कैसा environment होगा, कैसा पानी होगा, कैसी हवा होगी, आने वाले समय में कैसा सौहार्द होगा? देश में आपस में इन तमाम सारी विभिन्नताओं के बावजूद हमारे भारत में — दुनिया के इतिहास में हैं, बहुत सारे देश हैं, जिनका अपना झंडा अलग लगता है, सपोर्ट करने वाले का झंडा अलग लगता है। हमें गर्व महसूस होना चाहिए कि इन तमाम सारी कठिनाइयों से गुजरते हुए भारत में भी, आज भी अपना संविधान, आज भी अपना तिरंगा, आज भी अपने भारत की एकता अक्षुण्ण है, मौजूद है। यह आने वाले सैंकड़ों-हज़ारों सालों तक बनी रहे, जब तक यह मिट्टी, हवा और असामान भारत का हो, यह एक रहे। लेकिन इसके लिए हमें समय-समय पर इसका चिन्तन, समय-समय पर इस पर बहस, समय-समय पर इसके लिए विचारों का आदान-प्रदान



होना चाहिए। यह उसी सौहार्द के साथ होना चाहिए। जिन अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी, जिन माननीय राम मनोहर लोहिया जी और तमाम सारे अपने पूर्व महापुरुषों-राजनेताओं की चर्चा हम करते हैं, उनका आदर्श हमारे बीच में है, हमारी संसदीय प्रणाली की हमारी कार्यवाही की किताबों में भी है। तो हम उसकी चर्चा करते हैं, लेकिन उस पर कितना चल रहे हैं, कितना और हमें चलना चाहिए, उन बातों का कितना पालन करना चाहिए, हर समय हमारी यह चिन्ता रहनी चाहिए। सरकार की जिम्मेदारी तो है ही, हम सारे लोगों की भी जिम्मेदारी है कि उन विषयों पर, जो देश के हर तरह से भविष्य के लिए, हमारी अखंडता, हमारी एकता, हमारी मजबूती के लिए और हमारी बहबूदी के लिए आवश्यक है, उन पर कुछ समय और भी लगता हो, तो हमें लगता है कि इस संसदीय कार्यवाही को चलाने के लिए उसमें edition हो, तो कोई बुराई नहीं है।

मैं माननीय नरेश गुजराल जी का आभारी हूँ, जो उन्होंने बहुत राष्ट्रीय महत्व की बात की, अपनी संसदीय व्यवस्था के बारे में चिन्ता की। मैं उसकी तारीफ करता हूँ। मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद** (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय नरेश गुजराल द्वारा सदन में जो संसद (उत्पादकता में वृद्धि) विधेयक, 2017 उपस्थित किया गया है, मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। देश में लोक सभा और राज्य सभा दो सदन हैं और दोनों सदनों में जनहित की समस्याएं उठाई जाती हैं, पूरे देश के संचालन के लिए नीतियां बनती हैं। इसके लिए सदन में कई बिल और प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल प्रस्तुत किए जाते हैं, जिन पर माननीय सदस्यों को अपने विचार व्यक्त करने का अवसर मिलता है। समय-समय पर यहां जो सरकारें रही हैं, कुछ दिनों से यहां ऐसी परम्परा चल पड़ी है, पहले 100 से 120 दिनों तक सत्र चलते थे, लेकिन अब सदन का समय बहुत शॉर्ट किया जा रहा है। विधान सभाओं में हाल यह है कि वहां सिर्फ दो-तीन दिन का बजट सत्र होता है। सदन में सभापति जी आए, मंत्री जी ने पहली लाइन पढ़ी, आखिरी लाइन पढ़ी और बजट पास हो जाता है। राज्यपाल जी आए, उन्होंने भी एक लाइन शुरू की पढ़ी, दूसरी लाइन आखिरी पढ़ी और राज्यपाल महोदय का अभिभाषण खत्म।

महोदय, मैं समझता हूँ कि इस तरह हम सदस्यों के अधिकारों में कटौती की जा रही है। इसके लिए गुजराल साहब सदन में जो विधेयक लाए हैं, वह बहुत सराहनीय हैं। इसमें 100 से 120 दिनों तक सदन की कार्यवाही चले और सदन का विशेष सत्र बुलाने का प्रावधान है। हम देखते हैं कि यहां सदस्यों के जो अधिकार हैं, प्रश्न काल, ज़ीरो ऑवर है, उसे खत्म कर दिया जाता है। यह सर्वोच्च सदन है। पूरा देश चाहता है कि आज़ादी के 70 साल बीत जाने के बाद, देश से गरीबी मिटनी चाहिए, भुखमरी मिटनी चाहिए। दिल्ली में अभी जो बच्चियां भूख से मरीं, उस पर सरकार को चिन्ता करनी चाहिए, लेकिन सरकार पर कोई असर पड़ता दिखाई नहीं देता। पिछली सरकार यहां फूड एक्ट लाई थी। हम देखते हैं कि आज भी बहुत से लोगों के घरों में एक समय भोजन बनता है - उस पर यहां चर्चा होनी चाहिए। हम यहां किसी का नाम नहीं लेंगे लेकिन कभी-कभी सदन में ऐसे मुद्दों पर चर्चा हो जाती है, जिसका कोई अर्थ नहीं होता। अपनी-अपनी ego के कारण सदन की कार्यवाही बाधित होती है, सदन को स्थगित कर दिया जाता है। इसमें सत्ता पक्ष का ज्यादा हाथ होता है। सत्ता पक्ष की जिम्मेदारी है कि सदन को सुचारु रूप से चलाए, लेकिन विपक्ष के किसी सवाल पर इनके अनेक माननीय सदस्य

[ श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद ]

और मंत्री खड़े होकर नारे लगाते हैं, हूटिंग करते हैं। इसे पूरा देश देखता है कि वे विपक्ष के लोग हैं या सत्ता पक्ष के लोग हैं। इस दिशा में सदन में प्रस्तुत विधेयक बहुत कारगर सिद्ध होगा, ऐसा मैं मानता हूँ। अब माननीय सदस्यों को डिबेट में भाग लेने के ज्यादा अवसर मिलेंगे।

महोदय, अपने विषय को ज़ीरो ऑवर में उठाने के लिए मैं कई दिनों से प्रयत्न कर रहा था। मैं चाहता था कि हमें भी अपनी बात कहने का मौका मिले। लोक सभा की उत्तर प्रदेश से एक सांसद थीं - फूलन देवी। जब वे सदन से अपने घर जा रही थीं तो उनकी घर के सामने हत्या कर दी गई। शेर सिंह राणा ने उनका मर्डर किया, जो बाद में तिहाड़ जैसी सुरक्षित जेल से भाग गया। कुछ समय पूर्व सजायाफ्ता शेर सिंह राणा उत्तर प्रदेश में उनके गांव जा रहा था, मैंने देखा कि वहां सब जगह निषाद और क्षत्रिय लोगों में बहुत खराब वातावरण पैदा हो रहा है। उसी की तरफ मैं उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता था। अगर देश में कुछ लोगों को इसी तरीके से महिमा-मंडित किया जाता है, शेर सिंह राणा को लेकर फिल्म अभिनेता अजय देवगन फूलन देवी पर जो फिल्म बना रहे हैं, उससे हमें क्या सीख मिलेगी? वह गरीब महिला, जिसके साथ न्याय नहीं हुआ, 13 साल की उम्र से उस पर अनेक अत्याचार हुए, जिसके कारण उसे जंगलों में जाना पड़ा। उनके साथ और क्या-क्या हुआ। उसको पूरा देश, दुनिया जानती है, लेकिन जब उनको समझ आई, तो उन्होंने मध्य प्रदेश के भिंड में आत्मसमर्पण किया, उस समय अर्जुन सिंह जी वहां के मुख्य मंत्री थे। हम माननीय मुलायम सिंह यादव जी को बधाई देंगे कि उन्होंने उनके सारे केसेज़ को वापस लेकर उनको मिर्ज़ापुर से दो बार सांसद बनाने का काम किया। जब वे अपने घर से जा रही थीं, उसी दरम्यान उनकी हत्या हो गई। आज एक फिल्म अभिनेता शेर सिंह राणा के ऊपर फिल्मांकन करने जा रहा है, जिसमें उसने मनगढ़ंत कहानी रची है।

सर, आज स्व: फूलनदेवी का हत्यारा तिहाड़ जेल से भाग गया था। लेकिन उसको भगाने वाले कौन थे? उनके पीछे कौन-कौन अधिकारी थे, कौन-कौन नेता थे? अगर तिहाड़ जेल जैसी सुरक्षित जेल से कोई भाग जाए, तो और जेलों में क्या स्थिति होगी? आज पूरे देश में जिस नाटकीय ढंग से वातावरण को खराब किया जा रहा है, इसके लिए चिंता करने की जरूरत है। मैं इस विषय पर बोलना चाहता था, लेकिन मुझे बोलने का मौका नहीं दिया गया।

महोदय, मैं बुंदेलखंड की समस्याओं को लगातार उठाता रहा हूँ कि बुंदेलखंड में भुखमरी है, गरीबी है। मैं सत्ता पक्ष के लोगों से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहां कम से कम लाखों गायें और बछड़े हैं, वहां बछड़ों की संख्या ज्यादा है, गायें कम हैं। वहां पर किसान अपनी फसलों की सुरक्षा के लिए रात-रात भर अपने खेतों पर पड़े रहते हैं क्योंकि उनकी फसलें बरबाद हो रही हैं, लेकिन सरकार उनका संरक्षण कर रही है। जो एक भी डंडा किसी गाय को मार दे या बछड़े को मार दे, तो गो रक्षक तुरंत उस पर मुकदमा कायम करके जेल भिजवाने का काम करते हैं। इसके लिए केन्द्र सरकार और प्रदेश सरकार को कोई ठोस कदम उठाना चाहिए। आज किसानों की हालत बहुत खराब है। वैसे भी किसान वहां पर खरीफ की फसल नहीं बो पाया है, क्योंकि समय पर बारिश नहीं हुई। वहां पर अब इधर वर्षा हुई है। वहां पर किसान पानी के लिए, भुखमरी के कारण आत्महत्या कर रहा है। वहां का किसान कर्ज़ में डूबा हुआ है। इन तमाम समस्याओं को हम लोग समय-समय पर उठाते रहे हैं।

महोदय, बजट सेशन में बजट पर सभी माननीय सदस्यों को बोलने का अधिकार है, लेकिन बजट पर डिबेट के वक्त समय में कटौती कर दी जाती है, जिसके कारण माननीय सदस्यों को एक-दो मिनट का समय मिलता है। ऐसी स्थिति में छोटे दलों के लिए और दिक्कत हो जाती है। यहां पर जितने भी सदस्य चुन कर आए हैं, वे राज्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, अपने राज्यों की बात करते हैं, जनता की बात करते हैं, इसलिए उन्हें अपनी बात रखने का पूरा मौका मिलना चाहिए।

महोदय, जब प्रश्न काल का समय आता है, तब हमारे जितने भी सदस्य प्रश्न करते हैं, किसी भी प्रश्न का सही जवाब नहीं मिलता है। क से लेकर ड तक एक ही बार में लिख दिया जाता है, उनका प्वाइंटवार उत्तर नहीं दिया जाता है। उसके लिए माननीय सभापति की तरफ से नियमावली बननी चाहिए कि अगर किसी मंत्री के द्वारा गलत उत्तर दिया जाता है, तो संबंधित मंत्री के खिलाफ कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए, उनकी जवाबदेही फिक्स होनी चाहिए। विधान सभा में ऐसा था, वहां पर नियमों में ऐसा है कि अगर कोई मंत्री गलब जवाब देता है, तो संबंधित मंत्री की जवाबदेही होती है और उसको दोबारा उत्तर देना पड़ता है, उसको शुद्ध करना पड़ता है, लेकिन यहां पर इस तरह की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। हम इसके लिए चिल्लाते रहते हैं। अगर हम इसको शून्य काल में उठाना चाहेंगे, तब भी हमें इसके लिए मौका नहीं मिलेगा। जहां तक स्पेशल मेशन की बात है, अभी थोड़ी देर में स्पेशल मेशन होने वाला है, उस समय यह कह दिया जाएगा कि आप अपना स्पेशल मेशन ले कर दीजिए। इस तरह से किसी को बोलने का मौका नहीं मिलता है। सदस्यों के जितने भी अधिकार हैं, सब में कटौती की जा रही है। मेरा यह अनुरोध है कि सदस्यों के अधिकारों की कटौती नहीं की जानी चाहिए। स्पेशल सत्र बुलाने, 100 से 120 दिनों तक सत्र चलाने आदि संबंधी यह जो विधेयक माननीय नरेश गुजराल जी द्वारा लाया गया है, मैं इसका समर्थन करते हुए सरकार से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि एक ही सरकार हमेशा नहीं होती है, सरकार आती-जाती रहती है लेकिन यह सदन सर्वोच्च सदन है, देश की जनता के लिए है, गरीबों के लिए है, लोग आज भूखों मर रहे हैं, उन पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए। उनकी गरीबी पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए। आज सरकार मस्त है और जनता बेहाल है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** धन्यवाद, विशम्भर प्रसाद जी। श्री रामदास अठावले जी।

**सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामदास अठावले):** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय,

"आज मुझे हो रहा है अच्छा फील,  
क्योंकि नरेश गुजराल जी ने लाया है 100 दिन का बिल।  
हमें ध्वस्त करनी है हंगामे की हील,  
और सदन को चलाने का घुमाना है व्हील।  
ठीक नहीं चलेगा सेशन, तो कैसे चलेगा नेशन?  
इसलिए मैं कर रहा हूं राज्य सभा में भाषण,  
अब तो ठीक चलना चाहिए सेशन।"

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि मैं तीन बार लोक सभा में चुनकर आया था। मैंने 12 सालों में बहुत हंगामे देखे थे। मैंने सोचा कि राज्य सभा में जाकर, राज्य सभा का आनंद लें

[श्री रामदास अठावले]

और फिर वर्ष 2014 में मैं राज्य सभा में आया। मैं श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के आशीर्वाद से, भारतीय जनता पार्टी के आशीर्वाद से राज्य सभा में आया। मैं कांग्रेस के आशीर्वाद से लोक सभा में था, क्योंकि मुझे सभी का आशीर्वाद मिलता है। मैं यहां पर आया और मैंने देखा कि चाहे दलित-अत्याचार का issue हो, मुस्लिम समाज पर गो-हत्या के नाम पर अत्याचार का issue हो, किसानों का issue हो, किसानों की आत्महत्या का issue हो, चाहे कोई भी issue हो, उस पर चर्चा करने के लिए सरकार तैयार रहती है, लेकिन आप लोगों की तरफ से - मुझे लगता है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी इतने साल सत्ता में रही, उसको हंगामे की आदत नहीं थी, लेकिन अब वह भी हंगामा करना सीख गई है। आपको सत्ता में रहने की आदत थी, अब आप लोग इतना हंगामा करने लगे हैं। इतने हंगामे को देखकर मैंने सोचा कि मैं दोबारा लोक सभा में जाऊंगा।

मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि श्री नरेश गुजराल जी का बिल बहुत अच्छा है। बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर जी ने जो लोकतंत्र दिया है, बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर जी ने जो संविधान दिया है, जो नियम दिए हैं, उन नियमों के मुताबिक सेशन का काम चलना चाहिए। चाहे कोई भी विषय हो, उसमें सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है और उसे सेशन चलाने में सहयोग देना चाहिए। लोकतंत्र में यह होता है कि जिनको majority मिली है, वे इधर होते हैं और जिनको minority मिलती है, वे उधर होते हैं। ये लोग पहले बहुत साल उधर ही बैठते थे, अभी ये इधर आ गए हैं, तो इनको कुछ साल इधर बैठने दो।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, लोकतंत्र में चर्चा होनी चाहिए। हर एक को अपनी opinion, अपना मत रखने का अधिकार है। मुझे इस बात का गर्व है कि मैं रिपब्लिकन पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया से हमेशा एम.पी. रहा हूं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि एक बार हमारी पार्टी के नौ एमपीज़ थे। एक जमाना था, जब दिल्ली में श्री अब्बास मलिक नाम के मेयर रिपब्लिकन पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया के थे और हाथी हमारा सिम्बल था, लेकिन मायावती जी ने वह भी ले लिया। पहले वह सिम्बल आर.पी.आई. का था। अब हाथी फिर मेरे पास आएगा, मैं उसे लेने की सोच रहा हूं, लेकिन यह एक अलग बात है। मैं आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूं कि एक बार हमारे नौ एमपीज़ थे, 1998 में चार एमपीज़ थे, 1999 में दो एमपीज़ थे, 2004 में मैं अकेला था और 2009 में एक भी एमपी नहीं रहा। मैंने शिरडी से इलेक्शन लड़ा था। श्री पवार साहब मेरे मित्र हैं। अगर मैं इधर भी हूं, तो भी वे मेरे मित्र हैं। लोकतंत्र में पोलिटिकल भूमिका अलग हो सकती है, लेकिन मुझे सभी के साथ दोस्ती रखने की आदत है। कब क्या होगा, कब किधर हवा चलेगी ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसलिए मैं सभी के साथ अच्छे संबंध रखता हूं। कब क्या निर्णय लेना है - जब कांग्रेस की हवा थी, तब मैं उनके साथ था और जब बीजेपी की हवा आ गई, तो मैंने सोचा कि उधर रहने से क्या फायदा है, जब हवा इधर की चल रही है? मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि मैं जनता के साथ रहता हूं, लोग जहां जाते हैं, मैं भी उनके साथ ही जाता हूं। मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूं, लेकिन मेरा यह कहना है कि यह हाउस अच्छी तरह से चलना चाहिए। 100 दिन के संबंध में यह बिल श्री गुजराल साहब की ओर से आया है, जिसमें हम आपके साथ हैं। आप भी हमारे साथ हैं, हम भी आपके साथ हैं। अभी 60 दिन का सेशन होता है, आपकी मांग है कि वह सेशन 100 दिन का होना चाहिए, हर दिन काम होना चाहिए। अभी अच्छी तरह से काम चल रहा है, पहले हर रोज हंगामा होता था, हम हर रोज बाहर जाते थे। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे चेयरमैन साहब भी बहुत एक्टिव हैं। अगर कोई ज्यादा हंगामा

करता है, तो वे बरदाश्त नहीं करते हैं, क्योंकि यह हाउस हंगामे के लिए नहीं है। अगर किसी को हंगामा करना है, तो वह बाहर जाए और काम करना है, तो यहां आ जाए। यहां हंगामा नहीं होना चाहिए। यह ठीक है कि अगर कोई वैसा विषय हो, तो हंगामा करो। मैंने एक विषय यह रखा था कि एक ऐसा नियम बने कि अगर कोई तीन दिन तक वेल में आए, तो चलेगा, लेकिन अगर वह चौथे दिन भी वेल में आएगा, तो उसको सस्पेंड करना चाहिए, क्योंकि एक-एक महीने तक पूरा का पूरा सेशन न चले, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए, चाहे हम हंगामा करें या वे हंगामा करें। पहले मैं भी हंगामा करता था। जब मैं लोक सभा में था, तब मैं ज्यादा हंगामा करता था और इसलिए लोग मुझे पहचानते हैं। मैं हंगामा नहीं करता था, तो लोग मुझे नहीं पहचानते थे। मैं इनके खिलाफ हंगामा करता था, इसलिए मैं इनके साथ आ गया। पहले मैं इनके खिलाफ आपके लिए हंगामा करता था और अभी इनके लिए मुझे आपके खिलाफ हंगामा करना पड़ता है। यह ठीक बात है, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए और हाउस अच्छी तरह से चलना चाहिए। इसलिए गुजराल साहब ने जो यह बिल यहां लाया है, उसका मैं अपनी रिपब्लिकन पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया की तरफ से पूरा सपोर्ट करता हूं। इस बिल के अनुसार, डेज को बढ़ाने के बारे में हमारी मोदी सरकार जरूर विचार करेगी। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं अपने दो शब्द यहीं खत्म करता हूं। जय भीम, जय भारत!

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** श्री राकेश सिन्हा जी।

**श्री नीरज शेखर** (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, आपने तो कहा था कि ये लास्ट स्पीकर हैं।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** अभी पांच बजे तक का टाइम है।

**कुछ माननीय सदस्य:** सर, स्पेशल मेंशंस भी हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Special Mentions will be 5 o'clock. Before that, Shri Rakesh Sinkha will speak. This is his maiden speech.

**श्री राकेश सिन्हा (नाम निर्देशित):** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने इस महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर मुझे आज बोलने का अवसर दिया। मैं आठवीं क्लास से द्वितीय सदन, यानी अपर हाउस की भूमिका क्या है, पढ़ता रहा हूं और जब मैं सदन में पिछले कुछ दिनों से हूं, तो इसका मैं प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव कर रहा हूं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**कुछ माननीय सदस्य:** सर, इनका माइक ठीक नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री विजय गोयल:** सर, इनका माइक ठीक किया जाए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह उनकी मेडन स्पीच है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री राकेश सिन्हा:** सर, इस मुद्दे पर मैंने कई भाषण सुने, जिनमें कई पहलुओं को छुआ गया। ये भाषण ईमानदारी से दिए गए हैं। संसदीय लोकतंत्र में द्वितीय हाउस की जो भूमिका होती है, उसमें एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू यह है कि हमारे ऊपर चुनाव का बोझ नहीं होता है। हमारे ऊपर जनता के दिन-प्रतिदिन की समस्याओं के प्रति आकर्षण और उसके प्रति उत्तरदायित्व तो होता है, लेकिन हमें जवाबदेही के मामले में दूरगामी दृष्टि अपनाने का एक अवसर भी मिलता है, इसलिए पूरी दुनिया में

[श्री राकेश सिन्हा]

द्वितीय हाउस की भूमिका क्या हो, इस पर विमर्श चल रहा है। हर लोकतंत्र में इस बात पर विमर्श चल रहा है कि द्वितीय हाउस की उपयोगिता है या नहीं है? इसका कारण है कि लोक सभा और राज्य सभा के बीच की दूरी जब घटेगी, तो समाजशास्त्र इस पर विमर्श करेगा कि यदि लोक सभा काम कर रही है, तो फिर राज्य सभा की आवश्यकता क्या है? इसलिए हमें पहले अपनी उपयोगिता के औचित्य को स्थापित करना पड़ेगा। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, उस औचित्य को स्थापित करने में हमारा आईना क्या हो? हर जनतंत्र में उसका अपना आईना, अपना इतिहास होता है और जिस जनतंत्र का इतिहास स्वर्णिम हो, उसको अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन के इतिहास को देखने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। सदन दलीय व्यवस्था का बाह्य रूप है, जो उसके आंतरिक स्वरूप के रूप में प्रस्तुत होता है। जैसी दलीय व्यवस्था बाहर होगी, उसी का स्वरूप सदन के अंदर दिखाई पड़ेगा। मैं संजय सिंह जी का भाषण सुन रहा था, उन्होंने राम मनोहर लोहिया जी का जिक्र किया। संजय सिंह जी, उस वक्त हिन्दुस्तान का राजनीतिक पर्यावरण क्या था, मैं उसका जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ। पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय भारतीय जनसंघ के नेता थे, राष्ट्रीय स्वयं सेवक संघ के प्रचारक थे, डा. संपूर्णानन्द कांग्रेस के नेता थे, जो उत्तर प्रदेश के यशस्वी मुख्य मंत्री रहे। आप कल्पना कीजिए कि दीन दयाल जी ने एक पोलिटिकल डायरी लिखी, उस पोलिटिकल डायरी में उन्होंने पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी की नीतियों की स्वस्थ आलोचना की, एस.के. पाटील के बारे में बोला कि आप कटोरा लेकर विदेशों में भीख मांगने जाते हैं, इस देश का सम्मान बेच रहे हैं। उस पोलिटिकल डायरी का प्राक्कथन किसने लिखा? डा. संपूर्णानन्द जी ने लिखा था। जब डा. संपूर्णानन्द पंडित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय जी की एक पोलिटिकल डायरी का प्राक्कथन लिख रहे थे, तो सदन के अंदर ज्योतिर्मय बसु सीपीएम के, अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी जनसंघ के, हीरेन्द्र मुखर्जी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया के, ये तीनों वैचारिक रूप से लड़ते थे और बाहर जाकर मित्रवत् निकलते थे। यदि हम इस सदन के आईने को देखें, तो हमें पता चलेगा कि सदन की मर्यादा क्यों टूटती है। सवाल दिनों का नहीं है, सवाल मात्रात्मक नहीं है, सवाल गुणात्मक है। यदि हम 365 दिन की अनिवार्यता कर दें और सदन में 365 दिन 5 लोग या अकेले में जाकर हंगामा मचाऊँ और 365 दिन समाप्त हो जाएँ, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, तब आप कितने दिन बढ़ाएंगे? सवाल यह है कि हम क्या चाहते हैं? मैं एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। आज माननीय गृह मंत्री जी का जवाब आया। जब तीन दिन पहले इसी जवाब को देने के लिए गृह मंत्री जी बैठे हुए थे, तो जवाब नहीं लेने दिया गया। गृहमंत्री जी के जवाब में एक भी अक्षर परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ, अपरिवर्तनीय जवाब था। जो जवाब वे तीन दिन पहले देते, उसे तीन दिन बाद दिया। तीन दिन तक सदन स्थगित रहा, हम आए और गए। हम सेंट्रल हॉल में बैठे, गप की और चले गए। हम आत्मलोचन करें। क्या उन तीन दिनों के लिए हम सब सामूहिक रूप से जिम्मेदार नहीं हैं?

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक ही बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब राजनीति में सामाजिकता का बोध समाप्त हो जाता है, तो राजनीति अपने निम्न स्तर पर पहुँच जाती है। हम राजनीतिक मतभेद को राजनीतिक शत्रुता में परिवर्तित कर देते हैं, लेकिन सदन का माहौल ऐसा होना चाहिए, जिसे हमने चन्द्रशेखर जी के रूप में देखा, जिसे आचार्य कृपलानी जी के रूप में देखा, जब जनसंघ छोटी पार्टी थी। हमारे पास नाम उद्धृत करने के लिए, तब के दो-तीन नाम ही हैं। हम तो नाम भी आप लोगों के बीच से ही उद्धृत करते हैं। मैं कृपलानी जी की एक घटना बताना चाहता हूँ कि कृपलानी जी सदन में कांग्रेस

**5.00 P.M.**

पार्टी की आलोचना कर रहे थे, तो एक कांग्रेस के सदस्य ने कहा कि आपको मालूम नहीं है कि सुचेता कृपलानी जी कहां पहुंच गई हैं? कृपलानी जी की धर्म पत्नी सुचेता कृपलानी जी कांग्रेस ज्वाइन कर चुकी थीं। कृपलानी जी समाजवादी पार्टी, सोशलिस्ट पार्टी में थे। वह आज की समाजवादी पार्टी नहीं थी, वह तब की सोशलिस्ट पार्टी थी। कृपलानी जी ने कहा कि कांग्रेस के लोग 'stupid fools' हैं, लेकिन वे अपहरण करते हैं, यह मुझे मालूम नहीं था। पूरा सदन हंसी के भाव में गुजर गया। यह सदन का माहौल था। हम उस माहौल से कहां से कहां पहुंच गए। मैं इसका एक दूसरा उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं, मैं डी. राजा जी को सुन रहा था। हमारा संसदीय इतिहास बहुत पुराना नहीं है, यदि हम स्वतंत्र भारत को देखें, तो यह कुछ दशकों का इतिहास है। उस इतिहास में सभी पार्टियों का, सभी विधान सभाओं का, लोक सभा और राज्य सभा का आत्मालोचन करें, तो मैं खासकर के डी. राजा जी और मार्क्सवादी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के अगर मेरे मित्र बैठे हुए हैं, तो याद दिलाना चाहता हूं। पश्चिमी बंगाल में यूनाइटेड फ्रंट एक्सपेरिमेंट हुआ था। वह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण एक्सपेरिमेंट था, कांग्रेस के खिलाफ एक्सपेरिमेंट था, बंगला कांग्रेस और कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया और सीपीआईएम का एक्सपेरिमेंट था। विश्वनाथ मुखर्जी और लहरी दो सीपीआई के नेता थे, जो बंगला कांग्रेस के मुख्यमंत्री श्री अजय मुखर्जी जी के साथ थे, डी. राजा जी को अपना इतिहास याद होगा। श्री ज्योति बाबू डिप्टी चीफ मिनिस्टर थे, अजय मुखर्जी और डिप्टी चीफ मिनिस्टर के बीच का पत्र व्यवहार आप देख लीजिए, आपको पता चल जाएगा कि ...(व्यवधान)...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता):** सिन्हा जी, ...(व्यवधान)... मालूम है। आपका भाषण जारी रहेगा। अगले सत्र में आपका भाषण continue रहेगा। आपकी मेडेन स्पीच थी, लेकिन समय कम है, क्योंकि अभी हमें दूसरा विषय लेना है। अगले सत्र में आप बोलिएगा।

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**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee, in its meeting held on the 3rd of August, 2018, has allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business as follows:-

Business	Time Allotted
1. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands for Grants, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-	Two Hours
(a) Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2018-19.	(To be discussed
(b) Demands for Excess Grants for 2015-16.	together)

<b>Business</b>	<b>Time Allotted</b>
2. Consideration and passing of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.	Two hours

2. The Committee also recommended that the House may sit beyond 6.00 p.m., as and when necessary, for the transaction of Government Legislative and other Business.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, Special Mentions. Shri D. Raja.

#### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

##### **Urging the Government to direct the CIFRI, Barrackpore to be more pro-active and help save inland fishery resources**

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute at Barrackpore is the nodal agency for all inland fishery resources across the country. However, the CIFRI does not seem to have done any surveys or brought out plans for saving the millions of fishermen who face fast depleting fishery resources in all inland water bodies.

The CIFRI has regional offices all over the country. A number of petitions have been sent to the CIFRI by various concerned people to start surveys and come up with plans to protect fishery resources and the biodiversity in our rivers.

The depletion of river water, tanks and other inland water bodies has caused severe economic problems and depression in fishermen's lives. The CIFRI should take the initiative and set up surveys everywhere, starting with major rivers.

It is learnt that over the last ten years, the CIFRI has not done any major survey or made any major recommendations to the Government on how to protect fishermen who face depleting fishery resources and the impact of dams on fishery resources and fishermen.

If a dam is constructed, it should not harm fishermen's livelihood. There are designs to ensure that there is constant environmental flow of rivers and streams. Recently, the National Green Tribunal has also issued a notice to the CIFRI on the depletion of fishery resources in various South Indian rivers like the Godavari.



I request the Government to direct the CIFRI, Barrackpore to be more pro-active and help save inland fishery resources.

**Demand to promote Ayurveda in Madhya Pradesh under AYUSH Mission**

**डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया** (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं मध्य प्रदेश में आयुर्वेद का ऑल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यूट, आयुर्वेद विज्ञान खोलने, भारतीय योग एवं नेचरोपेथी संस्थान प्रारंभ करने, आयुष मिशन के अंतर्गत शासकीय आयुष महाविद्यालयों का उन्नयन करने, आयुष औषधालयों के नवीन भवन निर्माण करने, आयुर्वेद में अनुसंधान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए विशेष उपाय करने की केन्द्र सरकार से मांग करता हूँ।

केन्द्र सरकार मध्य प्रदेश में आयुष उपचार के क्षेत्र में विस्तार की विशेष कार्य योजना बनाकर शीघ्र स्वीकृति प्रदान करे। धन्यवाद।

**Demand to restore the old pension scheme**

**श्री संजय सिंह** (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर मुझे अपनी बात कहने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए आपका धन्यवाद। देश के लाखों कर्मचारी पुरानी पेंशन बंद होने के कारण आज आंदोलनरत हैं, आज वे तमाम आर्थिक दिक्कतों का सामना कर रहे हैं। महोदय, मैं सदन में आपके द्वारा केन्द्र सरकार से कर्मचारियों के हित में पुरानी पेंशन बहाली हेतु आग्रह करना चाहूंगा। 2004 के बाद आए नए कानून के मुताबिक केन्द्र कर्मचारियों के लिए पुरानी पेंशन बंद कर दी गयी है तथा नयी पेंशन स्कीम के मुताबिक उनकी आय का दस प्रतिशत हिस्सा प्राइवेट कर्मचारियों द्वारा शेयर मार्किट में invest करने का प्रावधान लागू कर दिया गया है। यह बात ध्यान देने योग्य है कि कर्मचारियों को ऐसे investment से न तो कोई लाभ होगा तथा शेयर मार्किट के उतार-चढ़ाव उनकी जमा पूंजी के लिए जोखिम भरे साबित होंगे। इस पेंशन स्कीम के अनुसार एक कर्मचारी इस्तीफा देने के बाद भी सेवानिवृत्ति तक इस संचित फंड की 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक धनराशि को नहीं निकाल सकता तथा तीन साल की सर्विस के बाद ही वह बहुत ही गंभीर स्थितियों में अपने योगदान का 25 प्रतिशत हिस्सा वापस ले सकता है। क्या यह उनके साथ अन्याय नहीं है? National Pension Scheme के मुताबिक रिटायरमेंट के बाद मिलने वाला 60 प्रतिशत कार्पस कर योग्य होगा एवं उसके अलावा 40 प्रतिशत कार्पस अनिवार्य रूप से एक वार्षिकी खरीदने के लिए उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। ऐसे में किस व्यवस्था के हित के लिए यह काम किया जा रहा है - सरकारी कर्मचारी के हित के लिए या प्राइवेट कम्पनियों के हित के लिए?

महोदय, काफी समय से कई सरकारी कर्मचारी संगठन National Pension Scheme के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ रहे हैं, परन्तु अब तक सरकार की तरफ से उनके कल्याण के लिए कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया है। अतः मैं सरकार से कर्मचारियों को एनपीएस से आ रही परेशानियों का संज्ञान लेने एवं उनका समाधान निकालने का अनुरोध करूंगा, धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Shrimati Shanta Chhetri; not present. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar.

**Demand to adopt appropriate policy for the development of villages to  
restrict migration towards cities**

**श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर** (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, गांवों से शहरों की ओर पलायन बढ़ता जा रहा है। देश की समृद्धि का रास्ता गांव से होकर गुजरता है। जब देश विश्व का सबसे समृद्धशाली देश था, तब देश की 88 प्रतिशत आबादी गांवों में रहती थी। यह 1750 तक की स्थिति थी। उस समय विश्व की अर्थव्यवस्था में भारत का योगदान करीब 25 प्रतिशत था। जब देश आज़ाद हुआ, तब भी गांवों में देश की आबादी के करीब 82 प्रतिशत लोग रहते थे, लेकिन आज़ादी के बाद गांवों के साथ सौतेला व्यवहार हुआ तथा उनको बजट में समुचित हिस्सा न मिलने के कारण उपेक्षा का शिकार होना पड़ा। शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, बिजली सड़क, मार्केटिंग आदि की उचित सुविधाएं न मिल पाने के कारण लोगों को विवश होकर गांवों से शहरों की ओर पलायन करना पड़ा। \* एक सर्वे में यह भी पता चला है कि गांवों में रहने वाले व्यक्ति 33 रुपए प्रतिदिन पर अपना जीवन-यापन करने को विवश हैं। यदि गांवों में ही उक्त सभी सुविधाएं होतीं तो वह शहरों की ओर पलायन नहीं करता। आज गांवों की स्थिति यह है कि वहां मात्र 62 प्रतिशत लोग रह रहे हैं। गांव में रोजगार के अवसर घटते जा रहे हैं तथा लघु उद्योग तथा हाथ की दस्तकारी को लम्बे समय तक हतोत्साहित किया गया।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** आपने जो लिखकर दिया है, उसी को पढ़ना है। अपनी तरफ से आपको कुछ जोड़ने की आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि जो आप बोल रहे हैं, वह record में जाने वाला नहीं है। जो आपने यहां पर लिखकर दिया है, वही record में जाएगा।

**श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर:** महोदय, महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूं कि...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** जो आपने लिखकर दिया है, उसे ही पढ़ लीजिए।

**श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर:** सर, मैं वही पढ़ रहा हूं। देश की समृद्धि और तरक्की के लिए.. जब तक गांवों का विकास नहीं होगा, तब तक देश प्रगति नहीं कर सकता। इसलिए मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि गांवों के विकास के लिए वही नीति अपनायी जानी चाहिए, जो शहर के लिए है।

**Demand for research and translation of Indian classical texts**

**श्री राकेश सिन्हा (नाम निर्देशित):** महोदय, मैं एक ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं कि कुछ कारणों से अपेक्षित रहा है। मैंने जैसा लिख कर दिया है, उसी को मैं पढ़ रहा हूं। भारत एक सभ्यताई राष्ट्र है, जिसका इतिहास हजारों साल पुराना है। इस दौरान देश में सैकड़ों रचनाएं ऐसी हुई जिसका भूत, वर्तमान और भावी पीढ़ियों, तीनों के लिए महत्व है। यह बौद्धिक विरासत हमारी अमूल्य संपदा है, जो देश में विविधता में एकता का आधार भी है। देश में जिस तरह राष्ट्रवाद पर पश्चिमी दृष्टि थोपी जा रही है, इसके लिए आवश्यक है कि देश की इन रचनाओं का भारतीय भाषाओं में अनुवाद हो। उन पर शोध को प्रोत्साहित किया जाए। उदाहरण के लिए असम के श्री शंकर देव जी, तमिल के

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\*Not recorded.

तिरुवल्लुर, महाराष्ट्र के समर्थ रामदास आदि की रचनाओं का अनुवाद हिंदी, अंग्रेजी सहित सभी भारतीय भाषाओं में हो। इसके लिए एक Center of Classical Studies स्थापित किया जाए और इसके चार Regional Centers बनाए जाएं, जिससे देश में विचारों का मौलिक और सहज प्रवाह हो।

यूरोप ने अपने सभी Classical texts को संरक्षित किया है। अनुवाद विभिन्न यूरोपीय भाषाओं में किया गया है। अतः मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि इस प्रश्न पर गंभीरता से विचार करें और Center for Classical Studies की स्थापना करें।

**Demand to ensure that MSP reach to the farmers by  
protecting them from middlemen**

**श्री हरनाथ सिंह यादव** (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, आपकी अनुमति से मैं इस सदन के द्वारा एक अति महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, भारत सरकार ने आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में किसानों की आय दुगुना करने के लिए अनेक सार्थक प्रयास किए हैं। हम सभी जानते हैं कि "किसान सशक्त तो देश सशक्त", "किसान की जेब भारी तो देश की जेब भारी।"

महोदय, इस दिशा में सरकार ने किसानों को खरीफ की 14 फसलों का लागत से डेढ़ गुना मूल्य घोषित करके एक ऐतिहासिक कार्य किया है, जिसका किसानों ने हृदय से स्वागत किया है।

परन्तु, मैं इससे सदन के द्वारा सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि न्यूनतम घोषित मूल्य की जेब तक पहुँचे, इसके लिए सरकार को उचित समय पर कठोर और व्यापक कदम उठाने की जरूरत है।

मान्यवर, अभी डेढ़-दो माह पश्चात् फसलें मार्केट में आना प्रारम्भ हो जायेंगी, अतः सरकार को व्यापक व तत्काल सभी व्यवस्थायें सुनिश्चित करना अपेक्षित है, आवश्यक है।

अतः मेरा भारत सरकार से अनुरोध है कि किसानों को सरकारी तंत्र और बिचौलियों के कुचक्र से बचाकर इस संबंध में सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता देकर वांछित कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए ताकि किसानों को सरकार द्वारा न्यूनतम घोषित मूल्य हर दशा में मिल सके।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया)**: श्री कैलाश सोनी। आप उसी का वाचन करिए, जो आपने यहां पर लिखकर दिया है।

**Demand to build and maintain the service and internal roads for cities  
along with main roads and over bridges**

**श्री कैलाश सोनी** (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान सर्विस रोड्स की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि रोड्स निर्माण के मामले में सरकार का कार्य अत्यंत सराहनीय है। सारे देश में गुणवत्ता की रोड्स का निर्माण हो रहा है।

[श्री कैलाश सोनी]

समस्या विचलन मार्गों की है। सभी जगह जहां रोड़ज़ एवं ओवर ब्रिजों का निर्माण हो रहा है, वहां सर्विस रोड़ज़ (विचलन मार्गों) का निर्माण पहले होना चाहिए। साथ ही इनका रख-रखाव भी होता रहे, अन्यथा लोग कष्ट का अनुभव करते हैं।

इसके साथ ही बड़ी रोड़ज़ निर्माण होने के बाद तुरंत या साथ में नगरों के भीतर भी एप्रोच बनाया जाना अत्यंत आवश्यक है, अन्यथा एक शहर से दूसरे शहर पहुंच जाते हैं। इससे ज्यादा समय शहर के भीतर पहुंचने में लगता है। अतः मेरा सरकार से आग्रह है कि सरकार को इस संबंध में उचित दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए जाने चाहिए।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** श्री प्रताप सिंह बाजवा, अनुपस्थित। डा. किरोड़ी लाल मीणा, अनुपस्थित। श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन, अनुपस्थित। श्री अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह।

#### **Demand to expedite the work of new AIIMS projects**

**श्री अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह (बिहार):** महोदय, आज देश के स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की स्थिति अत्यंत ही चिंताजनक है। सरकार ने वर्ष 2014 से 2017 के बीच में 13 नये "एम्स" के निर्माण की घोषणा की, लेकिन इनमें से 11 संस्थानों के निर्माण हेतु आबंटित राशि का 5 प्रतिशत से भी कम व्यय किया गया है तथा कुछ के लिए कैबिनेट की स्वीकृति लेना शेष है। जाहिर है कि इसके निर्माण तथा जनता सेवा में समर्पित होने में अभी कई और वर्ष लगेंगे। हाल ही में लोक सभा में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी ने यह स्वीकार किया था कि वर्तमान में कार्यरत सभी छह "एम्स" के विभिन्न विभागों में 60 प्रतिशत से अधिक पद रिक्त पड़े हैं। जो इस बात का संदेह पैदा करती है कि ऐसी सरकारी घोषणाएं धरातल पर वास्तविकता में दिखेंगी भी या नहीं?

महोदय, मैं बिहार से आता हूं और राज्य में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री भी रह चुका हूं तथा स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की दुर्व्यवस्था एवं गरीब जनता की पीड़ा को मैंने करीब से महसूस किया है। आज देश में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के विकास की बहुत ज्यादा आवश्यकता है, जरूरत है। अतः मेरा आग्रह है कि नये "एम्स" स्थापित करने की दिशा में सरकार ठोस एवं त्वरित कार्रवाई करे, धन्यवाद।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** प्रो. एम.वी. राजीव गौड़ा, अनुपस्थित। श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा, अनुपस्थित। श्री एस. मुत्तुकरुप्पन, अनुपस्थित। श्री डी. राजा, हो गया। श्री वि. विजयसाई रेड्डी।

#### **Request to implement recommendations of Kamalesh Chandra Committee for Gramin Dak Sevaks**

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh):** Sir, nearly 2.38 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks are playing a pivotal role in the postal network, particularly in the rural areas. In fact, Gramin Dak Sevaks are the backbone of the Postal Department, as every postal service is incomplete without Gramin Dak Sevaks. It is no exaggeration when I say that Gramin Dak Sevaks cover 74 per cent of population of the country. They are working for

more than ten hours a day to serve effectively and efficiently in villages. But, they are not getting the kind of remuneration and other benefits which they are supposed to get.

There are many grievances and, to address them, the Government of India constituted Kamalesh Chandra Committee and the Committee submitted its Report in November, 2016. The Union Cabinet has approved the Report in June, 2018. But, unfortunately, major recommendations of the Committee have not been accepted.

Some of the recommendations that have not been accepted by the Government of India are:—

1. Introducing a voluntary discharge scheme for a person who is willing to leave the post before the discharge age of 65 years.
2. Preferring transfer before put-off duty.
3. Increasing ex-gratia gratuity to ₹ 5 lakhs, but Government of India has increased it only to ₹ 1.5 lakhs.
4. Insurance scheme.
5. Children Education Allowance.

Now, the Gramin Dak Sevak are demanding that these recommendations should be accepted immediately which will help them to work more vigorously.

In view of the above, I request the Ministry of Communications to accept above recommendations and implement them forthwith.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** श्रीमती वंदना चव्हाण, अनुपस्थित।

**Demand to immediately set up a Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya  
in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh**

**डा. संजय सिंह (असम):** महोदय, प्रत्येक जनपद में नवोदय विद्यालय की स्थापना की शासन की मंशा के बावजूद पिछले 8 सालों से उत्तर प्रदेश का सुल्तानपुर जनपद नवोदय विद्यालय विहीन है। 1 जुलाई, 2010 को जनपद-सुल्तानपुर की 3 तहसीलों अमेठी, गौरीगंज और जगदीशपुर को अलग कर अमेठी के नाम से एक नया जिला बनाया गया, जिसके चलते गौरगंज में स्थित जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय भी सुल्तानपुर से अलग होकर अमेठी जनपद में चला गया।

वर्ष 2012 में किराये के भवन में जनपद-सुल्तानपुर के नवोदय विद्यालय को संचालित करने संबंधी पत्र मानव संसाधन विकास विभाग द्वारा निर्गत भी किया गया, किन्तु अभी तक उक्त योजना को अमली जामा नहीं पहनाया जा सका है।

[डा. संजय सिंह]

प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार 23 नवम्बर, 2016 को कैबिनेट बैठक में देश के जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय विहीन सभी 62 जिलों में जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय की स्थापना हेतु रु.2871/- करोड़ स्वीकृत किए गए थे। उक्त जिलों में उत्तर प्रदेश का सुलतानपुर जिला भी शामिल है।

ग्रामीण प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों के लिए वरदान स्वरूप जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय के सुलतानपुर में न होने के अनेक ग्रामीण छात्र उक्त स्तरीय शिक्षा से वंचित हो रहे हैं।

दुर्भाग्य का विषय है कि शिक्षा जैसे अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण और संवेदनशील विषय पर इतना विलम्ब किया जा रहा है। मेरा सदन के माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध है कि जनपद-सुलतानपुर में तत्काल जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय की स्थापना कराने एवं यथाशीघ्र कक्षाएं प्रारम्भ कराने हेतु आवश्यक कार्यवाही करने की कृपा करें।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा, अनुपस्थित। डा. वी. मैत्रेयन, अनुपस्थित।

**Demand to restore the provision of SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989 or to bring an ordinance to safeguard the interest of SC/ST consequent upon the judgement of the Supreme Court**

**श्री पी.एल. पुनिया** (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, देश में SC/ST सबसे उपेक्षित वर्ग है, जिन्हें विकास के अवसरों से वंचित रखा गया है तथा वे सर्वाधिक उत्पीड़न के शिकार होते रहे हैं, जिसे समाप्त करने के लिए अनेक कदम उठाए गए, जिनमें SC/ST Act, 1989 महत्वपूर्ण एवं कारगर कदम था।

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने दिनांक 20-03-2018 को एक निजी मामले में फैसला दिया कि SC/ST Act का दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है, जिसे रोकने के लिए कुछ दिशा-निर्देश भी निर्धारित किए हैं। सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के फैसले के बाद अब एक अपराध के लिए दो कानून हैं। सामान्य वर्ग की शिकायत पर तत्काल FIR दर्ज की जाती है, लेकिन किसी दलित की शिकायत पर FIR, Dy. SP स्तर के अधिकारी की प्रारम्भिक जांच के बाद दर्ज की जाएगी। SC/ST Act के अन्तर्गत लिखाई गई रिपोर्ट गैर-जमानती अपराध है, लेकिन सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कहा है कि अग्रिम जमानत फिर भी दी जा सकती है। मामला सही पाए जाने और FIR लिखने के बाद भी सरकारी कर्मों की गिरफ्तारी नियुक्ति अधिकारी और सामान्यजन के मामले में SP की इजाजत से ही हो सकती है।

महोदय, सरकार द्वारा आश्वासन दिया गया कि SC/ST Act को कमजोर नहीं होने दिया जाएगा। अतः सदन के माध्यम से सरकार से आग्रह है कि SC/ST Act को पूर्ववत् बहाल रखने हेतु वर्तमान सत्र में बिल लेकर आए या सत्र के बाद अध्यादेश जारी करें।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** श्री के.के. रागेश, अनुपस्थित।

**Demand to provide certain incentives to sugar industry in Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI T. RATHINAVEL** (Tamil Nadu): The Union Government has approved certain measures to improve the liquidity of the sugar mills. Creation of buffer stock is

useful only to the mills that have not yet cleared the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) and also have excess sugar stock. In case of Tamil Nadu, most of the private sugar mills have paid their FRP through borrowings and cooperative and public sector sugar mills have cleared the arrears with higher interest. The stock available for sale is only 2.17 lakh metric tonnes for all the mills in Tamil Nadu and FRP arrears are only ₹ 226.25 crore. Hence, creation of buffer stock will not be beneficial to the struggling mills in Tamil Nadu. The annual requirement of sugar in Tamil Nadu is 15 lakh metric tonnes and the production is only 5.8 lakh metric tonnes. Therefore, exemption may be granted to the State from stock holding limits. The Minimum Indicative Export Quota allocated for the sugar mills in Tamil Nadu is almost 14.16 per cent of the sugar production as against 5.82 per cent for the surplus States. Therefore, Tamil Nadu may be exempted from this measure. As the sugar mills in Tamil Nadu have been clearing the FRP dues by borrowing funds at high interest rates, as a special case, interest subvention on loans availed by them for payment of FRP for the season 2017-18 may be considered. The production subsidy of ₹ 5.5 per quintal of sugarcane announced earlier should be extended to the farmers and mills in Tamil Nadu without linking it to ethanol supply and MIEQ compliance.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** श्री आर. वैद्यलिंगम, अनुपस्थित। श्रीमती वानसुक साइम, अनुपस्थित। श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद।

**Demand to direct the State Governments to pay compensation to farmers where deficit of rain hit the sowing of Kharif crops especially in Bundelkhand**

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश):** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश सहित कई राज्यों में औसत से कम वर्षा होने से किसान खरीफ की फसल की बुआई नहीं कर पाए हैं। पूरे देश में किसान आंदोलित हैं, परेशान हैं। किसान चाहते हैं कि सरकारें उन्हें सूखा क्षेत्र घोषित कर मुआवजा प्रदान करें। विशेष तौर पर बुंदेलखंड के जनपद बांदा, चित्रकूट, हमीरपुर, महोबा, झांसी, ललितपुर, जालौन के किसान परेशान हैं। फसल न बो पाने के कारण वे हताश व निराश हैं और आत्महत्याएं कर रहे हैं।

अतः मैं केन्द्र सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि वह देश के प्रभावित राज्यों, जहां वर्षा औसत से कम हुई है, विशेष तौर पर बुंदेलखंड के किसानों को फसल नुकसान का मुआवजा प्रदान करने हेतु राज्य सरकारों को निर्देश जारी करने की कृपा करें। धन्यवाद।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया):** श्री अनिल देसाई, अनुपस्थित।

सदन की कार्यवाही सोमवार, 11 बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

*The House then adjourned at twenty-seven minutes past five  
of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday,  
the 6th August, 2018.*