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सत्यमेव जयते

Friday

20 July, 2018

29 Ashadha, 1940 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 20th July, 2018/29th Ashadha, 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 K.V.R.S. Bala Subba Rao**, a former Member of this House, on the 30th of June, 2018, at the age of 78 years.

Born in July, 1939 at Eluru in the West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, **Shri Rao** was educated at Sir C.R.R. College, Eluru.

An agriculturist and businessman, **Shri Bala Subba Rao** was an avid sports enthusiast. He represented India in Basket Ball in 1961 and served as an International referee. He also served as the Chairman of the Composite Madras State Olympic Association in 1953 and was associated with various sports organisations. He had several articles on sports to his credit.

Shri Bala Subba Rao started his legislative career as a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council, from 1980 to 1981. Shri Rao represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House, from March, 1981 to April, 1984.

In the passing away of **Shri K.V.R.S. Bala Subba Rao**, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a sports enthusiast.

We deeply mourn the passing away of **Shri K.V.R.S. Bala Subba Rao**.

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

(The 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.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 55 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution):—

- (1) S.O. 1460 (E), dated the 2nd April, 2018, amending Notification No. S.O. 371 (E), dated the 8th February, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (2) S.O. 3171 (E), dated the 29th June, 2018, amending Notification No. S.O. 371 (E), dated the 8th February, 2017, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9315/16/18]

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER), Mumbai, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9357/16/18]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9356/16/18]

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

II. MoU between the Government of India and NSC Limited.

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

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare), under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968:—

(1) S.O. 1370 (E), dated the 26th March, 2018, exempting the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratories of certain organizations from the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9326/16/18]

(2) G.S.R. 399 (E), dated the 25th April, 2018, publishing the Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9325/16/18]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) and the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) Limited, for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9320/16/18]

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

II. MoUs between CRWC and CWC and Government of India and CWC.

SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY: Sir, I lay on the Table:—

I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. S.O. 251 (E), dated the 21st March, 2018, publishing the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Registration of Warehouses (Amendment) Rules, 2018, under Section 52 of the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 9341/16/18]

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), Notification No. S.O. 3127 (E), dated the 27th June, 2018, amending Notification No. S.O. 3577 (E), dated the 29th November, 2016, to

substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under sub-section (2) of Section 37 of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9343/16/18]

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

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), for the year 2018-19.
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), for the year 2018-19.

Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Radhakrishnan P., I lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2017 — Union Government (Railways)—(Report No.5 of 2018); and
- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2017 — Union Government, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation — [Report No.6 of 2018 (Performance Audit)].

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018

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

"In accordance with provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of

Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th July, 2018.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform you that a letter has been received from Shri Mohd. Ali Khan, stating that he is unable to attend the sittings of Rajya Sabha on health grounds. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence from 18th July to 10th August, 2018 during the current 246th Session of Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from all meetings of the House, from 18th July to 10th August, 2018, during the current Session of Rajya Sabha?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Business for the week commencing 23rd July, 2018

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 with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing the 23rd of July, 2018 will consist of:—

1. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Lok Sabha:
 - (a) The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment Bill, 2017;
 - (b) The Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
 - (c) The Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015;
 - (d) The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017;
 - (e) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016;

- (f) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill 2017; and
2. Consideration and passing of the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral palsy, Mental Retardation and multiple Disabilities (Amendment) bill, 2018.
 3. Consideration and passing of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2017 as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.
 4. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018 (No.1 of 2018) and consideration and passing of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018.

**REGARDING RAISING AN ISSUE WITHOUT
PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we go to Zero Hour. *...(Interruptions)...* I have received *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI C.M. RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): I have an important issue to raise, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* You have to seek my permission. *...(Interruptions)...* I have not given you permission. *...(Interruptions)...* Shri Anand Sharma. *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Ramesh, you sit down, please. *...(Interruptions)...* Please. *...(Interruptions)...* Sit down.

SHRI CM. RAMESH: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* How will I ask? *...(Interruptions)...* Will you not sit down? *...(Interruptions)...* What is this? *...(Interruptions)...* Should I see it from here and then ask you? *...(Interruptions)...* Come and meet me in my Chamber. *...(Interruptions)...* It is not going on record. *...(Interruptions)...* It is not going on record. *...(Interruptions)...* It is unbecoming on the part of a Member. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI C.M. RAMESH:*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned to meet a 12 O'clock.

The House then adjourned at eight minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before taking up the Question Hour, I would like to say that I have ordered for an inquiry on the issue that has been brought to my notice in my Chamber by the Leader of the Opposition and also by Shri Ramesh and others here, and we will take suitable action.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): I have no intention to disturb the House. I have brought it to your notice. This is the only way.

Replacing bio-toilets with vacuum bio-toilets

*31. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to replace bio-toilets with vacuum bio-toilets and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as of May, 2018, 1,36,965 bio-toilets have been fitted in 37,411 coaches at a cost of around ₹1 lakh per-toilet and there is a plan to install bio-toilets in around 18,750 more coaches by March, 2019, costing around ₹ 250 crores; and

(c) if so, how does the Government justify this replacement by vacuum bio-toilets costing at around ₹ 2.5 lakh per-unit?

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Existing bio-digester tanks popularly called bio-toilets are being fitted with additional vacuum assisted flushing units on some coaches. This results in creation of hybrid toilet perhaps referred in the question as vacuum bio-toilets.

In the bio-toilet system being proliferated over Indian Railways, a bio-digester tank is fitted beneath each toilet of a coach for collection of human fecal matter. These bio-tanks

are seeded with self-sustaining anaerobic bacteria that digest human waste and convert this waste into water and bio-gases (mainly Methane CH₄ & Carbon Dioxide CO₂). The gases escape into the atmosphere and waste water is discharged after disinfection. Human waste thus does not fall on the Railway tracks. This keeps the tracks/station premises clear from human waste.

Vacuum system is provided at the passenger interface. The interface of these toilets is similar to the toilets provided in aircraft. The objective of the vacuum assisted system is to bring about a significant reduction in the water used by the flushing system while bringing about improved flushing efficiencies. The objective of this initiative is to go green by reducing water consumption, a precious resource.

Vacuum toilets fitted in conjunction with existing toilets equipped with bio-tanks, create a hybrid toilet system, with each component serving a different and meaningful function. In this hybrid toilet system, the bio-digester tanks fitted in coaches will continue to work as before for on-board digestion and disposal of the fecal matter.

(b) The facts pertaining to the month of May, 2018 are accurate. Indian Railways propose to complete the work of installation of bio-toilets in balance coaches in 2019. An outlay of ₹1220 crore has been provided for completion of this work.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I have a question to the hon. Railway Minister. Hon. Railway Minister, please clarify. Of course, I have the written answer and the endeavour on the part of Rail administration to improve services to make it cleaner is welcome. There is no doubt in that at all. But as it appears from the record, and as I have asked also, whether it is a fact that the Railways are planning to replace bio-toilets with vacuum bio-toilets at a cost of rupees one lakh per toilet, and if you make such changes in thousands of coaches, then the cost would go into crores. Of course, it is the taxpayers' money and if this money is misspent and if the plan...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Sir, the question is whether it is a fact that the Railways are planning to replace bio-toilets with vacuum bio-toilets and if so, the details thereof.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already asked your question and they have answered, 'No'. Ask a supplementary question.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: The (b) part of my question has not been properly answered.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: The (b) part has also been answered, hon. Chairman. Sir, the fact is that Railways has decided to replace all the toilets with bio-toilets in the entire rail network be it passenger train, express train, Duronto, Rajdhani, even second class and unreserved. We have already completed it in almost 60 per cent of the coaches. The balance will be completed by next year. Thereby, completely eliminating the defecation going on to the tracks which is not only unhygienic from the point of view of sanitation and cleanliness, but it was also affecting the Railway safety because the uric acid going on the tracks was damaging the tracks and causing accidents. We are completely eliminating them. Some complaints were received that there is a backlash smell which comes out from the bio toilet. That happens particularly if someone puts any garbage into the bio-toilet, it clogs the toilet, that gives a backlash of foul smell. Therefore, we are experimenting. We are in the process of ordering. The tender will open on 26th or 27th of July. We are in the process of finding a way to get vacuum system retrofitted on the bio-toilet. We are not going to replace the bio-toilet, they will be there. A vacuum system which will suck out the...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, the second supplementary.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Sir, cleanliness, of course, is an interconnected issue with the question which I have raised, and of course, the endeavour of the hon. Minister is to ensure that there is cleanliness, there is no bad smell for the passengers. Last week, the Mumbai Consumer Court has awarded compensation to one of the passengers who moved against the Railways stating that a rat was found in the compartment. So, I would request the Minister to please explain.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: While I don't have the exact details of this case, Sir, very clearly, we have a system spanning the length and breadth of the country and it is a system which we inherited in 2014 after almost 63 years of deep neglect of Railway network. For your kind information, I would like to share with the hon. Chairman, Sir, that as against an average allocation of about ₹ 45,000 to 46,000 crores between 2009-14 annually for capital expenditure to upgrade, expand modernize the railway system, this Government has rapidly scaled up the investments of capital nature. In the current year, we are going to invest ₹ 1,42,000 crores as capex to upgrade the system.

A particular incident, where a rat was found, is certainly not acceptable. We will take the strictest action in the matter. We are giving on-board services for housekeeping. We have a Coach Mitra for many trains. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right; right. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma. Actually the hon. Minister wants to take the advantage of the question and wants to explain the good work that he is doing. It is good. But, I have the problem of time.

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा: सर, गवर्नमेंट ने bio-digester लगाने का डिजीज़न लिया था। आज भी ऐसी हज़ारों ट्रेनें चल रही हैं, जिनमें यह नहीं लगाया गया है। आज भी faecal matter पटरियों पर गिरता है। मैं यह जानना चाह रहा था कि क्या रेलवे ने कोई स्टडी कराई है कि कितना मीथेन जेनरेशन इस अकाउंट में हो रहा है, जो फीकल मैटर पटरियों पर गिरता है? क्या आपको लगता है कि immediately bio-digester फिट करने से कुछ बचत हो पाएगी? मैं डिटेल्स चाहता हूँ।

श्री पीयूष गोयल: यह स्वाभाविक है कि bio-digester या bio-toilet फिट होने के बाद जो मल नीचे गिरता था, वह बंद हो जाएगा, जो पूरी तरह से रेलवे के सिस्टम को भी सुरक्षित रखेगा और साथ ही साथ आपने जो foul smell (मीथेन) की चर्चा की, वह भी खत्म होगी, इसीलिए हम इसको इतने बड़े पैमाने पर काफी तेज़ गति से लगा रहे हैं। आप जानते हैं कि इस सरकार ने मेक इन इण्डिया प्रोग्राम को बल दिया है, प्रोत्साहन दिया है, इसलिए उसको विदेश से लाने के बजाए डीआरडीओ की सहायता से भारत में ही बनाया गया है और डेवलप किया गया। हम इसे भारतीय कंपनियों की क्षमता के आधार पर बदल पर रहे हैं। अगले 12-18 महीने में पूरी तरह से भारत की रेलवे में यह bio-digester लग जाएगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. Nobody should stand without the permission of the Chairman. Nobody should put a question without permission. That is the system. Otherwise, the House cannot function effectively.

श्री पीयूष गोयल: मीथेन गैस कितनी निकलती है, वह तो अलग-अलग टॉयलेट में कितने लोग जा रहे हैं, किस गाड़ी में कितने पैसेजर्स ट्रैवल कर रहे हैं, इसके ऊपर निर्भर करता है, लेकिन मीथेन गैस निकलती है, यह वास्तविकता है। इसको बैठकर असेस करना असंभव सा है, पर हमने इस समस्या का हल निकालने पर ज्यादा फोकस किया है।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, actually that emits very foul smell. When we travel by train, we actually cannot tolerate that odour. You have already told that retrograde vacuum system will be fitted there.

However, my particular question is this. In my State, the trains have very old coaches. When will the Tirunelveli, the Nellai Express, the Kanyakumari Express, the Ananthapuri Express have new coaches? These trains have more than thirty-year-old coaches. When will you bring the new coaches?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already put your question.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Chairman, Sir, as I have mentioned earlier, on cumulative basis, we have so far fitted 1,43,700 bio-toilets in 39,300 coaches. That itself is a humongous task. The total number of coaches is about 58,000. We have to replace the balance 19,000 coaches. The work is progressing at fast pace. We are doing centralized procurement to bring down the cost. We are also bringing in reverse bidding process so that the cost comes down, which was the concern of Mr. Majeed, in the first place. As I have already explained, the backlash of smell is the result of garbage put in the toilet which opens the vent. We are doing two things. One, we are experimenting with vacuum retrofitting. Second, the young engineers of the Railways whom — we are proud of — have developed a ventury system and S-trap Fitting, which is being done in all the coaches. The Ventury system and S-trap fitting, using the speed of the train, will suck out the air from the bio-toilet. We do hope that it will have an impact to further reduce the foul smell.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for her sake, give priority to Tirunelveli. Shri Vijayasai Reddy.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I will make sure about that.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, he did not give answer to the second part of the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you have not asked.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, he has not answered the second part of the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Shri Vijayasai Reddy. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Shrimati Kanimozhi, you know the system. You have to give notice. Shri Vijayasai Reddy. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: I just want to know...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. This is not allowed, please. It is not going on record. Why are you wasting your energy? Shri Vijayasai Reddy.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when trials were conducted for bio toilets, the hon. Railway Minister stated in this august House that trials were

successful. Subsequently, after implementing it partially, now he says that they are not successful and that vacuum system is being added to that. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the additional cost to the Exchequer on this account would be. Of course, vacuum system is being added. What exactly is the loss incurred to the Exchequer on account of this change in the policy?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: In the first place, I have never mentioned that bio-toilet is not successful. I think it is one of the most successful stories of the railways in its fight against open defecation going on to the tracks. What I mentioned is, it is because of clogging. If some people — by mistake or whatever, I am not casting any aspersions— put garbage into the toilet, it opens the vent and there is a backlash. We are also finding a solution for that. As far as cost is concerned, the bio-toilet cost has drastically fallen from what it was four or five years ago. Current levels are about ₹ one lakh per bio-toilet. I am hoping with reverse auction it may come down further. As regards the Government policy, hon. Chairman, Sir, we do not believe passengers' service and passengers' safety can be calculated by any cost. We are willing to spend any amount of money when it comes to passengers' safety and passengers' service. This particular work of bio-toilets is for both, as I said, it protects the tracks from uric acid; which expands the life of the tracks, makes it safer, reduces accidents, and it makes the passengers' experience better. We are sorting out certain problems like odour, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: In Tirunvelveli train also it will happen in due course. It is not as if we will discriminate one against the other. In 16 zones, this work is going on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right, Mr. Minister. You may meet Shrimati Kanimozhi afterwards and find out from her which station she wants to be attended to.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Okay, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 32. See, I am trying to reach maximum number of questions. Try to understand. Each question will have only three supplementaries.

Status of setting up of Kolhapur Bench of High Court of Bombay

*32. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration of Government to set up a Bench of High Court of Bombay at Kolhapur to take care of the cases pertaining to western

Maharashtra and Konkan region, as the petitioners and respondents have to travel to Mumbai to follow up the pending cases, causing inconvenience;

(b) if so, the details with current status thereof; and

(c) by when Kolhapur Bench of High Court of Bombay would be setup?

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

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(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, which is required to look after the day to day administration of the High Court and its Bench. The proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State. At present there is no proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for establishment of a bench of Bombay High Court at Kolhapur.

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Sir, Kohlapur has been demanding a High Court Bench for the last 30 years. There are 62,000 cases pending in the adjoining districts of Kohlapur. To reach Mumbai from Kohlapur, it takes almost six hours. You say that the State Government has not given the proposal. But the State Government has been saying this for the last 30 years. It can only request for a High Court Bench. I would like to ask the hon. Minister: Can the Centre intervene and give justice for a High Court Bench at Kohlapur?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Chairman, Sir, while appreciating his concern and sentiments for having a Bench at Kohlapur, norms are well laid out, because it is a request recurring from various parts of the country. One, the principal Bench of the High Court must give consent to it. They must approve the need depending upon the pendency, distance, etc. Secondly, there must be infrastructure. There was also a Supreme Court judgement which says consultation with the High Court and consent is a must. I regret to say that in case of Kohlapur, there is no consent of the High Court and there is no

proposal at all. Not only in one part, but requests from many of the parts of Maharashtra keep coming, but we have to take a holistic view.

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Sir, in the year 2015, the then Chief Justice Mohit Shah gave a positive reply regarding a High Court Bench for Kohlapur. We had asked for a copy of that from the High Court, but we have not yet got the same. Can the Government help us to get a copy of that? For the last 30 years, we have been asking for that.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: With due regard to the hon. Member, it is not the job of the Government to tell the High Court to give a copy. The High Court is independent and autonomous. Surely, we will help. But a letter is not important. What is important is the full court approval of the High Court concerned, about the need for a separate Bench. That is how the law is.

श्री हुसैन दलवई: चेयरमैन साहब, महाराष्ट्र में औरंगाबाद, मराठवाड़ा के लिए तथा नागपुर, विदर्भ के लिए High Court Benches पहले से हैं। कोल्हापुर की जो डिमांड है, वह गलत नहीं है, उसे consider करना चाहिए, ऐसा मुझे लगता है। इसी तरह से पुणे की भी डिमांड है। उसके बारे में क्या किया जा रहा है? इसके अतिरिक्त हमेशा एक सवाल उठता है कि बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट का नाम मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट कब किया जाएगा?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: आदरणीय सभापति जी, जो प्रश्न माननीय दलवई साहब ने उठाया है, उसी में उत्तर निकलता है। मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट या बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट, उसकी एक प्रिन्सिपल सीट है, एक नागपुर में है और एक औरंगाबाद में है। अभी कोल्हापुर का आग्रह आया और आपने उसमें पुणे भी जोड़ दिया, तो और भी जगहों से डिमांड आ सकती है। मैंने बताया कि सरकार इसमें माननीय उच्च न्यायालय की सहमति से काम करती है। भारत के संविधान में जो प्रावधान हैं, उसके आलोक में उचित भी है कि माननीय उच्च न्यायालय की सहमति बहुत आवश्यक है और वे पूर्णतया से देखते हैं। अभी पुणे के बारे में ऐसी कोई अनुशंसा नहीं है, इसलिए मेरा टिप्पणी करना उचित नहीं होगा। जहां तक आपने मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट के नाम की बात कही है, मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट, कोलकाता हाई कोर्ट, मद्रास या चेन्नई हाई कोर्ट, इसके बारे में भी हमने निर्णय किया है कि जो संबंधित उच्च न्यायालय है, वह नाम के बारे में अनुशंसा करे। अब मैं देखूंगा कि बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट ने अभी तक नाम के बारे में अपनी अनुशंसा की है या नहीं की है, उसके अनुरूप इसके बारे में विचार किया जाएगा।

श्री अमर शंकर साबले: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे suo motu सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट पब्लिक इन्टरेस्ट में कुछ निर्णय लेते हैं, वैसे ही क्या ये महाराष्ट्र की पब्लिक की डिमांड पर, पुणे और कोल्हापुर में बेंच बनाने के लिए सरकार को सिफारिश कर सकते हैं या नहीं?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सभापति महोदय, जहां तक मैंने माननीय सदन को प्रक्रिया के बारे में, सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले के बारे में बताया, एक जसवंत सिंह कमीशन बना था उसकी भी अनुशंसा थी कि इसके लिए कुछ मानक तय होने चाहिए। मैं एक बार फिर इस सदन को बड़ी विनम्रता से बताना चाहूंगा कि मैं पूरे देश के, सारे प्रदेशों के लोगों की भावनाओं का सम्मान करता हूं। लेकिन उच्च न्यायालय की कितनी बेंचें होंगी और कहां-कहां होंगी, इसका एक मानक बनाना पड़ेगा। इसीलिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा है कि संबंधित उच्च न्यायालय की अनुशंसा जरूरी है और जसवंत सिंह कमीशन की रिपोर्ट भी ऐसी ही है। इसलिए ऐसा उचित नहीं होगा कि इसमें भारत सरकार स्वयं पहल करे। हमारे लिए इस प्रक्रिया का सम्मान करना जरूरी है।

श्री चुनीभाई कानजीभाई गोहेल: चेयरमैन सर, महाराष्ट्र में हाई कोर्ट की बेंच एक से ज्यादा जगहों पर है। गुजरात बहुत बड़ा स्टेट है और गुजरात में एक ही हाई कोर्ट है। हम लोगों ने सौराष्ट्र में, राजकोट के लिए हाई कोर्ट की बेंच स्थापित करने के लिए बहुत सारी रिक्वेस्ट्स की हैं और कई सालों से ये रिक्वेस्ट्स पेंडिंग हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इस बारे में उन्होंने क्या सोचा है?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: माननीय सदस्य ने गुजरात के बारे में सदन में जो प्रश्न उठाया है, मैं उसका सम्मान करता हूं, लेकिन मैं उनको एक विनम्र सलाह दूंगा कि अगर गुजरात जैसे बड़े प्रदेश में, गुजरात हाई कोर्ट के लिए और बड़ी बेंच की आवश्यकता है, तो एक सर्वानुमति बनाकर प्रदेश सरकार को बताएं, माननीय उच्च न्यायालय को बताएं और उसके कारणों को भी बताएं। उसके बाद उसकी अनुशंसा आएगी, तो हम जरूर कार्रवाई करेंगे। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि बेंचेज के निर्माण के बारे में हम लोगों को राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर सोचना चाहिए। मैं एक बात आज सदन को बताना चाहूंगा कि जब मैं देश के कानून मंत्री के रूप में देखता हूं कि कई प्रदेशों में चार-चार बेंचेज हैं, तीन-तीन बेंचेज हैं, उनकी बात बिल्कुल सही है कि कई प्रदेशों में एक भी बेंच नहीं है। तो इसके बारे में सोचना पड़ेगा, लेकिन जैसा मैंने पूर्व के उत्तर में कहा कि एक सरकार की प्रक्रिया है और सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला है, जसवंत सिंह कमीशन की अनुशंसा है, तो इनके मानकों के अनुसार काम करना उचित होगा।

श्री सभापति: कुछ प्रदेशों में एक बेंच भी नहीं है।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: जी, सर, मैंने बताया है।

Two-tier security and issuance of virtual ID for Aadhaar database

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

(a) whether Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has proposed two-tier security in the wake of breach of Aadhaar database and to protect privacy of individuals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Virtual ID will be issued for transaction that will be shared with various agencies and by when it would be implemented; and

(d) the steps taken to create general awareness of Virtual ID facility among all the Aadhaar holders in various parts of the country, including villages?

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) and (b) Aadhaar today is backed by a proper law passed by the Parliament which contains robust security measures and protects privacy. It remains a fact that the Aadhaar has been challenged in the judicial forum and that the final verdict is awaited. However, it is to be noted that Aadhaar has been issued to 121.65 crore residents as on 30.6.2018. Aadhaar has evolved as an instrument for promoting good governance and enabling the poor to rightfully secure their due benefits by availing all direct transfer of benefits to their Aadhaar linked bank accounts which number 60.22 crore as on 30.6.2018. The UIDAI continues to update the security architecture to ensure that there is no breach of data.

(c) Virtual ID (VID) is a temporary, revocable 16-digit random number mapped with the Aadhaar number and the Aadhaar number holder can use VID *in lieu* of Aadhaar number for authentication purposes. The requesting entities will not store VID in their database. UIDAI *vide* circular No. 10 dated 29.06.2018 has directed all Requesting Entities to upgrade to VID system as per the timelines mentioned in the circular (https://uidai.gov.in/images/resource/Circular_10_Dated_29_June.pdf) (copy enclosed at Annexure) (See below).

(d) UIDAI has publicized the VID through various media *viz.* print, electronic, social media, Radio, etc. since January 2018. The awareness and outreach campaigning is a continuous process.

Annexure

F. No.K-11020/217/2018-UIDAI (Auth-I)

Government of India

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Unique Identification Authority of India

3rd Floor, UIDAI HQ Building,
Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir,
Gole Market, New Delhi - 110001

Dated: 29th June 2018

Circular No. 10 of 2018

Sub: Implementation of Virtual ID and UID Token and Limited e-KYC.

Reference is invited to office circular no. K-11020/217/2018-UIDAI (Auth-I) dated 10.01.2018 wherein it was mentioned that by 01.06.2018, all AUAs/KUAs shall have to fully migrate to the new system of Virtual ID (VID), UID Token and Limited e-KYC. Subsequently, *vide* circular no. 04 dated 1.05.2018 timeline for implementation of VID, UID Token and Limited e-KYC was extended by one month to 01.07.2018.

2. It is reiterated that VID is a critical security measure for protecting resident's privacy and their Aadhaar number. With the introduction of Virtual ID, Aadhaar number holders will have an option of not sharing their Aadhaar number and instead Aadhaar number holder can generate a Virtual ID and share it with AUAs to perform Aadhaar based authentication. It has been observed that a number of AUAs have already migrated to production environment using APIs 2.5 for VID implementation and most of the remaining AUAs have tested VID and UID Token in pre-production environment APIs 2.5.

3. It has further been observed that the authentication ecosystem varies from AUA to AUA *i.e.* in certain AUAs the authentication is always done in a controlled environment in the presence of their own regular staff while in case of some AUAs the authentication is performed in the presence of their agents who many a time cater to more than one AUA. Sometimes these agents in addition to AUA specific activity are also involved in other business activities. Therefore, it is imperative that on the basis of level of supervision in

authentication ecosystem and the risk assessment, the VID/UID Token associated security features should be implemented in certain category of AUAs without any delay.

3.1 In view of aforesaid, it is hereby decided that w.e.f. 01.07.2018 all Telecom Operators and e-Sign service providers shall start using VID and UID Token using Auth API 2.5 and e-KYC API 2.5. Those AUAs which continue to use Aadhaar based authentication with Auth API 2.0 and e-KYC API 2.1 beyond 30.06.2018 shall be charged ₹ 0.20 for every transaction performed using Auth API 2.0 or e-KYC API 2.1. However, as an incentive to expedite the migration process to Auth API 2.5, it has also been decided that in case an AUA has fully migrated to APIs 2.5 by 31.07.2018 then the authentication transaction charges imposed for using Auth API 2.0 and e-KYC API 2.1 shall be waived off.

3.2 In regard to the AUAs, other than mentioned in para 3.1 above, it has been decided that they shall migrate to VID and UID Token using Auth API 2.5 and e-KYC API 2.5 by 31.08.2018. In case of their failure, UIDAI shall be free to take action not limited to financial disincentives and termination of license key.

4. Therefore, all AUAs shall make necessary changes in their Front end client application to accept Aadhaar number as well as Virtual ID, Backend application changes to consume the UID Token and Limited e-KYC data and necessary changes in their authentication systems for use of Virtual ID, UID Token and Limited e-KYC immediately.

(Ajai Chandra)

Assistant Director General

To,

All AUAs and ASAs

Copy to:

All DDGs, UIDAI

श्री सभापति: क्वेश्चनर ऐब्सेन्ट है। Any supplementaries?

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा: सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि 29.12.2017 को एक तारांकित प्रश्न के उत्तर में माननीय मंत्री ने जवाब दिया है कि 210 वेबसाइट्स पर आधार डेटा लीक

हुई। एक अखबार ने जब इस समाचार को प्रकाशित किया तो उस अखबार के खिलाफ कार्रवाई हुई। जब सरकारी वेबसाइट पर आधार डेटा लीक हुआ, तो उस पर शासन क्या कार्रवाई कर रहा है, मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ।

श्री सभापति: हम लोक क्वेश्चन नम्बर 33 के बारे में चर्चा कर रहे हैं। आपने क्वेश्चन 33 के लिए भी भेजा है?

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा: जी सर।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, मैं बहुत विनम्रता से आपका संरक्षण चाहूँगा। तीसरा प्रश्न "आधार" के वर्चुअल आई.डी. सिस्टम के बारे में है। जिस संबंध में माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न उठाया है, वह आज का नौवां प्रश्न है। अगर वह प्रश्न आएगा, तो उस पर मैं विस्तार से जरूर उत्तर दूँगा। वर्चुअल आई.डी. के बारे में सदस्य सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी ने सवाल किया था, उसके संबंध में, अगर कुछ पूछना है, तो पूछ लीजिए। मैं उसका जवाब देने के लिए तैयार हूँ।

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Sir, I wish to quote a Circular issued on 29th June, 2018 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Unique Identification Authority of India. In para 3.1 of the circular, it is said, "It is hereby decided that w.e.f. 01.07.2018, all Telecom Operators and e-Sign service providers shall start using VID and UID Token using Auth API 2.5 and e-KYC 2.5." Has this circular been adhered to by all the operating Telecom Operators w.e.f. 1st July, 2018 in its entirety or not?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, in India, there are 121 crore-plus Aadhaar. It is a matter of assurance that in a population of nearly 150 crore, India today has 121 crore-plus Aadhaar. Aadhar has become a good platform of good governance, in saving of money, and so on. Now, some people had raised an objection saying that they must be given a technological alternative so that they are not required to produce their Aadhaar numbers for authentication. The Government and the Authority took that suggestion seriously and the Virtual ID has come. Further, the Virtual ID is a twelve digit-number, and whenever somebody uses this, a proper authentication is done by the system without disclosing the Aadhaar number.

I wish to tell hon. Sukhendu Babu that in India, we do authentication of 3.5 crore Aadhaar every day and the total number of Virtual IDs is 2.19 crore. But the issue is, when I go to the field, many people say that they cannot handle a Virtual ID. Don't make a complete embargo so that their authentication cannot be done. And noticing the reality

on the ground, we have taken a pragmatic view and said that those who want to use a Virtual ID should go in for the Virtual ID and those who cannot operate should be given the freedom to use the Aadhaar. That is how it is being done.

डा. विनय पी. सहस्रबुद्धे: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके विभाग से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि "आधार" के बारे में उनके विभाग की और सरकार की इतनी कोशिश होने के बावजूद भी "आधार" की पूरी व्यवस्था को बहुत गलत तरीके से कभी-कभी मीडिया में प्रस्तुत किया जाता है, उससे बदनामी होती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इसके संबंध में शिक्षकों, प्राध्यापकों, समाजसेवियों, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं के माध्यम से कोई जन-जागरण चलाने के बारे में सोच रही है?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य का प्रश्न बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण और संवेदनशील है। मैं उनकी चिंता के साथ अपने आपको जोड़ते हुए एक ही बात कहना चाहूँगा कि "आधार" की उपयोगिता उसके काम से आनी चाहिए। मैंने पहले भी कहा था कि "आधार" उन लोगों ने शुरू किया और बाद में हमने उसको कानूनी जामा पहनाया, प्राइवेट की चिंता की। आज "आधार" के बारे में वर्ल्ड बैंक, आईएमएफ सबने कहा कि, it is a fine instrument of governance and also of delivery.' यह बात मुझे सही लगती है कि "आधार" की लोकप्रियता बढ़ी है, इसकी स्वीकार्यता बढ़ी है, इसके बारे में और जागरूकता पैदा करने की जरूरत है। हमारे विभाग की ओर से काम होता है, हमारे CSCs वगैरह काम करते हैं। अगर इसमें माननीय सदस्य का कोई और सुझाव होगा, तो मैं जरूर उसका ध्यान रखूँगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question; Question No. 34; Shrimati Kanimozhi.

Policy on data protection framework

*34. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the policy on Data Protection framework, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of Committee of Experts headed by Justice B. N. Srikrishna on framing India's data protection laws; and

(c) the status of the recommendations considered by Government?

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) No, Sir.

(b) A Committee of Experts on Data Protection chaired by Justice Shri. B.N Srikrishna (Retd.) had been constituted to look into the aspects pertaining to Data Protection. The Committee has put out a White Paper for wider public review and has obtained feedback on it. The Committee has also conducted Stakeholders Consultation meetings and is in the process of finalizing its report on Data Protection Framework for India.

(c) The report of the above Committee is awaited.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, there are multiple technology firms that are collecting data from individuals and are doing so without explicit consent of the individuals. How would the Government ensure that collection of data by technology firms and their usage would be regulated and data privacy under the ambit of 'right to life and personal liberty' is protected?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the question is with regard to data protection law. I want to assure this House, as I have said in the reply itself, that under the leadership of Justice Srikrishna, a very eminent, retired Judge of the Supreme Court, data protection work is going on. They have undertaken consultation process and the report, I believe, would come shortly. After considering that, we may move to the Parliament as per the prescribed procedure. But, Sir, the larger issue is this. One is the issue of privacy and another is the issue of emergence of digital power and we must have a pragmatic blend of the two. For instance, in India, we did not go into the debate of net neutrality. We said right of access is not compromisable and today India is emerging as a digital power. About privacy which you have alluded to, I cannot call upon the Committee's Report unless the Report comes. But, Sir, one thing I must tell you that while we completely acknowledge the right of privacy, as the Supreme Court has laid under Article 21, privacy cannot become the plea of the terrorist and the corrupt. This we have to acknowledge and, therefore, a practical and pragmatic view has to be taken. Secondly, while respecting the mandate of right of privacy, India is emerging as a big innovative power in the digital field and that also shouldn't be compromised. That is how I see it.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: I would like to seek a clarification on that. There are many firms which collect our data without our knowledge when they take information from users and that has been sold off or given to other firms without the permission of the users. How is that going to be regulated to protect the users?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: As the hon. Member may recall, we had issued a very stern message to Facebook and they responded and apologised and they also issued notice to Cambridge Analytica. It is important that those who operate their own data should also not give consent; they should keep on asking questions by saying I would like to ask this question, and they will give ten options. You can say I will only agree to two options. Therefore, both have to work together. The larger narrative as to what legal injunctions are to be provided for, we will come with that once the Justice Srikrishna Committee Report comes about. But we keep on counselling the consumers that you don't give blanket consent when consent is asked. That is how we have to work.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the recent recommendations on digital privacy by the telecom regulatory, TRAI. Those recommendations are very high quality recommendations. May I seek his assurance that those recommendations will be taken into account by the Government and the Telecom Commission before the overall Data Protection Framework and the law is finalised?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: As regards taking the TRAI recommendations on board is a matter which falls in the domain of the Ministry of Communications. But I can only tell him that there are certain other recommendations with regard to data privacy also and I have already instructed my Department in the IT to take those inputs on record, but we will have to await the final recommendations of Justice Srikrishna Committee which is going into the entire ambit in a very detailed way.

डा. विकास महात्मे: चेयरमैन साहब, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि हम सभी को पता है कि आज के दिनों में डाटा सबसे इम्पोर्टेंट है, क्योंकि इसी के माध्यम से हम अपने देश के बारे में काफी पॉलिसीज़ तैयार कर सकते हैं, जिससे लोगों को फायदा हो। प्राइवेट कंपनियां भी उसका उपयोग अपने कंज्यूमर्स बढ़ाने के लिए करती हैं, लेकिन गवर्नमेंट को उससे कुछ भी लाभ नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वे कोई ऐसा कानून ला सकते हैं, जिससे प्राइवेट कंपनियों का डाटा भी गवर्नमेंट के पास रहे, ताकि वह पॉलिसी मेकिंग के लिए उपयोग में लाया जा सके तथा जो भी डाटा अपने पास है, उसे हम उपयोग में लाकर पॉलिसी मेकिंग में फायदा उठा सकते हैं?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: माननीय सभापति जी, हमें इसके लिए श्रीकृष्णा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा करनी चाहिए। माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है, उसका उत्तर उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट की अनुशंसा में आ सकता है।

महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो एक बात कही है, वह बहुत ही सही कही है कि भारत आज डाटा के अनुसंधान और अन्वेषण का बहुत बड़ा केन्द्र बन रहा है। हमारे पास करोड़ों की संख्या में डाटा

है। जैसा मैंने अभी आधार के बारे में बताया कि हम तीन करोड़ ऑथेंटिकेशन रोज़ करते हैं। इसलिए मेरी इच्छा है कि भारत डाटा अनुसंधान और डाटा एनेसिटिक्स का एक बहुत बड़ा केन्द्र बने।

माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके सामने एक बात कहना चाहूंगा कि अगर किसी क्षेत्र में बच्चों में बहुत बीमारी हो रही है, तो सरकार के पास यह डाटा होना चाहिए कि उस बीमारी में किस वर्ग के लोग आते हैं और उसके क्या कारण हैं। अतः डाटा से नीतियों को बनाने में प्रामाणिकता मिलती है, इसलिए दोनों को साथ लेकर चलना है, लेकिन हां, प्राइवेट कंपनियां जो डाटा लेती हैं, वे सार्थक और रचनात्मक रूप में उसका उपयोग करें, तो हम उसका स्वागत करेंगे और यदि वे उसका दुरुपयोग करेंगी, तो उनके खिलाफ हम कार्रवाई करेंगे।

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Sir, almost all State Governments and its agencies are gathering lot of data such as land records, geo-tagging of Government projects, etc. इनसे सामान्य जनजीवन बहुत ज्यादा जुड़ा हुआ है। I just want to ask the hon. Minister, जब हम भारत के डेटा प्रोटेक्शन की बात कर रहे हैं, तो क्या इस स्कीम में राज्यों के द्वारा जमा किए गए डेटा को भी सुरक्षित करने के प्रावधान हैं? यदि ये प्रावधान हैं, तो वे डेटा कब तक सुरक्षित हो जाएंगे?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The whole issue, we have got an UMANG App, Sir, where we want to have 250 Government services on record. Many State Governments also have common boards, 60 lakh downloads are there. What is important is why digital land record is important. People sitting even in England can see as to whether the land record is okay or not. Mutation is now regularly being done online. Therefore, online facilitates your day to day life. That is very important. You have raised a specific issue as to whether State Government data will be there. Surely, why not. Once the data protection law comes into being, after approval by the Parliament, it will apply to the Government of India, the private entities and also the State Governments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good, Minister. Now, Question No. 35, Shri C.M. Ramesh.

Kakinada-Pithapuram railway line project

*35. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has held up the Kakinada-Pithapuram railway line project on the ground that the railway line is not economically viable;

(b) by when the project would be realized as the Railway Board has not shelved it permanently along with the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work would start and the anticipated timeline for completion of the project?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) The proposed direct new line from Kakinada to Pithapuram (21.5 Km.) was included in Railway Budget in the year 1999-2000 subject to obtaining requisite clearance from Planning Commission. Anticipated cost of the project at that time was ₹ 41.66 crore with Rate of Return (ROR) of (+) 8.08%.

The proposal was sent to the then Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) *vide* letter dated 02.06.1999. Planning Commission did not support the proposal *vide* OM dated 30.09.99 in view of unviable nature of project and resource constraint.

The cost was updated in the year 2005-06. Updated cost was ₹ 85.51 crore with ROR of 9%. Proposal was again sent to Planning Commission *vide* letter dated 15.11.2006. Planning Commission *vide* OM dated 20.12.2006 though accorded 'In Principle Approval' but raised observations regarding traffic projections and bearing up the cost by fertilizer companies.

State Government was approached for cost sharing of the project *vide* Railway's letter dated 22.04.2008 as the project was not financially viable. Andhra Pradesh Government agreed for giving land free of cost *vide* letter dated 14.05.2008. Updated cost of the project in the year 2008 was ₹ 125.68 crore. After deleting the land cost, project cost was ₹ 88.91 crore with RoR (-) 11.27%. References were also made to Kakinada Sea Port and Nagarjuna Fertilizer Companies. Only Kakinada Sea Port had agreed to use the proposed line but remained silent on cost sharing.

Possibility of execution of this work was also examined under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in year 2012 but not found viable as alternative double line was already available between Kakinada and Smalkot.

Government of Andhra Pradesh *vide* their letter dated 28.05.2013 has agreed for proportionate cost sharing in addition to providing land free of cost. In view of above, cost was updated in the year 2014. Updated cost was ₹ 220.28 crore with ROR (+) 3.41% on 50% cost sharing and land free of cost by Government of Andhra Pradesh. It was observed that even after cost sharing, ROR is only (+) 3.41%. Existing alternative double line connection between Kakinada to Smalkot is underutilized and the project is

not financially viable. The traffic for Kakinada area is being handled through a double line from Smalkot to Kakinada with a crossing station and has a bye-pass line providing seamless traffic. The capacity of this double line is less than 50%. Hence, the proposed new line will not generate any additional freight traffic and at best can be used for three MEMU trains. It has also been observed that a double line connection between Kakinada to Smalkot exists which is underutilized and hence this new line project is not financially viable and the Railway Board had decided to freeze the project.

However, in view of further reference from Government of Andhra Pradesh, the matter is being re-examined afresh.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is a pointed one. The reply from the Government runs into one and a half pages and, in fact, reveals nothing. At the time of identifying the project, the Government must have consulted experts. How it was included in the Railway Budget and found viable, and the fact now stated in the reply says that it was not available at that time. I think the Railway Minister have some reservation from Andhra Pradesh on this project.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Chairman, Sir, if we don't give a detailed reply, the hon. Member says you are concealing something. If we give a detailed reply, they say, why did you give a detailed reply. I cannot understand how we should answer in the future, Sir. I think the answer is very elaborate. It has given the whole history of this project. This was a project introduced in 1999-2000. At that time, the cost was ₹ 41.66 crore. Therefore, it had a rate of return of 8.08 per cent. It is not very great but still the NDA Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee approved this project. But, then by the time it went to the Planning Commission, they did not support the proposal because this particular proposal, hon. Chairman, Sir, is actually not adding to any great benefit to the State of Andhra Pradesh. I have a map, hon. Chairman, Sir, which shows that there is an existing railway line which is about twenty-seven and a half kilometres. This new line will become twenty-one and a half kilometres only six kilometres reduction in distance. Instead of that, the Railways did a smart thing that they doubled a small section, that needed to be doubled, of six kilometres, with no land acquisition, no trouble to any local people. By doubling that line, we have been able to add the capacity by four times. Thanks to that, Sir. In my detailed reply, I have explained that this project, considering the passage of time, have now become almost ₹ 400 crores from ₹ 220 crores (as per 2014 estimates). As the land acquisition became more costly after the new law. And, now the

project will cost about ₹ 400 crores which very clearly shows that it is not viable. At the same time, the other alternate route from Kakinada Sea Port, six kilometres extra, which will hardly take ten minutes, is not even used 50 per cent. Despite that, because this Government cares for Andhra Pradesh, because we respect the sentiments of the people of Andhra Pradesh, because we are willing to go that extra mile for Andhra Pradesh, on receiving the letter from hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu, we immediately ordered the department to re-examine the feasibility and discuss with the State Government how it can be made feasible. Though, in my own personal opinion, with that additional doubling...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't give your personal opinion, wait for the opinion. Second Supplementary. If the Minister gives personal opinion, then nobody can...

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: In the last para of the reply, it says, The matter is being examined afresh. In view of the reference from Andhra Pradesh Government, my question is this. So many years have passed by. The then Planning Commission, now the NITI Aayog, had accorded in principle approval on 20.12.2006. When will a final decision be taken on the project? What is the time-line for completion of the project? And, when will this project see the light of the day? Sir, in Andhra Pradesh...

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

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: In Andhra Pradesh, everything is only examined. In our Railway Zone Vizag also, since the last four years, he has only been examining and examining. He has so many portfolios. He does not have the time to examine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramesh, this is the Question Hour. Don't you want a reply?

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Yes, Sir, I want a reply. That is why, I have put the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sit down.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the first instance, I would like to clarify once again that it was not my personal opinion; it was the prudent opinion as we have limited resources in this country. There are many more pressing demands that the people of Andhra Pradesh have, on which we are working. This Government, led by Prime Minister Modi, as against about ₹ 882 crores, that was being spent annually

between 2009 to 2014 on Railway projects in Andhra Pradesh, in the current year 2018-19, has given over ₹ 3,000 crores for Andhra Pradesh. That is the element of interest we have shown in Andhra Pradesh. But, should we not prioritise the lines that will connect ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramesh, please, don't sit and talk. It is not the way.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: We are giving priority to the lines connecting new Capital and other more pressing demands of Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Let us not deviate from the main issue. Shri Harivansh.

श्री हरिवंश: सभापति जी, आपका धन्यवाद। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश में रेल की कई बड़ी परियोजनाएं दशकों से चल रही हैं, मसलन दिल्ली-कोलकाता डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर, मुगलसराय-दिल्ली ट्रेक मॉडर्नाइजेशन और कई इस तरह की परियोजनाएं चल रही हैं। मैं यह कई वर्षों से सुनता हूँ। मेरा अनुभव यह है कि मुगलसराय-दिल्ली ट्रेक पर जो मॉडर्नाइजेशन का काम चल रहा है...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Harivanshji, I am afraid, the question is specific about the Kakinada-Pithapuram railway line. That is the question. So, you have to confine to that question.

SHRI HARIVANSH: Sir, the question about Kakinada has been answered. This is related with the Railway modernisation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask another question afterwards. There should be specific questions, not general, though the Minister will be happy to reply because he will get opportunity to explain. Now, Shri Y. S. Chowdary.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Sir, unfortunately, over the last three years, we have seen three Railway Ministers and the original estimate has increased from ₹ 40 crores to ₹ 400 crores. That means, we are not responsible, but the Railway Minister is expected to understand all those things and see that the project is implemented rather than talking about IRR and return on investment. Railways are not made for the purpose of earning returns on investment. It is meant for the public convenience. So, I request the hon. Minister to answer straight as to when the project is going to be completed.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, as I said earlier, the project is being reexamined now because the hon. Chief Minister wrote to me. Till the project is re-examined and a final view is taken, I cannot give any date by which it will be completed. But, Sir, given the

scarce resources, I think, it is the duty of the Government to first give connectivity to the new capital of Amravati and, therefore, we are focussing on the line from Vijayawada to Guntur *via* Amravati which is going to be set up with an investment of ₹ 2,679 crores.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Sir, my question pertains to ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chowdary, I will take care.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: He is expected to answer the specific question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chowdary, you leave it to the Chair. I am here. That is what, I told the other Member also. Now, we will move to the next question.

R&D projects for food processing industries

*36. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has undertaken R&D projects for development of food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated therefor during Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of ongoing projects in private and public sector and action taken for their timely completion;

(d) whether India is processing food only to the extent of around 15 per cent as compared to 70-80 per cent in advanced countries;

(e) the efforts being made to increase processing to at least 25 per cent by 2020; and

(f) the status of food processing sector in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing scheme for Research and Development in processed food sector the country. Under the scheme, financial assistance as grant- in-aid is given to various Universities, IITs, Central/

State Government Institutions, Government funded Organizations, R&D laboratories and CSIR recognized R&D units in private sector to promote and undertake demand driven R&D work in the field of processed food sector for product and process development, design and development of equipment, improved storage, shelf-life, packaging etc. Under the scheme so far 208 R&D projects have been sanctioned, out of this 151 projects have been completed.

Government organizations/Institutions/Universities are eligible for 100% grant-in-aid for the cost of equipment, consumables and expenditure related to Junior Research Fellow/Senior Research Fellow/Research Associate, while private Organizations/Institutions/Universities are eligible for 50% grant-in-aid for the equipment cost in general areas and 70% grant-in-aid in difficult areas for conducting such research activities.

During Twelfth Plan Period, the scheme was implemented through Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of Department of Science and Technology. From 1st April, 2017 onwards, the scheme is being implemented directly by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The funds allocated under the R&D scheme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated (₹ in crores)
1.	2012-13	10.50
2.	2013-14	9.55
3.	2014-15	7.60
4.	2015-16	6.67
5.	2016-17	5.80

(c) Under the scheme, there are 57 number of ongoing R&D projects in Private and Public sector. For timely completion of these projects, periodic review of these projects is being carried out by the Ministry. The Ministry has been regularly following up the matter with the concerned Principal Investigators/Institutes/Organizations for submission of Project progress or Final Project Completion Report (FPCR).

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, the level of processing of food is estimated to be less than 15% in India as compared to 70-80% in advanced countries. In order to increase the level of processing, Government have launched a new Central Sector Scheme - Pradhan Mantri

Kissan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), with an allocation of ₹ 6000 crores for the period of 2016-20 coterminous with the Fourteenth Finance Commission cycle. Under the PMKSY, following schemes are being implemented:

- (i) Mega Food Parks;
- (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure;
- (iii) Food safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure;
- (iv) Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters;
- (v) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages;
- (vi) Creation/Expansion of Food processing and Preservation Capacities;
- (vii) Human Resources and Institutions.

In addition, the Government have also undertaken various policy measures for development of food processing sector and to increase level of food processing.

(f) As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), 2015-16, conducted by Central Statistics Office, the total number of factories/units in the registered food processing sector in Karnataka was estimated at 2,159 with fixed capital of ₹ 21, 642 crore which was 10.49 % of the total fixed capital at all India level in registered food processing sector.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries has assisted Food Processing sector in Karnataka through its various schemes. Ministry has approved 2 Mega Food Park projects, 8 Integrated Cold Chain Projects, 5 projects under Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/ Preservation Capacities Scheme, 6 Food Testing Laboratories under various schemes of PMKSY and has undertaken promotional activities to attract investment in the sector.

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, I would like to know from hon. Minister about one of the major challenges before the food processing industry in our country, that is, lack of proper infrastructure. As per the estimates, only two per cent of agriculture produce is preserved for processing in our country due to lack of storage facilities as compared to the United States, where 70 per cent of the agriculture produce is processed. Sir, under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, the Minister has stated that ₹ 6,000 crores have been allocated for the period 2016-20. Sir, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are already over.

Can I know the progress achieved in each of the Schemes, particularly with reference to infrastructure for the food processing industry?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very relevant question and he is absolutely right that the amount of food-processing which is being done in our country is extremely nascent despite the fact that we are one of the largest producers of food in the world. We produce the maximum amount of milk, the second largest amount of fruits, vegetables and cereals. But if you get a figure of 2 per cent, which is the processing level of fruits and vegetables, overall we process only about 10 per cent whereas the smaller countries process much more than that. One of the main reasons for that is the lack of infrastructure, as mentioned by the Member, which is why over the last four years this Ministry has focussed on the creation of infrastructure not only on paper but actually grounding of it. Sir, to give certain examples, this Ministry had a Mega Food Park Scheme, where 42 mega food parks had been sanctioned in 2008, and one park should take two years to complete. But from the year 2008 till 2014, in six years, out of 42, only two parks got grounded, but in the last four years, we have completed 13 more. So, it is an increase of almost 550 per cent of the operational parks. Sir, the same thing is with the cold chains, which were started in 2010, but only 37 out of 97 cold chains were completed. We came and sanctioned 110 more as well as completed 87 of them. So, we have been working on creation of infrastructure for this processing level to increase. The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana was launched in May, last year, and it took time for the Scheme guidelines to be framed. It is a bouquet of seven schemes, where mega food park and cold chains are also part of it, and we have added three new schemes to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The problem with these Ministers is that they are full of information but I have problem of time. Second supplementary.

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, it is mentioned in the reply that out of 208 R& D projects sanctioned, only 151 are completed. May I know whether any significant output is received from the projects completed and how they have helped in promoting food-processing industry? Madam, I would also like to know why year after year the allocation is reduced from ₹ 10.50 crores in 2014, to ₹ 5.80 crores currently.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, we had outsourced the R&D Scheme to Science and Technology Ministry because they had the expertise which we did not to choose the projects, and we found that they were doing more of academic kind of

research which is why, last year, we decided to take it back so that it is now farmer as well as industry-oriented. Sir, the reason for the less allocation is that the priority was to create infrastructure, R& D is not really the forte of the Food Processing Ministry. We have NIFTEM and IIFPT, two institutions, where research is done. Our focus is on creating the infrastructure, but now that R&D has been taken by us, we are going to give it a lot more focus. The hon. Member has asked as to what are the successful stories. I would like to mention that one of the most successful stories is a mobile food-processing van which was made by the Indian Institute of Food Processing in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, where the farmers who want to value add or to preserve, they do not have to transport and go to an industry. This mobile van goes from village to village, helping them process at their doorsteps. So, it has increased their remuneration. Another thing which has been extremely popular is a completely automated small onion processing unit, which is again an innovation by IIFPT where smaller onions have been packaged in a mechanised form and this has increased the remuneration by almost ₹ 10,000 per acre, and each farmer has gained about ₹ 32,000 to ₹ 40,000 due to this technology. We have got many such examples.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Manoj Kumar Jha.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to ask a question to hon. Minister as to what is the current status of food-processing sector in Bihar. And together with that, in last one year, has the Central Government received any proposal from the State Government in this regard?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have the information right now, please give it; otherwise, you can collect the information and send it to the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to say that we could do a lot more in Bihar than what is being done. Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the hon. Member and to other hon. Members as well, to come forward with proposals for their constituency or State, wherein they are interested in helping out the farmers. For this, the Ministry of Food Processing Industry has a number of ongoing schemes where we give subsidies from five crore of rupees up to fifty crore of rupees to set up infrastructure for processing and preservation and also for value addition. There is a special scheme of backward and forward linkages, especially targeted towards the farmers. Yes, from the State of Bihar, we have not received too many proposals. We have an ongoing mega food park at Khagaria. I think, we had to cancel two

others which I had even allocated but they could not meet the criteria. But, at the moment, what we have got is one mega food park, which is ongoing, and we have got a total of four cold chains, which are ongoing.

And, Sir, as I said earlier, I would appeal to you to please apply in the backward-forward linkage scheme as well as in the cluster scheme.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, during an answer given in this House a few years ago, the hon. Minister had stated that post-harvest, fruits and vegetables worth one lakh crore of rupees go waste. Thereafter, improvements have been made, and, as the Minister has outlined, there are many schemes, which are helping to reduce this wastage.

My question is about the incentives which are being offered by the Central Government. How many units in the country have availed of those incentives, and, if the Minister has figures, please also tell us, what is the total quantum of amount, which has been distributed to these units as subsidy?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, the entire Budget of my Ministry is basically to create this infrastructure and, as the House may be aware, this was one of the Ministries, in which the Budget was doubled in this financial year. Our entire Budget goes towards the schemes which are mostly, almost 99 per cent, for infrastructure creation besides the two institutes that are run by us.

The hon. Member is absolutely right that one of the studies, which was done by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, showed that almost one lakh crore worth of foodstuffs is wasted or rots in our country, which happens due to lack of proper infrastructure during harvest, transportation and storage. This is why, Sir, through our mega food park scheme for processing, through our cold chain scheme, through our mini food park, through our units, through our backward-forward linkage scheme, the entire amount of six thousand crore of rupees of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana — which is going to leverage another ₹ 31,000 crore worth of investment in this sector — is going to process agro produce of almost 3,34,000 million metric tonnes worth one lakh crore of rupees.

So, we are working on the grounding of all this, and, I can assure the House that with regard to all the ongoing projects of 42 mega food parks, 337 cold chains as well as three new schemes, which are still ongoing, we are on target to ensure that they are grounded within the time period given. As you know, setting up of an industry takes time

and because of the seasonality of the raw material of a food processing industry, it has a longer gestation period than all others. So, as I said, we have had an increase by almost 550 per cent in the grounding of our mega food parks, by 130 per cent in our cold chains and if we talk about the employment created, farmers benefited or agro produce, which is processed or preserved, these figures have gone up ten-fold by what it was four years ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The problem is really humongous. Fruits and vegetables are perishable as farmers do not have facilities of cold storage, refrigerated vans or food processing. The fruits and vegetables perish and the farmer loses. I can understand that a good improvement has been made but the challenge is very big and the food processing is one way for sustainable agriculture.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to take this opportunity to request you to appeal to the Members to please bring in proposals and apply. It is all online. We have several schemes for preservation and processing but few proposals come up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, I have added my words and expressed my concern and interest in this matter.

डा. अशोक वाजपेयी: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे बड़े राज्य में, जहां की आबादी 22 करोड़ से भी अधिक है, विकसित देशों की तुलना में 10% से भी कम खाद्य प्रसंस्करण इकाइयां होंगी। बहुत सारे खाद्यांत्रों के उत्पादनों में उत्तर प्रदेश देश का अग्रणी राज्य है, इसे दृष्टिगत रखते हुए क्या उत्तर प्रदेश में आप नई खाद्य प्रसंस्करण इकाइयों को खुलवाए जाने के लिए कोई ऐसा अध्ययन करवाएंगे, जिनको लगाने में निजी क्षेत्र के उद्यमी आकर्षित हों, ताकि उत्तर प्रदेश में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण के क्षेत्र में कोई बड़ा काम किया जा सके और लाभकारी योजनाओं का लाभ भी उठाया जा सके?

श्रीमती हरसिमरत कौर बादल: महोदय, माननीय सांसद को मैं बताना चाहूंगी कि इन्होंने बिल्कुल ठीक बोला है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में बहुत सारा potential है और यह एक राज्य था, जहां पर न ही कोई हमारा mega food park allot हुआ था, जिसके कारण खास जो cancellations आईं, मैंने उनको सिर्फ उन स्टेट्स के लिए किया, जहां कभी कोई mega food park नहीं था, उनके लिए दिया। खुशी की बात यह है कि 3 mega food parks उत्तर प्रदेश में अलॉट हुए हैं। आपको मालूम है कि नोएडा में जो पतंजलि बाबा रामदेव लगा रहे हैं, एक मिर्जापुर में और एक मथुरा में, तो इनको जो आपत्तियां आ रही हैं, उन सब को sort out करके we are on track. इसके अलावा सर, उत्तर प्रदेश में जो हमने काफी सारी cold chain allot की हैं, तकरीबन 21 cold chains allot की गई हैं, तो इनमें से 8 complete हो गयी हैं और 13 ongoing हैं। इसके अलावा backward-forward linkages में, उत्तर

प्रदेश में तकरीबन एक backward-forward linkage scheme में और 2 mini food parks भी अलॉट किए गये और mega food parks के अन्दर भी यूनिट लगाने के लिए 14 अलॉट किए गए हैं। एक बार फिर मैं सांसद जी को बोलूंगी कि जब "UP Investors Summit" हुआ था, वहां मैं खुद गयी थी और "सम्पदा स्कीम" के बारे में वहां बताया था। हमारी राज्य मंत्री जी उसी राज्य से आती हैं, उन्होंने भी वहां काफी सारी मीटिंग्स की हैं, मेरे सचिव भी गये हैं और मैं खुद भी जाती रहती हूँ, लेकिन जब तक अपने राज्यों से या वहां के लोग अप्लाई नहीं करेंगे, हम उनको subsidy and infrastructure लगाने की मदद नहीं कर सकते, because this is a scheme, where people have to apply.

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that contrary to the claims of the Central and State Governments, the number of farmers committing suicide has consistently increased in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, year-wise and State-wise, along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures Government proposes to take to prevent suicide by farmers in Maharashtra and rest of the country?

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) 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 Annexure-I (See below). The number of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2016 has come down approximately by 9.77% from 12602 to 11370.

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.

As per NCRB Reports for the year 2014 and 2015, the main causes of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers are Bankruptcy or Indebtedness, Farming Related Issues, family problems, illness, etc.

(c) Agriculture is a State subject. Agrarian distress can be addressed by enabling the farmers to increase their income. The Government is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has taken a number of measures. 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. Further, these initiatives are supported by a big jump in the much needed budgetary allocations for the agriculture sector. For the period 2009-2014, the budget for agriculture was ₹ 1,21,082 crore. During 2014-2019, the allocation has been enhanced by 74.5 per cent to ₹ 2,11,694 crore. Besides, Non-budgetary resources have been mobilized to supplement budgetary resources. Following are the corpus fund created during 2014-19:

- Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) to complete long pending 99 irrigation projects and create 7.6 million ha. of irrigation by December 2019 - ₹ 40,000 crore (2016-17 and 2017-18). The total investment is expected to be Rs. 80,000 crore (approx.)
- Micro Irrigation Fund for water use efficiency – ₹ 5,000 crore (2017-18)
- Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund – ₹ 10,881 crore (2017-18)
- Fisheries and Aqua Culture Infrastructure Development Fund – ₹ 7,522.48 crore (2018-19)
- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund – ₹ 2,450 crore (2018-19)
- Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund – ₹ 2,000 crore (2018-19).

The Department has been implementing various schemes for betterment of agriculture sector such as :

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertilizer application and thus save input cost of farmers.

- (ii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. NCU slows down the release of fertilizer and makes it available to the crop in an effective manner.
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country.
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications.
- (v) Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) which is an innovative market process to revolutionize agri-markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. The Department has achieved the target of integration of 585 mandis with e-NAM by March 2018. Additional 200 mandies to be integrated by 2018-19 under e-NAM.
- (vi) Existing 22,000 rural haats to be developed and upgraded into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). These GrAMs, electronically linked to e-NAM portal and exempted from regulations of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs), will provide farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.
- (vii) The Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 released in April, 2017 and the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018 released in May, 2018, for adoption by State/UTs, to promote alternative competitive marketing channels for better pricing for farmers and to encourage private investment in developing efficient marketing infrastructure and value chain.
- (viii) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there is no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount is not curtailed or reduced. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.

- (ix) The Government provides total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3% prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (x) The Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for benefit of farmers.

Further, 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 activation and recommends MSP. 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 percent of the cost of production. The MSP declared during 2012-13 to 2018-19 for various crops is given in Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015			2016 (provisional)		
		Suicides in Farming Sector (Total) Sum of Col. 4+5	Agricultural Labourers	Farmers/ Cultivators	Suicides in Farming Sector (Total) Sum of Col. 7+8	Agricultural Labourers	Farmers/ Cultivators
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	916	400	516	804	565	239
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	3	3	6	0	6
3.	Assam	138	54	84	70	64	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	7	7	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	954	100	854	682	97	585
6.	Goa	0	0	0	1	1	0
7.	Gujarat	301	244	57	408	378	30
8.	Haryana	162	134	28	250	159	91
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46	46	0	14	14	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	21	21	0	21	21	0
11.	Jharkhand	21	21	0	3	0	3
12.	Karnataka	1569	372	1197	2079	867	1212
13.	Kerala	210	207	3	321	298	23
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1290	709	581	1321	722	599
15.	Maharashtra	4291	1261	3030	3661	1111	2550
16.	Manipur	1	0	1	1	0	1
17.	Meghalaya	3	1	2	5	3	2
18.	Mizoram	1	1	0	7	7	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	50	27	23	121	101	20
21.	Punjab	124	24	100	271	49	222
22.	Rajasthan	76	73	3	43	39	4
23.	Sikkim	18	3	15	14	2	12
24.	Tamil Nadu	606	604	2	381	345	36
25.	Telangana	1400	42	1358	645	13	632
26.	Tripura	49	48	1	22	18	4
27.	Uttar Pradesh	324	179	145	184	115	69
28.	Uttarakhand	2	2	0	3	3	0

40 *Oral Answers* [RAJYA SABHA] *to questions*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (STATES)		12590	4583	8007	11338	4992	6346
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	3	0	3
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Delhi (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	12	12	0	29	27	2
TOTAL (UTs)		12	12	0	32	27	5
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		12602	4595	8007	11370	5019	6351

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

Annexure-II

MSP declared during 2012-13 to 2018-19 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
Kharif Crops									
1.	Paddy	Common	1250	1310	1360	1410	1470	1550	1750
		Grade 'A'	1280	1345	1400	1450	1510	1590	1770
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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	3600	3700	3750	3800	3860	4020	5150
		Staple							
		Long	3900	4000	4050	4100	4160	4320	5450
		Staple							
10.	Groundnut		3700	4000	4000	4030	4220*	4450^	4890
	In Shell								
11.	Sunflower		3700	3700	3750	3800	3950*	4100*	5388
	Seed								
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
Rabi Crops									
15.	Wheat		1350	1400	1450	1525	1625	1735	
16.	Barley		980	1100	1150	1225	1325	1410	
17.	Gram		3000	3 100	3175	3500**	4000^	4400@	
18.	Masur (Lentil)		2900	2950	3075	3400**	3950@	4250*	
19.	Rapeseed/ Mustard		3000	3050	3100	3350	3700*	4000*	
20.	Safflower		2800	3000	3050	3300	3700*	4100*	
21.	Toria		2970	3020	3020	3290	3560	3900*	
Other Crops									
22.	Copra	Milling	5100	5250	5250	5550	5950	6500	7511
	(Calender Year)	Ball	5350	5500	5500	5830	6240	6785	7750

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	De-Husked Coconut (Calender Year)		1400	1425	1425	1500	1600	1760	2030
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.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 37, Shri Rajkumar Dhoot; absent. Hon. Members, this is a bad tendency. You file a question and you do not turn up when the question comes here. So much time, so much energy, so much resources are spent in collecting information. But in the Parliament because so much expenditure has been incurred, at least the others should get an opportunity. That is why we are allowing supplementaries in the absence of the hon. Member also. But, at the same time, I would like to caution the Members that this cannot go on forever. You raise a question and very rarely you get the opportunity and you do not come to the House. This is not a good thing. I hope all the hon. Members will take note of the same and see to it that if they file a question, they should be present in the House. The Minister has placed the reply on the Table of the House. Shri Rewati Raman Singh.

श्री रेवती रमन सिंह: चेयरमैन साहब, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी ने, उस समय के प्रधान मंत्री ने घोषणा की थी - "जय जवान, जय किसान।" आज देश में इतने साल बीतने के बाद हमारे बॉर्डर पर जवान मारे जा रहे हैं और किसान लगातार आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। मान्यवर, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि जब बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपतियों के एक लाख करोड़ रुपए माफ किए जा सकते हैं, तो किसानों का कर्जा, पूरा का पूरा कर्जा, भारत सरकार क्यों नहीं माफ कर सकती?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न किया है, निश्चित रूप से देश में किसानों के द्वारा आत्महत्या करना चिन्ता का विषय है। राज्य सरकारों के सहयोग से मोदी सरकार ने किसानों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए जो नयी-नयी योजनाएं चलायी हैं, तो 2016 के जो आंकड़े आये हैं, उनके अनुसार निश्चित रूप से उसमें कमी आ रही है। यह बात सही है कि लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी ने

"जय जवान, जय किसान" का नारा दिया था। माननीय सदस्य उस समय भी सदस्य थे, यह मुझे स्मरण है। 2002-03 में अटल जी ने "जय जवान, जय किसान और जय विज्ञान" का नारा दिया था। उस समय हम सब लोगों ने किसानों की चिन्ता की और एक "किसान आयोग" बनाने का निर्णय किया हुआ था। यह 2004 में गठित किया गया और उसकी रिपोर्ट 2007 में आ गयी। 2002-03 में भी कृषि क्षेत्र में कई reforms किए गए। उस समय जो रिपोर्ट आई, उसमें बहुत साफ कहा गया था कि कृषि क्षेत्र की आर्थिक स्थिति और किसानों की निवल आय में सुधार होना चाहिए। जितने reforms आए थे, आप ध्यान दीजिए कि input management के लिए जो भी सिफारिशें आयोग ने कीं, उसके बाद जो राष्ट्रीय नीति बनी, output management के लिए जो सुझाव आए और फिर marketing के संबंध में सुझाव आए, वे सारे के सारे सुझाव 2014 तक ठंडे बस्ते में पड़े रहे। मैं माननीय सदस्य के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि 2004-05 के दौरान देश के कृषि मंत्रियों की एक बैठक हुई थी, जिसमें मंडी सुधार के लिए सात प्रकार के बदलाव के निर्णय लिए गए थे लेकिन वे निर्णय 2014 तक लागू नहीं हुए। वर्ष 2004-05 और 2014 के बीच में, मात्र 2010 में एक बैठक हुई। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं वही बता रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: कर्ज-माफी से सारी समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं हो सकता। दूसरे उपाय भी करने होंगे। यही एकमात्र उपाय नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: माननीय सदस्य ने जो सवाल पूछा, उसी का मैं उत्तर दे रहा हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसी प्रकार से दूसरे कई reforms थे, कुछ soil health management से संबंधित थे। नीम-कोटेड यूरिया से संबंधित 2003 तक, हमारे वैज्ञानिकों ने ट्राई करके जो सुझाव दिए, वे भी ठंडे बस्ते में पड़े रहे। जहां तक निवेश का सवाल है, किसानों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए, आप देखें कि जब पांचवां बजट आया तो हमारी सरकार आने से 5 वर्ष पहले फिंगर्स क्या थीं। इसमें किसानों के सशक्तीकरण की बात है, जहां पहले 1 लाख 21 हजार करोड़ रुपए का बजट था, उसकी तुलना में यदि आप हमारा 5 वर्ष का बजट देखें, पांचवें बजट में 2 लाख 11 हजार करोड़ रुपए का हमने निवेश किया है। इतना ही नहीं, बजटीय निवेश के अलावा हमने corpus fund बनाया ...**(व्यवधान)**... 99 योजनाएं जो पैसे के अभाव में लम्बित पड़ी थीं, सरकार ने उनके लिए corpus fund की व्यवस्था की। 2019 तक वे सभी 99 परियोजनाएं पूरी होने जा रही हैं, जो 20-30 वर्षों से लम्बित थीं। इसी तरह से micro irrigation के लिए हमने अलग से corpus fund बनाया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No slogans.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: इस तरह Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development के लिए अलग से व्यवस्था की गई। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, संक्षेप में जवाब दे दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: पूरा निवेश हम किसानों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए कर रहे हैं।

श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर: सभापति महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि आजादी के समय देश के 75 फीसदी लोग खेत-खलिहान और किसानों से जुड़े हुए थे, जब माननीय मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में यह सरकार आई, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप सीधे सवाल पर आइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर: उस समय यह संख्या करीब 55 फीसदी थी। आज किसान बड़ी संख्या में अपना पेशा छोड़कर जा रहे हैं क्योंकि अब खेती लाभकारी नहीं रह गई है। इसके अलावा 2005 से 2012 तक का जो आंकड़ा था, उसके अनुसार लगभग 3 करोड़ 70 लाख किसानों ने खेती का धंधा छोड़ दिया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों को स्वावलम्बी बनाने के लिए, जैसा उन्होंने कहा कि soil health cards बनाए गए थे, वे soil health cards अब तक कितने लोगों के पास पहुंच गए हैं? क्या हर गांव तक वे cards पहुंच जाएंगे? इस दिशा में सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह: महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने सदन में अच्छा विषय उठाया है। हम उनके संज्ञान में लाना चाहते हैं कि 2007 में soil health management को लेकर पूरी दुनिया को एक चेतावनी दी गई थी। फिर 2007 से 2014 के बीच, पूरे देश में भारत सरकार की ओर से, किसी एक राष्ट्रीय मानक के आधार पर soil health cards देने की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई। कोई एक राष्ट्रीय मानक नहीं था। 2007 से 2014 के बीच राज्यों को soil health management के लिए जो पैसे जाते थे, बहुत थोड़ी राशि जाती थी और 6-7 सालों में लैब बनाने के लिए मुश्किल से 100 करोड़ रुपए राज्यों को गए होंगे। 2014 के बाद, हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने इसमें विशेष रूप से हस्तक्षेप किया, इसका एक राष्ट्रीय मानक तय किया गया और राज्यों को बड़े पैमाने पर लैब्स की व्यवस्था के लिए राशि दी गई। जब हम गए थे तो जहां पहले 45 लैब्स देश भर में थे, हमारे आने के 4 साल के अंदर 9243 या 9245 लैब्स देश में स्थापित हो चुके हैं। पहले soil health cards बनाने के लिए एक पैसा भी राज्यों को नहीं जाता था। हमने अब उन्हें पैसा दिया है। प्रथम चरण में 10 करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा और दूसरे चरण में भी, जो अब शुरू हुआ है, ...**(व्यवधान)**... देश के किसानों में इसे प्रति जागरूकता आए, इसके लिए भी अलग से बजटीय प्रावधान किया गया है। अब राज्य सरकारें भी बड़ी तेज़ी से किसानों को इस दिशा में जागरूक कर रही हैं।

श्री सभापति: श्री अनुभव मोहंती।

श्री अनुभव मोहंती: सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, क्योंकि उन्होंने इतना घुमा-फिरा कर जवाब दिया है कि मुझे सवाल पूछने का वक्त नहीं मिला। Sir, farmers committing suicides has become an yearly ritual nowadays. Has the Government been able to ascertain till now, of the total number of farmer who committed suicides, how many are landholders, sharecroppers, contract farmers and agricultural farmers? Sir, I ask this question because unless we make adequate legal provisions, these suicides may continue. Is the Government taking any steps regarding this? If so, please clarify.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is over. Minister can send the reply to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Non-profitability of suburban local trains in Greater Mumbai**

*38. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite overcrowding of passengers and heavy rush all through the day, the running of suburban local trains in Greater Mumbai is not profitable;

(b) if so, the annual losses and the main reasons for losses of suburban local trains in Mumbai; and

(c) the measures the Ministry is taking to earn more revenue through suburban local trains being run in Mumbai?

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

(b) The annual losses for suburban local trains in Mumbai for the last three years are as under:

(in ₹ crore)	
Year	Profit/Loss (-)
2014-15	(-) 1426.19
2015-16	(-)1477.55
2016-17	(-)1376.76

The main reasons of losses for suburban local trains in Mumbai are as under:

- (i) The fare structure of Mumbai Suburban is highly subsidised. Even though Mumbai local trains are running in full capacity round the year, the commuters have the privilege of holding Monthly Season Ticket (MST), Quarterly Season Ticket (QST), Half Yearly Season Ticket (HYST) and Annual Season Ticket (AST) which are highly subsidized. The Monthly Season Ticket (MST) costs only 15 days single basic fare and Quarterly Season Ticket (QST) costs 2.7 times of Monthly Season Ticket (MST). Over 70% of the suburban rail passengers are season ticket holders.
- (ii) The rail earnings are not keeping pace with the increase in the expenditure every year.

(c) The measures to earn more revenue through suburban local trains being run in Mumbai are as under:

- (i) Self operated Cash/Coin and Smart Card Operated Ticket Vending Machines popularly known as CoTVM kiosk machines to buy Unreserved Tickets using currency notes or coins as well as smart cards are installed.
- (ii) Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sevak (JTBS) and Sadharan Ticket Booking Agents are functional.
- (iii) Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) facilitators appointed in suburban section for speedy issuance of tickets and quick clearance of queues.
- (iv) Introduction of Exact Fare Ticket Windows.
- (v) All Electric Multiple Units (EMU) are made of 12 cars from existing 9 cars.
- (vi) AC EMU service has been introduced over Western Railway suburban section from 25.12.2017 with higher fare *i.e* 1.2 times of First Class single journey fare.
- (vii) Re-enforcing constant and strict barrier checking to catch and penalise commuters travelling without valid travel authorities.

FIR in alleged leakage of Aadhaar details on a social media app

*39. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 5, Starred Question 155, Unstarred Question 1690 and Starred Question 421 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2 February, 2018, 9 March, 2018, 9 March, 2018 and 6 April, 2018 respectively and state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Minister of State, Home Affairs has informed that the name of journalists finds mention in the FIR on reports on leakage of millions of Aadhaar details on WhatsApp for ₹ 500/- only;

(b) if so, the basis on which the Ministry concluded that no FIR has been filed against journalists; and

(c) the basis on which UIDAI claims that there is no leakage of Aadhaar details without investigation?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The complaint is detailed and self-contained.

The Minister of State, Home Affairs had responded to Unstarred Question No. 3763 in the Rajya Sabha on 28.3.2018 as follows:

"Delhi Police has reported that on the complaint of Deputy Director (Logistics and Grievance Redressal), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), a case *vide* FIR No. 09/2018 dated 05.01.2018 u/s 36/37 The Aadhaar Act 2016, u/s 419, 420, 468, 471 IPC and u/s 66 of Information Technology Act, Police Station Crime Branch, has been registered wherein the name of journalist of 'Tribune Newspaper' finds a mention. During the course of investigation, information related to the case has been asked from UIDAI."

(b) Based on available inputs, the UIDAI gave a factual complaint and the police authorities indicated details of suspect accused as "unknown" because that is a matter to be investigated and we are awaiting the outcome of the investigation. This act of consciously mentioning the person as unknown is normal practice because at the time of the incident the exact accused was not known. This shows that the UIDAI was not prejudged in its opinion while filing the complaint.

(c) There are no proven instances of leakage of Aadhaar biometric data from Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

Meetings of Multi-State Co-operative Societies

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

(a) whether para 1 (c) of Schedule attached with Multi-State Co-operative Societies Rules, 2002 states that Returning Officer appointed under para 1 (a) of Schedule shall send intimation by local delivery or under postal certificate, about the date, time and place of the general body meeting to each member of the Multi-State Co-operative Society;

(b) the legal status of election held in case the Returning Officer does not send intimation to each of the members of the Society; and

(c) the action taken by Central Registrar on the letter(s) received from MPs in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per para (1)(f) of schedule annexed with Multi State Co-operative Societies Rules, 2002, the notice of General Body Meeting shall be sent to members by any of the following modes, namely:-

- (i) by local delivery; or
- (ii) under postal certificate, or
- (iii) by publication in the newspaper having wide circulation. As per para 1(g) of the above rules, notice of the General Body meeting shall also be affixed on the notice board of the Multi State Co-operative Society and its branches, if any.

(c) A reference has been received from Shri Ram Kumar Kashyap, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha) dated 23.06.2018 addressed to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies to declare the election of delegates of Kendriya Bhandar held on 06.09.2017 as null and void. A reply dated 16.07.2018 has been given to the Hon'ble MP stating that section 84 of the MSCS Act, 2002 provides for settlement of election disputes by way of arbitration and the awards given by the arbitrator in this case dated 30.05.2018 and 31.05.2018 in two dispute petitions filed by the parties shall be executed as per the provisions of section 84(5) of the said Act.

Procurement of paddy from farmers of Andhra Pradesh

*41. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that paddy growing farmers in Andhra Pradesh are facing problems from public procurement centres in the State, resulting in fleecing of farmers by millers and middlemen in the current Rabi season;

(b) whether the Ministry is also aware that the millers and middlemen are not adhering to the limits of moisture and other specifications and reducing the price of paddy even below the MSP after taking paddy to mills; and

(c) if so, the reasons for Ministry for not intervening in this and procuring paddy from farmers of Andhra Pradesh and other States?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) No such incidence about farmers facing problems in public procurement and non adherence of moisture limits and other specifications thereby reducing the price of paddy in the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Current Rabi Season has come to the notice of the Central Government.

The Central Government extends price support to paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government/Government Agencies across the country. Under this policy, whatever wheat and paddy are offered by farmers, within the stipulated period and conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government of India, are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the State Government agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Central Pool. No procurement is done through private millers for Central Pool. However, the farmers are free to sell their produce in open market including to private traders/millers.

Andhra Pradesh is a Decentralized Procurement (DCP) State for paddy procurement. In a DCP State, it is the responsibility of State Government to procure the paddy from farmers. Only the surplus Custom Milled Rice (CMR), if any, after meeting the requirement of the concerned State under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), is delivered to FCI in the central pool for movement to other consuming States. The procurement in the State is undertaken by Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation (APSCSC) Limited directly from farmers and payment of MSP is made to the bank account of farmers within 48 hours, through electronic fund transfer. Further, the procurement of rice in Andhra Pradesh in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2017-18 is higher than KMS 2016-17.

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers have committed suicide in the country on a large scale;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government to curb the incidents of suicide by farmers; and

(c) the total number of farmers who have committed suicide this year or have succumbed to starvation, the State-wise details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (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 at Statement-I. [Refer to the Annexure appended to answer to SQ No. 37 Part (a) and (b)]. The number of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2016 has come down approximately by 9.77% from 12602 to 11370. No data has been provided by the NCRB on suicides committed by farmers and agricultural labourers due to starvation.

Agriculture is a State subject. Agrarian distress can be addressed by enabling the farmers to increase their income. The Government is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has taken a number of measures. 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. Further, these initiatives are supported by a big jump in the much needed budgetary allocations for the agriculture sector. For the period 2009-2014, the budget for agriculture was ₹ 1,21,082 crore. During 2014-2019, the allocation has been enhanced by 74.5 per cent to ₹2,11,694 crore. Besides, Non-budgetary resources have been mobilized to supplement budgetary resources. Following are the corpus fund created during 2014-19:

- Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) to complete long pending 99 irrigation projects and create 7.6 million ha. of irrigation by December 2019 - ₹40,000 crore (2016-17 and 2017-18). The total investment is expected to be ₹ 80,000 crore (approx.)

- Micro Irrigation Fund for water use efficiency - ₹ 5,000 crore (2017-18)
- Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund - ₹ 10,881 crore (2017-18)
- Fisheries and Aqua Culture Infrastructure Development Fund - ₹ 7,522.48 crore (2018-19)
- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund - ₹ 2,450 crore (2018-19)
- Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund - ₹ 2,000 crore (2018-19).

The Department has been implementing various schemes for betterment of agriculture sector such as:-

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertilizer application and thus save input cost of farmers.
- (ii) Neem Coated Urea (NCU) is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. NCU slows down the release of fertilizer and makes it available to the crop in an effective manner.
- (iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country.
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications.
- (v) Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) which is an innovative market process to revolutionize agri-markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. The Department has achieved the target of integration of 585 mandis with e-NAM by March 2018. Additional 200 mandies to be integrated by 2018-19 under e-NAM.
- (vi) Existing 22,000 rural haats to be developed and upgraded into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). These GrAMs, electronically linked to

e-NAM portal and exempted from regulations of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs), will provide farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.

- (vii) The Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 released in April, 2017 and the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018 released in May, 2018, for adoption by State/UTs, to promote alternative competitive marketing channels for better pricing for farmers and to encourage private investment in developing efficient marketing infrastructure and value chain.
- (viii) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture. PMFBY addresses all the shortcomings in the earlier schemes and is available to the farmers at very low rates of premium. The farmers will get full insurance cover as there is no capping of sum insured and consequently the claim amount is not curtailed or reduced. This scheme provides insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.
- (ix) The Government provides total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3% prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (x) The Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for benefit of farmers.

Further, Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACCP). The Commission collects and analyses data on cost of activation and recommends MSP. 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. 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 SQ No. 37 Part (c)].

Underground and opencast mines in the country

*43. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of underground and opencast coal mines in the country as on date, company-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the new coal mines opened during the last three years and the current year, State-wise including the State of Jharkhand;

(c) whether Government proposes to open new coal mines to increase coal production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) There are 476 number of coal mines in the country out of which 215 nos. of coal mines are opencast (OC), 236 nos. of coal mines are underground (UG) and 25 nos. of coal, mines are mixed type (OC and UG). As on date, State-wise subsidiary-wise number of working coal mines in the country is given at the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) During last four years *i.e.* from 2015 to 2018 (up to June, 2018), 46 nos. of new coal mines have been opened. The list of new coal mines opened in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) and other than CIL is given at Statement-IIA and Statement-IIB respectively (*See* below).

(c) and (d) 76 nos. of coal mines are proposed to be opened to increase coal production in the country. Coal mines to be opened by CIL is given at Statement-IIIA (*See* below) and coal mines proposed to be opened by companies other than CIL is given at Statement-IIIB.

Statement-I
Company-wise and State-wise type of coal mines (as on 31.03.2017) (including non-producing but not closed and under construction mines)

Company	Arunachal Pradesh			Assam			Chhattisgarh			Jammu and Kashmir			Jharkhand		
	OC	UG	Total	OC	UG	Total	OC	UG	Total	OC	UG	Total	OC	UG	Total
ECL										7	7	15			
BCCL										18	11	41			
CCL										42	19	63			
NCL															
WCL															
SECL				18	31	49									
MCL															
NEC							3	1	4						
CIL	0	0	0	3	1	4	18	31	49	0	0	0	67	37	119
SCCL															
JKML											4	4			
JSMDCCL													1		1
DVC													1		1

	Telangana			West Bengal			All India		
	OC	UG	Total	OC	UG	Total	OC	UG	Total
ECL				12	53	72	19	60	87
BCCL				1		1	19	11	42
CCL							42	19	63
NCL							10	0	10
WCL							43	36	81
SECL							23	56	79
MCL							18	10	28
NEC							3	1	4
CIL	0	0	0	13	53	73	177	193	394
SCCL	18	29	47				18	29	47
JKML							0	4	4
JSMDCCL							1	0	1
DVC							1	0	1
IISCO				1	1	2	1	2	4
SAIL							1	0	1

Statement-IIA*New coal mines opened during 2015 to 2018 (up to June 2018) in CIL*

Sl. No.	Subsidiary	Type	Name of the mines	State
1.	CCL	OC	Magadh	Jharkhand
2.	WCL	OC	Gokul	Maharashtra
3.	WCL	OC	New Majri UG to OC	Maharashtra
4.	WCL	OC	Dinesh	Maharashtra
5.	WCL	OC	Amagamated Ekona-I &II	Maharashtra
6.	WCL	OC	Amagamated Pouni II & III	Maharashtra
7.	WCL	OC	New Majri Sector IA & IIA Expn.	Maharashtra
8.	WCL	OC	Padmapur Deep Expn.	Maharashtra
9.	WCL	OC	Kamptee Deep	Maharashtra
10.	WCL	OC	Umrer Expn. (Amb River Diversion)	Maharashtra
11.	WCL	OC	Mungoli-Nirguda Deep Expn.	Maharashtra
12.	WCL	OC	Singhori	Maharashtra
13.	WCL	OC	Inder UG To OC Expn.	Maharashtra
14.	WCL	OC	Neeuai Deep Expn.	Maharashtra
15.	WCL	OC	Durgapur Extension Deep	Maharashtra
16.	WCL	UG	Jamunia	Madhya Pradesh
17.	WCL	OC	New Sethia	Madhya Pradesh
18.	SECL	OC	Bijari	Chhattishgarh
19.	SECL	OC	Saraipalli	Chhattishgarh
20.	SECL	OC	Jagannathpur	Chhattishgarh
21.	MCL	OC	Garjanbhal	Odisha

Statement-IIB

New coal mines opened during last four years both in public and private sectors (except CIL)

The following opening permissions have been granted in respect of New Mines (Except CIL Mines) during 2015 to 2018 (up to June 2018) under Rule 9 of the Colliery Control Rules, 2004:—

Sl. No.	Name of coal mine	Name of company
(A) Public Sector		
1.	Kalyanikhani OC	SCCL
2.	Amalgamated Ramkrishnapur OC	SCCL
3.	Barjora	WBPDCCL
4.	Chatti Bariatu	NTPC
5.	Tadicherla-1 OC	Telangana State Power Gen. Corp. Ltd
6.	Talaipalli	NTPC
7.	Gare Palma IV/2 & 3	CIL (custodian)
8.	Barjora North	WBPDCCL
(B) Private Sector		
9.	Sarisatolli	CESC
10.	Belgaon UG	Sunflag Iron and Steel Co.
11.	Mandla North UG	Jayprakash Associates Ltd.
12.	Parsa East and Kanta Basan	RRVUNL
13.	Amelia North	JPVL
14.	Sikni Opencast	JSMDCL
15.	Talabira -I	GMR
16.	Gare Palma IV/4	Hindalco Industries Ltd.
17.	Chotia-I OCM	BALCO
18.	Gare Palma IV/5 UG	Hindalco Industries Ltd.
19.	Mandla South UG	Jaypee Cement Corp. Ltd.
20.	Gare Palma IV/4 UG	Hindalco Industries Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of Coal Mine	Name of Company
21.	Sial Ghogri	RCCPL
22.	Kathautia OC	Hindalco Industries Ltd.
23.	Marki Mangli-1	Topworth Urja and Metals Ltd.
24.	Gare Palma IV/8	Ambuja Cement Ltd.
25.	Ardhagram	OCL Iron and Steel Ltd.

Statement-III A*List of coal mines to be opened by Coal India Ltd. (CIL)*

Sl. No.	SUB	State	Coal Field	Mine	TYPE
1.	ECL	Jharkhand	Rajmahal	Hura C OCP	OC
2.	SECL	Chhattisgarh	CIC	Ketki	UG
3.	SECL	Chhattisgarh	CIC	Madan Nagar	OC
4.	SECL	Chhattisgarh	Sendurgarh	Vijay West	OC
5.	SECL	Madhya Pradesh	CIC	Amritdhara OC	OC
6.	SECL	Madhya Pradesh	CIC	Malachua	OC
7.	SECL	Chhattisgarh	KRB	Kartali East	OC
8.	SECL	Chhattisgarh	RAI	Pelma	OC
9.	SECL	Chhattisgarh	RAI	Durgapur OC	OC
10.	SECL	Madhya Pradesh	CIC	Batura	OC
11.	MCL	Odisha	IB Valley	Siarmal OCP	OC

Statement-III B*List of the allocated coal mines to be opened (other than CIL)*

Sl. No	State	Name of coal mine	Successful Bidder/Allottee	No. of mines
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chhattisgarh	Gare Palma Sector I	Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited	1
		Gare Palma Sector II	Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.	1

1	2	3	4	5
		Gare Palma Sector III	Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Co. Ltd.	1
		Gidhmuri, Paturia	Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Co. Ltd.	2
		Parsa	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	1
		Madanpur South	APMDCL	1
TOTAL (Chhattisgarh)				7
2.	Jharkhand	Badam	Bihar State Power Generation Co. Ltd.	1
		Banhardih	Jharkhand Urja Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	1
		Brinda and Sasai	Usha Martin Limited	2
		Dumri	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	1
		Ganeshpur	GMR Chhattisgarh Energy Limited	1
		Jitpur	Adani Power Limited	1
		Kerandari	NTPC Ltd.	1
		Lohari	Araanya Mines private Ltd.	1
		Meral	Trimula Industries Limited	1
		Moitra	JSW Steel Limited	1
		Pachhwara Central	Punjab State Power Corp. Ltd.	1
		Pachhwara North	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd.	1
		Parbatpur-Central	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	1
		Rajbar D&E	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	1
		Saharpur Amarpani	UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	1
		Sitanala	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	1

1	2	3	4	5
		Tokisud North	Essar Power MP Limited	1
		Patal East	JSMDCL	1
		Tubed	DVC	1
		Kotre- asantpur and Pachmo	CIL	2
TOTAL (Jharkhand)				22
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Suliyari	APMDCL	1
		Amelia	Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited	1
TOTAL (Madhya Pradesh)				2
4.	Maharashtra	Baranj I, Baranj II, Baranj III, Baranj IV, Manora Deep and Kiloni	Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	6
		Majra	Jaypee Cement Corporation Ltd.	1
		Marki Mangli III	B.S. Ispat Limited	1
		Nerad Malegaon	Indrajit Power Private Ltd.	1
TOTAL (Maharashtra)				9
5.	Odisha	Mandakini B	NTPC Ltd.	1
		Manoharpur	Odisha Coal and Power Limited	1
		Manoharpur Dipside	Odisha Coal and Power Limited	1
		Naini	The Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd	1
		Utkal-E, Utkal-D	NALCO	2
		Talabira-II & III	NLCIL	1

1	2	3	4	5
		Baitarni West	Odisha Mining Corporation	1
	TOTAL (Odisha)			08
6.	Telangana	Penagaddppa	The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	1
	TOTAL (Telangana)			1
7.	West Bengal	Gangaramchak, Gangaramchak Bhadulia	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd.	2
		Kasta East	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd.	1
		Khagra Joydev	Damodar Valley Corporation	1
		Tara East and West	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd.	2
		Trans Damodar	The Durgapur Projects Ltd.	1
		Gourangdhih ABC	West Bengal Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	1
	TOTAL (West Bengal)			8
	GRAND TOTAL			57

In addition to the above mentioned 57 coal mines, allocation of another 8 coal mines under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act 2015 is under process. NIA has been launched on 11.06.2018. Details of the Mines are as follows:-

For Power

Sl. No.	Name of coal mine	State
1.	Ashok Karkatta Central	Jharkhand
2.	Latehar	Jharkhand
3.	Mandakini	Odisha
4.	Utkal-C	Odisha
5.	Durgapur II/Taraimar	Chhattisgarh
6.	Durgapur II/Sarya	Chhattisgarh

For Sale of Coal

Sl. No.	Name of coal mine	State
1.	New Patrapara	Odisha
2.	Dongeri Tal - II	Madhya Pradesh

Comprehensive policy for the sugar industry

*44. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has recommended for dual price policy for domestic and commercial purposes to protect both —the consumers and the sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Central Government's response thereto;

(c) whether the Central Government is also considering to make any comprehensive long term policy for the sugar industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for adopting dual price policy for sugar envisaging differential pricing of sugar for domestic consumption and commercial purposes. However, adoption of dual price policy for sugar has not been found administratively feasible by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) As a comprehensive long term policy, the Central Government, has taken the following measures:—

(i) Notified the Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018 to ensure that from sale of sugar, the industry at least gets the price of cane based on Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) and minimum conversion cost of sugar. The minimum ex-mill selling price of white sugar for sale in the domestic market has been presently fixed at ₹ 29/kg.

- (ii) As per new National Policy on Bio-Fuels, 2018 sugarcane juice has been allowed for production of ethanol. The Government has fixed remunerative price of ethanol produced from C-Heavy molasses and B-Heavy molasses/sugarcane juice separately at ₹ 43.70/liter and ₹ 47.49/liter respectively for supply under EBP during ensuing ethanol season (December to November) to facilitate achieving 10% blending target.
- (iii) The Central Government, with a view to increase production of ethanol and its supply under Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) Programme, specially in the surplus seasons and thereby to improve the liquidity positions of the sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price arrears of the farmers has approved a "Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar mills for Enhancement and Augmentation of Ethanol Production Capacity."

Delayed trains

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

- (a) number of trains which got delayed by more than five hours in reaching their destination in last three years;
- (b) whether passengers are provided with catering facility in case of delayed running of trains;
- (c) whether some manipulations have come forth in the software of railways for hiding delay of trains as their record does not match with the registers of Railways;
- (d) the hurdles coming in way to address the issues due to which trains get delayed so that there is no constant delay of trains; and
- (e) whether monitoring of punctuality of trains is being done properly?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) On Indian Railways, average number of Mail/Express trains per day terminating more than 05 hours late at destination (including rescheduled trains) for the last 3 years is given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Financial Year	Total No. of Scheduled Mail/Express trains.	Average number of Mail/Express trains terminated per day	Total number of trains terminated more than 05 hrs. late	Average number of trains terminated more than 05 hrs. late per day
2015-16	5,87,408	1609	13765	38
2016-17	5,94,874	1630	22588	62
2017-18	6,10,536	1630	25506	70

(b) In case trains with facility for pre paid services *viz* Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duranto trains get delayed and, if the journey time is extended by more than 2 hours, service of Tea/Coffee, Lunch/Dinner or Breakfast/Evening tea, depending on the timings, are served to the passengers as per the fixed Menu. However, in the case of delay to Mail/Express trains where catering services are provided on payment basis, catering services are made available through pantry cars, Train side vending, E-catering, Static catering units at en-route station on payment basis.

(c) In order to disseminate accurate information regarding delay of trains, Railways have linked the system of recording arrival and departure of trains through Control Office Application (COA) with Data Loggers at 72 stations for capturing accurate train information.

(d) and (e) Passenger safety being the highest priority, since last few months, a large number of safety related track maintenance works are being undertaken for which a number of speed restrictions have been imposed. This has led to drop in punctuality of trains over Indian Railways. For maintenance of assets and infrastructure augmentation, 4,60,566 block hours have been given during April to June 2018 as against 4,11,627 block hours during April to June 2017, which is 48,938 (11.89%) more block hours as compared to the corresponding period of 2017-18.

While 70% of the trains in 2017-18 reached their destinations on time, some trains got delayed due to various reasons such as asset failures related to Locomotives, Over Head Electrical Equipment, Track Failures, Signal Failures, Mechanical Failures etc., besides Law and Order problems- observance of Bandhs and security threats in sensitive areas requiring reduction of speeds for maintaining the safety of operations, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches), public agitations, natural calamities such as

floods, cyclones, heavy rains, electricity grid failures, miscreant activities such as theft of Railway assets, cattle run over, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates etc. However, punctuality of passenger carrying trains is being monitored rigorously on a daily basis at Divisional, Zonal and Railway Board levels.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Assistance to farmers of Odisha

321. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Ministry would enhance the input assistance under CRF Grant from the existing ₹68007/- and ₹13500/- per hectare of un-irrigated and irrigated land, respectively, to the affected farmers of Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): The Government of India revised the items and norms for assistance from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on 8th April, 2015, based on consideration of the recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission on financing of expenditure on immediate relief during natural calamities for the period 2015-2020 and the report of the Expert Group set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Any revision in the existing norms will be undertaken in consultation with all stakeholders.

Suicide by farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not succeeded in preventing suicides by debt-ridden farmers in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has also not succeeded in providing MSPs to farmers;

(c) the proposal of Government to support the farmers with remunerative price of farm produces and prevent suicides; and

(d) the details of suicides by debt-ridden farmers reported in the country, since 2014, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These reports on suicides upto 2015 are available at its website. The report for the years 2016 onward has not been published yet. However, NCRB has provided data relating to suicides for the year 2016 (Provisional) to this Ministry. As per ADSI Reports for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 (Provisional) the State-wise suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers including those caused due to 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' have been compiled in the Statement (*See* below).

Agriculture is a State subject. Agrarian distress can be addressed by enabling the farmers to increase their income. The Government is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has taken a number of measures. The Government is aiming to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach. The department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.

Further, 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.

Statement

(A) Suicides by persons self-employed in farming/agriculture

State/UT	2014			2015		
	Farmers	Labourers	Total	Farmers	Labourers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	160	472	632	516	400	916
Arunachal Pradesh	0	3	3	7	3	10
Assam	21	38	59	84	54	138

<i>Written Answers to</i>	[20 July, 2018]			<i>Unstarred Questions</i>			71
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Bihar	0	10	10	0	7	7	
Chhattisgarh	443	312	755	854	100	954	
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Gujarat	45	555	600	57	244	301	
Haryana	14	105	119	28	134	162	
Himachal Pradesh	32	31	63	0	46	46	
Jammu and Kashmir	12	25	37	0	21	21	
Jharkhand	0	4	4	0	21	21	
Karnataka	321	447	768	1197	372	1569	
Kerala	107	700	807	3	207	210	
Madhya Pradesh	826	372	1198	581	709	1290	
Maharashtra	2568	1436	4004	3030	1261	4291	
Manipur	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Meghalaya	0	2	2	2	1	3	
Mizoram	0	5	5	0	1	1	
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Odisha	5	97	102	23	27	50	
Punjab	24	40	64	100	24	124	
Rajasthan	0	373	373	3	73	76	
Sikkim	35	0	35	15	3	18	
Tamil Nadu	68	827	895	2	604	606	
Telangana	898	449	1347	1358	42	1400	
Tripura	0	32	32	1	48	49	
Uttar Pradesh	63	129	192	145	179	324	
Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	2	2	
West Bengal	0	230	230	0	0	0	
TOTAL (STATES)	5642	6694	12336	8007	4583	12590	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andamand and Nicobar Islands	8	0	8	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	16	16	0	12	12
TOTAL (UTs)	8	16	24	0	12	12
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	5650	6710	12360	8007	4595	12602

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

(B) State/UT-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)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	565	239	804
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	6	6
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

1	2	3	4	5
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
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

Assistance for the dairy sector

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

(a) whether Government is providing financial assistance to various States for setting up dairies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of the schemes and the amount of assistance provided by Government to various States during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the names of States which have adopted the Gujarat model for developing dairy industry along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India is providing financial assistance for setting up of dairies under following Dairy Development schemes:—

1. National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD): The scheme provides grant-in-aid to the various States of the country for dairy development activities including setting up of dairy plant. The major salient feature of the scheme *inter-alia* includes:—
 - (i) Creation and strengthening of infrastructure for procurement, processing and marketing of quality milk including cold chain infrastructure.
 - (ii) Creation of facilities for training of dairy farmers.
 - (iii) Strengthening dairy cooperative societies/producers companies at village level.

The details of State-wise assistance provided by this department during last three years under NPDD is given in Statement-I.

2. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS): The scheme provides back-ended capital subsidy at the rate of 25% for General category and 33.33% for SC/ST category for various dairying activities including setting up of small dairy units of 2 to 10 cows/buffalos through National Bank for

Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The major salient feature of the scheme *inter-alia* includes:—

- (i) Setting up of small dairy unit, heifer unit;
- (ii) Purchase of milking machines, bulk milk cooling units, dairy processing equipment; and
- (iii) Establishment of dairy product transportation and cold chain facilities, private veterinary clinics and dairy marketing outlets/dairy parlours.

The details of State-wise assistance provided during last three years is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

3. Dairy Infrastructure and Processing Development Fund (DIDF): The Department of Animals Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has launched new Central Sector Scheme Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) in December, 2017 with the approved outlay of DIDF is ₹ 10881 crore (which consists of ₹ 8004 crore as interest bearing loan, ₹ 2001 crore as contribution from Milk Cooperatives, ₹ 864 crore as interest subvention through budgetary support from DADF. In addition to this, NDDDB and NCDC will contribute ₹ 12 crore for Project Management and Learning Support) for three years *i.e* 2017-18 to 2019-20.

The major salient features of scheme are as under:—

- (i) Envisages focusing on creation/modernization/expansion of processing infrastructure and manufacturing facilities for Value Added Products for the Milk Cooperatives.
 - (ii) The scheme will also support in building an efficient milk procurement system by setting up of chilling infrastructure and installation of electronic milk adulteration testing equipments at village level.
 - (iii) NABARD raises the fund from market and passes to NDDDB/NCDC. NDDDB and NCDC are the Nodal Loaning Entities under DIDF. NDDDB/NCDC shall provide the loans @6.5 % to Eligible End Borrowers.
- (c) Most of the major dairying States in the country namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh have since long adopted the Gujarat model of cooperative and dairy development in their respective States.

Statement-I

*Details of releases under National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD)
during last three years*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Fund Released		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.50	4.36	6.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.72	3.07	0
3.	Bihar	10.59	12.87	35.7
4.	Chhattisgarh	2.04	1.75	0
5.	Karnataka	4.46	0.00	2.6
6.	Kerala	1.06	13.05	5.4
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3.64	1.55	3.6
8.	Nagaland	1.00	1.00	1.12
9.	Odisha	10.67	12.43	0
10.	Punjab	20.92	17.78	10.9
11.	Sikkim	3.39	4.36	5.9
12.	Tamil Nadu	2.00	6.89	11.93
13.	Telangana	2.92	4.32	2.8
14.	Rajasthan	2.30	9.02	18.99
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1.46	3.00	12.31
16.	Uttarakhand	0.00	7.03	11.80
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	5.05	1
18.	Jharkhand	0.00	3.08	0
19.	Assam	0.00	4.68	0
20.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	10.91
21.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	2.40
22.	Haryana	0.28	0.00	6.51

1	2	3	4	5
23.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	1.90
24.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	3.86
25.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.50
26.	Goa	0.00	0.00	7.91
27.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	2.97
28.	Mizoram	0.00	4.38	3.10
GRAND TOTAL		73.95	119.70	170.31

Statement-II

Details of State-wise dairy unit established and subsidy disbursed through NABARD under Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme during last three years

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Fund Released					
		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
		Units	Amount	Units	Amount	Units	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	4.54	16	2.48	23	3.50
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2607	989.83	4121	1582.12	11534	4575.96
3.	Bihar	0	0.00	1326	643.94	1248	487.63
4.	Chhattisgarh	463	342.76	178	186.22	114	44.87
5.	Delhi	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Goa	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
7.	Gujarat	743	504.61	2664	1973.73	5924	3080.62
8.	Haryana	187	145.95	294	150.55	308	244.75
9.	Himachal Pradesh	374	286.19	234	198.02	637	649.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	320	144.86	365	211.21	723	448.77
11.	Jharkhand	0	0.00	15	14.29	139	101.11
12.	Karnataka	439	224.58	964	423.79	2067	1093.59
13.	Kerala	88	46.05	839	442.08	2155	1152.03
14.	Madhya Pradesh	21	37.54	505	494.17	1479	814.90
15.	Maharashtra	4532	2342.17	431	385.07	6056	3125.96
16.	Odisha	175	51.33	192	92.89	970	383.61
17.	Punjab	674	482.46	756	559.58	1670	1094.70
18.	Rajasthan	43	47.41	92	74.72	4378	2188.76
19.	Tamil Nadu	2385	435.77	4098	904.42	7877	1727.78
20.	Telangana	914	305.51	265	125.55	4962	2438.35
21.	Uttar Pradesh	975	555.51	996	588.15	3442	1796.15
22.	Uttarkhand	1349	617.46	1161	560.17	2183	1110.20
23.	West Bengal	1	0.67	229	139.14	293	176.32
TOTAL		16298	7565.18	19741	9752.25	58182	26739.18
N.E States							
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	59	113.90	58	101.20	71	138.20
2.	Assam	1350	1051.12	1522	1199.32	1324	1126.08
3.	Manipur	29	20.23	43	36.27	115	46.12
4.	Meghalaya	4	1.50	8	3.60	18	10.60
5.	Mizoram	22	17.10	32	33.60	182	106.23
6.	Nagaland	63	29.26	499	217.40	334	149.80
7.	Sikkim	66	50.06	472	267.54	416	266.59
8.	Tripura	286	127.83	151	76.23	433	290.91
TOTAL		1879	1411.01	2785	1935.16	2893	2134.53
Daman and Diu						1	1.50
GRAND TOTAL		18177	8976.20	22526	11687.41	61076	28875.21

Efficacy of e-mandies

324. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study into the efficacy of e-mandies in augmenting income of farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is considering any measures to ensure better prices to farmers for their produces; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme was launched on 14th April, 2016 with an objective of facilitating better and real time price discovery for the farmers for their produce through competitive online transparent auction process. This also aims at providing with pricing commensurate with quality of produce of farmers. As per target, 585 wholesale regulated markets across the country have been integrated with e-NAM platform by 31st March, 2018. No specific study of efficacy of e-mandies in augmenting income of farmers had been conducted.

(c) and (c) With the objective of ensuring better prices to farmers, Government has been taking several measures such as follows:—

- (1) Promoting Model Act "The-State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017" as well as Model Act "The State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" with States/ Union Territories to promote alternative competitive marketing channels for better pricing for farmers and to encourage private investment in developing efficient marketing infrastructure and value chain.
- (2) With the objective of providing better prices to farmers for their produce through online transparent bidding process, Government has implemented National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme.

- (3) Government is also promoting procurement policy in notified commodities through Central and State agencies. Recently, procurement prices of major commodities have been enhanced. The Government has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) at a level of at least 150% of the cost of production for Kharif crop 2018-19.
- (4) Government is also promoting formation and operationalisation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), so that economy of scale of produce, better access to market and enhanced bargaining powers can be achieved by farmers, particularly for small and marginal farmers, which will help them in getting better remunerative prices.
- (5) In Union Budget 2018-19, Government has announced to develop and upgrade existing 22000 Village Haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) through convergence of various Government schemes such as MGNREGA etc., which will help the farmers to get better prices for their produce nearer to their farm gate.
- (6) Further, the Government is also incentivising the development of marketing infrastructure to make the agricultural marketing efficient through schemes of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Direct income support scheme for farmers

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to implement a direct income support scheme for farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is aware that jurisdictions such as the European Union and China provide direct income support to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) At present, no such

scheme is being implemented by Government of India to provide direct income support for farmers. As per available information, European Union farmers receive support in the form of direct payments, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

However, Government of India has been implementing various schemes for supplementing the overall development of agriculture sector as well as for betterment of socio-economic conditions of farmers. Some of the initiatives are as under:—

- (i) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertilizer application and thus save input cost of farmers.
- (ii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country.
- (iii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, comprising water sources, distribution network and farm level applications.
- (iv) Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) which is an innovative market process to revolutionize agri-markets by ensuring better price discovery, bringing in transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce moving towards 'One Nation One Market'. The department has achieved the target of integration of 585 mandis with e-NAM by March, 2018.
- (v) Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2016 to address the risks associated with agriculture.
- (vi) The Government provides total interest subvention up to 5% (inclusive of 3% prompt repayment incentive) on short-term crop loans up to ₹3.00 lakh. Thus, loan is available to farmers at a reduced rate of 4% per annum on prompt repayment.
- (vii) The Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on

Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for benefit of farmers.

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.

Doubling the income of farmers

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

(a) the various measures Government has taken so far towards doubling the income of farmers and animal rearers;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey during the last one year and collected data of the present income of farmers and animal rearers residing in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve doubling of farmers' income in real terms by the year 2022.

At present, thirteen draft volumes of 'Strategy for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022' prepared by the Committee have been uploaded on the website of this department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion.

Parallely, the Government is aiming to reorient agriculture sector by focusing on income centeredness. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as

follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way through the States/UTs 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); National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDFI); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In addition, schemes relating to tree plantation (Har Medh Par Ped), Bee Keeping, Dairy and Fisheries are also implemented. All these schemes are implemented to enhance production and productivity of agriculture and thereby enhance income of farmers.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is notified for both Kharif and Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACAP). 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.

(b) to (d) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has not conducted any survey during the last one year for collecting data of the present income of country's farmers and animal rearers residing in various parts of the country. However, NSSO conducted a Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural households during its 70th round (January, 2013-December, 2013) in the rural areas of the country with reference to the agricultural year July, 2012-June, 2013. The survey collected the details of income generated by the agricultural households during the agricultural year July, 2012-June, 2013 from different economic activities. Average monthly income (₹) per agricultural household for different States/group of UTs during July, 2012-June, 2013 as per the results of the Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households, NSS 70th round (January, 2013- December, 2013) is given in Statement.

Statement

Average monthly income (₹) per agricultural household for different States/group of UTs during July, 2012-June, 2013 as per the results of the Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households, NSS 70th round (January, 2013 - December, 2013)

(Amount in ₹)

State/Group of UTs [#]	Income from wages	Net receipt from cultivation	Net receipt from farming of animals	Net receipt from non-farm business	Total income
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	2482	2022	1075	400	5979
Arunachal Pradesh	2076	6647	1310	836	10869
Assam	1430	4211	799	255	6695
Bihar	1323	1715	279	240	3558
Chhattisgarh	1848	3347	-19	1	5177
Gujarat	2683	2933	1930	380	7926
Haryana	3491	7867	2645	431	14434
Himachal Pradesh	4030	2876	1047	824	8777
Jammu and Kashmir	7336	3063	801	1483	12683
Jharkhand	1839	1451	1193	238	4721
Karnataka	2677	4930	600	625	8832
Kerala	5254	3531	575	2529	11888
Madhya Pradesh	1332	4016	732	129	6210
Maharashtra	2156	3856	539	834	7386
Manipur	3815	2924	1563	540	8842
Meghalaya	3776	6472	657	887	11792
Mizoram	3655	4561	864	19	9099
Nagaland	5393	3212	1384	59	10048
Odisha	1716	1407	1314	539	4976

1	2	3	4	5	6
Punjab	4779	10862	1658	760	18059
Rajasthan	2534	3138	967	710	7350
Sikkim	3113	1696	980	1009	6798
Tamil Nadu	2902	1917	1100	1061	6980
Telangana	1450	4227	374	260	6311
Tripura	2185	2772	311	162	5429
Uttarakhand	1069	2531	848	253	4701
Uttar Pradesh	1150	2855	543	376	4923
West Bengal	2126	979	225	650	3980
Group of UTs	5179	1864	213	1312	8568
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	2071	3081	763	512	6426

Figures for remaining States are not published due to inadequate sample size (*i.e.* number of sample households less than 300). Figures for UTs have been clubbed and given against 'Group of UTs' due to the same reason.

Source: Table 1 of Appendix A, NSS Report No. 576: Income, Expenditure, Productive Assets and Indebtedness of Agricultural Households in India.

Promoting paddy sowing machines

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to publicise and popularise the extensive usage of paddy sowing machines with a view to promote the same;
- (b) if so, the details of the production of the machine and its availability;
- (c) whether Government is taking any initiative to reduce the cost of solar pumps so as to provide them to the farmers at affordable price;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the agricultural appliances for which efforts are being made for updation?

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

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

demonstration on paddy sowing machine is provided at Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (FMTTI) located at Budni (M.P.), Hisar (Haryana), Ananapur (A.P.) and Biswanath Chariali (Assam); and also through ICAR's All India Crop Research Projects (AICRP) located at TNAU, Coimbatore, IIT Kharagpur, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, NERIST Nirjuli and at CIAE, Bhopal. The funds under Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) are also provided to State Governments for conducting training and demonstrations of various agricultural machinery.

(b) There are about 19 manufactures of Self Propelled Paddy Transplanter machine in the country and the machine is adequately available in the market.

(c) and (d) Under Phase-II (2014-17) of the Off-grid and Decentralized Solar PV Applications Scheme of Ministry of New and Renewable (MNRE), Central Financial Assistance up to 30% of the benchmark cost has been provided for installation of solar pumps. Further, due to provision of the scheme mandating procurement only through tender route, prices of solar pumps have reduced which is reflected in the revised benchmark costs issued by MNRE in June, 2018.

(e) Design refinements in the agricultural implements is a continuous exercise and are being carried out by centres of AICRP of ICAR to suit the requirement of agricultural workers of different region and based on feedback received from farmers and users. During last 4 years, ICAR has developed 48 technologies in the field of farm mechanization.

Implementation of PMFBY

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

(a) whether under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) major changes have been effected in old schemes meant for crop insurance by doing away with the discrepancies therein so that farmers could be benefitted more, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the quantum of premium given by farmers have been drastically reduced and along with this the limit of payment on insurance has been removed under the PMFBY, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After review of the erstwhile crop insurance schemes, the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was introduced from Kharif 2016 season in the country. Various new features to make the scheme farmer friendly have been added in the scheme. These features include comprehensive risk coverage from pre-sowing to post harvest losses against non-preventable natural risks; removal of cap on premium resulting in reduction of sum insured and claims, if any and equating the sum insured with Scale of Finance to maximize the risk coverage at minimum uniform fixed premium rate payable by farmers *i.e.* maximum 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi Crop and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops, with balance of actuarial/bidded premium being shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis; lowering of unit area of insurance to village/village panchayat level for major crops and to individual farm level for localised risks of hailstorm, landslide and inundation and post-harvest losses thereby promoting more realistic assessment of losses; stipulation of time lines for every stage of the claim settlement cycle with final settlement to be done within two months from harvest; adoption of technology for accurate and transparent loss assessment through capture of CCEs through smartphones/CCE Agri App on National Crop Insurance Portal and use of Remote Sensing Technology.

Development of agriculture sector

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

(a) whether Government proposes to take measures to encourage the development of Agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure the inclination of farmers towards high value agricultural produces and to increase their income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Government is aiming to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.

There has been a big jump in the much needed budgetary allocations for the agriculture sector. For the period 2009-2014, the budget for agriculture was ₹ 1,21,082 crore. During 2014-2019, the allocation has been enhanced by 74.5 per cent to ₹ 2,11,694 crore. Non-budgetary resources have been mobilized to supplement budgetary resources.

Giving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all kharif crops for 2018-19 Season. The decision of the CCEA 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) has recommended MSPs for all kharif crops broadly in line with the announced principle.

(b) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is implemented to holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa. Mission subsumes National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland. All States/UTs are covered under MIDH.

Various interventions being taken under MIDH for the development of horticulture sector and to increase their income are given below:-

1. Increasing productivity through introduction of improved varieties, quality seeds and planting materials, protected cultivation, high density plantation, rejuvenation, precision farming and horticultural mechanization.
2. Diversification to high value horticulture for orchards and plantation crops, vineyards, vegetable and flower gardens, Bee keeping, Mushroom cultivation, off season vegetables.
3. Promoting Post Harvest Management through Cold Storage (CS), cold chain supply including pack houses, ripening chamber, reefer vehicle, etc.
4. Promoting Primary and minimal processing.

5. Market Linkages: Market infrastructure such as mobile vending cart, retail outlet, primary and wholesale markets. Creating direct market/farmers market.
6. Aggregating farmers into Farmer Producers Organisation (FPO)/Farmer Interest Group (FIG) and promoting their tie up with Market Aggregators (MAs) and Financial Institutions (FIs).
7. Skill Development: Human Resources Development such as awareness programme, farmers training, exposure visit, etc. Providing training on latest technologies on production and post-harvest management to women and youth. Converting Human Resource Development (HRD) interventions to Skill Development in Horticulture as per Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) curriculum.
8. Food and Nutritional Security: Increasing area and production of horticulture crops with high nutritional value.
9. Promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/Integrated Pest Management (IPM), organic farming, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

Increase in farmers' income in West Bengal

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

- (a) whether the Central Government is aware that the Government of West Bengal has increased the income of farmers by 2.6 times in the last seven years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when the farmers' income would be doubled throughout the country; and
- (d) the steps taken and the progress achieved, till date, in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) is the nodal agency for conducting survey and collecting data. NSSO conducted a Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural households during its 70th round (January, 2013- December, 2013) in the rural areas of the country

with reference to the agricultural year July, 2012-June, 2013. The survey collected the details of income generated by the agricultural households during the agricultural year July, 2012-June, 2013 from different economic activities. As per the results obtained from the survey, the average monthly income per agricultural household during July 2012- June, 2013 of West Bengal was ₹ 3980/-. No survey has been conducted by NSSO in this regard afterward.

(c) and (d) The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve doubling of farmers' income in real terms by the year 2022.

At present, thirteen draft volumes of 'Strategy for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022' prepared by the Committee have been uploaded on the website of this Department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion.

Parallely, the Government is aiming to reorient agriculture sector by focusing on income centeredness. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way through the States/UTs 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); National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In addition, schemes relating to tree plantation (Har Medh Par Ped), Bee Keeping, Dairy and Fisheries are also implemented. All these schemes are implemented to enhance production and productivity of agriculture and thereby enhance income of farmers.

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.

Burden of loan on farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of the country are under distress owing to the increase in loan for agricultural activities;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take any steps to reduce the growing agricultural expenditure of farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) No, Sir. The growth in flow of agriculture credit during last 6 years was reportedly around 14% compound annual growth rate (13.98%). The total agricultural credit (crop loan + term loan) increased from ₹ 6,07,376 crore in 2012-13 to ₹ 11,68,502 crore in 2017-18 (provisional). The per account credit increased from ₹ 86,343/- in 2012-13 to ₹ 1,02,578 in 2017-18. However, there is no evidence to establish that the appreciable increase in per account credit is reason for farmers' distress.

Further, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households during NSS 70th round (January, 2013 - December, 2013) to collect information on various aspects of farming, such as farming practices and preferences, availability of resources, awareness of technological developments and access to modern technology in the field of agriculture and level of living measured in terms of consumer expenditure, income and indebtedness from the agricultural households in rural India.

According to the results of the survey, at all-India level, average monthly income per agricultural household (included income from cultivation, farming of animals, nonfarm business and income from wages/salaries) during the agricultural year July, 2012-June, 2013 was estimated as ₹ 6426/-. Whereas during the same period, the average monthly consumption expenditure per agricultural households was ₹ 6223/-.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above do not arise.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Financial and administrative decisions in MSCS

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

(a) whether elected director(s) of a Multi-State Cooperative Society (MSCS) can attend board meetings and take financial and administrative decisions particularly after they have been declared disqualified under Section 43 (2)(a) of MSCS Act, 2002 by the Arbitral Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of complaint(s) received in this regard by Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) along with action taken by CRCS on those complaint(s); and

(d) whether Multi-State Cooperative Society is duty bound to produce the books of account and other books and papers to the person making inspection under Section 108(1) of the MSCS Act, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of Section 36(1) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, where the time for making an application to set aside the arbitral award under Section 34 has expired, then subject to the provisions of sub-Section (2), such award shall be enforced in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), in the same manner as if it were a decree of the Court.

(c) The question does not mention specific Multi-State Cooperative Society against which details are to be given.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Reconstitution of National Bamboo Mission

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

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to reconstitute the National Bamboo Mission for development of Bamboo sector by establishing an effective linkage of producers with industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has also approved the scheme during its recent meeting, if so, the details thereof?

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

The restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) has been launched this year with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) *vide* order No. CCEA/13/2018 (i) dated 26th April, 2018 under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for implementation with the objectives *inter alia*:-

- (i) To increase the area under bamboo plantation in non-forest Government and private lands to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change as well as availability of quality raw material requirement of industries. The bamboo plantations will be promoted predominantly in farmers' fields, homesteads, community lands, arable wastelands, and along irrigation canals, water bodies etc.
- (ii) To improve post-harvest management through establishment of innovative primary processing units near the source of production, primary treatment and seasoning plants, preservation technologies and market infrastructure.
- (iii) To promote product development keeping in view market demand, by assisting R&D, entrepreneurship and business models at micro, small and medium levels and feed bigger industry.
- (iv) To rejuvenate the under developed bamboo industry in India.
- (v) To promote skill development, capacity building, awareness generation for development of bamboo sector from production to market demand.

During 2018-19, a budget allocation of ₹ 300 crore as Central share has been received.

Purchase of foodgrains by centre

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not purchasing the foodgrains from farmers which is posing a serious problem to the farmers in selling their produces;

(b) whether Government has any plan to implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission in the Agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Government extends price support to paddy and wheat through the FCI and State Agencies across the country. The procurement policy is open ended. Under this policy, whatever food grains are offered by farmers, within the stipulated period and conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the State Government agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Central Pool. Further, pulses of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) are procured from farmers under Price Support System (PSS), as per its prescribed guidelines at Minimum Support Price (MSP) in consultation with the concerned State Government as and when market price of these produce fall below the MSP. However, if producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market.

(b) and (c) Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers', submitted by the Swaminathan Commission, which contained major recommendations of the Commission, the Government approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers. An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), which was constituted for preparation of Plan of Action, identified 201 Action Points for NPF, 2007, where necessary action had to be taken. Of the 201 number of action points identified, 192 numbers have already been implemented.

Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)

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

(a) whether there has been a decline in the release of grants to States under the Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the quantum of funds released since 2010, year-wise and State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries to whom assistance has been given under the scheme, since 2010, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) No, there has been no decline rather it has increased, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) is implementing Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) since 2010 which provides Back-ended capital subsidy to the beneficiaries by the financial institution authorized by NABARD. The scheme provides Back-ended subsidy @ 25% of the project cost to the General Category and @ 33.33% of the project cost to SC/ST category farmers and beneficiaries.

(b) Under DEDS, no funds are released to the States. Based on the availability of budget and the number of applications received/sanctioned by the authorised financial institutions, the funds are released to NABARD for distribution of subsidy to the eligible applicants as per the guidelines of the scheme. The year-wise details of funds released to NABARD from 2010 to 2018 are given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) The year-wise details of subsidy released by NABARD and the beneficiaries covered under the DEDS from 2010-2018 are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Year-wise details of funds released to NABARD under DEDS from 2010 to 2018

(₹ in crore)

Year	Funds released by DADF to NABARD for subsidy
2010-11	20.40
2011-12	110.00
2012-13	310.00
2013-14	284.30
2014-15	154.59
2015-16	117.00
2016-17	240.00
2017-18	203.02

Statement-II
Year-wise details of subsidy released by NABARD and beneficiaries covered under the DEDS from 2010-2018

Sl.No	State	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total (Upto March 2018)
		Units	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units	Units
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1	0	11	9	8	16	23	68
2.	Andhra Pradesh	105	6788	6002	40679	9108	2607	4121	11534	80944
3.	Bihar	0	60	1658	5842	2790	0	1326	1248	12924
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	61	127	432	264	463	178	114	1639
5.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	7
7.	Gujarat	195	740	4274	11324	3970	743	2664	5924	29834
8.	Haryana	0	150	883	2706	647	187	294	308	5175
9.	Himachal Pradesh	396	2079	1128	1855	270	374	234	637	6973
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	514	2097	1832	1423	572	320	365	723	7846
11.	Jharkhand	0	16	61	31	22	0	15	139	284

12.	Karnataka	2	1387	1689	7160	2459	439	964	2067	16167
13.	Kerala	0	494	1543	4965	2583	88	839	2155	12667
14.	Madhya Pradesh	52	605	384	1367	624	21	505	1479	5037
15.	Maharashtra	51	3193	4642	2753	29	4532	431	6056	21687
16.	Odisha	0	148	927	3273	524	175	192	970	6209
17.	Punjab	0	355	704	1535	1379	674	756	1670	7073
18.	Rajasthan	61	1725	2708	3907	1165	43	92	4378	14079
19.	Tamil Nadu	267	2602	2437	25868	11915	2385	4098	7877	57449
20.	Telangana*						914	265	4962	6141
21.	Uttar Pradesh	27	1085	1077	1267	567	975	996	3442	9436
22.	Uttarakhand	139	1918	933	3226	1432	1349	1161	2183	12341
23.	West Bengal	0	261	297	858	277	1	229	293	2216
TOTAL		1809	25765	33306	120483	40612	16298	19741	58182	316196
NE States									0	0
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	6	3	11	9	59	58	71	217
2.	Assam	153	1385	1317	1616	911	1350	1522	1324	9578
3.	Manipur	0	16	0	0	19	29	43	115	222

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Meghalaya	1	8	9	8	18	4	8	18	74
5.	Mizoram	1	9	28	99	225	22	32	182	598
6.	Nagaland	0	0	12	24	14	63	499	334	946
7.	Sikkim	14	2	4	29	64	66	472	416	1067
8.	Tripura	0	128	65	60	103	286	151	433	1226
	TOTAL	169	1554	1438	1847	1363	1879	2785	2893	13928
	Daman and Diu								1	1
								Online applications	0	0
	GRAND TOTAL (TOTAL A+B+ ONLINE)	1978	27319	34744	122330	41975	18177	22526	61076	330125

*Bifurcated data is not available Unit sanction before division is indicated in Andhra Pradesh.

MSP for kharif crops

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the announcement of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the major kharif crops was delayed which used to be announced during the first two weeks of June, every year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Government has announced its historic decision to fix Minimum Support Price (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. This announcement was made after a wider and broad based inter-ministerial consultation on the new principle and soliciting the responses from State Governments on the recommendations made by Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices in its Price Policy Report for kharif crops 2018-19 season. India's kharif sowing calendar has a wide range depending on the agro-climatic regional contexts and the bulk of the sowing happens from July.

Distribution of fertilizers to farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been distributing fertilizers and other chemicals to the farmers, if so, the name of the scheme;

(b) the details of such distribution carried out along with criteria for selection of area, State/UT/district-wise and year-wise for last three years; and

(c) the details of advertisements released to propagate this scheme along with expenses incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) There is no scheme under which the fertiliser is distributed to the farmers. Government of India assesses the requirement of NPK fertilisers before the start of each cropping season and ensure

adequate availability of fertilisers at the State level. However, for promotion of Soil test based balanced use of fertilisers, the financial assistance is provided under the Soil Health Management Scheme @ ₹500 per ha. for micronutrients. Under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) programme financial assistance is being provided to farmers through State Government for plant protection chemicals, bio-agents, weedicides and micronutrients at 50% of the cost or ₹ 500/- ha., whichever is less.

Suicides by farmers

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

- (a) the number of farmers who committed suicide since 2014;
- (b) whether Government has ascertained the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to stop incidents of suicides by farmers;
- (d) the details of measures taken to redress the grievances of farmers;
- (e) the steps taken to improve the living condition of farmers;
- (f) whether the number of farmers is declining significantly in the country; and
- (g) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These reports on suicides are available upto 2015 on its website. The report for the year, 2016 onwards have not been published yet. However, NCRB has provided data relating to suicides for the year 2016 (Provisional) to this Ministry. As per the ADSI Report for the years 2014 and 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, 2014 onward is given in Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 322 Part (a) to (d)].

As per NCRB Reports for the year 2014 and 2015, the main causes of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers are Bankruptcy or Indebtedness, Farming Related Issues family problems, illness, etc.

(c) to (e) Agriculture is a State subject. Agrarian distress can be addressed by enabling the farmers to increase their income. The Government is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has taken a number of measures. The Government is aiming to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.

Further, 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.

(f) and (g) As per Census 2011, conducted by the Registrar General of India, the total number of agricultural workers in the country has increased from 234.1 million (127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural labourers) in 2001 to 263.1 million (118.8 million cultivators and 144.3 million agricultural labourers) in 2011.

Setting up of price stabilisation fund

‡339. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether policy measure of markets intervention has been also implemented by Central Government with a view to enhance the income of farmers in which the setting up of a Price Stabilisation Fund has been included prominently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Price Stabilisation Fund is proving successful in enhancing income of farmers and keeping it unaffected in the case of decrease in price of agricultural produces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Price Stabilisation Fund was established with the objective to tackle inflationary trends of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses to protect the interest of consumers. However, the guidelines of the fund also provides for direct purchase of such commodities from farmers/farmer's association at farm gate/mandi, benefitting farmers.

(c) and (d) Price Stabilisation Fund is consumer centric scheme aimed at moderating the price volatility of agri-horticultural commodities for consumers.

Benefits of CCEs to farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, most States have not made timely payments of their premium subsidy, if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) the number of States which have conducted Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and submitted data to insurance companies since 2016, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise and average expenditure on conducting CCEs in each village panchayat for each crop; and

(c) the manner in which CCEs help the farmers and the number of farmers who have been benefitted from it till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) upfront premium subsidy is provided to the implementing insurance companies, which is equally shared by the Central and State Governments concerned. Timelines have been provided in the scheme for completion of different activities including payment of subsidy by the Government both Central and State. However, various States like Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Kerala, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh etc. delayed considerably the payment of their share of premium to insurance companies in one or more seasons during 2016-17 and 2017-2018 due to which settlement of claims has been delayed in these States.

(b) and (c) As per provisions of the scheme yield data arrived from the Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) is furnished by the States to concerned insurance companies

for workout and settlement of claims to farmers. Therefore, all the implementing States are required to conduct requisite number CCEs as per provisions of the scheme. These CCEs are mostly conducted in house by various departments say Revenue Department, Agriculture Department, Directorate of Economics and Statistics of concerned States individually and/or in collaboration with each other. Some States are outsourcing the conduct of CCEs. As most of the States are conducting in-house CCEs through their existing manpower, the estimation of expenditure by States is not available. However, Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Center (MNCFC) had conducted CCEs for KISAN [C(K)rop Insurance using Space technology And geo Informatics] project during 2015-16 for which the accepted rate arrived at through bidding process was ₹ 640/- per CCE. Going by that rate, conducting four CCEs per crop for per village/village panchayat as per provision of PMFBY comes to ₹ 2560/-.

Out of the total number of 572 lakh farmers covered under the scheme during 2016-17, claims based on CCEs data were paid to over 135 lakh farmers.

Scheme to promote organic farming

‡341. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana has been initiated by Central Government to promote organic farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said yojana is proving very effective in increasing agricultural production and raising farmers' income in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Government of India has initiated the scheme "Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana" (PKVY) as a Centrally Sponsored Programme (CSP) since 2015-16 under National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to promote organic farming in the country. The detail of the scheme is given in Statement (*See* below).

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme promotes chemical-free farming with major thrust on reduction in input costs, which is essential for increasing farmers income. A small dip in production is reported in the initial 2-3 years as per ICAR study. However, it gets compensated by considering reduction in input costs subsequently. Grading, sorting, processing, branding and market facilities have been provided under the scheme to ensure enhanced income to the farmers.

Statement

Details of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is the first comprehensive scheme launched as a Centrally Sponsored Programme (CSP) from 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 guidelines of the scheme has been uploaded in the website www.agricoop.nic.in.

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 has to be selected. The farmer within a group can avail benefit to a maximum of 2 hectare and the limit of assistance is ₹50,000 per hectare., 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 lacks ha. is proposed to be covered in the 3 years which is double the area covered in last three years. Support is also to farmers who will have the flexibility to use appropriate package of practice(s) best suited to their situations and to empower them through their own institutional development in the form of clusters for all post harvest activities such as collection and aggregation of produce, primary processing including washing, cleaning, grading, packing and branding and marketing of the organic produce, value addition and certification management through direct market linkages with local and national markets. Thus, the major emphasis of the scheme is on end to end project mode, implementation including input support, post harvest management, branding and marketing.

In order to implement the PKVY in the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 an amount of ₹ 300 crore, ₹ 297 crore and ₹ 350 crore has been allocated respectively to the States.

Ban on hazardous pesticides

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

(a) whether Government has received a proposal to ban use of hazardous pesticides in farming;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per World Health Organisation estimates 20 per cent of all suicides could be prevented through restricting access to such poisons; and

(d) if so, the measures Government proposes to combat the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an expert committee under the Chairmanship of Anupam Verma in July 2013, to review 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned, 27 pesticides to be reviewed in 2018 after completion of certain technical studies and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The complete list is given in Statement-I (*See* below). Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had invited objections and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are given in Statement-II (*See* below). In response to which, the Ministry has received various objections and suggestions. Keeping in view of which, a committee has been constituted to review the received objections and suggestions.

(c) and (d) There is no specific study available with the Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC). However, 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. Pesticides used as per approved label and leaflet claims are unlikely to cause any harm. In additions, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use. Further, the Department is implementing 'Strengthening and

Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.

Statement

Recommendation of the Expert Committee with respect to 66 pesticides

Sl. No.	Category	No.of Pesticides	Name of the Pesticides
1	2	3	4
1.	I-to be continued	18	Aluminium phosphide, Bifenthrin, Carbosulfan, Chlorfenapyr, Chlorothalonil, Dazomet, Diflubenzuron, Ethofenprox, Fenpropathrin, Iprodione, Kasugamycin, Mepiquat chloride, Metaldehyde, Paraquat dichloride, Pretilachlor, Propargite, Propineb and Zinc phosphide
2.	II-to be reviewed again in 2018, after completion of the recommended studies	27	Acephate, Atrazine, Benfuracarb, Butachlor, Captan, Carbendazim, Carbofuran, Chlorpyrifos, Deltamethrin, Dicofol, Dimethoate, Dinocap, Diuron, 2, 4-D, Malathion, Mancozeb, Methomyl, Monocrotophos, Oxyfluorfen, Pendimethalin, Quinalphos, Sulfosulfuron, Thiodicarb, Thiophanate methyl, Thiram, Zineb, Ziram
3.	III-to be phased out by 2020. No new certificate of registration to manufacture shall be issued after December 2017. No person shall import, manufacture or formulate w.e.f. 1st January, 2019. The use shall be completely banned w.e.f. 31st December, 2020	6	Alachlor, Dichlorvos, Phorate, Phosphamidon, Triazophos, Trichlorfon

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

Statement-II

Names of the pesticides in the notification s.o.4212 (e)

Sl. No.	Name	Sl. No.	Name
1.	Benomyl	10.	Thiometon
2.	Carbaryl	11.	Tridemorph
3.	Diazinon	12.	Trifluralin
4.	Fenarimol	13.	Alachlor
5.	Fenthion	14.	Dichlorvos
6.	Linuron	15.	Phorate
7.	MEMC	16.	Phosphamidon
8.	Methyl Parathion	17.	Triazophos
9.	Sodium Cyanide	18.	Trichlorfon

Production of grapes

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

- (a) the details of the leading grapes producing States in the country;
- (b) the total production of grapes recorded during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the farmers producing grapes are not getting remunerative prices for their produces;
- (d) if so, the corrective steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to promote the cultivation of grapes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Maharashtra and Karnataka are the leading grapes producing States in the country.

(b) The details of the total production of Grapes during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise, are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) By and large farmers producing grapes get remunerative prices for their produce. Cost of grapes in market depends upon quality (size, colour, shelf life, eating quality) and time of harvest. Very early (November, December) and very late (May, June) harvested grapes always get better prices. Export quality grapes always get returns to farmers.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers producing horticulture crops including grapes are as under:—

- Assistance is provided for development of infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing such as storage, Wholesale Markets, Rural Primary Market, Kissan Mandies etc.
- Facilitating direct marketing, contract farming, setting up of private markets, farmer consumer markets and e-markets.
- Implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of highly perishable horticultural commodities including grapes, under which losses, if any, are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50 basis.
- Providing market information to farmers on prices and arrivals of agricultural commodities in regulated market on AGMARKNET portal to enable the farmers to get better remunerative prices.
- To boost export, a new scheme has been launched namely Merchandize Exports from India (MEIS) under Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-16, wherein the export/farmers are incentivized for export of their goods/products including grapes to specified markets.

(e) Other steps taken by Government to promote the cultivation of grapes in the country are as under:—

- **Promotion of grape cultivation in non-traditional areas** such as in Malwa region in Madhya Pradesh, introduction of seedless grapes in Bankura area of West Bengal, Re-introduction of table grapes in Hisar, Haryana, Development of viticulture in Champhai district of Mizoram under NEH and TSP Programme.
- **Promotion of grape cultivation in traditional areas such as in:—**
 - (i) **Maharashtra:** In recent years grape cultivation is being encouraged in Jalna area (water shed area of Kadvanchi) and Pulum in Pandharpur during the harvest season in the month of June. During June, since grapes are not available anywhere in India, these farmers always get good returns.
 - (ii) **Introduction of two prunings in single cropping system in Cumbum Valley of Tamil Nadu:** In this new system, vineyard management is easy as rainy period is avoided during active growth and harvesting is done during August when fruits are not available in other grapes growing areas.

Statement

State-wise and year-wise details of production of grapes in India for three years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (Provisional)

Sl. No.	States	Production of grapes (in Metric Tonnes)		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra	2048.11	2378.17	2404.2
2.	Karnataka	429.78	450.79	502.62
3.	Mizoram	22.55	18	18
4.	Kerala	15.5	16	17.5
5.	Andhra Pradesh	14.64	15.36	15.6
6.	Punjab	8.49	8.22	8.23

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1	2	3	4	5
7.	Tamil Nadu	34.1	29.02	5.73
8.	Telangana	13.54	3.47	4.91
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2.2	1.28	1.28
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.32	0.65	0.65
11.	Nagaland	0.5	0.6	0.54
12.	Haryana	0.16	0.04	0.2
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0.13	0.1	0.13
14.	Rajasthan	0.02	0.01	0.02
TOTAL		2590.04	2921.7	2979.61

Implementation of National Policy for Farmers

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

(a) whether Government has initiated any action to implement recommendations of proposed National Policy for Farmers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has initiated the implementation of M.S. Swaminathan Commission report on fair price support; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken/to be taken by Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers', submitted by the Swaminathan Commission, which contained major recommendations of the Commission, the Government approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007, which aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers. The Policy provisions in NPF-2007 include, *inter alia*, (i) asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; (ii) supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, (iii) issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; (iv) region and crop specific implements and machinery; (v) support services for women; (vi) timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance

instruments; (vii) support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; (viii) agricultural bio-security system; (ix) use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; (x) coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; (xi) effective implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) across the country and establishing community foodgrain banks; (xii) development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; (xiii) curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; (xiv) special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; (xv) rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and (xvi) integrated approach for rural energy, etc.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), which was constituted for preparation of Plan of Action, identified 201 Action Points from NPF, 2007, where necessary action had to be taken. Of the 201 number of Action Points identified, 192 numbers have already been implemented as of date.

The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) had recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation was not operationalised by the Government then. However, Government now, based on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), 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.

MSP for paddy

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

- (a) whether the Committee appointed by Government to prepare the report on doubling of farmers' income has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of the Committee;
- (c) the expenditure likely to be incurred to achieve the target of doubling of farmers' income by 2022;

(d) whether Government has taken serious note on the distress of paddy growing farmers in Tamil Nadu due to low support price and huge difference between MSP and the cost of inputs; and

(e) if so, the extent by which MSP for paddy is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve doubling of farmers' income in real terms by the year 2022.

At present, thirteen draft volumes of 'Strategy for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022' prepared by the Committee have been uploaded on the website of this Department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion.

(d) and (e) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of 22 mandated agricultural crops including paddy and fair and remunerative price for sugarcane on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors.

Government has increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of all kharif crops including paddy 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 Government has increased the MSP of paddy (common) by ₹ 200/- per quintal and fixed at ₹ 1750/- per quintal and Paddy (Grade A) by ₹ 180/- per quintal and fixed at ₹ 1770/- per quintal for 2018-19 season as against ₹ 1550/- per quintal and ₹ 1590/- per quintal respectively for 2017-18 season. The MSPs for 2018-19 for paddy provides adequate margin over the cost of production for farmers including the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Purchasing of foodgrains from farmers

346. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to withdraw the practice of purchasing foodgrains from the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the alternative system being adopted by Government for purchase of foodgrains from farmers along with the details thereof?

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

(b) to (c) questions Do not arise.

Strengthening of processing infrastructure for dairy cooperatives

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

- (a) whether Government has made any plan to start a new scheme namely Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) for the strengthening and growth of processing infrastructure of dairy cooperatives;
- (b) if so, the salient features of this scheme and total amount earmarked for DIDF for the year 2018-19; and
- (c) the total number of States in which this scheme is planned to be implemented in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) has launched a new scheme Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) on 21.12.2017 with the outlay of ₹ 10881 crore to be implemented during 2017-18 to 2019-20. Out of ₹10881 crore, ₹ 8004 shall be loan from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)/National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), ₹2001 crore shall be end borrowers contribution, ₹12 crore would be NDDB/NCDC's share and ₹864 crore shall be contributed by DADF toward interest subvention.

Under the scheme, a corpus of ₹8004 crore has been set up for creation of dairy processing infrastructure during the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20. NABARD shall provide loan to NDDB and NCDC at subsidized rate of 6% per annum. NDDB/NCDC shall further give loan to end borrowers @ 6.5% who are State Dairy Federations, Districts Milk Unions, Multi State Co-operatives Societies, NDDB services, Milk Producers Companies for creation of dairy infrastructure. The end borrowers shall repay the loan in ten years including moratorium period of two years. The scheme shall have a repayment period up to 2028-2029.

The salient features of the scheme are as under:—

- (i) 95 lakh milk producers will be benefited by covering 50,000 villages.
- (ii) Establishment of 28000 Bulk Milk Coolers with 140 lakh litres per day as additional milk chilling capacity.
- (iii) Providing 28000 Milk Testing Equipments to check adulteration in milk.
- (iv) Creation of additional 210 Metric Ton per Day Milk Drying capacity.
- (v) Modernisation, expansion and creation of Milk Processing capacity of 126 lakh litres per day.
- (vi) Creation of infrastructure of 59.78 lakh litres per day capacity for Value-Added Dairy products to ensure remunerative prices to milk producers.

(c) The Dairy Processing Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) scheme proposes to cover 39 Milk Cooperatives in 12 States.

Unrest among the farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of many States, including Maharashtra, recently observed ten days strike thereby blocking the supply of fruits, vegetables and milk in various parts of the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind the strike; and
- (c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take to tackle the unrest among the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh, a farmers' organization, had given a call for 10 days strike from 1st June, 2018 in some States including Maharashtra for blocking the supply of fruits, vegetables and milk over their main demand of implementation of Swaminathan Commission recommendations pertaining to Minimum Support Price for agriculture produce and guaranteed income of farmers. However, arrivals in wholesale regulated markets (APMCs) in the States remained normal during the aforesaid period.

- (c) (i) The Government has taken a number of steps to tackle the grievances of the farmers. The Government has announced its historic decision to fix Minimum Support Price (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 new MSP policy, whereby the farmers are assured of a minimum of 50 per cent as margin of profit, is another progressive step forward in a series of reforms that the Government has been rolling out for the last 4 years for welfare of farmers.
- (ii) In order to realise net positive returns for farmers, following schemes are being implemented by the Government to improve production and productivity of agriculture: Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme; Neem Coated Urea (NCU); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY); Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY); Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY); National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In addition, schemes relating to tree plantation (Har Medh Par Ped), Bee Keeping, Dairy and Fisheries are also implemented.
- (iii) With the objective of ensuring better prices to farmers through efficient marketing system, the Government has been taking several other measures such as follows:—
 1. Promoting Model Act "The ----- State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017" as

well as Model Act "The ----- State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" with States/Union Territories to promote alternative competitive marketing channels for better pricing for farmers and to encourage private investment in developing marketing infrastructure and value chain.

2. With the objective of providing better prices to farmers for their produce through online transparent bidding process, the Government has implemented National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme. Already e-NAM has been implemented in 585 regulated wholesale markets (APMCs) in the country.
 3. Government is also promoting formation and operationalisation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), so that economy of scale of produce, better access to market and enhanced bargaining powers can be achieved by farmers, particularly for small and marginal farmers, which will help them in getting better remunerative prices.
 4. In Union Budget 2018-19, Government has announced to develop and upgrade existing 22000 Village Haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) through convergence of various Government schemes such as MGNREGA etc., which will help the farmers to get better prices for their produce nearer to their farm gate.
- (iv) The Government also undertakes procurement of paddy and wheat at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through Food Corporation of India (FCI). In addition, procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton are undertaken by Central agencies at MSP under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist Central nodal agencies in logistic arrangements.

The Government also implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agriculture and horticulture products, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under PSS on the request of States/UT Government.

Adverse effect of pesticides on farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the adverse effect on farmers' health due to use of excessive chemical and fertilizers on their farm products is on the increase to an alarming state;

(b) whether Government would consider imposing restriction on the sale of chemicals and fertilizers as it is harming not only the farmer, the product and the field but also the end user; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to educate the farmers of the adverse effect of the pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) 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. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities and environmental samples are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues. During 2012-18, a total of 1,21,943 samples have been collected and analyzed, out of which 2934 (2.4 %) samples were found exceeding Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Maximum Residue Level (MRL).

There is no adverse effect of chemical fertilizers with balanced and judicious use. However, there is possibility of nitrate contamination in groundwater above the permissible limit particularly in light textured soils that has consequence on human/ animal health if used for drinking water.

(b) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an expert committee under the Chairmanship of Anupam Verma in July 2013, to review 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned, 27 pesticides to be reviewed in

2018 after completion of certain technical studies and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The Complete list is given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement-I appended to answer to USQ No. 342 Part (a) and (b)] Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had invited objections and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are given in Statement [Refer to the Statement-II appended to answer to USQ No. 342 Part (a) and (b)]. In response to which, the Ministry has received various objections and suggestions. Keeping in view of which, a committee has been constituted to review the received objections and suggestions.

There is no proposal under the consideration of this Ministry to impose restriction on sale of fertilizer on the ground that it is harming to the end user. This Ministry is promoting judicious use of fertilizers.

(c) The Department is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.

Further, soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients are being, *inter alia*, recommended for judicious use of chemical fertilizers with an aim to improve soil health and quality. In addition, Soil Health Card has been introduced in 2015, which provides information on nutrient status of soil and also recommend appropriate nutrients dosage.

Doubling the income of farmers

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

- (a) whether Government has announced to double the income of farmers by 2022;
- (b) if so, whether any mechanism or perspective plan has been worked out in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any State-specific plan particularly for Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar has also been devised; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to examine issues relating to doubling of farmers' income and recommend a strategy to achieve doubling of farmers' income in real terms by the year 2022. At present, thirteen Volumes prepared by the Committee have been uploaded on the website of this Department (<http://agricoop.nic.in/doubling-farmers>) for seeking public opinion.

Parallely, the Government is aiming to reorient agriculture sector by focusing on income centeredness. In order to realise net positive returns for the farmer, schemes as follows, are being promoted and implemented in a major way through the States/UTs 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); National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In addition, schemes relating to tree plantation (Har Medh Par Ped), Bee Keeping, Dairy and Fisheries are also implemented. All these schemes are implemented to enhance production and productivity of agriculture and thereby enhance income of farmers.

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 percent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19.

The Government also undertakes procurement of paddy and wheat at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through Food Corporation of India (FCI). In addition, procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton are undertaken by central agencies at MSP under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the request of the concerned State Government which agrees to exempt the procured commodities from levy of mandi tax and assist central nodal agencies in logistic arrangements.

Government also implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agriculture and horticulture products, which are perishable in nature and are not covered under PSS on the request of States/ UT Governments. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the economic level/cost of production.

(d) and (e) Agriculture being as a State subject, the State Governments are primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture sector and developing perspective plans of their respective States. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Schemes/ Programmes. The State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have prepared their road maps for development of agriculture sector.

Decline in sown area of kharif crops

351. 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 net sown area has drastically come down this year kharif season compared to last year, particularly in respect of rice and pulses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the name of States which have shown decline and the reasons for this decline; and

(c) whether this will impact the prices of rice and pulses during the next season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) The transplanting/sowing of Kharif crops will continue up to the month of August. It is too early to conclude reduction in area coverage under kharif crops during the current season. The sowing

of kharif crops has been reported in an area of 501.67 Lakh hectare as on 13.7.2018 as compared to 557.49 lakh hectare last year in corresponding period, which is less by 10.02%. The area sown under rice and pulses during the current kharif season as on 13.07.2018 and area covered last year in corresponding period is as below.

(Area in lakh ha.)

Crops	Kharif 2018	Kharif 2017	Difference
Rice	116.72	126.92	-10.20
Pulses	60.56	66.97	-6.41

(b) The State-wise area coverage during current Kharif season is given in Statement-I (*See* below). The sowing of kharif season picks up with the onset of monsoon and adequate rainfall for sowing of crops. Less area coverage in kharif 2018 is attributed to late receipt of rainfall mainly in the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan. As per IMD forecast, the monsoon will remain normal during the season. The sowing of crop is in progress.

(c) It is too early to assess the production of rice and pulses during Kharif and impact on prices.

Statement

State-wise area coverage during current kharif 2018

Area in Lakh ha.

Sl. No.	States	Area Sown		
		2018-19 (Current year)	2017-18 (Last year)	Difference
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gujarat	23.33	42.83	-19.50
2.	Bihar	9.89	15.92	-6.03
3.	Odisha	11.80	17.09	-5.29
4.	Rajasthan	62.51	88.87	-26.36
5.	Jharkhand	3.52	4.32	-0.80
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.62	3.10	-0.48

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.84	2.03	-0.19
8.	Kerala	0.48	0.53	-0.05
9.	Assam	6.10	6.63	-0.53
10.	Punjab	29.72	32.20	-2.48
11.	Andhra Pradesh	8.36	8.98	-0.62
12.	Himachal Pradesh	3.47	3.72	-0.25
13.	Telangana	19.41	20.64	-1.23
14.	Haryana	20.00	20.47	-0.47
15.	Chhattisgarh	18.65	19.01	-0.36
16.	West Bengal	8.34	8.49	-0.15
17.	Uttar Pradesh	49.90	50.70	-0.80
18.	Maharashtra	93.81	93.55	0.26
19.	Uttarakhand	5.80	5.75	0.05
20.	Karnataka	34.91	33.90	1.01
21.	Madhya Pradesh	74.56	66.75	7.81
22.	Tamil Nadu	6.38	5.37	1.01
TOTAL		495.40	550.85	-55.45
ALL INDIA		501.67	557.49	-55.82

Development of micro irrigation

352. 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 Government has decided to earmark separate and dedicated funds for the development of micro irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode is also allowed to use this fund by the States; and

(d) the names of States which are presently lagging behind in adopting micro irrigation system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has approved a dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with an initial corpus of ₹5000 crores for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The objective of the fund is to facilitate the States in mobilising the resources for expanding coverage of micro irrigation by taking up special and innovative projects and also for incentivising micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Per Drop More Crop (PMKSY-PDMC) to encourage farmers to install micro irrigation systems.

(c) States may access MIF for innovative integrated projects, including projects in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Based on the prevailing coverage States, namely, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and all the North Eastern States are lagging behind in adopting micro irrigation systems.

Profit of insurance companies implementing PMFBY

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

(a) the details of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the number of farmers in each State who have been benefitted under this Scheme so far;

(b) whether Government has received any complaint about the insurance companies making huge profits at the cost of farmers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was introduced from kharif 2016 season in the country. The salient features of the Scheme include comprehensive risk coverage from pre-sowing to post harvest losses against non-preventable natural risks; removal of cap on premium resulting in reduction of sum insured and claims, if any and equating

the sum insured with Scale of Finance to maximize the risk coverage at minimum uniform fixed premium rate payable by farmers i.e. maximum 2% for kharif crops, 1.5% for rabi crop and 5% for annual commercial/horticultural crops, with balance of actuarial/bidded premium being shared by the Central and State Government on 50: 50 basis; lowering of unit area of insurance to village/village panchayat level for major crops and to individual farm level for localised risks of hailstorm, landslide and inundation and post-harvest losses thereby promoting more realistic assessment of losses; stipulation of time lines for every stage of the claim settlement cycle with final settlement to be done within two months from harvest; adoption of technology for accurate and transparent loss assessment through capture of CCEs through smartphones/CCE Agri App on National Crop Insurance Portal and use of Remote Sensing Technology. State-wise details of farmers covered under the scheme and farmer who got claims under the scheme during Kharif 2016, Rabi 2016-17 and Kharif 2017 are given in Statement.

(b) and (c) Various references including VIP references and reports in newspapers regarding profit to insurance companies have been received from time to time by the Government. Under general insurance including crop insurance, insurance companies are tasked with covering risks, which in case of crop insurance is related to risks associated with crops. Whereas claims depend upon the happening and severity of climatic vagaries. The payout depends on the quantum of crop loss which remains high in the calamity hit years and low in normal years. In a good monsoon year like 2016-17, claims are bound to be on the lower side. Unlike 2016-17, the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 were relatively calamitous years and claims paid by insurance companies were more than the premium paid to them under the schemes of Modified NAIS and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), which were implemented on actuarial basis similar to PMFBY. Insurance companies may make savings in a good year which are utilised for payouts in bad seasons. However, Government has also taken steps to achieve rationalisation of actuarial premium rates charged by the insurance companies. Towards this, State Governments have done clustering of high/low/medium risk areas/districts to moderate the premium rate and to determine premium rate through competitive bidding. Against Gross premium of ₹ 16599.58 crore and ₹ 5950.91 crore, claims of ₹ 10505.27 crore and ₹ 5991.74 crore respectively have been estimated during Kharif 2016 and Rabi 2016-17. Out of which claims of ₹ 10283.91 crore and ₹ 5052.84 crore have already been paid for these seasons. During Kharif 2017, total estimated claims are ₹ 15895.85 crore against the gross premium of ₹ 19509.72 crore, of which claims of ₹ 9628.61 crore have already been paid. State-wise details are given in Statement.

Statement

State-wise no. of farmers covered/benefited, Gross Premium and Claims under PMFBY and RWBCIS combined

(A)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Kharif 2016 (As on 16.07.2018)				No. of farmers against paid Claims
		No. of Farmers Insured	Gross Premium	Estimated Claims	Claim Paid	
			In ₹ Lakh			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands					
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,618,537	66,990	65,294	64,370	792,065
3.	Assam	51,749	691	502	502	23,370
4.	Bihar	1,485,432	112,250	29,142	20,162	110,341
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,399,189	27,189	13,304	13,304	96,966
6.	Goa	744	7	3	3	111
7.	Gujarat	1,842,386	230,538	122,928	122,904	639,125
8.	Haryana	738,856	25,609	23,491	23,401	84,361
9.	Himachal Pradesh	134,616	629	599	583	27,183
10.	Jammu and Kashmir					
11.	Jharkhand	828,412	26,530	2,985	2,028	31,654
12.	Karnataka	1,356,875	88,177	121,290	113,656	319,283
13.	Kerala	31,531	858	1,796	1,735	21,046
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4,071,974	294,242	183,176	183,148	1,101,205
15.	Maharashtra	10,997,398	412,330	207,959	207,959	2,793,225
16.	Manipur	8,366	359	196	127	8,358
17.	Meghalaya	63	3	3	-	-
18.	Odisha	1,766,541	53,276	42,935	42,928	295,276

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	Puducherry					
20.	Rajasthan	6,231,514	202,532	160,606	160,168	2,413,117
21.	Sikkim					
22.	Tamil Nadu	15,873	976	549	401	973
23.	Telangana	708,876	23,206	16,627	16,273	200,946
24.	Tripura	1,881	5	8	8	502
25.	Uttar Pradesh	3,714,316	65,037	45,055	44,986	209,682
26.	Uttarakhand	175,243	2,556	1,669	1,668	50,498
27.	West Bengal	3,053,408	25,968	10,411	8,077	211,103
GRAND TOTAL		40,233,780	1,659,958	1,050,527	1,028,391	9,430,390

(B)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Rabi 2016-17 (As on 16.07.2018)				No. of farmers against paid Claims
		No. of Farmers Insured	Gross Premium	Estimated Claims	Claim Paid	
		In ₹ Lakh				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands					
2.	Andhra Pradesh	153,420	12,281	25,465	22,044	77,630
3.	Assam	8,516	173	14	14	76
4.	Bihar	1,228,838	29,362	5,919	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	149,950	5,388	2,701	2,686	39,638
6.	Goa	13	0	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	132,753	5,532	3,269	3,269	39,568
8.	Haryana	597,172	10,732	5,992	5,695	60,930
9.	Himachal Pradesh	245,309	6,523	3,913	3,826	85,225

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir					
11.	Jharkhand	49,342	611	172	150	3,421
12.	Karnataka	1,387,115	66,816	88,493	49,007	433,554
13.	Kerala	45,874	2,459	2,596	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3,109,342	117,274	16,148	14,979	200,872
15.	Maharashtra	1,003,817	61,637	23,627	23,086	110,597
16.	Manipur					
17.	Meghalaya	26	1	-	-	-
18.	Odisha	53,695	632	199	199	2,054
19.	Puducherry	8,537	310	757	757	4,299
20.	Rajasthan	2,918,710	56,598	21,355	17,135	300,337
21.	Sikkim	574	1	11	10	219
22.	Tamil Nadu	1,434,554	122,854	353,533	321,678	1,260,359
23.	Telangana	264,467	5,984	1,448	1,420	9,370
24.	Tripura	10,879	35	50	3	40
25.	Uttar Pradesh	3,052,960	41,644	10,592	10,434	202,346
26.	Uttarakhand	86,328	1,602	1,078	1,078	11,205
27.	West Bengal	1,078,566	46,639	31,826	27,799	184,896
	GRAND TOTAL	17,021,081	595,091	599,174	505,284	3,026,931

(C)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Kharif 2017 (As on 16.07.2018)				No. of farmers against paid Claims
		No. of Farmers Insured	Gross Premium	Estimated Claims	Claim Paid	
In ₹ Lakh						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands					
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,577,685	115,425	54,111	12,400	234,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	51,550	1,084	380	26	1,203
4.	Bihar	1,160,193	67,166	41,152	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,303,754	31,394	130,124	130,110	566,559
6.	Goa	537	5	0	0	18
7.	Gujarat	1,479,658	310,471	103,565	23	10,439
8.	Haryana	630,888	29,557	49,318	20,013	62,959
9.	Himachal Pradesh	125,468	349	312	312	23,559
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	85,582	2,183	603	555	10,439
11.	Jharkhand	1,149,786	20,116	5,300	-	-
12.	Karnataka	1,576,090	187,555	58,119	31,675	195,189
13.	Kerala	28,259	1,245	900	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3,584,684	384,264	467,291	331,143	544,155
15.	Maharashtra	8,438,026	371,432	254,446	239,341	3,999,587
16.	Manipur					
17.	Meghalaya	2,945	276	30	-	-
18.	Odisha	1,836,408	84,083	165,784	66,289	332,744
19.	Puducherry					
20.	Rajasthan	5,336,820	173,407	156,990	105,247	1,575,629
21.	Sikkim	793	5	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	156,596	6,428	5,886	-	-
23.	Telangana	857,215	64,875	48,677	-	-
24.	Tripura	2,320	16	0	0	32
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2,493,118	70,130	22,331	21,977	376,758
26.	Uttarakhand	101,743	3,286	2,527	2,527	44,068
27.	West Bengal	2,356,212	26,219	21,737	1,221	14,544
	GRAND TOTAL	34,336,330	1,950,972	1,589,585	962,861	7,991,882

Revamping of curriculum of agricultural and veterinary courses

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

(a) whether Government has felt any need for revamping the curriculum for Veterinary Science Courses and Agriculture Science Courses across the country in view of the gaining importance of Climate Change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Veterinary Science Under Graduate courses are regulated by the Veterinary Council of India. Curriculum for other undergraduate courses of Agriculture and Allied subjects and all Post Graduate subjects is revised through constitution of Dean's Committee and Broad Subject Matter Area Committees respectively at regular intervals at ICAR level.

(c) Question does not arise.

Ban on pesticides in farming

355. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to reduce the use/complete phase out/ban of pesticides in farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has constituted any expert committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Yes, the following steps have been taken by the Government:

(i) The pesticides are registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and rules made therein only after testing the efficacy and toxicity of the pesticides.

They are allowed to be used only as per the approved label/leaflet claims. In additions, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use.

- (ii) Promoting use of bio-pesticides which are safer alternatives to the chemical pesticides.
- (iii) Implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.
- (iv) Implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residue. The annual reports of MPRNL are shared with the States for taking corrective measures.

(c) and (d) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an expert committee under the Chairmanship of Anupam Verma in July 2013, to review 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned, 27 pesticides to be reviewed in 2018 after completion of certain technical studies and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The Complete list is given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement-I appended to answer to USQ No. 342 Part (a) and (b)]. Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had invited objection and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are given in Statement [Refer to the Statement-II appended to answer to USQ No. 342 Part (a) and (b)]. In response to which, the Ministry has received various objections and suggestions. Keeping in view of which, a committee has been constituted to review the received objections and suggestions.

Allocation of additional funds to ICAR

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

- (a) whether ICAR has started any major projects to develop improved variety of pulses to increase production in the country;

(b) whether ICAR has failed to develop improved variety of oilseeds and whether any special research project has been started and other steps have been taken to reduce imports; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to allocate additional funds to ICAR for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) ICAR has been implementing All India Coordinated Pulses Improvement Project in association with State Agricultural Universities for development of location specific improved varieties of pulses since 1966. Besides, the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur and ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora are also implementing programmes for development of improved varieties of pulses. As a result, total 868 improved varieties of pulses have been notified for commercial cultivation in India till 2017.

ICAR has started two major projects for promotion of location specific improved varieties of pulses of less than 10 years of age, namely "Additional Breeder Seed Production" and "Seed Hubs on Pulses" since kharif 2016 and made available 10870 q additional breeder seed and 164223 q quality certified seed of improved varieties of pulses in the country during the last two years, so as to enhance their domestic production.

(b) No, Sir. The ICAR is implementing All India Coordinated Research Project on Oilseeds, in association with the State Agricultural Universities, to develop location specific improved varieties of oilseeds since 1967. As a result, total 778 improved varieties of nine annual oilseeds (groundnut, soybean, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, safflower, sesame, niger, castor and linseed) have been notified for commercial cultivation till 2017.

ICAR has renewed its focus on the oilseeds' research projects for development of climate resilient short duration high yielding varieties and hybrids with better quality and value addition; development of transgenics resistant to biotic (insect-pests and diseases) and abiotic (moisture, heat and photoperiod) stresses; integrated crop management practices for enhancing yield and reducing cost of cultivation, etc.

In order to reduce the import of vegetable oil and enhance their domestic production, ICAR has also launched a project namely "Seed-Hub on Oilseeds" from the

ongoing kharif season (2018-19) with a budget outlay of ₹ 50.91 crore to augment the timely availability of certified quality seeds of recently released improved varieties/hybrids of less than 10 years of age and has targeted to produce about 60825 q quality seeds of improved varieties of oilseeds till rabi 2019-20.

Lately, the Government of India has enhanced the import tariff substantially to discourage the import of vegetable oil in the country. Accordingly, from 1st March, 2018, the import duty on crude palm oil has been raised to 44% from 30% in November, 2017 and that of refined palm oil to 54% from 40% in November, 2017.

To encourage the domestic production of vegetable oils, the Government of India is vigorously implementing National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm % (NMOOP) with adequate emphasis on nine annual oilseeds, 11 tree borne oilseeds and oil palm. Besides, the Government has also enhanced the minimum support price (MSP) in the range of 3.8 to 10.8% in 2017-18 over 2016-17 and in the range of 9.9 to 45.1% for kharif oilseeds during 2018-19 over 2017-18 to encourage the farmers for enhanced cultivation of annual oilseeds.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has enhanced the allocation for oilseeds' research from ₹ 61.8 crore in 2016-17 to 131.6 crore in 2017-18 and that for pulses' research from ₹ 39.3 crore in 2016-17 to ₹65.6 crore in 2017-18. The allocation to ICAR has further been enhanced for this purpose during 2018-19, which is ₹160.6 crore and ₹85.2 crore for oilseeds and pulses, respectively.

Campaign against excessive use of pesticides

357. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers, due to ignorance, resort to excessive use of pesticides and insecticides which is harming the agricultural produces and the environment;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address this issue and initiate widespread campaign against excessive use of pesticides; and

(c) whether Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Panchayats are involved, with special reference to Punjab, to propagate the use of modern technology and best farm practices and less use of pesticides amongst the farmers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There seems to exist a lack of awareness among the farmers with respect to the application of pesticides as per the approved label claims and leaflets. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities and environmental samples are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues. During 2012-18, a total of 1,21,943 samples have been collected and analyzed, out of which 2934 (2.4 %) samples were found exceeding Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Maximum Residue Level (MRL). The annual reports of MPRNL are shared with the States for taking corrective measures. In addition, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 700 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the Country including 22 KVKs in the State of Punjab. These activities of KVKs, *inter alia*, includes assessment, demonstration and dissemination of technologies, products and Good Agriculture Practices (such as Integrated Pest Management and use of Bio-control Measures) through extension programmes.

Sale of pulses below the MSP

358. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers are selling pulses at the rate half of the MSP after the rabi crops 2017-18, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware that it has failed miserably to provide remunerative price to suicide committing farmers; and

(d) if so, the fresh measures Government would take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) The Government procures pulses from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) under Price Support Scheme (PSS) through Central Nodal agencies as per its prescribed guidelines as and when market price of these produce fall below the MSP. The procurement is undertaken in consultation with the concerned State Government based on the proposals received from them within the stipulated period and conforming to the specifications prescribed by the Government. Chana and Masoor of Rabi 2017-18 season have also been procured in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, based on the proposals received from them. However, proposal has not been received from the Government of Bihar for procurement of Rabi 2017-18 pulses under PSS. Details of procurement in Rabi 2017-18 are given in Statement.

Statement

Details of State-wise rabi 2017-18 pulses procured under PSS

(as on 12.07.2018)

(Qty. in MT)

States	Gram (Rabi)	Masoor (Rabi)	Moong (Rabi)	Urad (Rabi)	Grand Total
Andhra Pradesh	91983		1265	51926	145173
Gujarat	91000				91000
Karnataka	127301				127301
Madhya Pradesh	1611811	233150			1844962
Maharashtra	194727				194727
Odisha			2675	4217	6892
Rajasthan	579972				579972
Tamil Nadu				1548	1548
Telangana	50000			2000	52000
Uttar Pradesh	14354	13698			28052
GRAND TOTAL	2761149	246849	3940	59691	3071628

Strike by farmers for remunerative price

359. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether farmers across the nation had organized massive strike against policies of Government and non-remunerative prices of agricultural produces during June, 2018;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of Government to their demands, demand-wise?

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

(c) 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. The MSP declared during 2012-13 to 2018-19 for various crops is given in Statement [Refer to the Annexure-I appended to answer to SQ No. 37 Part (c)]

The Government is targeting to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022. To achieve this, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare has taken a number of measures. The Government is aiming to reorient the agriculture sector by focusing on an income-centeredness in addition to pure production centeredness approach. The Department has, therefore, been implementing various schemes to meet this objective *viz.* Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme, Neem Coated Urea, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Agriculture Market Scheme (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Interest Subvention Scheme etc.

Contract farming law for vegetables and fruits growers

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

(a) whether Government is considering to bring Contract Farming law for vegetables and fruits growers as it takes care of price fluctuations and helps to mitigate production risk; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, has already released a Model Act "The ----- State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2018" in May, 2018 for 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 for the agricultural produce, livestock and includes vegetables and fruits growers while aiming at taking care of price fluctuations and mitigating production risk.

Inclusion of coronary stents in NLEM

361. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has notified inclusion of coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM);

(b) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has fixed the price of coronary stents and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether imported coronary stents are different from the domestically manufactured ones; and

(d) whether there is any price variation between the two and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Health Family Welfare included Coronary Stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM),

2015 *vide* notification dated 19.07.2016. Subsequently, Department of Pharmaceuticals included coronary stents in schedule-1 of Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013 *vide* notification dated 21.12.2016. National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) notified the ceiling price Coronary Stents *vide* notification dated 13.02.2017 at INR 7,260/- for Bare Metal Stent and INR 29,600/- for Drug Eluting Stent (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/ Biodegradable Stents. NPPA, *vide* notification dated 12.02.2018, has revised the prices to INR 7,660/- for Bare Metal Stent (BMS) and INR 27,890/- for Drug Eluting Stent (including BVS and Biodegradable Stent) with effect from 13.02.2018. The DPCO 2013 does not differentiate between imported and domestically manufactured stents. The ceiling prices notified for coronary stents is applicable for both imported as well as indigenous coronary stents.

Analysis of bills of hospitals by NPPA

362. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pharmaceutical sector's regulator, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), has analysed bills of some hospitals and concluded that doctors and hospitals prefer prescribing branded drugs, which are not under price control;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the NPPA has recommended any proposals to tackle with huge medical bills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on complaints and media reports on overpricing and inflated bills to the patients by some hospitals, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had asked for details of billing from these hospitals under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). Based on the data submitted by the hospitals, NPPA has observed that the total cost on scheduled medicines used in the treatment is only 4.10% as compared to 25.67% on non-scheduled formulations. Study reports prepared on the basis of information submitted by these hospitals is available at the website of NPPA *i.e.* (www.nppaindia.nic.in).

NPPA is effectively monitoring the prices of scheduled as well as non-scheduled medicines under DPCO, 2013 so that these formulations are available to public at ceiling prices notified and no manufacturer of non-scheduled formulations can increase more than 10% in price as per provisions of DPCO, 2013. It 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, 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)'.

(c) and (d) Public health being a State subject, the primary responsibility of management of hospitals lies with the State/Union Territory Governments. However, the National Council for Clinical Establishments, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has approved a standard list of medical procedures and a standard template for costing of medical procedures and the same have been shared with the States for appropriate action.

Benefits of subsidy on fertilizers to farmers

†363. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are getting expected benefit of subsidy on fertilizers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some companies manipulate to show lesser production capacity and get hefty amount of subsidy on the basis of percentage production;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the maximum benefits of subsidies go to the poor and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Urea is sold at a Maximum Retail Price (MRP) statutorily fixed by the Government of India which is at present ₹ 5360/- per metric tone (exclusive of Central/State levies and other charges). The difference between the delivered cost of fertilizers at farm gate and net market realization by the urea units is given as subsidy to the urea manufacturer/importer by the Government of India.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy w.e.f. 1.4.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual basis, is provided on 1 subsidized P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content. Under this policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level which is monitored by the Government.

Accordingly, any farmer who is buying these fertilizers is getting benefits of subsidy.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, doesn't arise.

(d) The price of urea is administered and the MRP of P&K fertilizers fixed by the companies are after adjusting subsidy provided by the Government. Any sale over and above the printed MRP is a punishable offence under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The State Governments have the responsibility to ensure that the farmers get the subsidized fertilizers on the MRP. State Governments are authorized to take punitive action against any company/firm/person found selling subsidized fertilizers over and above the printed MRP. Besides, the Government is also analyzing the yearly audited cost data submitted by the P&K fertilizers companies to verify the reasonableness of MRP of these fertilizers fixed by the fertilizers companies.

Suggestions for key administrative reforms

364. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has implemented any key administrative reform pertaining to the functioning of departments under it during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any suggestions from public or Members of Parliament (MPs) pertaining to key reforms during the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such suggestions, if any, that were accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) In Department of Fertilizers, Department of

Pharmaceuticals and Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, e-office has been implemented. This is a step towards promotion of Paperless-office and Transparency.

(b) and (c) Regarding Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, suggestions from public, students and faculty of Central institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), an autonomous body under the administrative control of this Department, have been received on various aspects of administrative reforms during last 3 years. Key suggestions relate to academics, improvement in administrative procedures in CIPET etc. These suggestions have been examined and appropriate action has been taken through updating the Administrative Manual of CIPET to improve transparency and expediency, in view of the prevalent rules and regulations of Government of India.

Regarding Department of Fertilizers and Department of Pharmaceuticals, no such suggestions from public or Members of Parliament (MPs) have been received.

Controlling the pharmaceutical market

365. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has put a ceiling on prices of over 850 essential medicines that come under the National List of Essential Medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has a proposal to extend the ceiling on more medicines to increase the percentage of pharma market under its control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes the ceiling prices of medicines listed in the Schedule-I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). Till June 2018, the Government has fixed the ceiling prices of 851 medicines (including 4 medical devices *i.e.* Cardiac stents, drug eluting stents, condoms and intra uterine devices) under Revised Schedule-I based on National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM, 2015).

The details of reduction in prices of scheduled formulations effected under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevailing prior to the announcement of DPCO, 2013 for formulation of NLEM, 2015 (Revised Schedule -1) are as follows:

Statement showing reduction in ceiling prices of scheduled formulations with respect to maximum price under NELM 2015

% reduction with respect to Maximum Price	No. of scheduled formulations
0<= 5%	234
5<=10%	134
10<=15%	98
15<=20%	98
20<=25%	93
25<=30%	65
30<=35%	46
35<=40%	24
Above 40%	59
Total formulations in NLEM, 2015	851

(c) and (d) NPPA, as an ongoing process, fixes the ceiling prices of the formulations as and when formulations are included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

Inclusion of orthopaedic implants in the National List of Essential Medicines

366. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drug Controller General of India had urged the Government to consider including orthopaedic implants in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) in order to bring the products under purview of price-cap;

(b) whether Government has acted in a positive manner in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several cases of overcharging by private hospitals, nursing homes and clinics have come to the notice of the Government; and

- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government against erring institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) regulates safety, efficacy and quality of medical devices notified as Drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Act, 1940. At present, only 23 medical devices including orthopaedic implants have been notified as Drugs under D&C Act. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare *vide* order dated 03.07.2018 has constituted a Standing National Committee on Medicines to review and revise the National list of Essential medicines (NLEM) enabling their inclusion in Schedule-I of Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 for capping of prices.

(c) and (d) Based on complaints and media reports on overpricing and inflated bills to the patients by some hospitals, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had examined the issue and detected violation of ceiling prices in some cases. NPPA as per the provisions of DPCO 2013 recovers the overcharged amount from the defaulters.

DBT for purchasing of fertilizers

367. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has introduced DBT system for purchase of fertilizers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether consumption/purchase of fertilizers has drastically reduced due to the DBT; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for fertilizer subsidy in a phase-wise manner across all States/UTs during 2017-18. The Pan India Roll out of DBT has been completed by March, 2018. Details are given in Statement (*See* below). Under the DBT system, 100% subsidy on various / fertilizer grades is being released to the fertilizer

companies, on the basis of actual sales made by the retailers to the beneficiaries. Sale of all subsidised fertilizers to farmers/buyers is made through Point of Sale (PoS) devices installed at each retailer shop and the beneficiaries are identified through Aadhaar Card, KCC, Voter Identity Card etc.

(c) and (d) The impact of DBT on consumption/purchase of fertilizers can be assessed only properly after completion of one year of full-fledged implementation of DBT scheme across the country, *i.e.* by March 2019. This would cover Kharif 2018 and Rabi 2018-19.

Statement

Phase-wise implementation of DBT Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	GO Live Timeline
1.	NCT of Delhi	1st September, 2017
2.	Mizoram, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Manipur, Nagaland, Goa, Puducherry	1st October, 2017
3.	Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Tripura	1st November, 2017
4.	Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh	1st December, 2017
5.	Kerala, Bihar, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu	1st January, 2018
6.	Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, WB, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh	1st February, 2018
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1st March, 2018

Setting up of NIPER at Visakhapatnam

368. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) is to be set up at Visakhapatnam;

(b) whether land has been acquired for setting up the same;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Government towards creating infrastructure for this NIPER; and

- (d) the expected timeline for completion of setting up of NIPER at Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) Sir, there is no proposal of setting up a National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) at Visakhapatnam.

- (b) to (d) Does not arise.

Complaints regarding overcharging for urea

369. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any complaint/report regarding charging of higher price by dealers from farmers for newly introduced 45 kg. bag of urea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to ensure that urea is sold at the rate of ₹269 for a 45 kg. bag;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Sir, there is no complaint/report regarding charging higher price by dealers from farmers for newly introduced 45 kg. bag of urea.

- (b) In view of (a), question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Following steps are being taken to check black-marketing/ smuggling of fertilizers meant for farmers:

- a. The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS);
- b. The State Governments have been advised to sensitize the State Institutional Agencies to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies;

- c. Department of Fertilizers and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) are jointly reviewing fertilizer availability with State Agriculture department through video conferences every week. The corrective actions, if required, are taken immediately to avoid any hardships to farmers;
 - d. Fertilizer companies are required to print Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on the fertilizer bags clearly. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;
 - e. State Governments as enforcement agencies are adequately empowered to check the irregularities.
- (e) In view of above, question does not arise.

Exploration of fresh coal reserves

370. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has slowed down the exploration of fresh coal reserves in the country after 2014 using latest techniques in the field of coal mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons Government is not taking initiative to avail technical know-how from the specialised agencies of other countries having proven record?

THE MINISTER OF COAL(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Government has not slowed down the exploration for estimation of fresh coal resources in the country. Fresh coal resources are identified through Promotional/Regional exploration/drilling. Every year about 1 to 3 billion tonne of fresh resources are added through Promotional/Regional exploration to the Coal Inventory of the country.

Achievement of Promotional/ Regional exploration drilling was 1.76 lakh m (2017-18) in comparison to 1.51 lakh m in 2013-14.

- (c) Initiatives have been taken to avail new techniques like 2D/3D seismic survey, Air borne survey etc. from specialized agencies through Global tendering.

Revision of coal royalty

371. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) when the coal royalty was last revised and the reasons for no further revision although revision is affected once in every three years;

(b) whether Government is considering revision of royalty this year, saving the coal bearing States from incurring heavy losses on this account; and

(c) whether the Central Government is charging clean environment cess per tonne production of coal and whether the coal bearing States have a share on this, if so, the percentage thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The rates of royalty in respect of Coal and Lignite were last revised *vide* notification number G.S.R. 349 (E), dated the 10th May, 2012.

Section 9(3) of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, provides that the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule (which specifies rates of royalty) so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three year. As such, there is no mandatory provision in the Act to revise the rates of royalty every three year.

As regards revision of the rates of royalty on coal and lignite, a Study Group was constituted on 21.07.2014 for the purpose of examining the issue of revision of present royalty rates on coal and lignite. The final recommendation of the Study Group is under consideration.

(c) Taxation Laws Amendment Act, 2017 repealed Clean Environment Cess levied under Finance Act 2010 with effect from 1st July 2017.

Opening of underground and opencast mines

372. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of underground (UG) mines and opencast mines which have been opened over the last ten years along with the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) the number of existing UG mines and opencast mines which have been abandoned during the last ten years along with the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the number of accidents which have occurred due to roof failures and water seepage in UG and opencast mines during the last ten years along with the details thereof and the reasons of accidents, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The number of UG mines and opencast mines opened over the last 10 years are given below:

Year	Number of coal mines opened
2008	5
2009	11
2010	5
2011	4
2012	4
2013	5
2014	5
2015	15
2016	2
2017	5

(b) The number of existing UG mines and opencast mines which have been abandoned during last 10 years are given below:

Year	Number of coal mines abandoned
2008	3
2009	6
2010	3
2011	1
2012	6
2013	4
2014	0
2015	3
2016	3
2017	4

(c) The number of accidents which have occurred due to roof failures and water seepage in UG and opencast mines during the last ten years are given in Statement.

Statement*Details of accidents in coal mines due to "Fall of roof" and "Irruption of Water" during 2008-2017*

Year	Name of Mine	Owner	Date of Accident	Killed	S/Inj.	Brief Cause
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2008	10/12 Pits Kachhi Batihari	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	13-Dec-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Banki	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	21-Nov-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Bastacola	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	03-Aug-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Bastacola	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	25-Sep-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Birsinghpur	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	14-May-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Godavari Khani 2A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	05-Jul-08	0	2	Fall of Roof
2008	Godavari Khani 2A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	14-Nov-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Godavari Khani No.10A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	20-May-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Godavari Khani No.8	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	03-Aug-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Godavari Khani N0.8A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	11-Jan-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Jainagar 5&6 Incline	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	09-Nov-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2008	Kakatiya Khani N0.5 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	03-May-08	1	1	Fall of Roof

2008	Kakatiya Khani No.6 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	29-Dec-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Kalyan Khani No.1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	28-Nov-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Khandra	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	24-Feb-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Kumardih "A"	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	13-Nov-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Mandaman	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	04-Nov-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2008	Mic Jhanjhra Project	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	18-May-08	0	2	Fall of Roof
2008	Milupara U/G Coal Project	M/s Monnet Ispat and Energy Ltd.	01-May-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2008	Moonidih Project	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	05-Nov-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2008	Naheriya U/G Mine	Western Coalfields Ltd.	11-May-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2008	Nawapara U/G Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	20-Jan-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Ncph/Ncph(R-6)	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	03-Nov-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2008	No. 21 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	22-Oct-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	No.5b Incline, Kothagudem	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	26-Nov-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	North Searsole	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	18-Apr-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Orient No 4	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	28-Feb-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2008	Padmavathikhani No. 5 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	11-Dec-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Pandavpara	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	10-Dec-08	1	0	Fall of Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2008	Pinoura Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	26-May-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2008	Piparia Colliery	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	13-May-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Rajendra U/G Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	03-Dec-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Ravindra Khani No.6	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	31-Dec-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Ravindra Khani No.7	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	04-Jun-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Satgram Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	13-Oct-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Shantikhami	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	07-Nov-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Shivani U/G Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	04-Dec-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	South Jhimar	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	04-Apr-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	South Jhimar	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	10-Jan-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Srirampur No. 1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	13-Dec-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Umaria	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	01-Jul-08	2	0	Fall of Roof
2008	Venkatesh Khani No.7	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	21-Jan-08	0	1	Fall of Roof
2008	Vishnupuri U/G Mine No.II	Western Coalfields Ltd.	19-May-08	3	0	Fall of Roof
2008	West Mudidih	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	12-Jul-08	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	10/12 Pits Kachhi Balihari	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	11-May-09	0	1	Fall of Roof

2009	Adasa Mine	Western Coalfields Ltd.	22-Dec-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Bastacola	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	17-Mar-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Digwadth	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	10-Apr-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Digwadth	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	14-Oct-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Ganpati	Western Coalfields Ltd.	10-Jan-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Godavari Khani No. 10	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	24-nov-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Godavari Khani No.10A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	07-Feb-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Godavari Khani No.10A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	17-Apr-09	1	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Godavari Khani No.10A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	19-Oct-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Godavari Khani No.10A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	28-Oct-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Godavari Khani N0.6B Integrated Mine	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	15-Apr-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Guleti No. 1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	03-Jan-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Jamadoba	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	24-Feb-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Jhanjhra 1&2 Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	04-Nov-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Kalyan Khani No.5	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	03-Dec-09	2	2	Fall of Roof
2009	Kapildhara U/G Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	19-Jun-09	0	1	Fall of Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2009	Kuardih	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	04-May-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Kumardih "A"	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	10-Aug-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Kumbharkhani U/G	Western Coalfields Ltd.	16-Jun-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Mandaman	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	03-Apr-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Mandaman	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	21-Jul-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Mathani U/G Project	Western Coalfields Ltd.	12-Nov-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Milupara U/G Coal Project	M/s Monnet Ispat and Energy Ltd.	08-Jun-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Nandan No. 1	Western Coalfields Ltd.	19-Mar-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Nandira	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	07-Nov-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Navgaon U/G Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	06-May-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Nawapara U/G Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	01-Sep-09	0	2	Fall of Roof
2009	New Amlai	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	11-Aug-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Padmavathikhani No.5 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	17-Feb-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Pali	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	13-Sep-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Piparia Colliery	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	04-Jan-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Prakasham Khani No.L	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	26-Feb-09	3	2	Fall of Roof

2009	Rajur	Western Coalfields Ltd.	06-Sep-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	03-Nov-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Ravindra Khani No. 1A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	22-Dec-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Ravindra Khani No. 5	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	11-Feb-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Satgram Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	18-Aug-09	0	2	Fall of Roof
2009	Satgram Project	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	27-Aug-09	2	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Sijua	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	06-May-09	1	0	Fall of Roof
2009	Simlabahal	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	02-Feb-09	1	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Srirampur No. 1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	07-Jul-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Sudamdih Incline	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	08-Aug-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	Ushaa	M/S Jaiswal Neco Industries Ltd.	10-Jun-09	0	1	Irruption of Water
2009	Vishnupuri U/G Mine No.1	Western Coalfields Ltd.	21-Aug-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2009	West Jhagrakhand	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	17-Mar-09	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Balgi Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	10-Feb-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Balgi Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	20-Mar-10	1	0	Fall of Roof
2010	Bartarai	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	24-Feb-10	1	0	Fall of Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2010	Bartunga Hill	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	22-Jun-10	1	0	Fall of Roof
2010	Birsinghpur	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	03-Apr-10	1	0	Fall of Roof
2010	Chhatarpur Mine No II	Western Coalfields Ltd.	30-Oct-10	2	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Damua	Western Coalfields Ltd.	23-Apr-10	1	1	Fall of Roof
2010	GDK 1&3 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	21-Mar-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	GDK 1&3 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	30-Dec-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Godavari Khani No. 10	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	15-Jul-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Godavari Khani No.5	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	23-Nov-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Indaram Khani 1A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	24-Apr-10	1	0	Fall of Roof
2010	Jhanjhra 1&2 Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	08-Oct-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Jhanjhra 3/4 Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	13-Oct-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Kakatiya Longwall Project	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	29-Apr-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Kumbhankhani U/G	Western Coalfields Ltd.	07-Oct-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Madhabpur	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	22-May-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Meera Incline	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	27-Oct-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Mic Jhanjhra Project	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	08-Mar-10	0	1	Fall of Roof

2010	Nandira	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	30-Dec-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	NCPH Old Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	09-Dec-10	1	0	Fall of Roof
2010	Nowrozabad West	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	30-Oct-10	1	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Palkimara	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	23-Apr-10	1	0	Fall of Roof
2010	Pathakhera No. 2	Western Coalfields Ltd.	07-Jun-10	2	0	Fall of Roof
2010	Rajgamar 1&2 (Pawan Incline)	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Apr-10	1	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Rajnagar R.O.	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	26-Dec-10	1	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	10-Apr-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Ravindra Khani No.1A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	10-Aug-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Ravindra Khani N0.1A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	27-Apr-10	0	2	Fall of Roof
2010	Sayal "D" No. 3	Central Coalfields Ltd.	30-Jan-10	0	1	Fall of Roof
2010	Shankarpur	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	02-Jan-10	1	0	Fall of Roof
2010	Silewara	Western Coalfields Ltd.	27-Sep-10	2	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Alkusa	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	10-Jan-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Churcha Colliery	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	21-Feb-11	1	0	Fall of Roof
2011	Dhanpuri U/G Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	17-Sep-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	GDK 1&3 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	17-Apr-11	1	1	Fall of Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2011	Godavari Khani No. 2 & 2A Incline Mine	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	27-Jan-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Godavari Khani No.-1 Incline Mine	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	18-Mar-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Godavari Khani No.1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	06-Feb-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Godavari Khani No.5	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	14-Dec-11	1	0	Fall of Roof
2011	Godavari Khani No.8	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	01-Sep-11	0	2	Fall of Roof
2011	Hariajam	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	26-Dec-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Jhanjra Shaft and Main Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	24-Sep-11	1	0	Fall of Roof
2011	Jhilmili	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	22-Jun-11	1	0	Fall of Roof
2011	Jhiria U/G Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	07-Oct-11	1	0	Fall of Roof
2011	Khas Kajora	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	20-Dec-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Kumardhubi	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	26-Feb-11	1	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Kumbharkhani U/G	Western Coalfields Ltd.	11-Jan-11	1	2	Fall of Roof
2011	Mahamaya Ug Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	04-Jun-11	1	0	Fall of Roof
2011	Nandira	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	08-Mar-11	0	1	Fall of Roof

2011	Narsamoda	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	25-Jun-11	0	2	Fall of Roof
2011	Nimcha (R)	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	09-Mar-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Noonodih Jitpur	Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd.	06-Jan-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Pathardih	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	24-Jul-11	2	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	18-Apr-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Sawang	Central Coalfields Ltd.	03-Nov-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Sayal "D" No. 3	Central Coalfields Ltd.	22-Jul-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Shantikhami	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	23-Dec-11	0	1	Fall of Roof
2011	Vakilpalli Mine	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	06-Aug-11	1	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Angarpathra	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	29-Jan-12	0	2	Fall of Roof
2012	Bhatgaon	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	25-nov-12	2	0	Fall of Roof
2012	Dabor	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	13-Apr-12	1	0	Fall of Roof
2012	Godavari Khani 1&3 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	15-May-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Godavari Khani 1&3 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	03-Jul-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Godavari Khani 1&3 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	07-Dec-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Godavari Khani No. 2 & 2A Incline Mine	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	09-Nov-12	0	1	Fall of Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2012	Godavari Khani No.1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	20-Nov-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Godavari Khani No. 1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	17-Dec-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Godavari Khani No.7(LE) Project	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	17-Oct-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Jhanjhra 1&2 Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Sep-12	1	0	Fall of Roof
2012	Kalyan Khani No.1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	10-Dec-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Kendra	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	11-Feb-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Mandaman	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Apr-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Milupara U/G Coal Project	M/s Monnet Ispat and Energy Ltd.	04-Apr-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Padampur O/C	Western Coalfields Ltd.	01-Jun-12	1	0	Irruption of Water
2012	Padmavathikhani No.5 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	04-Feb-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Rajur Incline	Western Coalfields Ltd.	15-Feb-12	1	0	Irruption of Water
2012	Ravindra Khani No.1A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	09-Nov-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Ravindra Khani No.8	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	20-Apr-12	0	2	Fall of Roof
2012	Shobhapur	Western Coalfields Ltd.	03-Sep-12	1	0	Fall of Roof

2012	Shobhapur	Western Coalfields Ltd.	10-Dec-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Sijua	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	06-Oct-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Srirampur No.3 & 3 A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	16-Jul-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Surakachar 3&4	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	28-Oct-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Tandsi 1/2 Colliery	Western Coalfields Ltd.	10-May-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	Vishnupuri U/G Mine No.1	Western Coalfields Ltd.	29-Sep-12	0	1	Fall of Roof
2012	West Jhagrakhand	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	13-Feb-12	1	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Akashkinari	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	22-Jun-13	1	0	Fall of Roof
2013	Bartunga Hill	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	07-Feb-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Bartunga Hill	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Aug-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Basantimata	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	11-Nov-13	4	2	Fall of Roof
2013	Chasnalla	Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd.	13-Mar-13	1	0	Fall of Roof
2013	Churcha	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	26-Dec-13	0	2	Fall of Roof
2013	Godavari Khani 2A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	19-May-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Guleti No.1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	12-May-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Kalyan Khani No1A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	05-Mar-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Kasipet	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	11-Jul-13	0	1	Fall of Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2013	Malga Colliery	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	14-Jul-13	1	0	Fall of Roof
2013	Naheriya UG Mine	Western Coalfields Ltd.	04-Mar-13	2	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Padmavathikhani No.5 Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	14-Feb-13	2	0	Fall of Roof
2013	Patmohna	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	30-Oct-13	1	0	Fall of Roof
2013	Piparia Colliery	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	08-Dec-13	1	0	Fall of Roof
2013	Rajgamar 6&7	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	07-Dec-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Ravindra Khani No.6	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	11-Nov-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Ravindra Khani No. 7	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	08-Mar-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Ravindra Khani N0.7	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	25-Oct-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Ravindra Khani N0.7	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	30-Oct-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Shobhapur	Western Coalfields Ltd.	08-Aug-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Sijua	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	25-Nov-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Tawa	Western Coalfields Ltd.	18-Jan-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Venkatesh Khani No.7	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	14-Jul-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2013	Venkatesh Khani No.7	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	21-Dec-13	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Balrampur 10&12 Inclines	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Mar-14	0	1	Fall of Roof

2014	Bartunga Hill	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	07-Jul-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Bastacola	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	04-Jan-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Busseriya	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	22-nov-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Churcha West	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	08-Dec-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Damini U/G Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	10-Jun-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Dhelwadiah Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	12-Oct-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Digwadiah	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	22-nov-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Godavari Khani 2A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	18-May-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Godavari Khani No.5	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	08-Jan-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Jamuna 9 & 10 Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Jun-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Kakatiya Khani No 1 & 1A Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	14-Jun-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Kumardhubi	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	17-Jan-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Kurasia	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	08-May-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Mahamaya Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	06-Aug-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Orient No. 3	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	25-nov-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	01-Sep-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	11-Jan-14	2	0	Fall of Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2014	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	15-Jul-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	27-Mar-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	31-Jul-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Rehar U/G Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	25-Dec-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Shantikhami	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	05-JUL-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Shantikhami	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	08-Nov-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Shobhapur	Western Coalfields Ltd.	10-Oct-14	1	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Shyamsundarpur	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	08-Mar-14	1	0	Fall of Roof
2014	Siduli	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	02-Sep-14	0	1	Fall of Roof
2014	Srirampur No.1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	11-Aug-14	1	1	Fall of Roof
2015	Damni UG Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	09-Nov-15	0	1	Fall of Roof
2015	Damni UG Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	20-Jun-15	1	0	Fall of Roof
2015	Gare Palma IV/5 U/G Coal Mine	M/s Hindalco Industries Ltd.	14-nov-15	0	1	Fall of Roof
2015	Godavari Khani No.1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	25-Aug-15	1	0	Fall of Roof
2015	Guleti No.1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	23-Mar-15	0	1	Fall of Roof

2015	Jamadoba	Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	18-Feb-15	0	1	Fall Of Roof
2015	Jaykaynagar	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	29-Apr-15	0	2	Fall of Roof
2015	Kakatiya Khani No 1 &1A Incline	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	29-Mar-15	0	1	Fall of Roof
2015	Kalyan Khani No. 1	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	18-May-15	0	1	Fall of Roof
2015	Khas Kajora	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	12-Nov-15	1	0	Fall of Roof
2015	Nowrozabad West	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	20-Mar-15	0	1	Fall of Roof
2015	Prism Coal Mine	M/S Prism Cement Limited	05-Mar-15	1	1	Fall of Roof
2015	Srirampur No.3 & 3 A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	31-Jul-15	0	1	Fall of Roof
2015	Srirampur No.3 & 3 A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	06-Apr-15	1	0	Irruption of Water
2016	Bangwar U/G Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	27-Mar-16	1	0	Fall of Roof
2016	Bangwar U/G Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	28-May-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Bankola	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	10-Aug-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Bankola	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	17-Jul-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Bartarai	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	04-Jul-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Churcha	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	19-Apr-16	1	0	Fall of Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2016	Dhemomain Pit	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Mar-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Mandla North (U/G) Coal Mine	Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.	29-Jan-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Mandla North (U/G) Coal Mine	Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.	29-Oct-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	NCPH/NCPH(R-6)	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	15-Nov-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Pali	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	28-n0v-16	1	0	Fall of Roof
2016	Piparia Colliery	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	09-Apr-16	2	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Ravindra Khani No.5	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	04-Sep-16	1	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Ravindra Khani No.7	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	22-Sep-16	1	0	Fall of Roof
2016	Saoner Mine No 2 & 3	Western Coalfields Ltd.	27-n0v-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Satgram Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Sep-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Shantikhani	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	13-Apr-16	3	0	Fall of Roof
2016	Sripur Seam Incline	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	16-Nov-16	1	1	Fall of Roof
2016	Vindhya Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	09-Aug-16	0	1	Fall of Roof
2017	Bahreband U.G. Project	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	01-Feb-17	3	0	Fall of Roof
2017	Bijuri	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	02-Jun-17	0	1	Fall of Roof

2017	Kasipet	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	17-Aug-17	0	1	Fall of Roof
2017	Rani Atari U/G Mine	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	06-Jul-17	1	0	Fall of Roof
2017	Ravindra Khani New Tech	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	28-Aug-17	0	1	Fall of Roof
2017	Ravindra Khani No.1a	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	16-Oct-17	0	1	Fall of Roof
2017	Sayal "D"	Central Coalfields Ltd.	16-Aug-17	2	0	Irruption of Water
2017	Srirampur No.3 & 3 A	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	31-Aug-17	0	2	Fall of Roof
2017	Tawa	Western Coalfields Ltd.	19-Feb-17	1	0	Fall of Roof

Note: Data for the year 2016 to 2017 are provisional.

Supply of coal to power plants by Coal India Limited

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

(a) whether it is a fact that coal supplies to power plants by Coal India Limited (CIL) has increased by 14.4 per cent to 40.0 Million Tonnes (MT) in April, compared to the same month during last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the CIL has gradually improved coal stock at power plants to around 16 MT, as of April 30, from that of a little over 7 MT six months ago; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited have dispatched 40.07 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal to power plants in the month of April, 2018, which is an increase of about 14% over the dispatch of 35.16 MT in April, 2017. The coal stock at the thermal power plants has increased from a level of 7.3 MT on 19.10.2017 to 15.89 MT as on 30.04.2018.

Improving quality of telecommunication services of mobile companies

†374. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the effective measures taken to improve the quality of telecommunication services of all the mobile companies associated with the Ministry of Communications and the reasons due to which, continuous uninterrupted services are not being provided to the consumers, along with the status of redressal of such issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): In order to facilitate improvement and expansion of telecommunication services, the Government has initiated a series of measures which includes:—

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz in 2016,
- (ii) allowing spectrum sharing, trading and liberalization of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilization,
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilisation efficiency,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iv) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers),
- (v) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)-leading to addition of around 7.98 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations on aggregate basis for 3G/4G services during the period July 2015 to June 2018,
- (vi) Review of improvement in the existing networks-around 8.09 lakh 2G/ 3G BTS-Cells have been also rectified/optimised during the period July, 2016 to 31st May 2018 by TSPs,
- (vii) facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiple-sharing basis,
- (viii) launching of Tarang Sanchar, a public web portal for information sharing on mobile towers and their EMF compliances, in May 2017.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has also taken the following steps for improving Quality of Service performed by service providers:-

- Monitoring of Quality of Service performed by service providers against the benchmarks for the various Quality of Service parameters laid down by TRAI through regulations issued from time to time, by way of (i) Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report submitted by service providers (ii) Audit and Assessment of Quality of Service through independent agencies appointed by TRAI; (iii) drive tests of mobile networks through independent agencies appointed by TRAI (iv) Crowd sourcing of information on Quality of Service through Apps.
- TRAI regularly undertakes the drive tests of mobile networks in select cities, highways and railway routes to assess the Quality of Service and coverage around the areas covered in the drive test routes.
- The results of drive tests are shared with the service providers for improving Quality of Service and coverage in the areas identified in the drive tests.
- Publication of results of Audit and Assessment of Quality of Service, including for call drop parameters and surveys on TRAI website namely

www.trai.gov.in for information of stakeholders, forcing the service providers to improve its service.

- Imposition of financial disincentives for non-compliance with the benchmarks for Quality of Service parameters.
- The TRAI analytics portal *www.analytics.trai.gov.in* provides a graphical view on the map of India the performance of the 2G service providers on call drop (on all India level, service area level, district level and Base Transceiver Station (BTS) level), BTS density per square kilometer and network utilisation so that the consumers can have informed choice based on quality of service.
- TRAI has recently revised the framework for assessing Call Drop and prescribed two new parameters in this regard. The new Drop Call Rate (DCR) parameters and benchmarks reflect performance of network in a better way.

The continuous efforts put-in by Government, TRAI and Telecom Service Providers have resulted in consistent improvement in compliance to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) Quality of Service Benchmarks. Further, Government's initiatives and augmentation in the installation of BTS has resulted in improvement and expansion of mobile phone coverage in the country.

Improving services of Speed Post

375. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efficiency of most of the private courier agencies in the country is considered better than the Speed Post service of India Posts;

(b) if so, the major factors due to which private courier agencies have gained better creditability;

(c) whether Government has any plans to improve Speed Post services at par with private courier agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The traffic and revenue of Speed Post has shown

continuous growth over the years indicating the trust of the customers in the service. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has also mentioned in its 20th report of 2015-Union Government, Communications and IT Sector laid in the Parliament, at Chapter-III, "The delivery performance of Speed Post was better than those of private couriers in major cities, at the tehsil level and at village level."

The traffic and revenue generated from Speed Post for last three years is as follows:-

Year	Traffic (in crore)	Revenue (₹ in crore)
2015-16	41.43	1605.25
2016-17	46.31	1783.00
2017-18	46.38	1846.60

(c) and (d) Department of Posts reviews its services and products from time to time in view of the changing needs of the market and customers, industry benchmarks etc. and takes steps to improve service features and introduce new value additions to meet the customer expectations. Some of them are as follows:-

- Online track and trace system for Speed Post has been strengthened. Complete end to end status of an article can be tracked on the website of the Department of Posts by logging onto *www.indiapost.gov.in*. In addition to this, status of an article can also be tracked through mobile application.
- SMS alert has been introduced to provide delivery status of articles to customers.
- Cash-on-delivery facility especially for e-Commerce companies has been provided as a value addition to the Speed Post.
- Book Now Pay Later (BNPL) and National Account Facility have been introduced under Speed Post for contractual customers.
- Apart from delivery through postman, Outsourced Postal Agents Scheme has been introduced with a view to extend door step delivery of various kinds of articles and pickup from customer's premises.

- Mobile phones have been provided to postman for delivery through postman mobile app to capture delivery on real time basis.
- Computerization, infrastructure and site upgradation of sorting and mail processing offices has been carried out.
- Dedicated point to point road transport for fast and secure transmission of Speed Post articles has been introduced.
- Departmental vehicles have been equipped with Geo-Positioning-System (GPS) for monitoring their movement on real time basis.
- Nodal Mechanized Delivery Centres for delivery of Speed Post articles have been established in selected cities.
- Quality Monitoring Cells have been established in the circles to monitor mail performance. Centrally, through the Mail Network Optimization Project, the mail movement has been rationalized and is monitored on a regular basis.

Common Civil Code in Goa

376. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Goa has had Common Civil Code since 1965, which is applicable to all citizens irrespective of caste; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to implement it in the remaining States and if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In view of the various personal laws applicable to different communities and different regions, the Goa Civil Code cannot be implemented in other parts of the country.

Speed of 4G internet

377. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the data regarding total number of mobile users in the country the State/UT/ operator-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government has fixed any base speed for the 4G internet, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is aware of the global average download speed of internet services under 2G, 3G, 4G and Wi-Fi and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The service area-wise and operator-wise numbers of mobile telephone connections as on 31st March, 2018 are given in Statement-I and II respectively (See below).

(b) The Government has not fixed any base speed for 4G internet. However, it may be mentioned that the definition of broadband, as laid down by the Government *vide* notification dated 18.7.2013, stipulates a minimum download speed of 512 kbps.

(c) There are studies on internet speeds available on the internet/public domain by some private agencies. However, the Government has not carried out or commissioned any such study and hence is not in a position to authenticate their findings.

Statement-I

Service area-wise total mobile telephone connections

Sl. No.	Service Area	Total mobile telephone connections (in million) as on 31.03.2018
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	85.76
2.	Assam	25.38
3.	Bihar	88.65
4.	Gujarat	71.93
5.	Haryana	23.58
6.	Himachal Pradesh	12.45
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	13.72
8.	Karnataka	67.00
9.	Kerala	42.00

1	2	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	70.52
11.	Maharashtra	94.61
12.	North East	13.86
13.	Odisha	34.37
14.	Punjab	38.14
15.	Rajasthan	65.24
16.	Tamil Nadu	95.70
17.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	104.19
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	63.40
19.	West Bengal	58.88
20.	Kolkata	28.81
21.	Delhi	54.26
22.	Mumbai	36.52
	TOTAL	1188.99

Source: DoT.

Statement-II

Operator-wise mobile connections (in million) as on 31.03.2018

Sl. No.	Operators	Total mobile connections (in million) as on 31.03.2018
1	2	3
1.	Bharti Airtel Limited	304.19
2.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.+Reliance Communications Ltd.	0.19
3.	Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited	186.56

1	2	3
4.	Vodafone Essar	222.70
5.	TATA Teleservices Ltd.	31.19
6.	Idea Mobile Communication	211.21
7.	Aircel	78.92
8.	Quadrant Televentures Ltd. (Formerly HFCL Ltd.)	0.00
9.	Telenor	37.98
10.	BSNL	112.48
11.	MTNL	3.56
TOTAL		1188.99

Source: DoT.

Voice calls over Wi-Fi service

378. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT has allowed telcos to use each other's data networks when consumers make voice calls over Wi-Fi, even allowing third party companies to offer the service if they can procure a licence;

(b) whether DoT has issued amendments to the unified access service licence, allowing telecom service providers to offer full-fledged internet telephony or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service, even from apps developed by these operators; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Copies of the endorsement to the Unified Access Service License and the clarification issued in this regard is given in Statement-I and II (*See* below).

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 UAS Licensees

Subject: Amendment to the UAS License on Internet Telephony

In pursuance to Condition 5.1, the Licensor hereby amends the UAS License Agreement as under:—

Existing Clause	Amended Clause
1.	<p>Part-I, General Conditions</p> <p>2.6(ii) Internet Telephony calls originated by International out roomers from international 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>

Existing Clause	Amended Clause
2.	<p>Part-I, General Conditions</p> <p>2.6(iii) The mobile numbering series should be used for providing Internet Telephony by a Licensee. TSPs are allowed to allocate same number to the subscriber both for Cellular Mobile service and Internet Telephony service.</p> <p>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>Part-I, General Conditions</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 Internet Telephony. The location details in form of latitude and longitude should also be provided wherever it is feasible.</p> <p>CLI Restriction (CLIR) facility should not be provided for Internet Telephony Subscribers.</p>
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	<p>Part-I, General Conditions</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>

Existing Clause	Amended Clause
<p><i>vice-versa</i> by the licensee for this purpose shall be as per directions/instructions issued by the Licensor."</p>	<p>Part-I, General Conditions</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>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Part-I, General Conditions</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 UAS License Agreement and all others terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

3. These amendments come into force with immediate effect.

S/d
(**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 (OS)/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.

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.

S/d
(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.

Violation of call drop norms

379. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether call drop norms have been violated by various mobile operators in recent times; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by Government in this regard along with the present status of providing compensation to subscribers on call drops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has revised the framework for assessing call drops in mobile networks through the Quality of Service Standards for Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (5th Amendment) Regulations, 2017 effective from 1st October, 2017. Call drop rate is now assessed on percentile basis instead of earlier methodology of taking average for all Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in a given License Service Area (LSA) and thus, are more stringent.

As per TRAI Reports, improvement in compliance to revised call drop benchmarks has been observed in quarters ending March, 2018 as compared to quarter ending December, 2017. The comparative position for the last two quarters is as follows:—

Call drop benchmarks notified by TRAI	Benchmark	Total cases of non-compliance	
		Quarter ending December, 2017	Quarter ending March, 2018
Call Drop rate - Spatial Distribution Measure: At least 90% of Cells in a given mobile network should be able to meet call drop rate of $\leq 2\%$ for minimum 90% of days in a quarter.	$\leq 2\%$	42	13
Call Drop rate- Temporal Distribution Measure: At least 97% Cells in the network must have call drops $\leq 3\%$ for minimum of 90% days in a quarter.	$\leq 3\%$	31	12

(b) Wherever the benchmarks are not met, action has been taken by TRAI to impose financial disincentives.

In the case of call drops, the customer is charged for the actual duration of the call *i.e.* till the call drops. However, to compensate the consumers for such dropped calls, TRAI through Telecom Consumers Protection (9th Amendment), 2015 dated 16th October, 2015 had mandated the originating service provider to credit the account of the calling consumer by one rupee for each dropped call within its network, subject to a maximum of rupees 3/- per day. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has set aside the Regulation *vide* order dated 11th May, 2016.

TRAI report on Net Neutrality

380. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the position of Government on the TRAI report upholding the Net Neutrality principles;
- (b) the timeline for implementation of recommendations given by TRAI;
- (c) by when would the process of amendment of licences of telecoms be initiated as recommended by TRAI; and
- (d) whether the Department of Telecommunications will put in place a mechanism of public consultations implement the recommendations of TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) 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. Recently, the Telecom Commission 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) and (c) Government is in the process of establishing the regulatory framework for Net Neutrality which, *inter alia*, includes amendment in the terms of various license agreements governing the provision of internet services in India to incorporate the principles of non-discriminatory treatment of content.

(d) TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on Net Neutrality on 04-01-2017. TRAI conducted a detailed, two-stage, consultation process on Net Neutrality involving comments and counter comments from a variety of stakeholders, followed by three

open house discussions. After the completion of consultation process, TRAI considered the various points of view and formulated its recommendations on Net Neutrality. In view of the above, no further public consultation is envisaged.

Objections to public Wi-Fi model

381. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Cellular Operators Association of India has some objections to public Wi-Fi model;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Cellular Operators Association of India has made certain submissions to Department of Telecommunications 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, *inter alia*, include: internet services to be provided only through License, level playing field, security and perceived revenue loss to the exchequer.

This matter, including the representation submitted by COAI, is under consultation and decisions, as appropriate, will be taken in due course.

Improving postal services in the country

382. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of steps taken to improve the postal system in the country;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to rejig the postal Pin Code in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Department of Posts has the most widely distributed postal network in the world with 1,54,965 Post Offices across the country, and it is constantly

working to improve its service in all respect *i.e.* Mails, Savings Bank, Life Insurance etc. The following steps have been taken in this regard:—

- (i) IT Modernization Project is being undertaken to improve the services and efficiency of Department of Posts with a total outlay of ₹ 4909 crore. The project involves computerization and Modernization and networking of ~ 1, 55,000 Post Offices in the country, including ~ 1, 30,000 Branch Post Offices in rural areas run by the Gramin Dak Sevaks.

The project involves providing Central Server based integrated, modular and scalable solution for all the operations of Department of Posts including Mails, Human Resource, Banking, Insurance and Finance and Accounts. It also involves creation of IT Infrastructure like Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre, setting up of a Wide Area Network (WAN) and providing solar powered and portable hand-held computing devices (Micro ATM compliant) to all the Branch Post Offices.

- (ii) Core Banking Solution (CBS) has been implemented in Post Office Savings Bank. This has resulted in enabling anywhere banking, *i.e.* a Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) customer can transact with his/her account from any CBS Post Office in India, irrespective of where his/her account stands.

ATMs have been installed and made interoperable, *i.e.* a POSB customer can use his/her ATM card in ATM of any Bank in addition to that of Postal ATMs. Bank Customers can also use their ATM cards at PO ATMs.

- (iii) Under the Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India (DARPAN) Project, launched in June 2016, Department of Posts, in a phased manner, is providing SIM based Hand Held Devices to around 1.30 lakh Branch Post Offices in the rural areas of the country, for carrying out online Postal and Financial transactions. Customers in the rural areas can avail the facility of Core Banking transactions, booking of Registered and Speed Post article, booking of Money Orders, deposit of Postal Life Insurance (PLI)/ Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) premium and indexing of PLI/RPLI maturity claims through the devices. DARPAN project aims at improving the quality of service, adding value to services and achieving "financial inclusion" of unbanked rural population.

(iv) For improving the Mail Operations, the following steps have been taken:—

- Computerization, infrastructure and site upgradation of sorting and mail processing offices has been carried out.
- End to end tracking facility is provided for accountable articles viz. Speed Post, Registered Post, Parcels etc.
- Dedicated point to point road transport for fast and secure transmission of Speed Post, Parcels and e-commerce articles has been introduced.
- Department vehicle have been equipped with Geo Positioning System (GPS) for monitoring on real time basis.
- Nodal Mechanized delivery Centers for delivery of parcels and Speed Post have been established.
- Quality Monitoring Cells have been established in the circle to monitor mail performance.
- A separate Parcel Directorate has been established in the Department of Posts to holistically manage the sales and marketing activities and operations of the parcel business.

(b) and (c) The allotment/re-allotment of PIN code of newly created post offices as well as to the branch post offices getting upgraded to delivery post offices is a continuous exercise. However there is no proposal to rejig the Pin Code system as such.

Access to internet for cashless payments and Digital India

383. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population that has access to the internet and assured power supply in rural areas;

(b) how Digital India is possible in rural areas without large scale access to internet; and

(c) the details of measures Government has taken to encourage cashless payments and Digital India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Internet can be accessed by the customers using wireline as well as wireless technologies. Wireless technologies *inter alia* include 2G, 3G and 4G technology. At present 2G mobile network covers 97% of population while 3G as well as 4G mobile networks cover 88% of population.

Further, as reported by the States, all the inhabited census villages across the country stand electrified as on 28.04.2018. As regard households electrification, as per Census 2011, there were 16.78 crore rural households in the country and 9.28 crore (55%) rural households were electrified. As reported by the States, there are 17.73 crore rural households in the country, of these 15.22 crore (85.84%) households have been electrified as on 11.07.2018

(c) Government has been working with various stakeholders including Ministries/ Departments/States/Banks to encourage the cashless payment and Digital India to make it more convenient for the citizens. A dedicated DigiDhan mission was set up with an aim to promote digital transactions. Digital payment App 'BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money)' was launched on 30th December, 2016. To encourage cashless/digital payments by variety of modes like internet banking, mobile banking, and mobile applications etc. and to encourage Digital India, *inter alia*, following measures have been taken by the Government:

(i) Expansion of payment acceptance infrastructure

As per the budget announcement for FY 2017-18, banks were allocated a target to deploy 10 lakh additional Point of Sales (PoS) terminals. Against this target, banks installed 12.33 lakh new PoS terminal. Currently a total of 33.20 lakh PoS (till May, 2018) terminals have been deployed in the country. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has further allocated a target to deploy 20 lakh additional PoS terminals by the banks in FY 2018-19.

BHIM Aadhaar Pay enables citizens without smart phones to make digital payments by using biometric authentication. Around 5.56 lakh BHIM Aadhaar PoS have been deployed by the banks in till May, 2018. Banks are in the

process of deploying and activating 20 lakh Aadhaar based BHIM Aadhaar PoS in FY 2018-19.

Bharat QR 4.0 with a provision of accepting QR based payments using UPI was launched on 10th August, 2017. By 30th April, 2018, 26 banks have been made live on Bharat QR as acquirer and 38 banks have been made live on BHIM UPI PSP app. Till May, 2018, Bharat QR was installed at 11.08 lakh merchant locations.

(ii) Incentive Schemes

MeitY *vide* gazette notification No. 6(19)/2017-DPD-1 dated 27th December, 2017 has notified the reimbursement of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges on Debit cards/BHIM-UPI/BHIM Aadhaar Pay transactions of value less than ₹ 2000 to the banks for a period of two years starting from 1st January, 2018.

The reimbursement of MDR is aimed to improve the adoption of digital payments by merchants especially the small and micro merchants.

'BHIM Cashback Scheme for Individuals' has been launched to popularize payments through BHIM app. The scheme has been modified and is operational till March, 2019.

The customer on BHIM app can earn an incentive upto ₹ 150 on 10 unique transactions over the BHIM app.

The BHIM Aadhaar merchant incentive scheme has been re-launched and the incentive has been increased from 0.25% to 0.5%. The scheme is operational 1st April, 2018 till March, 2019. In this scheme merchant can earn an incentive upto ₹ 2000 per month.

To give stimulus to the deployment of BHIM Aadhaar PoS devices, Government through Department of Financial Services has launched a scheme to provide an incentive of upto ₹ 1800 to the banks on the procurement of each BHIM Aadhaar PoS.

(iii) Coordination with Banks

Digital payment transaction targets have been allocated to the Public and Private Sector banks for FY 2018-19. MeitY has set targets of 3013 crore digital payment transactions.

The performance of the banks is also monitored and evaluated by MeitY through a performance scorecard and a bank ranking system.

(iv) Advisories to Ministries/Departments

Government of India has issued advisories to Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs to improve payments acceptance infrastructure, enable the citizens to pay by a variety of modes such as internet banking, mobile banking, and mobile applications etc. including use of BHIM, integrate on-line payment portals with BHIM/UPI/QR-code/Rupay Card, printing of QR code on bills, incentivisation of digital payments and publicity and creation of awareness about digital payments among citizens.

(v) Publicity Campaign

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology have till date chosen the following mediums for the publicity campaign:—

1. Radio (Wireless Media)
2. Newspaper (Print Media)
3. Website (Digital Media)

(vi) Monitoring, Analysis and Grievances

In order to create a platform for accurate reporting, monitoring and analysis of all digital payment transactions being carried out across the country, Government has developed a National Digital Payment Dashboard, which was launched by Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and IT on 13th February, 2018. The same could be accessed at <http://www.digipay.gov.in>.

MeitY has integrated Digital Payment Grievances along with National Consumer Helpline (NCH) platform of Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) in addition to the existing Grievance Redressal Mechanism of digital payments of the respective banks and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The Platform is live and is handling Digital Payment related grievances.

(vii) Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0:

The key objective of CSCs is to deliver various citizen centric services, such as, Government to Citizen (G2C) services, Business to Citizen (B2C) services, financial inclusion services, educational services, skill development services etc.

CSCs are internet enabled centres operated by local entrepreneur, called Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). CSC has the capability to extend the information technology for access by the people, thereby bridging the digital divide, with particular emphasis on digitally empowering the citizens, especially in rural and other inaccessible areas. So far, there are 2,92,605 Common Services Centres (CSCs) functioning across the country; among which, 1,83,203 CSCs are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.

(viii) Digital Finance for Rural India

Creating Awareness and Access through Common Service Centres (CSCs) under the Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) was initiated in November, 2016. Under this initiative, more than 2 crore rural citizens and more than 27 lakh merchants have been trained/enabled. Further, sensitization drives were carried out at 650 districts and 5,735 blocks throughout the country.

(ix) Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

The Government has approved a new scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" in February, 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2019. The total outlay of the scheme is ₹ 2,351.38 Crore (approx.) for a duration upto 31.3.2019. The scheme would empower the citizens from rural India, bridge digital divide leading to digital inclusion, provide digital skills and prepare them to become a part of digital economy.

As on 16th July, 2018, more than 1.23 crore candidates have completed the training out of which more than 64.46 lakh have been duly certified.

(x) Broadband for all

Government has planned the BharatNet project to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power

lines, radio and satellite media to be completed by March, 2019. Upto 8th July, 2018, 2,82,892 kms. of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid and 1,12,862 GPs have been made service ready.

(xi) Universal Access to mobile connectivity

Various measures/schemes undertaken by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to expand and improve telecommunications services in rural and remote areas are as under:—

- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER): The Telecom Commission has approved:—

The tender for mobile services in uncovered villages of North Eastern Region in respect of 11 bidding units of Assam-A, Assam-B, Assam-C, Assam-D, Sikkim, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur-A, Manipur-B and Arunachal Pradesh.

Installation of 1694 mobile towers to cover 2128 uncovered villages of Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura and 310 towers along National Highways.

Installation of mobile towers in Meghalaya.

BSNL tender for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam (Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao).

Mobile Communication Services in LWE affected areas: The project (Phase-I) has been completed and 2336 mobile towers in LWE areas are operational. The Union Cabinet has approved for installation of 4072 mobile towers in uncovered inhabited villages in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands: The Telecom Commission has approved the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan including provision of mobile connectivity for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands, consisting the following components:
 - Provision of 2G+4G mobile service in uncovered villages and seamless mobile coverage along NH 223 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI):

Telecom Commission has approved the proposal to cover 172 uncovered villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- Augmentation of 2G mobile services in Lakshadweep Islands: The Telecom Commission has approved the proposal for augmentation of 2G mobile services with Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE) technology in Lakshadweep Islands.
- Augmentation of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network in Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Telecom Commission approved the proposal for augmentation of OFC network in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep: In Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the project has been completed and 1151 Mbps satellite bandwidth has been achieved. In Lakshadweep, Telecom Commission has approved for enhancement of the bandwidth capacity.

Cheating by e-commerce companies

384. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the problems being faced by consumers purchasing products through e-commerce;
- (b) whether complaints by e-commerce consumers are going up rapidly since the last 1-2 years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof for the last five years, year-wise and the steps taken by the Ministry or Consumer Fora to directly deal with e-commerce companies to resolve disputes in a time-bound manner; and
- (d) the constraints that Government would have to fix a period within which complaints have to be resolved by companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) While purchasing products through e-commerce consumers face various problems such as non-delivery

of product, delivery of defective/wrong product, late/delay in delivery of product, not returning/refunding under replacement warranty, not getting product back after repair/replacement, missing of product accessories etc.

(b) to (d) The complaints related to e-commerce sector received at the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) run by the Department of Consumer Affairs have been increasing on yearly basis. The number of complaints received in last five years in National Consumer Helpline is as under:—

Sector -E-commerce

Year	Docket/Calls Registered
April, 2013-March, 2014	5,204
May, 2014-March, 2015	16,919
April, 2015-March, 2016	28,331
April, 2016- March, 2017	54,872
April, 2017-March, 2018	78,088

For redressal of his grievance relating to e-commerce transactions, a consumer can file a complaint in the appropriate Consumer Forum established under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. In addition, as an alternate grievance redressal mechanism, the Department of Consumer Affairs has launched an online portal www.consumerhelpline.gov.in and runs the National Consumer Helpline (NCH), where consumers can lodge their complaints including those related to e-commerce. The NCH has partnered with more than 400 companies including 66 e-commerce companies and the complaints received are transferred through the system software to these companies for redressal.

Further, the Government introduced the Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 in the Lok Sabha on 5th January, 2018, which seeks to provide for an executive agency to be called the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), which will prevent unfair trade practices. Provisions have also been made in the proposed Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 for framing of rules for preventing unfair trade practices in e-commerce having consumer focus.

Portability of PDS entitlements

385. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning for portability of Public Distribution System (PDS) entitlements in all the States of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of implementation of the said mechanism under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per information received, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Telangana have introduced State-wide portability, whereas Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Tripura and Madhya Pradesh have introduced portability in a few districts/FPS areas within the State. A new central sector scheme namely, "Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)" has been launched for implementation during 2018-19 and 2019-20. One of the objectives of the scheme is introduction of National Level Portability.

Review of PDS

386. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the rationale and structure of the Public Distribution System (PDS) was done keeping in view the current scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether such a review would be undertaken in the near future;

(c) whether specific interventions have been made to ensure the adequate supply of foodgrains to the needy and in pockets where there is food insecurity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Public Distribution System is being implemented as per the provisions of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFS A) and the scheme of End - to - End computerization of Public Distribution System

(PDS) Operations aimed at strengthening and streamlining the functioning of PDS. A new Central sector scheme called Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) has been approved for two years *i.e.* 2018-19 and 2019-20 for facilitating further improvement in the functioning of PDS. National level portability and de-duplication of ration cards/beneficiaries are two major components of the new scheme.

(c) and (d) Public Distribution System, governed by NFSA, is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation as per NFSA and transportation of such foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India in the State/UT. The operational responsibilities for lifting and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries and issuance of ration cards to them etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Central Government also provides financial assistance to States/UTs for intra-state movement of foodgrains upto Fair Price Shops.

This Department has also issued directions to all States/UTs to launch special drive to identify the economically weakest persons of society who do not have ration card to ensure benefits of Public Distribution System (PDS), to them.

Functioning of PDS

387. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to improve the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) in terms of quality of items supplied, prices, etc; and

(b) the details of the items distributed through the PDS, State-wise, including West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), which provides for coverage of about 67% of the total population of the country (75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population) for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains at the cost of ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse-grain/wheat/rice, applicable upto 30.06.2019 under TPDS.

Government has issued following instructions to State Governments/Union Territories and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):

- (i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under PDS.
- (ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting the foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
- (iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the PDS jointly by FCI and State Governments/UT Administrations.
- (iv) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
- (v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government.
- (vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
- (vii) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under PDS and other welfare schemes should meet the desired standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

To strengthen and streamline TPDS, the Government has also initiated implementation of 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' during the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs to ensure transparency and check leakages in the TPDS. The scheme *inter alia* includes digitization of ration cards/beneficiary details and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up transparency portals, grievance redressal mechanisms and installation of e-PoS Devices at Fair Price Shops and issuance of foodgrains after biometric authentication.

Further, NFSA also provides for two tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism in each State/UT consisting of District Grievance Redressal Officers and State Food Commissions.

(b) State-wise details of the essential commodities distributed by State/UT Governments in addition to wheat, rice, coarse-grain, sugar and SKO through TPDS are given in Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of the essential commodities distributed by State Governments in addition to Wheat, Rice, Coarse-grain, Sugar and Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) through TPDS.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	Essential Commodities
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Chana Dal, Red Gram Dal, Black Gram Dal, Palmolein Oil, Salt
2.	Chhattisgarh	Chana and Salt (In Tribal Area), Salt (In Non-Tribal Area)
3.	Gujarat	Iodized Salt
4.	Haryana	Dal (under Dal Roti Scheme)
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Three Out of Seven Pulses: Urad Sabut, Mong Sabut, Chana, Malka, Black Masar, Rajmah, Kabuli Chana. Edible Oil (Any one out of mustard oil or refined oil) and Iodized Salt.
6.	Karnataka	Tur Dal
7.	Kerala	Wheat Flour (fortified)
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Tur Dal
9.	Maharashtra	Tur Dal
10.	Tamil Nadu	Tur Dal, Urad Dal and Palmolein Oil
11.	Telangana	Salt
12.	Tripura	Salt
13.	West Bengal -	Mustard Oil (For Festival Season), Edible Oil, CTC Tea and Iodized Salt
14.	Daman and Diu	Dal, Oil, Tooth Paste, Match Box, etc
15.	Puducherry	Single Boiled Rice

Note: 20 State/UT Governments namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep have reported that they are not distributing essential commodities in addition to wheat, rice, coarse-grain, sugar and SKO through TPDS.

* Rajasthan- updated information has not been received since 2013.

Disposal of old stock of pulses

388. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States are not taking pulses from the buffer stock maintained by the Central Government;

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

(c) the total quantity of pulses in the Centre's buffer stock at present, pulse-wise; and

(d) the manner in which the Central Government proposes to dispose of the old stock of pulses so that in its place new stock could be maintained to meet future requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Some of the States/UTs *viz.* Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh etc. have taken pulses from the buffer stock maintained by the Central Government. Till 16.07.2018, around 3.16 Lakh MT of unmilled pulses have been provided to States from the buffer for meeting requirements under Public Distribution System, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Integrated Child Development Services.

(c) The total pulse-wise quantity in the buffer under Price Stabilisation Fund as on 16.07.2018 is as under:

Pulses	Quantity (In MTs)
Tur/Arhar	9,50,455.72
Urad	32,500.64
Channa	44,604.86
Masur	16,980.55
Moong	24,805.00
TOTAL	10,69,336.77

(d) The disposal of pulses in buffer is undertaken through release to State Governments, Union Territories, Central Agencies and their outfits and also through open market sale on first-in-first-out (FIFO) principle.

**Encouraging higher administrative grade officers to
have broader perspective**

389. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of Railways has decided that the moment officers reach at higher administrative grade, posts should be such that people are encouraged to think comprehensively in terms of Railways rather than from the point of view of departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this move has invited criticism from within the bureaucracy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In an internal deliberation held on 31.05.2018. the matter came up for discussion wherein the option of merging the 08 organized Group 'A' services at the level of Higher Administrative Grade and above was taken up to take forward the proposal following due process and requisite clearances/consultations.

(c) and (d) Few Service Associations like Indian Railway Traffic Service, Indian Railway Personnel Service, Indian Railway Accounts Service and Indian Railway Service of Engineers have given their views on the proposal as a whole.

Damage of foodgrains due to rain

‡390. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of cereals stored by the Food Corporation of India or other storage agencies which got damaged or whose quality deteriorated due to getting wet during monsoon across the country;

(b) the quantities of cereals that got damaged due to getting wet during rains in the last five years and the cost thereof; and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any action has been taken against any officer/employee for damaging of cereals due to getting wet during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No quantity of cereals stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and its hired godowns of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporation (SWC) and in hired godowns constructed under Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) Scheme got damaged or their quality deteriorated due to getting wet during 2018-19 (upto 01.06.2018) across the country.

(b) The quantity of foodgrains stored by FCI which got damaged due to rains during last five years is as under:

Year	Quantity (In tons)	Estimated costs (In Rupees lakhs)
2013-14	209	17.03
2014-15	130	14.85
2015-16	119	13.13
2016-17	138	17.25
2017-18	22	2.33

(c) The details of the action taken against the officers/employees of FCI found responsible for damage to foodgrains due to rain during last five years are given in Statement.

Statement

Details of the action taken against the officer/employee of FCI responsible for damage to foodgrains due to rain during last five years

Sl. No.	Region	Name of officials Shri	Designation	Penalty Imposed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bihar	S.P. Ram	Manager(D), FSD Mokama	Reduction to initial pay in the time scale of Manager
2.	Kerala	P.O. Sunny	Manager(Civil), FSD Kollam	Penalty of "CENSURE"
3.	Tamil Nadu	D.V. Lakshmi Narayanan	Manager (Civil), FSD Avadi	Recovery of ₹ 25,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
		V. Panneer Selvam	Manager(QC), FSD Tvkoil	Reduction of 2 stages in the pay scale till retirement
		P. Murugavel	Manager(Civil), FSD Egmore	Warning Issued
		P. Mugunthan	Manager(Civil), FSD Avadi	Warning Issued
		M. Kalimuthu	Manager(Civil), MD Coimbatore	Warning Issued
		C. Balasubramaniam	Manager(Civil), FSD Egmore "	Warning Issued
		V. Mugunthan	Manager(Civil), FSD Avadi	Warning Issued
		Sahadevan	AG-I(D), FSD Tvkoil	Reduction of pay by 3 stages with cumulative effect
4.	Andhra Pradesh	S.C. Narayana	Manager(D), BSC Jammikunta	Penalty of "CENSURE" and recovery of ₹ 10,000/-
		V. Srinivas	Manager(QC), BSC Jammikunta	Penalty of "CENSURE" and recovery of ₹ 10,000/-
5.	Delhi	D.K. Atri	Manager(D)	Penalty of "CENSURE"
		Salwinder Kumar	Manager(QC)	Penalty of "CENSURE"
		Akshay Lai Prasad	Ex. Manager (D)	Penalty of "CENSURE"
		Rohtash Kumar	Manager(CE)	Penalty of "CENSURE"
		Satish Minj	AG-II (D)	Recovery of ₹ 1300/-
		Amarjeet Singh	AG-II (D)	Recovery of ₹ 2700/-
		Hari Singh	AG-I (D)	Recovery of ₹ 1200/-
		Amit Bhatnagar	AG-I (D)	Recovery of ₹ 5650/-
		Rajpal Singh	AG-I (D)	Recovery of ₹ 9000/-

1	2	3	4	5
		Sudhir Kumar	AG-II (Min)	Recovery of ₹ 5800/-
		Subhash Panwar	TA III	Recovery of ₹ 930/-
		Rishab Hingle	TA III	Recovery of ₹ 1000/-
		Anjana	TA III	Recovery of ₹ 1400/-
		Anupam Sinha	TA III	Recovery of ₹ 650/-
		Jai Kishan	AG-I (D)	Recovery of ₹ 1100/-
		Shesh Raj	Ex. AG-I (D)	Recovery of ₹ 4878/-

Denial of ration to MGNREGA workers

391. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many MGNREGA workers were reportedly denied ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS) shops for failing to have Aadhaar-based biometric authentication, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the corrective steps taken by Government to provide ratios to the elderly persons through the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): (a) This Department has issued clear instructions to all States/UTs that no beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible beneficiaries/households only on the ground of not possessing Aadhaar, and shall also not be denied for subsidized foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA due to non-availability of Aadhaar or failure of biometric authentication due to network/connectivity/linking issues/poor biometric of the beneficiary or other technical reasons. The instructions are applicable to all the beneficiaries including elderly beneficiaries.

(b) Letter dated 01/02/18 have been issued to all State/UT Governments that NFSA beneficiary(ies), who are above sixty five years of age, or who are differently-abled, and have no other adult family member (16 to 65 years) listed in the Ration card, and are not in a position to visit the Fair Price Shop themselves, would be eligible to be covered under the special dispensation *i.e.* (i) Home delivery of the entitled quota of foodgrains, or (ii) Delivery through authorized nominees of such beneficiaries.

Aadhaar based PoS terminals

392. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target of introducing 20 lakh Aadhaar-based PoS (Point of Sale) terminals by September, 2017, as announced in the Union Budget 2017-18, has been met;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the total number of Aadhaar-based PoS terminals introduced from April, 2017 to September, 2017 and till June, 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The deployment of 20 Lakh Aadhaar-based PoS (Point of Sale) terminals is still under process. Presently 5,50,192 Aadhaar-based PoS (Point of Sale) machines have been installed.

(c) As reported by Department of Financial Services, this delay is due to constraints in supply of PoS machines.

(d) The status of deployment of Aadhaar-based PoS machines is as below:

Duration	Deployment Status
April 2017-September 2017	49,056
October 2017-June 2017	5,50,192

Digigaon programme

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government will digitize 700 villages in the country under its DigiGaon Programme by the year end;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Common Services Centres are working in 1.83 lakh Gram Panchayats as of now; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India under the Digital India Programme has envisaged the Digital village project to provide various Government to Citizen (G2C) Services and other associated services to citizens, especially living in the rural areas.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Till May, 2018, there were 2,95,486 Common Services Centres (CSCs) functioning across the country; among which, 2,10,314 CSCs are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. The key objective of CSCs is to deliver various citizen centric services, such as Government to Citizen (G2C), Business to Citizen (B2C) services, financial inclusion services, educational services, skill development services etc. The CSCs function on a service delivery/transaction oriented self-sustainable entrepreneurship model, with the objective to enable non-discriminatory access to e-Services to citizens, especially in rural areas.

Biometric authentication failures

394. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Aadhaar-linked ration cards that have failed biometric authentication at Aadhaar-enabled PoS (Point of Sale) terminals since 2017, month-wise;

(b) whether Government is taking any steps to address biometric failures at Aadhaar-enabled PoS terminals in genuine cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) As per information received from Department of Food and Public Distribution, the details of the failed biometric authentication is not available with them. This information will have to be collected from States/UTs.

(b) and (c) Some States have introduced the features of Fusion finger, Iris readers etc. and use of antenna to reduce the instances of biometric/connectivity failures. Department of Food and Public Distribution has issued clear instructions to all States/

UTs that no beneficiary should be denied his/her entitled quota of subsidized food grains for want of Aadhaar or failure of biometric authentication due to network/connectivity/ linking issues/ poor biometric of the beneficiary or other technical reasons.

(d) Does not arise.

Boosting of BHIM App use

395. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of state-run digital transactions BHIM application is falling to negligible 6.3% and the Government is setting targets for Government departments to boost the use of this application; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The volume of digital payment transactions done on the BHIM application has increased from 31.9 Lakhs in April 2017 to 163.4 Lakhs in the month of June 2018. The volume of transactions on BHIM UPI platform has increased from 70.1 Lakhs in the month of April 2017 to 2463.7 Lakhs in the month of June 2018. The number of Banks offering BHIM UPI for the same period has increased from 48 to 110. The percentage share of BHIM application out of BHIM UPI platform works out 6.63% in June 2018. While the volume of transactions on BHIM App has increased over five fold during the same period, its share as a percent of all transactions on BHIM UPI platform has come down due to overall growth in the digital payment transactions, emergence and growth of new platforms.

Month-year	Volume of transactions		Number of Banks offering BHIM UPI	Percentage share of BHIM App out of BHIM-UPI
	BHIM App (In Lakhs)	BHIM UPI (In Lakhs)		
1	2	3	4	5
Apr-17	31.9	70.1	48	45.51%
May-17	39.8	91.7	49	43.40%
Jun-17	46.2	101.6	52	45.47%

1	2	3	4	5
Jul-17	54.3	114.4	53	47.47%
Aug-17	68.1	166.1	55	41.00%
Sep-17	76	307.8	57	24.69%
Oct-17	76.3	767.7	60	9.94%
Nov-17	81.9	1048.4	61	7.81%
Dec-17	90.7	1454.6	67	6.24%
Jan-18	95.7	1518.3	71	6.30%
Feb-18	98.8	1714	86	5.76%
Mar-18	119.5	1780.5	91	6.71%
Apr-18	126	1900.8	97	6.63%
May-18	141.6	1894.8	101	7.47%
Jun-18	163.4	2463.7	110	6.63%

Source: <https://www.ncpi.org.in>.

(b) The Government is encouraging Departments to promote Digital Payments to make it more convenient for the citizens. Departments have been requested to improve payments acceptance infrastructure and to enable the citizens to pay by a variety of modes such as Internet banking, mobile banking, and mobile applications etc. including use of BHIM.

Data sharing by facebook without consent of users

396. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently, there were media reports claiming that Facebook has agreements which are allowing phone and other device manufacturers access to its users personal information, including that of their friends, without taking their explicit consent;

(b) whether Facebook has responded to earlier notices about breaches of personal data relating to the Cambridge Analytica episode and efforts to protect the privacy of users data on the platform; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a); Yes, Sir. There have been media reports including a news item in New York Times, USA on 03.06.2018 to this effect.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government has sent two notices to Facebook on 28.03.2018 and 25.04.2018 about breaches of personal data relating to the Cambridge Analytica episode and Facebook's efforts to protect the privacy of user's data on the platform. Facebook has responded to both the notices providing information in detail on 05.04.2018 and 10.05.2018 stating that it was a violation of their platform policy and breach of Trust not a data breach. Further, they have conveyed that they have initiated a number of measures to prevent recurrence of such violations.

(c) Consequent to media report claiming that Facebook has agreements which are allowing phone and other device manufacturers access to its users personal information, Government has sent a notice to Facebook on 07.06.2018 to which Facebook responded on 20.06.2018. Facebook has clarified that they are not aware of any misuse of information in respect of their earlier agreements with phone and other device manufacturers.

Government is committed to protection of privacy of its citizens. Government had constituted an Expert Committee under Justice B. N. Srikrishna to prepare a data protection framework. The Committee is in the final stages of preparing its report.

GPS like Satellite Navigation System

397. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to have its own GPS-like Satellite Navigation System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a joint working group was formed to identify the funding mechanism and institutions for developing NavIC chips and their use in various devices; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government will promote start-ups and MSMEs to enter this area which will help enhancing competence of the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The NavIC System which is India's own Satellite Navigation System, is already in place and providing GPS-like services. The NavIC services comprises of a total of seven satellite of which three are in Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) while the remaining are in Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO). A ground network for monitoring the satellites and ensuring integrity of navigation messages is also in place. Together, the space and ground segments provide navigation signals to a variety of user receivers/devices.

(c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has not constituted any Joint Working Group on the subject.

(d) Government has worked out an enabling mechanism to support eligible participants including Indian start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to enhance competence in domestic market.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

398. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), including flagship programmes, being implemented by the Ministry at present; and

(b) the details of targets and allocations made, funds allocated, disbursed and utilised in these schemes, scheme-wise, State-wise and UT-wise during the last three years, including the present year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) No Centrally Sponsored Schemes(CSS), including flagship programmes are being implemented by Ministry at present.

(b) Does not arise.

National Cyber Coordination Centre

399. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Phase-I of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) along with the details of funds spent and the work completed;

(b) the time-line for completion of different phases of NCCC and the details of funds allocated for phase-II in the Budget 2018-19; and

(c) in what manner NCCC co-relates with existing bodies like NCIIPC and CERT-In?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The Phase-I of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) has been made operational since July 2017 to collect meta-data level information from various organizations and Internet Service Providers (ISPs). In the last financial year 2017-18, an amount of approx. ₹ 21 crores was spent on NCCC phase-I. A total of ₹ 44 crores have been earmarked in the financial year 2018-19 for NCCC. The next phase to setup a full-fledged Centre is likely to be completed in about one and half years.

(c) NCCC is being setup as a multi stakeholder body under Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In). NCCC will collect meta-data from cyber space and ICT assets in the country to detect cyber incidents and threats, analyse and provide strategic inputs to the stakeholders. Each of the stakeholders such as NCIIPC etc. will position their manpower to provide specialized inputs and triggers, monitor and analyse the information as per their requirement. The stakeholders will analyse the information for their tailored response to the threats falling in their domain.

Failure rate of biometric authentication

400. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of failure rate of biometric authentication since 2013, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether pilot studies were conducted to determine failure rate of biometric authentication before nation-wide launch of Aadhaar;

(c) if so, the details of pilot studies conducted and result of failure rates for biometric authentication during these studies;

(d) if not, the basis on which decision was made to mandate biometric authentication even for the elderly; and

(e) the special measures implemented to ensure that differently-abled people, who may be visually impaired or prevented from registering their biometric, are not being excluded from welfare schemes for want of Aadhaar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) In Aadhaar authentication, resident's identity information *viz.* demographic/biometric/OTP is matched with the information available in Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) database and accordingly Yes/ No or e-KYC response is provided. A "No" response does not amount to failed authentication because it confirms that the identity information submitted by the resident does not match with the information available with UIDAI and this could be *inter alia* due to impersonation, wrong placing of fingerprints, wrong feeding of Aadhaar number, wrong entry of OTP etc. The year-wise authentication transactions in which the biometric got matched are as follows:

Year	Biometric Matched %
2013	93.8%
2014	95.0%
2015	90.9%
2016	91.1%
2017	94.5%
2018 (till 31.03.2018)	93.5%

The State-wise details are not maintained by UIDAI.

Biometric authentication accuracy Proof of Concept (PoC) was conducted during 2012 and as per the PoC report accuracy was 98% and 99% for fingerprint authentication and iris authentication respectively.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Regulation 14(1)(i) of Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulation 2016, a requesting entity has to implement exception-handling mechanisms and back-up identity authentication mechanisms to ensure seamless provision of authentication services to Aadhaar number holders.

Various Government Departments like DBT Mission (Cabinet Secretariat), Department of Revenue, etc. have issued notifications/guidelines on exception handling for use of Aadhaar in various schemes.

Direct connect between farmers and FPIs

401. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a direct connect between farmers and Food Processing Industries (FPIs) proposed to be set up as a result of several initiatives taken by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far the farmers would be benefited from the FPIs and whether the industries would come up close to the farm gates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme - PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA - (PMKSY) is being implemented for promotion and development of Food Processing Industries in the Country. The various schemes implemented under PMKSY are (i) Mega Food Parks; (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure; (iii) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities; (iv) Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters; (v) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages; (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure and (vii) Human Resources and Institutions.

The Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Individuals can also avail benefit under the schemes like (i) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure; (ii) Creation / Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities; (iii) Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters; (iv) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages; subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions of scheme guidelines.

(c) and (d) 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 PMKSY is expected to leverage investment of ₹ 31400 crores, handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing ₹ 1,04,125 crores, benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate 5,30,500 direct/indirect employments in the country by the year 2019-20.

Capital infusion to exploit favourable scenario in food processing sector

402. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the world's second largest producer of rice, wheat, fish, fruits and vegetables and the largest producer of milk;

(b) if so, how Government has taken advantage of this favourable scenario in the Food Processing sector; and

(c) whether Government has been infusing the necessary capital to exploit the favourable situation or depending on private partnerships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is seized of the agricultural production level in the country and taking all out measures to promote food processing and value addition activities with the major objectives to increase processing level of agricultural produces, reduce harvest and post-harvest losses, increase employment opportunities and raise income level of farmers. For overall growth and development of food processing sector, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been providing capital subsidy under its central sector scheme, "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)" to create robust modern infrastructure and logistic network along the entire value/supply chain of food processing. Besides, capital subsidy is also provided for setting up of food processing units and/or expansion thereof. Under the scheme components of PMKSY viz. (i) Mega Food Park; (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure; (iii) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters; (iv) Creation of Forward and Backward Linkages; (v) Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation

Capacities; (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure; and (vii) Human Resources and institutions, capital subsidy ranging from 35% to 75% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum subsidy ranging from ₹5 crore to ₹50 crore (under most of the schemes) in the form of grants-in-aid are provided. Farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs), Entrepreneurs, Co-operatives Societies, Self Help Groups, Private Companies and State PSUs are eligible to avail grant to set up food processing projects.

To attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the food processing sector, Government has permitted 100% FDI through automatic route in manufacturing of food products. Also, 100% FDI in food retail, including through e-commerce, under Government approval route has been permitted for retail trading of food products produced and/or manufactured in India.

Besides, to further give leverage to investment in the sector, a special food processing fund of ₹ 2,000/- crore has been created with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for availability of hassle-free and affordable bank credit to set up different food processing projects. Also, Loans to food and agro-based processing units and Cold Chain have been classified under agriculture activities for Priority Sector Lending as per the revised RBI Guidelines issued on 23/04/2015 which facilitates availing of affordable credit under these activities.

Contribution of PMKSY in doubling of farmers' income

403. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) has helped in providing better prices to farmers and contributed to doubling of their income and if so, to what extent;

(b) whether it has led to generation of employment opportunities, especially in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it has led to reduction in wastage of agricultural produces and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) to (c) A Central Sector Scheme -

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana - (PMKSY) is being implemented for promotion and development of Food Processing Industries in the country including rural areas.

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 PMKSY is expected to leverage investment of ₹ 31400 crores, handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing ₹ 1,04,125 crores, benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate 5,30,500 direct/indirect employments in the country by the year 2019-20.

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.

Measures to promote investment in FPIs

404. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures undertaken by Government to promote investment in Food Processing Industry (FPI) since 2014, year-wise;

(b) the details of the steps undertaken by Government to improve and augment the cold storage facilities in the country since 2014, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of additions to the capacity of cold storage between 2014 and 2018, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the major challenges faced by the FPI and steps taken to ease these constraints since 2014, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Year-wise details of measures/initiatives undertaken are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure as one of the components of umbrella scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' with the objective of arresting post-harvest losses of horticulture and non-horticulture produce and providing remunerative price to farmers for their produce. Under the scheme, Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 35% for general areas and @ 50% for North East States, Himalayan States, ITDP areas and Islands for storage and transport infrastructure and @ 50% and 75% respectively for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of ₹ 10 crore for setting up integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facility without any break from the farm gate to the consumer. The integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc. The scheme is primarily private sector driven and proposals under this scheme are invited through Expression of Interest (EOI). The scheme is available in rural and urban areas in all States/UTs. State-wise funds are not allotted under the scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure.

Further, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), since 2014, for holistic development of Horticulture in the country which includes assistance for development of Post harvest Management (PHM). Post-harvest management component includes establishment of pack house, Integrated pack house, pre-cooling, staging cold room, cold storages, controlled atmosphere (CA) storage, reefer transport, primary/mobile processing units and setting up of ripening chambers etc. These components are entrepreneur driven for which Government assistance is credit linked and back ended and can be available through respective State Horticulture Missions/National Horticulture Board. Assistance is available to individuals, group of farmers/growers/consumers, partnership/proprietary firms, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmers Producers Organization (FPOs), companies, corporations, cooperatives, cooperative marketing federation, local bodies, Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) and marketing boards and State Governments. Assistance can be availed for a combination of PHM infrastructure components by a beneficiary, within the prescribed norms of individual items. An entrepreneur can avail assistance for individual component or combination of different components for which assistance @ 35% of admissible project cost in

general areas and @ 50% in hilly and schedule area is available as credit linked back ended subsidy.

The State-wise details of addition to the capacity of cold storage between 2014 and 2018 are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) The major challenges, identified in the food processing sector are inadequate link between production and processing (lack of processable varieties), lack of product development and innovation, seasonality of operations and low capacity utilization, supply chain institutional gaps, gaps in infrastructure of supply chain etc. These challenges are endemic to most of the regions and States of India.

To ease the above challenges and with a view to promote holistic growth and development of food processing sector all across the country Government has been taking all out measures. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been providing capital subsidy under its central sector scheme, "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)" to create robust modern infrastructure and logistic network along the entire value/supply chain of food processing. Besides, capital subsidy is also provided for setting up of food processing units and/or expansion thereof. Under the scheme components of PMKSY *viz.* (i) Mega Food Park; (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure; (iii) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters; (iv) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages; (v) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities; (vi) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure; and (vii) Human Resources and Institutions, capital subsidy ranging from 35% to 75% of the eligible project cost subject to maximum subsidy ranging from ₹5crore to ₹50 crore (under most of the schemes) in the form of grants-in-aid are provided to like individual farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs), Entrepreneurs, Co-operatives Societies, Self Help Groups, Private Companies and State PSUs etc. to set up food processing industries/projects. A special food processing fund of ₹ 2,000/- crore has been created with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for availability of hassle-free and affordable bank credit to set up different food processing projects. Also, Loans to food and agro-based processing units and Cold Chain have been classified under agriculture activities for Priority Sector Lending as per the revised RBI Guidelines issued on 23/04/2015 which facilitates availing of affordable credit under these activities.

Statement-I*Year-wise details of Major Measures Undertaken to Promote Investment in Food Processing Industries in India*

Year	Measures/Initiatives Undertaken
2014-15	Setting up of special food processing fund of ₹2000 crore with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for availability of hassle-free and affordable bank credit for the food processing industries/projects.
2015-16	Agro processing included in the Priority Sector Lending paving the way for availability of hassle-free affordable bank credit for the food processing industries/projects.
2016-17	Permission for 100% FDI in food retail including e-commerce under Government approval route for retail trading of food products produced and/or manufactured in India.
2017-18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organisation of first ever global investment summit in food processing sector <i>i.e</i> "World Food India 2017" with a view to showcase the vast potential of India in food processing and create Brand India in global food map and thereby attract FDI into the sector. 2. Restructuring the Central Sector Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries under Pradhan Mantri Kishan Sampda Yojana (PMKSY) for holistic growth and development of food processing sector by introducing new schemes like Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Agro-processing Clusters, Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities and Skill Development Infrastructure.
2018-19	<p>Budget Announcements of 2018-19 on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion of Specialized Agro Processing Financial Institutions to finance/ refinance to the food processing sector. 2. Setting up of state of the art testing facility at 42 Mega Food Park to promote Agri export. 3. Special scheme for processing and preservation of targeted crops <i>viz</i>; Tomato, Onion and Potato under operation green. 4. 100 per cent income tax exemption from profit derived from activities such as post-harvest value addition to agriculture by Farmer Producers' Organisation (FPOs) having annual turnover up to ₹100 crores.

Statement-II*Details of State-wise Cold Storages and Capacity Created as on 31.03.2018*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2014-15 to 2017-18					
		NHB, NHM		MoFPI		Total	
		No	Capacity (MT)	No	Capacity (MT)	No	Capacity (MT)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	42	212338	3	10700	45	223038
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	5	36756	2	8100	7	44856
5.	Bihar	1	5000	0	0	1	5000
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	246	0	0	1	246
7.	Chhattisgarh	9	48254	2	9000	11	57254
8.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Gujarat	313	1432163	5	8300	318	1440463
11.	Haryana	53	168031	5	28600	58	196631
12.	Himachal Pradesh	33	66985	5	9000	38	75985
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	25	110458	3	5200	28	115658
14.	Jharkhand	3	19400	0	0	3	19400
15.	Karnataka	15	60937	3	4500	18	65437
16.	Kerala	1	1300	1	1500	2	2800
17.	Lakshadweep (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	36	175978	3	11000	39	186978
19.	Maharashtra	29	99399	22	78500	51	177899

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Manipur	1	1600	1	3000	2	4600
21.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Odisha	65	237682	2	2000	67	239682
25.	Puducherry (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Punjab	57	194558	8	23500	65	218058
27.	Rajasthan	8	34341	3	16300	11	50641
28.	Sikkim	1	100	0	0	1	100
29.	Tamil Nadu	3	24212	1	2800	4	27012
30.	Tripura	1	6296	0	0	1	6296
31.	Uttar Pradesh	175	822127	6	11500	181	833627
32.	Uttarakhand	14	29794	12	41400	26	71194
33.	West Bengal	6	16389	3	13000	9	29389
34.	NHB/States	3	20195	0	0	3	20195
		900	3824539	90	287900	990	4112439

Agro processing clusters in Tamil Nadu under PMKSY

405. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities that are being provided/proposed to be provided under infrastructure for agro processing clusters under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY); and

(b) the details of such clusters that have been established/proposed to be established across the country, including in Tuticorin district in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) The following facilities are provided under the Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY):

- (i) **Basic enabling infrastructure:** Site development including development of industrial plots, boundary wall, roads, drainage, water supply, electricity

supply including power backup, effluent treatment plant, parking bay, weigh bridges, common office space etc. However, the cost of basic enabling infrastructure not exceeding 40 percent of the eligible project cost is eligible for grant purpose. The cost of any basic enabling infrastructure outside the boundary wall of the agro cluster is not eligible for grants-in-aid / financial assistance.

- (ii) **Core infrastructure:** Food testing laboratory, cleaning, grading, sorting and packing facilities, steam generation boilers, dry warehouse, cold storage, pre-cooling chambers, ripening chambers, IQF, specialized packaging, other common processing facilities, etc.

The above mentioned facilities are only illustrative and the exact nature of facilities may vary from project to project based on requirements of the units in the cluster and availability of agriculture / horticulture produce in the catchment area of the project.

(b) State-wise allocation of 100 agro processing clusters has been made based on the agri production of States / UTs. The details of State-wise allocation of the agro processing clusters and sanctioned by the MoFPI in the country including Tamil Nadu is given in Statement (*See below*). MoFPI had issued Expression of Interest (EOI) for inviting online proposals from potential investors / entrepreneurs willing to setup agro processing clusters in the country including Tamil / Nadu. However, no proposal has been received from Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu for setting up of agro processing cluster.

Statement

State-wise number of proposals allocated and sanctioned under the Scheme of Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

Sl. No.	State	No. slots allotted	No. of proposals sanctioned	No. of slots/ vacancies available as on 17.07.2018
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	0	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	1
3.	Assam	2	1	1

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	5	0	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	0	2
6.	Goa	1	0	1
7.	Gujarat	5	1	4
8.	Haryana	4	2	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	1
11.	Jharkhand	2	0	2
12.	Karnataka	5	0	5
13.	Kerala	2	0	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6	1	5
15.	Maharashtra	6	6	0
16.	Manipur	1	1	0
17.	Meghalaya	1	0	1
18.	Mizoram	1	0	1
19.	Nagaland	1	0	1
20.	Odisha	3	0	3
21.	Punjab	5	1	4
22.	Rajasthan	5	1	4
23.	Sikkim	1	0	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	0	5
25.	Telangana	2	0	2
26.	Tripura	1	0	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	12	2	10
28.	Uttarakhand	1	1	0
29.	West Bengal	6	0	6
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	1
31.	Chandigarh	1	0	1

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	1
33.	Delhi	1	0	1
34.	Daman and Diu	1	0	1
35.	Lakshadweep	1	0	1
36.	Puducherry	1	0	1
TOTAL		100	17	83

Mega Food Parks in Punjab

406. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure and food testing laboratories sanctioned and established for food processing in the country, particularly Punjab, in the last three years; and

(b) how far allowing 100 per cent FDI in trading, including e-commerce in respect of food products manufactured in India, gave impetus to increase farmers' income and also to generate more employment, along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Details of Mega Food Parks approved by Ministry of Food Processing Industries during last three years in the country including Punjab are given in Statement-I (*See below*). Details of Mega Food Parks which became functional during last three years in the country are given in Statement-II (*See below*). Details of Cold Chain Infrastructure Projects approved by Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the country during last three years in country including Punjab are given in Statement-III (*See below*). Details of Cold Chain Infrastructure Projects completed during last three years in the country including Punjab are given in Statement-IV (*See below*). Details of projects of food testing laboratories by Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the country, including Punjab in the last three years are given in Statement-V (*See below*). Details of completed projects of food testing laboratories in the country, including Punjab in the last three years are given in Statement-VI (*See below*).

(b) No such assessment has been made by Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Statement-I

Details of Mega Food Parks approved by Ministry of Food Processing Industries during last three years in the country including Punjab

Sl. No.	Project Name	Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC), Krishna, Andhra Pradesh	Under implementation
2.	Rongoge Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd, Papum Pare, Arunachal Pradesh	SPV is in the process of meeting the conditions for "Final Approval".
3.	Fanidhar Mega Food Park Pvt. Limited, Mehsana, Gujarat	Under implementation
4.	Haryana State Industrial & Infra Dev. Corp Limited (HSIIDC), Sonipat, Haryana	Under implementation
5.	Haryana State Coop. Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd (HAFED), Rohtak	Under implementation
6.	Favorich Infra Pvt Ltd., Mandya, Karnataka	Under implementation
7.	Kerala State Industrial Dev Corpt Ltd (KSEDC), Alappuzha, Kerala	Under implementation
8.	Kerala Industrial Infra. Development Corpt. (KINFRA), Palakkad, Kerala	Under implementation
9.	Avantee Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Dewas, Madhya Pradesh	Under implementation
10.	Wardha Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd, Wardha, Maharashtra	Under implementation
11.	DoysAgri Resources Pvt. Ltd, Dimapur, Nagaland	Under implementation
12.	Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), Khurda, Odisha	Under implementation
13.	Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., (PAIC) Ludhiana, Punjab	Under implementation

Sl. No.	Project Name	Status
14.	The Sukjhit Starch & Chemical Limited, Kapurthala	Under implementation
15.	Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd., Khammam, Telangana	Under implementation
16.	Raaga Mayuri Agrovet Pvt. Ltd., Gadwal Jogulamba, Telangana	Under implementation
17.	Basavashakti Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd, Sangareddy, Telangana	Under implementation
18.	Vindhyachal Attivo Food Park Pvt. Ltd, Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh	SPV is in the process of meeting the conditions for "Final Approval".
19.	Overseas Infrast Alliance (India) Pvt. Ltd, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	SPV is in the process of meeting the conditions for "Final Approval".
20.	Patanjali Food & Herbal Park Noida Pvt. Ltd Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh	SPV is in the process of meeting the conditions for "Final Approval".

Statement-II

Details of Mega Food Parks became functional during last three years in the country

Sl. No.	Name of the projects	State	Status
1.	M/s North East Mega Food Park Ltd., Nalbari	Assam	Functional
2.	M/s Indus Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Khargone	Madhya Pradesh	Functional
3.	M/s Jharkhand Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Ranchi	Jharkhand	Functional
4.	M/s Jangipur Bengal Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd, Murshidabad	West Bengal	Functional
5.	M/s MITS Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd, Rayagada	Odisha	Functional
6.	M/s Satara Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd, Satara	Maharashtra	Functional
7.	M/s Greentech Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd, Ajmer	Rajasthan	Functional
8.	M/s Himalayan Food Park Pvt Ltd, Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Functional

Statement-III*Details of Cold Chain Infrastructure Projects approved in the country during last three years including Punjab*

Sl. No.	Project	District	State	Status
1.	Nekkanti Sea Foods Ltd.	East Godavari	Andhra Pradesh	Commercial production started
2.	Farm Gate Agro Milch Pvt. Ltd.	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Reported 65% progress
3.	Devi Sea Foods Ltd.	Prakasham	Andhra Pradesh	Under implementation
4.	Devi Aqua Tech Private Limited	East Godavari	Andhra Pradesh	Reported completion of project
5.	Sandhya Marines Ltd.	West Godavari	Andhra Pradesh	Reported 65% progress
6.	Tirumala Milk Products Pvt. Ltd.	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Reported 25% progress
7.	Andman Cold Chain	Port Blair	Andman & Nicobar	Under implementation
8.	Gangri Food Products	Tawang	Arunachal Pradesh	Reported 25% progress
9.	Mahua Cooperative Cold Storage Limited	Vaishali	Bihar	75% progress
10.	RK Agri Biz LLP	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Reported 25% progress
11.	Vimal Dairy Pvt. Ltd.	Surat	Gujarat	75% progress
12.	Banaskantha Dist. Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd.	Banaskantha	Gujarat	Under implementation
13.	Mehsana Dairy & Food Products Ltd.	Mehsana	Gujarat	65% progress

Sl. No.	Project	District	State	Status
14.	Kitchen Xpress Overseas Ltd.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Reported 65% progress
15.	Sabarkantha District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited	Sabarkantha	Gujarat	25% progress
16.	Ahmedabad District Co - operative Milk Producer's Union Limited	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Reported 65% progress
17.	Saraf Foods Ltd.	Vadodara	Gujarat	25% progress
18.	Teknofine Foods Pvt Ltd	Banaskantha	Gujarat	Reported 25% progress
19.	Wholesome Foods	Kheda	Gujarat	Reported 65% progress
20.	Instafarm Products Pvt. Ltd.	Mehsana	Gujarat	Under implementation
21.	Hind Terminals Pvt. Ltd.	Palwal	Haryana	Commercial production started
22.	Transport Corporation of India Ltd	Gurgaon	Haryana	Commercial production started
23.	Skylark Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Sonepat	Haryana	25% progress
24.	VSM Food Cold Chain & Processors LLP	Mewat	Haryana	25% progress
25.	Shell Mount Fresh	Sonepat	Haryana	Reported 25% progress
26.	Pulkit Fresh & Healthy	Solan	Himachal Pradesh	Commercial production started
27.	Deluxe Integrated Cold Chain Pvt. Ltd.	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Under implementation

28.	Aabhaya Agro Processors and Logistics	Solan	Himachal Pradesh	Under implementation
29.	Safe & Fresh	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	75% progress
30.	Khyber Agro Farms Pvt. Ltd.	Pulwama	Jammu and Kashmir	25% progress
31.	Hyacinth Product	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	Under implementation
32.	My Roots Milk Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Samba	Jammu and Kashmir	Under implementation
33.	Namdhari Animal Genetics Private Limited	Bangalore	Karnataka	Reported 65% progress
34.	Dairy Classic Ice Creams Pvt. Ltd.	Ramnagara	Karnataka	25% progress
35.	Srikrishna Milks Private Limited	Uttar Kannada	Karnataka	25% progress
36.	Malpefresh Marine Exports Private Limited	Udipi	Karnataka	Reported completion of project
37.	Abad Fisheries Pvt. Ltd.	Kochi	Kerala	Reported 25% progress
38.	Sun Aquatic Products Pvt. Ltd	Alappuzha	Kerala	Reported 25% progress
39.	Shree Uttam Food Products (India) Pvt. Ltd.,	Jhabua	Madhya Pradesh	Reported completion of project
40.	Sterling Agro Industries Limited	Malanpur	Madhya Pradesh	Reported 25% progress
41.	Paras Milk & Food Corporation	Seoni	Madhya Pradesh	Under implementation
42.	Gonglu Agro Pvt. Ltd.	Nashik	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
43.	Western Superfresh Corporation	Raigad	Maharashtra	Commercial production started

Sl. No.	Project	District	State	Status
44.	Rishi Ice and Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd.	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
45.	Farmico Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Reported 25% progress
46.	Ananth Dudh Pvt. Ltd.	Pune	Maharashtra	Reported 25% progress
47.	Prabhat Dairy Ltd.	Srirampur	Maharashtra	65% progress
48.	P.D. Shah and Sons Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd.	Satara	Maharashtra	Reported 65% progress
49.	Manganga Dairy Industries	Solapur	Maharashtra	Reported 25% progress
50.	Kisan Mitra Cold Storage Private Limited	Latur	Maharashtra	25% progress
51.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	Raigad	Maharashtra	25% progress
52.	Vaishno Devi Food Products Pvt. Ltd.	Osmanabad	Maharashtra	25% progress
53.	Seasaga Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	Raigad	Maharashtra	65% progress
54.	Swapnapurti Food Products Pvt. Ltd.	Chandrapur	Maharashtra	Reported 65% progress
55.	Sri Sri Milk and Food Product	Pune	Maharashtra	Reported 25% progress
56.	Nature Delight Dairy & Dairy Products Private Limited	Pune	Maharashtra	Reported 65% progress
57.	Kool Solutions India Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	Maharashtra	Reported 65% progress
58.	RGA Fresh Fruits Pvt. Ltd.	Thane	Maharashtra	25% progress

59.	Siva Sai Exports	Nashik	Maharashtra	25% progress
60.	Royal Cold Chain	Solapur	Maharashtra	Reported 25% progress
61.	Varun Agro Processing Foods Private Limited	Nashik	Maharashtra	Reported 25% progress
62.	Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.	Pune	Maharashtra	Under implementation
63.	Vaishnavi Grape & Pomegranate Processing Pvt. Ltd.	Solapur	Maharashtra	Reported 25% progress
64.	Bharti Global Food Products Pvt. Ltd.	Beed	Maharashtra	Under implementation
65.	SVI & SSK Cold Chain	Raigad	Maharashtra	Under implementation
66.	Icee Box Integrated Cold Chain	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Under implementation
67.	Fortune Dairy Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Pune	Maharashtra	Under implementation
68.	Taksh Cold Chain	Amravati	Maharashtra	Under implementation
69.	VKM Foods Private Limited	Thane	Maharashtra	Under implementation
70.	North East Integrated Cold Chain Project (promoted by AWARD)	Senapati	Manipur	Reported 25% progress
71.	ASKI Foods	Dimapur	Nagaland	Under implementation
72.	Nagaland Integrated Cold Chain	Dimapur	Nagaland	25% progress

Sl. No.	Project	District	State	Status
73.	Falcon Marine Exports Limited	Balasore	Odisha	Commercial production started
74.	Chanakya Dairy Products Limited	Fatehgarh Sahib	Punjab	Commercial production started
75.	K.F. Milk Foods	Jalandhar	Punjab	Reported completion of project
76.	Sangha Refrigeration	Jalandhar	Punjab	75% progress
77.	EBI Cremica Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Jalandhar	Punjab	Under implementation
78.	Goyal Farm Fresh	Mohali/Shimla	Punjab	65% progress
79.	Asian Iak Health Foods Ltd.	Ludhiana	Punjab	Under implementation
80.	Kathpal Dairies Unit-II	Jalandhar	Punjab	65% progress
81.	Siberian Tiger Foods	Amritsar	Punjab	25% progress
82.	Pagro Frozen Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Fatehgarh Sahib	Punjab	25% progress
83.	Hargur Milk Products Private Limited	Patiala	Punjab	25% progress
84.	Fidelo Farms Private Limited	Jaipur	Rajasthan	Commercial production started
85.	B.L. Agro Industries	Bikaner	Rajasthan	25% progress
86.	Dev Milk Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	Reported 65% progress
87.	Friends Agro Industries	Bundi	Rajasthan	25% progress

88.	Nokha Agrotech Pvt. Ltd.	Bikaner	Rajasthan	25% progress
89.	Raghumandan Cold Chamber LLP	Dholpur	Rajasthan	25% progress
90.	Rajendra & Ursula Joshi Food Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	Reported 25% progress
91.	SKM Animal Feeds and Foods (India) Limited,	Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Hosur, Trichy, Tuticorin, Salem	Tamil Nadu	Reported completion of project
92.	Marble Valley Foods and Beverages Private Limited	Tirunilveli	Tamil Nadu	Reported 25% progress
93.	ABT Industries Limited	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	25% progress
94.	Hatsun Agro Product Ltd.	Kanchipuram & Palacode	Tamil Nadu	Under implementation
95.	Aachi Masala Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Thiruvallur	Tamil Nadu	25% progress
96.	Monsoon Bounty Foods Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd.	Thiruvallur	Tamil Nadu	Under implementation
97.	Cocoland Agro Pvt. Ltd.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	Under implementation
98.	Gubba Cold Private Limited	Rangareddy	Telangana	Reported 25% progress
99.	Prima Foodtech Private Limited	Medak	Telangana	65% progress

Sl. No.	Project	District	State	Status
100.	SH Protein Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Medak	Telangana	Under implementation
101.	S.R. Food Chain	Shahjahanpur	Uttar Pradesh	75% progress
102.	Shri Balaji Foods	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Reported completion of project
103.	Vedant Edible Products (P) Ltd.,	Auraiya	Uttar Pradesh	Commercial production started
104.	AOV Exports Pvt. Ltd.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Reported 25% progress
105.	Cremica Food Industries Limited	Gautam Buddh Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	25% progress
106.	R.C Foods	Badaun	Uttar Pradesh	65% progress
107.	Manglam Milk India Pvt. Ltd.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	25% progress
108.	Basera Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	Under implementation
109.	VRS Foods Ltd.	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	Reported 25% progress
110.	Shiva and Sons Agro Products	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	25% progress
111.	Mrs Bectors Food Speciality Ltd.	Gautam Buddh Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	25% progress
112.	NUFARM Foods	Amroha	Uttar Pradesh	65% progress
113.	Sheetal Agro Food Park Private Limited	Rai Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	Reported 65% progress
114.	SPY Frozen Foods Private Limited	Etawah	Uttar Pradesh	25% progress

115.	Shanti Sheet Grah Private Limited	Jalaun	Uttar Pradesh	65% progress
116.	Gupta Agro Products	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	Reported completion of project
117.	Aveena Milk Products	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	Reported completion of project
118.	B.P. Frozen Foods	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Reported completion of project
119.	Neutrons Agri Produce	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Commercial production started
120.	Powercon Industries Limited	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Reported 75% progress
121.	Pal Frozen Foods	Nainital	Uttarakhand	75% progress
122.	Mohyal Foods Private Limited	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	Under implementation
123.	S. K. Frozen Foods	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Under implementation
124.	Shanti Frozen Foods	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Under implementation
125.	Stellar Cold Chain Inc.	Kashipur	Uttarakhand	Under implementation
126.	Shivanya Frozen Food Products	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Under implementation
127.	Agarwal Frozen Foods	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Reported 25% progress
128.	Revati Commercial Pvt. Ltd	Hooghly	West Bengal	Commercial production started
129.	Megaa Moda Pvt. Ltd.	Howrah	West Bengal	Reported completion of project

Statement-IV
Details of Cold Chain Infrastructure Projects completed during last three years in the country including Punjab

Sl. No.	Project Name	District	State	Status
1.	Nekkanti Sea Foods Ltd.	East Godavari	Andhra Pradesh	Commercial production started
2.	Devi Aqua Tech Private Limited	East Godavari	Andhra Pradesh	Reported completion of project
3.	Global Entrade	Guwahati	Assam	Commercial production started
4.	E-appliances	Guwahati	Assam	Reported completion of project
5.	Utsav Organic and Cold Chain	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	Commercial production started
6.	L.L. Logistics Pvt. Ltd.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	Reported completion of project
7.	Asandas and Sons	Mehsana	Gujarat	Commercial production started
8.	Panchmahal Distt. Co-Operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.	Panchmahal	Gujarat	Commercial production started
9.	M J Logistic Services Ltd.	Palwal	Haryana	Commercial production started
10.	Fresh Food Processing	Hissar	Haryana	Commercial production started
11.	Aligned Industries Ltd.	Rewari	Haryana	Commercial production started
12.	Transport Corporation of India Ltd.	Gurgaon	Haryana	Commercial production started
13.	Hind Terminals Pvt. Ltd.	Palwal	Haryana	Commercial production started

14.	Him Fresh Produce Co.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	Commercial production started
15.	Adani Agri Fresh Ltd.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	Commercial production started
16.	Fresh Produce Impex	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	Commercial production started
17.	Himalaya Cotton Yarn Ltd.	Solan	Himachal Pradesh	Commercial production started
18.	Pulkit Fresh and Healthy	Solan	Himachal Pradesh	Commercial production started
19.	FIL Industries Ltd.	Sopore and Rangreth	Jammu and Kashmir	Commercial production started
20.	Mir Agro Industries	Pulwama	Jammu and Kashmir	Commercial production started
21.	Kachroo Integrated Cold Chain	Baramula	Jammu and Kashmir	Commercial production started
22.	Vijaykant Dairy and Food Products Ltd.	Belgaum	Karnataka	Commercial production started
23.	Basweshwar Industry	Belgaum, Bijapur	Karnataka	Commercial production started
24.	Malpefresh Marine Exports Private Limited	Udipi	Karnataka	Reported completion of project
25.	Brij Dairy	Betul	Madhya Pradesh	Commercial production started
26.	Shree Uttam Food Products (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Jhabua	Madhya Pradesh	Reported completion of project
27.	Haldiram Foods Intl. Limited	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
28.	Cold Star Logistics Pvt. Ltd.	Raigad	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
29.	Saikrupa Industries	Nashik	Maharashtra	Commercial production started

Sl. No.	Project	District	State	Status
30.	D.J. Exports Pvt. Ltd.	Thane, Pune	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
31.	Indapur Dairy and Milk Products Ltd.	Pune	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
32.	Mhetre Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Pune	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
33.	Elaf Cold Storage	Raigad	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
34.	Omni Fresh Agro	Nashik	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
35.	Shivirth Dairy and Agro Producers Company Ltd.	Sangli	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
36.	Western Superfresh Corporation	Raigad	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
37.	Vaishvik Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Satara	Maharashtra	Reported completion of project
38.	Western Hill Foods Ltd.	Pune	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
39.	Swaraj India Industries Ltd.	Satara	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
40.	Tirupati Balaji Agro Products Pvt. Ltd.	Pune	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
41.	Global Foods	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
42.	Satec Envir Engineering (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Nashik	Maharashtra	Reported completion of project
43.	Rishi Ice and Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd.	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra	Commercial production started
44.	Gonglu Agro Pvt. Ltd.	Nashik	Maharashtra	Commercial production started

45.	Om Oil and Flour Mills Ltd.	Cuttak	Odisha	Commercial production started
46.	Falcon Marine Exports Limited	Balasure	Odisha	Commercial production started
47.	Resource Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Patiala	Punjab	Reported completion of project
48.	Supreme Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Ludhiana	Punjab	Commercial production started
49.	Kool Tech Infra and Logistics	Kapurthala	Punjab	Commercial production started
50.	Chanakya Dairy Products Limited	Fatehgarh Sahib	Punjab	Commercial production started
51.	K.F. Milk Foods	Jalandhar	Punjab	Reported completion of project
52.	Shiv Health Foods LLP	Kota	Rajasthan	Commercial production started
53.	Fidelo Farms Private Limited	Jaipur	Rajasthan	Commercial production started
54.	Shree Shubham Logistics Ltd.	Kota	Rajasthan	Commercial production started
55.	SKM Animal Feeds and Foods (India) Limited,	Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Hosur, Trichy, Tuticorin, Salem	Tamil Nadu	Reported completion of project
56.	Prasad Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	Medak	Telangana	Commercial production started
57.	MKC Agro Fresh Ltd.	Gautam Buddh Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Commercial production started
58.	Akashdeep Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Commercial production started
59.	Gopaljee Dairy Products Pvt. Ltd.	Panchsheel Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Commercial production started

Sl. No.	Project	District	State	Status
60.	Vedant Edible Products (P) Ltd.	Auraiya	Uttar Pradesh	Commercial production started
61.	Shri Balaji Foods	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Reported completion of project
62.	Bajpai Refrigerating and Bakers Co	Kashipur	Uttarakhand	Commercial production started
63.	Shri Ram Solvent Extraction Pvt. Ltd.	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Commercial production started
64.	Cheema Frozen Foods	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Commercial production started
65.	Rana Frozen Foods	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	Commercial production started
66.	Aalishan International Pvt. Ltd.	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Commercial production started
67.	Rajshree Milk Products	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Commercial production started
68.	Avena Milk Products	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	Reported completion of project
69.	Konark Industries	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Reported completion of project
70.	B.P. Frozen Foods	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Reported completion of project
71.	Neutrons Agri Produce	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Commercial production started
72.	Gupta Agro Products	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	Reported completion of project
73.	Revati Commercial Pvt. Ltd	Hooghly	West Bengal	Commercial production started
74.	Megaa Moda Pvt. Ltd.	Howrah	West Bengal	Reported completion of project

Statement-V

Details of projects of food testing laboratories approved by Ministry of Food Processing Industries in the country including Punjab in the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Laboratory
1.	ICAR-National Research Centre on Pig, Guwahati-781131, Assam
2.	State Public Health Laboratory, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati-781021
3.	Envitro Laboratories Pvt Ltd., Krushna Niwas, 6 Naval Nagar, Mavdi, Main Road, Opp Fulia Harvuman Temple, Near Shivshakti Dairy Rajkot- 360004, Gujarat
4.	M/s. Daffocare Research Laboratory LLP, 401,402,502 Indraprasth Corporate, Opp Shell Petrol Pump, Anand Nagar Road, Prahladnagar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat - 380015.
5.	Pharmafiliates Analytics & Synthetics (P) Ltd. Plot No.225, Industrial Area, Phase-II, Panchkula, Haryana-134109.
6.	Intertek India (Pvt.) Ltd., Gurgaon-122016, Haryana, H.Q: E-20, block BI, Mohan Co-operative Industrialestate, Mathura road, New Delhi-110044
7.	NIFTEM, Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana
8.	M/s. Idma Laboratories Limited., PlotNo.391, Industrial Area, Phase -I, Panchkula - 134 113 Haryana
9.	M/s. Shoolini Lifesciences Pvt. Ltd., Anand Campus, Near Post Office, Solan - 173 212 Himachal Pradesh
10.	Shiva Analytical Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 24D (p) & 34 D, KIADB Industrial Area, Haskote, Bangalore-562114.
11.	M/s. Pious Labs Pvt Limited, # 132, Trade Centre, 18, South Tokoganj, Indore -452 012 Madhya Pradesh
12.	Jubilant Pharma & Chemical Lab, Navi Mumbai- 410206. (Jubilant Pharma & Chemical Lab,, Surya Gayatri CHS.Ltd., Shop no. 11 to 15 Plot no. D-14/15, Sector- 6, New Panvel (E), Navi Mumbai-410206.
13.	Mokashi Krishi Vikas Pratishthan,Karad, Distt- Satara- 415105, MS. Correspondence Add: 145-101, Abhijeet Bldg, Shere Punjab Hsg. Society, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri 6, Mumbai- 400093.

Sl. No.	Name of the Laboratory
14.	M/s. Adarsh Scientific Research Center & Testing Lab Pvt. Ltd, Gut No. 104, Devad - Vichumbe, Adj. to Mumbai-Pune Express Highway, Panvel, Raigad - 410 206
15.	Directorate of Research, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141004 (Regional Research Station, Bhatinda), Punjab
16.	Central University of Punjab, City Campus, Mansa Road, Bathinda, Punjab - 151 001.
17.	ABC Techno Labs India Pvt. Ltd., No. 95 D/3, Industrial Estate, Ambattur, Chennai- 600058.
18.	Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur- 613005 Tamil Nadu
19.	Omegaa Laboratories, Plot No.10, S.F.No. 55/6B, Near Collector Office Thiruchengodu Main Road, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu 637003
20.	ICAR-National Research Centre on Meat, Hyderabad- 500092
21.	M/s. Devansh Testing & Research Laboratory Pvt Ltd., 94, Shiv Ganga Industrial Estate, Lakeshari, Bhagwanpur - 247661, Uttarkhand
22.	ICAR N. D. International, 107 B, Block-F New Alipore, Kolkata-700053, West Bengal
23.	Department of Chemical Technology, University College of Science & Technology, University of Calcutta, 92, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road., Kolkata-700009
24.	Mitra. S.K. Private Limited, Udayan Industrial Estate, Building No.P-48, 3, Pagladanga Road, Kolkatta-700 019

Statement-VI

Details of completed projects of food testing laboratories in the country in the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Laboratory
1.	D/o Food Processing Technology, Tezpur University, Nappam - 784028
2.	Lilaba Analytical Laboratories,, 2nd floor, Galaxy Point, Above Hotel Amiras, Near SarthanaJakat Naka, Varachha Road, Surat -395 006.

Sl. No.	Name of the Laboratory
3.	NDDDB, Near Jaganath Temple, Khetiwadi Road Anand- 388001, Gujarat.
4.	Vimta Labs Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, B-303 & 304, Shilp Aaron Tower - B, Sindhu Bhavan Road, Nr. Pakvan Circle, Opp - ARMIEDA, Ahmedabad - 380 059
5.	Haryana Test House & Consultancy Services, 50-C, Sec. 25, Part-II, HUDA, Panipat-132 104, HR.
6.	M/s. Alcatec Research Laboratories India Pvt. Ltd., 1652, M.E, Part B, Bahadurgarh, Haryana- 124507
7.	NIFTEM, Plot No. 97, Sector 56, HSIIDC Industrial Estate, Kundli, Sonipat,
8.	FARE Labs Pvt. Ltd., L-17/3 DLF Phase-2, IFFCO Chowk, MG Road, Gurgaon-122002, Haryana
9.	Dove Research & Analytics Plot No. 298, Industrial Area Phase-II, Panchkula, Haryana
10.	J&K Food Quality Control Labs, G-Floor, Baba DembOpp. Mangleshwar Temple, Near Wani Agencies, Srinagar, Kashmir.
11.	University of Agricultural Sciences P.B. No. 329, UAS Campus, Raichur-584102 (Karnataka) Ph. 0853-2220167 www.uasraichur.edu.in
12.	M/s Bangalore Analytical Research Center Pvt. Ltd., 37/143, 9th Main, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-560058
13.	TUV India Pvt. Ltd., (H.O.: Pune), #8, 'VK Commerce', 2nd Floor, IIIrd Main, 6th Block, Opp. KSSIDC IT Park, Rajajimagar Industrial estate, Bangalore-560044. Ph: 080-40823000, Fax: 080-40823046
14.	M/S Maarc Lab Private Limited, Plot No. 1&2, Gat No. 24, NandedPhata, Smhagad Rd., Pune-411041, Maharashtra
15.	Qualichem Laboratories, 501-508, Swami Samartha Commercial Complex, 4, North Bazar Road, Near Gokulpeth Market, DharampethExtn. Nagpur.
16.	Technext Analytical & Research Lab, Plot No 30, Sangam Society, Sangam Nagar, Pune-satara Road, Bibvewadi,
17.	M/s. Geochem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai, Pragati Building, Kanjumarg (East), Mumbai 400042
18.	M/s. Shram Sadhana Amravati's KrishiVigyan Kendra, Durgapur (Baderea), Distt. Amaravati-444 701

Sl. No.	Name of the Laboratory
19.	Hexagon Nutrition Pvt. Ltd., (Renamed to Nutralytica Research Pvt Ltd), Plot No. 447, P.O. Unandnagar, Lakhmapur, Ta-Dindori, Nashik - 422 202
20.	M/s. RCA Laboratories, Zakeria, Bandar Rd., Sewri, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400033
21.	Bombay Test House, Central Laboratory: Unit no.1, Fourth Floor, banking Complex II, Plot No 9& 10, Sector 19- A, Vashi Navi Mumbai- 400703.
22.	Food Hygiene and Health Laboratory, A - 609 - 613, 5th Floor & A- 512-513, 4th Floor, Megacenter, Pune-Solapur Road. Hadapsar, Pune- 411013
23.	State Public Health Laboratory, Kohima, Nagaland
24.	Avon Food Laboratory Pvt. Ltd. Lawrence Road, Industrial Area, New Delhi
25.	Alpha Test House, Corporation Office- M-577, Guru Harkrishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087
26.	M/s. Kalyani Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 1867, Bomikhal, Bhubaneswar- 751010
27.	Rout Education Trust, Bidya Nagar, Mahura, Janla, Bhubaneswar- 752054, Odisha
28.	Shakti Api foods Malerkotla- Ludhiana Road Malerkotla- 148023 (Punjab).
29.	Chennai Mettlex Labs Pvt Ltd., No.83, Jothi Complex, MKN Road, Guindy, Chennai- 32.
30.	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Madhavaram Milk Colony. Chennai-600051, Tamil Nadu. Fax: 91-44-25551585/76
31.	ICAR Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology, Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur-613005 Tamil Nadu
32.	Hubert Enviro Care System Pvt. Ltd., # 18, 92nd Street, Ashok Nagar, Chennai- 600 083. Tamil Nadu
33.	Nawal Analytical Laboratories, Plot No. 100, New Sidco Industrial Estate, Sri Nagar, Hosur-635109, Tamil Nadu.
34.	M/s. AES Laboratories (P) Ltd. B-118, Phase-n, Noida U.P.-201304
35.	Eko-Pro Engineers Pvt. Ltd., 32/41, South Side of G.T. Road, UPSEDC Industrial Area, Ghaziabad-201001, Uttar Pradesh
36.	International Testing Centre (FDDI), A-10/A, Sector-24, NOIDA-201 301 Distt. Gautam Budha Nagar, U.P.

Targeted programmes to improve FPIs

407. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country's Food Processing sector is mostly in small scale and unorganised sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the country's Food Processing sector lacks access to credit, marketing network, efficient tool/ technology and managerial knowledge and if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto;
- (c) whether this sector needs targeted programmes to improve the industry; and
- (d) the funds allocated during each of the last three years in the country, with particular reference to the States of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) As per latest Annual Survey of Industries, 2015-16, the estimated total number of registered food processing factories/units in the country was 39,320. As per the NSSO 73rd Round, 2015-16, the number of food processing units in unorganized sector was 24,59,929.

(b) and (c) Food processing is one of the sunrise manufacturing sectors in India and it is at its nascent stage and therefore has credit access, technological, market access, institutional supply chain, infrastructure of supply chain etc. gaps given the vastness of the potential of the sector vis-a-vis the growth and development of other manufacturing sectors.

The Government is seized of such gaps/challenges in food processing sector and to address these all out measures have been taken. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing various Central Sector Schemes for holistic development of food processing sector in the country. The MoFPI has re-structured its schemes under the new Central Sector Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with an allocation of ₹ 6,000 crore for period 2016-20 co-terminus with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. The PMKSY is a comprehensive package to give renewed thrust to the food processing sector in the country. The new schemes under it aim at development of modern infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurs to set up

food processing units based on cluster approach, provide effective and seamless backward and forward integration for processed food industry by plugging gaps in supply chain and creation of processing and preservation capacities and modernization/expansion of existing food processing units. Besides, the Government has taken a number of policy initiatives like permitting 100% 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 special fund of ₹2000 crore in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide affordable credit; classification of food and agro - based processing units and cold chain as agriculture activity for Priority Sector Lending (PSL); lower Goods & Services Tax (GST) rates for majority of food products, 100% exemption of Income Tax on profit for new food processing units, etc., to encourage food processing industry in the country. Further, the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Haryana and Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT), Tamil Nadu under the MoFPI are meeting the skilled human resource, research and development needs of the food processing sector in a major way.

(d) The financial assistance under the schemes of MoFPI can be availed by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc. The schemes are primarily private sector driven and proposals under the, schemes are invited through Expression of Interest (EOI). The scheme is available in rural and urban areas in all States/UTs. State wise funds are not allocated under the schemes of MoFPI. However, the funds allocated for the country during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	₹ In Crores
2015-16	487.00
2016-17	600.00
2017-18	775.04

e-filing of cases in courts

408. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for e-filing of cases in courts;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any court in Rajasthan has been selected to promote e-filing of cases; and
- (d) the details regarding other steps being taken to promote the use of technology in the working of courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is implementing the eCourts Mission Mode Project (Phase-I 2010-14 and Phase-II 2015-19) with a total outlay of ₹ 1,670 crore (Phase-II) for communication and information technology enablement of district and subordinate courts across the country. An important objective of the project is to start e-filing of cases, e-filing application has been developed and has been integrated with Case Information Software (CIS 3.0), which is the unified common software across all district and subordinate courts of the country. The pilot testing of e-filing software has been launched in December, 2017 in district and subordinate courts under the jurisdiction of Delhi High Court, e-filing module with e-payment of court fees is ready for courts in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana.

(c) All district and subordinate courts across the country, including those in Rajasthan, have been selected for promotion of e-filing of cases under the eCourts project.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to promote the use of technology in the working of the Courts are as under:—

- (i) The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-I was implemented during 2011 - 2015 wherein ₹ 639.41 crores was released for computerisation of district and subordinate courts. At the end of Phase-I, out of the total target of computerisation of 14,249 district and subordinate courts, sites for all 14,249 courts (100%) were made ready for computerisation, out of which LAN was installed at 13,643 courts, hardware provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise was completed in all the High Courts. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System and more than 4,000 court staff have been trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators. Video

Conferencing facility was operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding jails.

- (ii) Under the Phase II of the Project (2015-19), ₹ 1,073.18 crores has been released till date, against the financial outlay of ₹1670 crores. Computerisation of 16,089 district and subordinate courts has been completed, through provisioning of computer hardware, Local Area Network (LAN), and installation of standard application software in district and subordinate courts.

The details of computerised district and subordinate courts under various High Courts are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of computerised district and subordinate courts
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	1733
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1078
3.	Bombay	2079
4.	Calcutta	772
5.	Chhattisgarh	340
6.	Delhi	427
7.	Gauhati	442
8.	Gujarat	1108
9.	Himachal Pradesh	118
10.	Jabalpur	1203
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	218
12.	Jharkhand	351
13.	Jodhpur	978
14.	Karnataka	897
15.	Kerala	486
16.	Madras	988
17.	Odisha	509

1	2	3
18.	Patna	1025
19.	Punjab and Haryana	1018
20.	Sikkim	15
21.	Uttarakhand	185
22.	Tripura	62
23.	Manipur	30
24.	Meghalaya	27
TOTAL		16089

- (iii) A new and user-friendly version of Case Information Software (CIS 2.0) has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts.
- (iv) The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for district & subordinate courts has been created as an online platform which now provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of 16,089 computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. The portal provides online information to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments. Currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 10.1 crore cases and more than 6.90 crore orders / judgments.
- (v) Judicial Service Centres (JSCs) have been established at all computerized subordinate courts to serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants/ lawyers, and for obtaining information on ongoing cases and copies of orders and judgments etc.
- (vi) ECourts mobile app with the facility of QR Code was launched on 22.07.2017 for use of litigants and lawyers. Services under different captions viz. Search by CNR, Case Status, Cause List and My Cases are available on this application, which is available on both Google Play and Apple Store.
- (vii) Furthermore, the facility of providing case information services through SMS has also been implemented and the process of disseminating system-generated SMSs is operational.

During the Phase II, till date, about 124.98 crore electronic transactions have been recorded for eCourts through eTaal portal.

Fast Track Courts for criminal cases against public representatives

409. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted any Fast Track Courts to try public representatives for criminal cases against them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any such cases have been transferred to any Fast Track Courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Setting up of subordinate courts including 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 respective High Courts.

However, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (C) No.699/2016 (Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay Vs UoI & Anr), 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) to exclusively deal with criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs and proportionate funds have been released to these State Governments by the Union Government.

As per information received from various High Courts, a total number of 1,349 cases have been transferred to these Special Courts for expeditious trial.

Increase in Expenditure of Government in contesting cases in Supreme Court

410. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure incurred by Government in contesting cases in the Supreme Court has gone up from nearly ₹ 11 crore in 2011-12 to ₹ 42.40 crore in 2017-18;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to expedite all the cases in all the courts at the earliest to cut down the expenditure in contesting court cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of expenditure incurred by the Central Agency Section for contesting court cases in the Supreme Court on behalf of Union of India, year-wise from the Financial Year 2011-12 to 2017-18 under the Sub-Head 'Professional Services' are as follows:—

Financial Year	Expenditure Incurred
2011-12	10.99 Cr.
2012-13	11.73 Cr.
2013-14	14.47 Cr.
2014-15	15.99 Cr.
2015-16	26.86 Cr.
2016-17	32.06 Cr.
2017-18	47.99 Cr.

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

Creation of Indian Judicial Service

‡411. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to create Indian Judicial Service; and

(b) if so, the efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of All India Judicial Service (AIJS) which was approved by the Committee

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 wherein it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among State Governments and High Courts.

The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service, with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon, was included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 05th April, 2015. No decision was taken on the said proposal.

However, keeping in view the divergence of opinion among the stakeholders on constitution of All India Judicial Service, the Government has undertaken the consultative process to arrive at a common ground.

Fake Voters

412. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has found a number of fake voters in various States since 2014 till date, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Commission to curb this problem; and
- (c) whether action has been taken by the Commission in the constituencies where the fake voters have been found, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps to reduce Government cases in courts

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

- (a) whether the majority of cases pending before courts in the country comprise of Government cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Central Government has recently taken many effective steps to reduce the number of Government cases with a view to lighten the burden of courts; and

(d) if so, whether the positive and expected results of those effective steps are coming out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Integrated Legal Cells in Ministries and Departments of Central Government

414. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Integrated Legal Cell for Ministries/Departments of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for setting up of such legal cells; and

(c) the number of cases pending with the Supreme Court/High Courts in which Central Government is applicant and respondent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Government intends to set up an Integrated Legal Division (ILD) to be manned by 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 Central Governments.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Appointment of New Senior Counsels and Special Advocates for Ministries

415. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has appointed new Senior Counsels and Special Advocates for various Ministries and their allied offices, autonomous bodies like CBI, ED and Green Tribunal, PSU's and PSB's in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government is following any transparent system in the appointment of Associate Solicitor Generals, Assistant Solicitor Generals, Senior Counsels and Panel Advocates to various High Courts in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The category of Associate Solicitor Generals does not exist. The procedure for appointments of Assistant Solicitor Generals and Panel Counsels is that the Suitable Advocates are engaged with the approval of Minister for Law and Justice to represent Union of India before various courts/tribunals in the country on the basis of their qualification, experience, professional competence, reputation and standing at the Bar.

Allowing proxy voting for NRIs

416. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of registered NRI voters in the country alongwith the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether any deadline has been set for the registration process;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to allow proxy voting for NRIs, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Ministry has defined the process for proxy voting and by when the NRIs would be allowed to vote using proxy voting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The total number of registered overseas electors as of April, 2018, as furnished by the Election Commission, is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) As per rule 8B of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, every overseas elector, who is not otherwise disqualified for registration and is desirous of being

registered in the roll for the constituency pertaining to the locality in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located, may make an application in Form 6A to the concerned registration officer directly or electronically or send the application to him by post.

(c) and (d) A Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 18th December, 2017 to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 enabling the overseas electors to cast their votes either in person or by proxy. The process for proxy voting will be finalized in consultation with the Election Commission after the Bill is passed by Parliament.

Statement

Electoral Roll Data 2018

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Overseas indian electors			
		Men	Women	Third Gender	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	4	0	15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	9	1	0	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	0	2
6.	Goa	27	13	0	40
7.	Gujarat	44	27	0	71
8.	Haryana	14	2	0	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	0	5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	4	0	0	4
12.	Karnataka	5	1	0	6
13.	Kerala	21932	1678	0	23610
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4	1	0	5
15.	Maharashtra	45	19	0	64

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	1	0	0	1
21.	Punjab	204	110	0	314
22.	Rajasthan	6	3	0	9
23.	Sikkim	1	0	0	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	43	14	0	57
25.	Telangana	3	2	0	5
26.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	9	0	0	9
29.	West Bengal	17	12	0	29
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	7	5	0	12
32.	Daman and Diu	8	17	0	25
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
34.	NCT of Delhi	29	10	0	39
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	138	20	0	158
TOTAL		22,565	1,942	0	24,507

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

417. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), including flagship programmes, being implemented at present by the Ministry; and

(b) the details of targets and allocations made, fund allocated, disbursed and utilized in these schemes during the last three years, including the present year, scheme-wise and State / UT- wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Union Government has been administering a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary since 1993-94 in order to augment the resources of State Governments in this regard in association with the States/UT Governments. It covers the construction of court halls and court complexes and residential accommodations of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. As on date, ₹ 6,100 crore has been released since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, ₹ 2,655 crore (43.52%) has been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an outlay of ₹3,320 crore. The details of State/UT -wise funds sanctioned during last three years and utilization certificates pending with States/UTs are given in Statement.

Statement

Details of funds sanctioned during the last three years and utilization certificates pending under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary

(₹ in lakhs)					
Sl. No.	State	Funds sanctioned in 2015-16	Funds sanctioned in 2016-17	Funds sanctioned in 2017-18	Utilization Certificate Pending
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh				
2.	Bihar		5000.00	4290.00	
3.	Chhattisgarh				
4.	Goa				
5.	Gujarat	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00
6.	Haryana	5000.00		1500.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Himachal Pradesh		819.00		
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1325.00	2104.00	1000.00	
9.	Jharkhand	3044.00		5000.00	
10.	Karnataka	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	
11.	Kerala			2500.00	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5000.00		5000.00	5000.00
13.	Maharashtra	5000.00	4975.00	5000.00	1017.00
14.	Odisha				
15.	Punjab	5000.00	4800.00	5000.00	793.00
16.	Rajasthan	5000.00	4374.00	1734.00	1867.00
17.	Tamil Nadu		5000.00		
18.	Uttarakhand			2500.00	2500.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	5000.00	5000.00	7500.00	
20.	West Bengal			1734.00	1734.00
TOTAL (A)		44369.00	42072.00	52758.00	17911.00
NE States					
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1593.00			744.00
2.	Assam			2000.00	
3.	Manipur	2000.00			
4.	Meghalaya	2037.00	2000.00	863.00	
5.	Mizoram			2000.00	
6.	Nagaland		2000.00	2000.00	
7.	Sikkim				
8.	Tripura				3540.00
TOTAL (B)		5630.00	4000.00	6863.00	4284.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
UTs					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		259.68		
2.	Chandigarh				
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli				
4.	Daman and Diu		42.43		
5.	Delhi	6,040.32	5,000.00	2,500.00	5958.00
6.	Lakshadweep				
7.	Pondicherry	259.68	2500.00		2385.00
TOTAL (C)		6300.00	7802.11	2500.00	8343.00
GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)		56299.00	53874.11	62121.00	30538.00

Increase in strength of Judges of High Courts

418. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased the strength of Judges of High Courts of the States from 906 to 984, out of the target strength of 1112 Judges;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps Government has undertaken for the infrastructural development of Judiciary in the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) In the Joint Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers held on 7.4.2013, a decision was taken to increase the number of Judges of the High Courts by 25%. Accordingly, Government has increased the Judge strength of the High Courts from 906 to 1079 *i.e.* by 173 posts, during the period from 01.07.2014 to 10.05.2016 with the approval of the respective State Governments, related High Courts and the Chief Justice of India.

The details of increase in posts of Judges, High Court-wise, is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) During the period 01/4/2014 to 31/3/2018, the Government has released ₹ 2655 Crore to States and Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Infrastructure development for Judiciary *i.e.* for construction of court halls, court complexes and residential accommodation of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary.

Statement

Details of increase in posts of Judges, High Court-wise

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Approved Judge Strength As on 1.1.2014	Approved Judge Strength after increase	No. of Judge strength increased
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	160	160	Nil
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	49	61	12
3.	Bombay	75	94	19
4.	Calcutta	58	72	14
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	22	04
6.	Delhi	48	60	12
7.	Gauhati	24	24	Nil
8.	Gujarat	42	52	10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	13	02
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	17	03
11.	Jharkhand	20	25	05
12.	Karnataka	50	62	12
13.	Kerala	38	47	09
14.	Madhya Pradesh	43	53	10
15.	Madras	60	75	15
16.	Manipur	04	05	01
17.	Meghalaya	03	04	01
18.	Odisha	22	27	05
19.	Patna	43	53	10
20.	Punjab and Haryana	68	85	17

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Rajasthan	40	50	10
22.	Sikkim	03	03	Nil
23.	Tripura	04	04	Nil
24.	Uttarkhand	09	11	02
TOTAL		906	1079	173

Simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies

419. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move on the part of Government to have simultaneous Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections in the year 2019;

(b) whether Government has held discussions with the Election Commission, different political parties, various stakeholders and leading legal luminaries in this regard; 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) 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 Election Commission of India. The Committee has given certain recommendations in this regard in its 79th Report. The matter has been referred to the Law Commission for further examination so as to work out practicable roadmap and framework for conduct of simultaneous elections.

Participation of foreign lawyers in international arbitration proceedings in India

420. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held any consultation with the Bar Council of India (BCI) to arrive at any concrete conclusion, *inter alia*, regarding regulating the participation of foreign lawyers in international arbitration proceedings in the country;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Government had consulted with Bar Council of India and various State Bar Councils and other stake holders regarding entry of foreign law firms/lawyers, which also includes participation of foreign lawyers in international arbitration proceedings. Response is still awaited from Bar Council of India and some State Bar Councils. Law Commission of India (LCI) had submitted its 266th report on the issue to Government of India on 23.03.2017 wherein LCI has recommended the entry of foreign law firms/lawyers. The Ministry has also forwarded the 266th report to Bar Council of India and various State Bar Councils to furnish their views/comments.

Meanwhile, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 13.03.2018 in Civil Appeal Nos.7875-7879 of 2015 titled Bar Council of India Vs A.K. Balaji and Ors. held that foreign law firms cannot set up, offices in India or practice in Indian Courts, but there is no bar for the foreign law firms or foreign lawyers to visit India for a temporary period for giving legal advice regarding foreign law on diverse international legal issues on a 'fly in and fly out' basis if it does not amount to practice. Hon'ble Supreme Court in para 42. of the judgment held that:

"42. It is not possible to hold that there is absolutely no bar to a foreign lawyer for conducting arbitrations in India. If the matter is governed by particular rules of an institution or if the matter otherwise falls under Section 32 or 33, there is no bar to conduct such proceedings in prescribed manner. If the matter is governed by an international commercial arbitration agreement, conduct of proceedings may fall under Section 32 or 33 read with the provisions of the Arbitration Act. Even in such cases, Code of Conduct, if any, applicable to the legal profession in India has to be followed. It is for the Bar Council of India or Central Government to make a specific provision in this regard, if considered appropriate."

The 266th Report of Law Commission and the aforesaid Supreme Court Judgment dated 13.03.2018, are under consideration of Government of India.

Proxy voting for NRI and internal migrant voters

421. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to allow proxy voting for NRI and internal migrant voters, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

- (b) the total number of registered overseas electors as of April, 2018; and
- (c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) A Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 18th December, 2017 to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to enable the overseas electors to cast their votes either in person or by proxy. No proposal for allowing proxy voting by internal migrant voters is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) and (c) The total number of registered overseas electors as of April, 2018, as furnished by the Election Commission, is given in Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 416 part (a)]

Recommendations in the Economic Survey

422. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the recommendations made in the Economic Survey with respect to "Ease of Doing Business Next Frontier Timely Justice"; and

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan of implementing these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Law and Justice has implemented some of the major recommendations of the Economic Survey.

Deployment of UAV/drone cameras for monitoring the maintenance of tracks and infrastructure

423. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to deploy UAV/drone cameras for monitoring the maintenance of tracks and other railway infrastructures;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating by when and in what manner such drone cameras would be deployed for the railway's further security and development;

(c) whether Government has issued any guidelines for using UAV/drone cameras in various parts of the country for monitoring the railway tracks and its infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Indian Railways carry out periodic monitoring of track geometry and condition through inspection by designated officer with Track Recording Car (TRC) and Oscillation Monitoring System (OMS).

Instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways and Public Sector Units (PSUs) for using UAV/Drone as an efficient tool for mapping and monitoring of transportation corridors, projects etc.

Indian Railways is using Drones in the following manner:—

- To overcome visibility of part of bridges difficult to access manually, drone inspection of few bridges are under consideration.
- One Drone Camera has been procured for the surveillance of Railway tracks at vulnerable locations over South Western Railway.
- 2 UAV/Drones are being deployed at Modern Coach Factory/Rae Bareilly for overhead watch and surveillance.
- One Drone is being used by West Central Railway for inspection and project monitoring.
- Public Sector Units under Ministry of Railways are using Drones for project monitoring.

Complaints regarding HOR quota

424. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VIP references for release of HOR quota to Minister of Railways/ Railway Board are not being given priority recently;

(b) if so, whether complaints from MPs, etc. have been received by the Minister of Railways and Chairman, Railway Board against officers and E&RCs posted in MR, MOS(R) and Reservation Cell;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) whether E&RC posted in MR, MOS(R) & Reservation Cell, Railway Board are covered under periodical rotational transfer as per CVC guideline; and

(e) if so, list of transfers of E&RCs since 2014 to till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of High Official Requisition (HOR) holders, which includes Central Government Ministers, Judges of Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Courts of various States, Members of Parliament and other emergent demands, who are on the waiting list, a limited number of berths have been earmarked as Emergency Quota in different trains and in different classes. The quota is released by the Railways in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. At the time of allotment of berths/seats, emergency quota is first allotted for self travel of HOR holders/Members of Parliament, etc., strictly as per their *inter-se* seniority in warrant of precedence. Thereafter, other requisitions received from various quarters including that from Members of Parliament are considered and the remaining quota is released taking into account various factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, job interview, etc. While the requests received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament for their self travel are complied with, in case of requests forwarded by them for other than self travel, at times, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests when the demand exceeds the availability.

(b) and (c) One complaint was received in the year 2017 from one the then Hon'ble Member of Parliament for non-release of Emergency Quota. The complaint was duly forwarded to the concerned Zonal Railway for immediate necessary action. Hon'ble Member of Parliament was also informed accordingly. As far as staff handling release of Emergency Quota is concerned, it is informed that the officials whose integrity is beyond doubt and have an excellent track record are entrusted with this responsibility. In case any mishandling is noticed, immediate action, as deemed fit, is initiated. Periodical transfer and rotation of staff within the reservation cells is also undertaken to the extent feasible in order to prevent development of any vested interest.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A list of E&RCs handling different works relating to release of emergency quota on the requests received on this account in the office of Minister for Railways,

Minister of State for Railways and Reservation Cell of Railway Board, who have been transferred since 2014 under rotational transfer or otherwise, is given in Statement.

Statement

List of E&RC handling different works holding to release of emergency quota, who have been transferred since 2014

Sl. No.	Name (S/Shri)
1.	A.K. Pathak
2.	Ajay Sharma
3.	Anand Samdurshi
4.	Dharamveer Yadav
5.	Gaurav
6.	Harcharan Singh
7.	Rajesh Sharma
8.	Ram Lal Meena
9.	Ram Saran
10.	Ravinder Kumar Negi
11.	Ravinder Singh
12.	Ravinder Singh Raghav
13.	Sanju Datt
14.	Shailender Kumar
15.	Yogesh Kumar
16.	Vikram Singh

New trains and stoppages on Delhi-Kota-Ratlam-Mumbai route

‡425. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new passenger trains that were operationalized on Delhi-Kota-Ratlam-Mumbai rail section since January, 2014 and stoppages sanctioned for these passenger trains, railway division-wise; and

(b) the details of the special facilities provided to passengers and expansion made on the stations of the above said railway section during the above said period?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of new passenger train services introduced on Delhi-Kota-Ratlam-Mumbai section alongwith stoppages provided since January, 2014 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Train No. and Name	Stoppages provided division-wise
1.	22633/22634 Thiruvanthapuram-H. Nizamuddin Express (weekly)	<p>Thiruvanthapuram Division: Kollam Jn., Kayankulam Jn., Alappuzha, Ernakulam Jn., Aluva, Thrisur</p> <p>Palakkad Division: Shoranur, Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasaragod, Mangalore Jn.</p> <p>Karwar Division: Udupi, Karwar, Madgaon, Pernem</p> <p>Ratnagiri Division: Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Chiplun</p> <p>Mumbai Division: Panvel, Vasai Road, Surat</p> <p>Vadodara Division: Vadodara</p> <p>Ratlam Division: Ratlam</p> <p>Kota Division: Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur</p> <p>Agra Division: Mathura Jn.</p>
2.	22655/22656 Thiruvanthapuram-H. Nizamuddin Express (weekly)	<p>Thiruvanthapuram Division: Kollam Jn., Kayankulam Jn., Alappuzha, Ernakulam Jn., Thrisur</p> <p>Palakkad Division: Shoranur Jn., Kozhikode, Kannur, Mangalore Jn.</p> <p>Karwar Division: Udupi, Karwar, Madgaon, Karmali</p> <p>Ratnagiri Division: Ratnagiri</p> <p>Mumbai Division: Panvel, Vasai Road, Dahanu Road, Vapi, Surat</p> <p>Vadodara Division: Bharuch, Vadodara.</p> <p>Ratlam Division: Ratlam</p> <p>Kota Division: Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur.</p> <p>Agra Division: Mathura</p>
3.	22653/22654 Thiruvanthapuram-H. Nizamuddin Express (weekly)	<p>Thiruvanthapuram Division: Kollam Jn., Kayankulam Jn., Kottayam, Ernakulam Jn., Thrisur.</p>

Sl. No.	Train no. and Name	Stoppages provided division-wise
		<p>Palakkad Division: Shoranur Jn., Kozhikode, Kannur, Mangalore Jn.</p> <p>Karwar Division: Udupi, Karwar, Madgaon, Karmali.</p> <p>Ratnagiri Division: Ratnagiri.</p> <p>Mumbai Division: Panvel, Vasai Road, Dahanu Road, Vapi, Surat.</p> <p>Vadodara Division: Bharuch, Vadodara.</p> <p>Ratlam Division: Ratlam.</p> <p>Kota Division: Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur.</p> <p>Agra Division: Mathura</p>
4.	22413/22414 H. Nizamuddin-Madgaon Rajdhani Express (bi-weekly)	<p>Kota Division: Kota.</p> <p>Vadodara Division: Vadodara.</p> <p>Mumbai Division: Surat, Vasai Road, Panvel.</p> <p>Ratnagiri Division: Ratnagiri, Kudal,</p> <p>Karwar Division: Thivim</p>

(b) The details of works carried out on Western Railway are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Station Name
1.	Rebuilding/Improvement of station building	Andheri, Borivali and Ankleshwar stations.
2.	Provision / Extension of FOB	Borivali, Palghar, Navsari, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Udhna, Vishwamitri, Dahod, Ratlam, Nagada, Ballabgarh and Harkesh Nagar.
3.	New Platforms have been constructed/extension of platform	Palwal, Asoti, Deroi, Godhra, Navsari and Usra
4.	Extension of Platforms	Derol, Godhra, Navsari, Usra
5.	Raising of Platform level	Dahanu Road Navsari Bharuch & Ankleswar, Nagada, Khanchod
6.	Improvement to Circulating Area	Mumbai Central, Vasai road, Dahanu Road, Sanjan, Vapi, Surat, Vadodra

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Station Name
7.	Improvement to Circulating Area	Atul, Karambele, Vapi, Dungari, Sanjan, Vamama, Limkhera, Mangalmahudi, Jekot Ratlam
8.	Improvement of Waiting Room/ Retiring Room etc	Bandra Terminus, Bamania, Vadodara, Ratlam, Nagada
9.	Improvement to watering arrangement	Virar- Surat Section, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam
10.	Providing/Improvement to CC apron	Surat, Bandra Terminus
11.	Second entry at Godi Road side	Dahod
12.	Setting up a Mechanized Laundry	Mumbai Central
13.	Provision of Linen Room at BDTS	Bandra Terminus
14.	Modernisation of Base Kitchen	Mumbai Central
15.	Escalators at major stations	Borivali, Vadodara, Andheri, Surat
16.	Provision of Lift	Ratlam
17.	Ramp for Physically Disabled Persons	Alindra Road
18.	Toilet block for Divyang	Varnama
19.	Provision of Coach Guidance System	Surat, Ratlam, Vadodara & Godhra, Ankleshwar, Bharuch
20.	Provision of toilet at stations	Nagda, Ratlam, Dahod, Khachrod, Meghnagar, Bamnia, Thandia Road Stations

The details of works carried out on Northern Railway are as under:-

1. **New Delhi**

- Waiting Hall, Toilets on PF-1 have been renovated alongwith air-conditioning.
- 300 R.C.C benches have been provided on various Platforms besides 200 stainless steel benches provided on concourses at Paharganj and Ajmeri gate. 500 Stainless steel benches are likely to be supplied.
- Platform shelters extended on PF-12/13

- (d) Toilets on PF 10/11,12/13,14/15 renovated
- (e) New road from Bhavbhuti marg to Ajmeri Gate side station building is in progress to decongest the traffic
- (f) New sky walk has been planned to connect Railway with Metro exit gates on Ajmeri gate side by extending existing Foot Over Bridge

2. **Tughlakabad**

- (a) Self Ticket printing Machine provided
- (b) PF shelters are being constructing on PF no. 1 & 2 water booth also being constructed
- (c) 20 nos stainless steel benches provided
- (d) Waiting hall and 3 nos booking counters provided on PF-1

3. **Harkesh Nagar:** A new FOB has been constructed to avoid trespassers from track with the help of MPLAD funds

4. **Faridabad:** 70 Nos. Stainless steel and R.C.C benches provided,

5. **Ballabgarh:**

- (a) On P.F. No. 2, 3, 4 & 5 water booth renovated and facilities provided for Divyangjan also.
- (b) Existing FOB has been extended

6. **Asoti:** P.F. No 1,2,3,& 4 extended

7. **Palwal**

- (a) New PF-1 A & B have been constructed.
- (b) 64 nos. RCC benches were provided
- (c) 4 line between Palwal-Asoti has been started
- (d) New circulating area has been developed

The details of works carried out on West Central Railway are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1.	Ramganj Mandi- Development of station 'B' Category Station
2.	Provision/Extension of Cover over platform at 09 'E' category stations over Kota-Nagda section to eliminate deficiencies in MEA

Sl. No.	Name of Work
3.	Provision of Cover over platform 09 'E' category stations over GGC-MTJ section and provision of booking cum waiting hall at 07 'F' category stations to eliminate deficiency.
4.	Bhawani Mandi - Development of station 'B' category station.
5.	Kota Division - Extension of Cover over platform at GGC, HAN, BWM & RMA ('B' category) stations with water booths, benches & Kota stone flooring.
6.	Bharatpur- Water supply connection at Bharatpur station from Chambal water project and improvement of watering arrangement.

Passenger Amenities on Delhi - Kota - Ratlam - Mumbai Route

Sl. No.	Name of Station	No. of Escalators provided	No. of Lifts Provided
1.	New Delhi	20	7
2.	Nizamuddin	3	5
3.	Mathura Jn.	1	-
4.	Kota	5	2
5.	Ratlam	2	2
6.	Vadodara	2	1
7.	Surat	3	4
8.	Udhna	-	2
9.	Nalla Sopara	2	-
10.	Vasai Road	3	1
11.	Bhyander	3	-
12.	Borivali	5	6
13.	Kandivli	1	-
14.	Goregaon	6	2
15.	Andheri	7	2
16.	Vile Parle	1	-
17.	Bandra	1	
18.	Dadar	4	2
TOTAL		68	37

New trains and railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

‡426. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the trains, passenger facilities and the implementation of new construction plans of the Railways in Madhya Pradesh from the time of Railway Budget 2014 till now in the year 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Indian Railways do not run trains on State-wise basis as Rail network straddles across State boundaries. However, about 37 pairs of trains have been introduced during 2014-18, which serve the stations situated in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

To improve passenger facilities, modernization of Railway Stations is taken up under 'Adarsh Station Scheme' and 44 Railway stations located in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been identified for development under this scheme. Out of these, 37 Railway stations have been developed as per norms.

In addition to the above, between April 2014 to March, 2018 the following new line, gauge conversion and doubling falling fully/partly in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been completed:

Sl. No.	Section completed	Length in Km.
New line		
1.	Indore-Rau-Tihi	21
2.	Mawai-Kharagpur-Chhattarpur- Khajuraho	100
Gauge conversion		
1.	Fatehabad-Laxmibainagar-Indore-Mhow & Rau-Mhow	74
2.	Jabalpur (Kachpura)-Sukrimangala- Nainpur-Chiraidongi	139
3.	Dewas loop GC	6
4.	Chhindwara-Bhandarkund	35
5.	Balahat-Samnapur	16
Doubling		
1.	Pabai-Gulabganj (Bhopal-Bina 3 rd line)	9.5

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Section completed	Length in Km.
2.	Gulabganj-Sumer-Sorai-Vidisha-Sanchi-Salamatpur-Diwanganj	46.8
3.	Ghatpindari-Belkheda patch	5.56
4.	Sukhi Sewaniyan-Bhadbhadaghat	17
5.	Mori Bera-Kothar-Naua-Keshavganj	21.32
6.	Sukhi Sewaniyan-Nishatpur	9.6
7.	Bareth-Kalhar-Mandi Bamora-Bina	35.8
8.	Guna-Ruthiyai	21
9.	Indore-Rau	12

Commissioning of new rail lines

427. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been an increase of 59 per cent in the average pace of commissioning of new lines from 4.1 kilometre per day between 2009 and 2014 to 6.53 Kilometre per day during 2014-18;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many of the railway line projects are running far behind the schedule, escalating their cost; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to expedite execution of such long pending railway line projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average progress of commissioning of New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling during 2009-14 was 4.1 km per day. Further, 9528 km of New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling has been commissioned during 2014-2018 at an average progress rate of 6.53 km per day.

(c) 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. leading to delay in completion of projects.

(d) For timely completion of the projects, Railway is holding regular meetings with State Government and concerned Central Government officials on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law and order problems, shifting of utilities etc.

**Foreign investment for technological upgradation
and modernisation**

428. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are seeking foreign investment in areas such as technological upgradation and modernisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are also considering to privatise some of the areas of their operation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy effective from 28.08.2017, FDI in following activities of Railway Infrastructure sector has been allowed on automatic route:

- (i) Suburban corridor projects through PPP;
- (ii) High speed train project;
- (iii) Dedicated freight lines;
- (iv) Rolling stock including train sets and locomotives/coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities;
- (v) Railway Electrification;
- (vi) Signalling systems;
- (vii) Passenger terminals;
- (viii) Infrastructure in industrial part pertaining to railway line/sidings including electrified railway lines and connectivities to main railway line; and
- (ix) Mass Rapid Transport Systems.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to privatise any area of operation of Railways. However, Public Private Partnerships and out-sourcing of certain facilities like cleaning, pay and use toilets, retiring rooms, parking etc. is done on need based manner to improve efficiency.

Decline in the number of train accidents

429. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents had come down from 118 in 2013-14 to 73 in 2017-18;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average annual capital expenditure in the past four years has been more than double to ₹5.29 lakh crore as against ₹2.30 lakh crore in 2009-14; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Consequential train accidents have come down from 118 in 2013-14 to 73 in 2017-18. Year-wise details of these consequential train accidents are given below:

Type of accidents	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Collisions	4	5	3	5	3
Derailments	53	63	65	78	54
Manned Level Crossing Accidents	4	6	6		3
Unmanned Level Crossing Accidents	47	50	29	20	10
Fire	7	6		1	3
Miscellaneous Accidents	3	5	4		
TOTAL	118	135	107	104	73

(c) and (d) The comparative position showing average annual capital expenditure during 2009-10 to 2013-14 *viz-a-viz* average annual expenditure during 2014-15 to 2017-18 is given below:

(₹ in crore)							
Capital Expenditure (CE): From 2009-10 to 2013-14							
Years	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total	Average Annual CE
CE	39671.85	40792.74	45061.02	50383.45	53989.26	229898.32	45979.66
(₹ in crore)							
Capital Expenditure (CE): From 2014-15 to 2017-18							
Years	2014-15	2015-16*	2016-17*	2017-18*	Total	Average Annual CE	
				(provisional)			
CE	58718.93	93519.79	108290.14	101988.53	362517.39	90629.35	

* Includes Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects.

Delayed railway projects

430. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than three-fifth of the total 349 delayed Central projects belong to the Railway sector causing a cost overrun of ₹1.73 lakh crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that as many as 36 projects of Railways, out of the monitored 350 projects, reported time overrun or delay of 12 months to 261 months;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the timely completion of railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) At present, 500 Railway projects including 180 New Lines, 57 Gauge Conversion and 263 Doubling Projects are in different stages of execution. The completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State

Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of utilities etc. leading to time overrun and cost overrun.

(e) For timely completion of the projects, Railway is holding regular meetings with State Government and concerned Central Government officials on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law and order problems, shifting of utilities etc.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc., institutional financing has been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for ₹1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Train from Samastipur to New Delhi

†431. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to run several new trains for providing travel facility to public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not providing any train from Samastipur to New Delhi despite Samastipur junction being the largest railway station of North Bihar from where all the trains pass;

(d) whether Government has made any plan to run any train from Samastipur to New Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 2017-18, Indian Railways introduced 169 train services to cater to the travelling needs of the passengers. This includes the service of 15705/15706 Katihar-Delhi Champaran Humsafar Express serving the Samastipur-Delhi sector.

(d) and (e) At present, Samastipur is connected to Delhi area by 14 pairs of train services which are adequately catering to the needs of passengers of Samastipur-Delhi

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sector and presently there is no proposal to introduce additional train on this sector owing to operational and resource constraints including lack of spare maintenance facilities at either end and line capacity constraints on sections enroute. However, introduction of new train services is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility and resource availability.

Bullet Train project

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

- (a) the progress of the work of Bullet train which was declared by Government from Ahmedabad to Mumbai;
- (b) whether the work to run a Bullet train has started and whether any time-frame has been fixed for completion of this project;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for this project; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the delay of work of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Government has sanctioned the High Speed Rail project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad with technical and financial assistance of Government of Japan. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has been formed to implement the Project. Ground-breaking ceremony marking the commencement of the project, has been held at Ahmedabad on 14th September, 2017 in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Ministers of India and Japan. Land acquisition process for the project has started. Out of total 25 tender packages for execution of project including the High Speed training institute, 6 tender packages have been floated and 4 of them have been awarded.

- (b) Yes, Sir. The project is envisaged for completion in the year 2022/23.
- (c) The cost of the project has been estimated to be approximately 1,08,000 crore, 81% of which will be provided by Government of Japan as loan at 0.1% interest rate at 50 years repayment period with 15 years grace period.
- (d) Does not arise.

Installation of European Train Control System

433. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has turned down an ambitious plan of Railways to introduce a new signalling system based on the European Train Control System Level 2; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No Sir.

Automatic Train Protection system (ETCS Level-2) has been included in the works programme 2018-19 for implementation for complete 60,000 Route Kilometres on Broad Gauge network of Indian Railways subject to expenditure on this project be made only after following due processes/mandatory approvals and sanctions.

Bidding of stations for redevelopment

434. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are very soon going to bid 25 stations for redevelopment;

(b) whether Bangalore City and Bangalore Cantonment stations have been selected for this purpose;

(c) whether redevelopment is being done under PPP mode; and

(d) by when the entire process of redevelopment would be over and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Railways have planned for redevelopment of major railway stations by making Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency through simplified procedures and with longer lease tenures. These include railway stations situated in Bangalore. Most of these stations will be redeveloped under PPP mode.

(d) Station redevelopment projects are complex in nature and require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local bodies. Therefore, no time-frame can be indicated at this stage.

Redevelopment of stations is planned through leveraging of commercial development of vacant land/air space in and around stations. Therefore, no funds have been earmarked for the purpose. Such projects shall generally be cost neutral to Railways.

Rail freight corridors

435. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail freight corridors that have been approved/sanctioned/under implementation in the country;

(b) the details of funds allocated and present status of these freight corridor projects, corridor-wise; and

(c) by when these projects would be completed and the reasons for delay in their implementation, corridor-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Work on two sanctioned Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) *viz.* Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) from Dankuni to Ludhiana (1318 Kms Ludhinana to Sonnagar + 538 Kms Sonnagar to Dankuni) and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) to Dadri (1504 Kms) has been taken on hand.

(b) The total estimated cost and expenditure incurred on these corridors is as under:

Corridor	Estimated Cost (in ₹ Crore)	Expenditure incurred till May 2018 (in ₹ Crore)
EDFC	30,358	16,308.55
WDFC	51,101	22,156.43
TOTAL	81,459	38,464.98

Overall progress in land acquisition on both the corridors is 98.7%. All Civil contracts for Eastern DFC (Sonnagar to Ludhiana) and Western DFC have been awarded. Overall 97.2% of total contracts have been awarded. The financial and physical progress on both corridors is 47.1% and 49.6% respectively.

(c) Both the corridors are targeted for commissioning in phases to be completed by year 2020. Some of the reasons for delay in implementation of DFC project are delay in land acquisition, environmental/forest clearance and resistance in physical hand over of land by Project affected persons.

Latest technology for railway safety

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

(a) whether Government has come out with any latest technology as a part of its 'Make in India' initiative, which would help in reducing the increasing number of railway accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the new techniques/technologies railways have adopted during the last two years for the safety of their passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

Initiative for following systems which are partly 'Make in India' have been taken:

- An Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System called Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) is presently functional on 364 RKMs in the Mumbai suburban section of Central Railway (240 RKMs) and Western Railway (124 RKMs).
- Complete Track Circuiting of stations to enhance safety for verification of track occupancy by electrical means instead of human element is completed at about 5989 stations upto 31.05.2018.
- Axle Counter for Automatic clearance of Block Section (BPAC) to ensure complete arrival of train without manual intervention before granting line clear to the next train and to reduce human element have been provided on 5117 block sections upto 31.05.2018.

- Interlocking of Level Crossing Gates to protect Level Crossing Gate with signals to avoid accidents has been done at 11057 gates upto 31.05.2018.
- Integrated Track Monitoring System (ITMS) capable of recording identifiable track component defects.
- Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) Cars for detection of internal flaws in rails.
- Axle box level accelerometers to monitor track defects daily.

(c) Following improvements in techniques/technology have been adopted during last 2 years:

- Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System called Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) has been implemented on 342 RKMs (200 RKMs Delhi-Agra Section, 117 RKMs Chennai Suburban section and 25 RKMs of Metro Railway, Kolkata).
- An ATP System being indigenously developed called Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) is under trial on 250 RKMs of South Central Railway as a pilot project.
- Automatic Train Protection system (ETCS Level-2) has been included in the Works Programme 2018-19 for implementation for complete 60,000 RKMs on Broad Gauge network of Indian Railways subject to expenditure on this project to be made only after following due processes/mandatory approvals and sanctions.
- Electrical/Electronic Interlocking System with centralized operation of points and signals are being provided to eliminate human failure and to replace old mechanical systems. These systems have been provided at 5781 stations upto 31.05.2018.
- Crew Voice/Video recording system ensures the effective and temper proof video and voice recording of locomotive cab for post failure event analysis. Loco No. 32001 fitted with Crew Voice/Video recording system has been commissioned in December, 2017 on trial basis.
- Online Monitoring of Rolling Stock (OMRS) system monitors defective bearing, wheel flats and defect report are generated on real time basis and

corrective action is taken. Of the 65 OMRS planned for installation on Indian Railways network, the first one has been installed at Panipat Station and the remaining are at various stages of installation.

- 15 Nos. of Wheel Impact Load Detectors (WILDs) to automatically identify the defective wheels in Rolling Stock by measuring the impact of wheels on track are operational in Indian Railways.
- Mechanised preheating, Three piece prefabricated mould, Auto Tapping Thimble, Single short crucible has been provided for improved quality of welding.
- New specifications for Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing machines have been issued by Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO) which has features for location tagging, time stamping of recording and improved scan (B-scan) capability.
- Thick web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossings have been introduced. This will help in better track maintenance and safety.
- Advanced Integrated Track Monitoring System (ITMS) and Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) cars.
- A work for daily track health monitoring through deploying Axle Box Level Accelerometers on one/two bogies of Rajdhani type trains on Group-A route has been sanctioned. This will ensure daily monitoring of track defects on routes covered.
- Indian Railways has already adopted the technological upgradation in safety aspects of coaches and wagons by way of introducing Modified Centre Buffer couplers, Bogie Mounted Air Brake System (BMBS). Improved suspension design and provision of Automatic fire and smoke detection system in coaches are being carried out which would eventually lead to enhanced safety standards.

Use of toilet water to prepare tea and coffee

437. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are aware that in many trains water from toilet is being used to make tea, etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently a video has surfaced in social media suggesting that water from train toilet was being used to prepare tea and coffee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Railways are considering to enforce strict rules for the licensed vendors to prevent such recurrences; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. One whatsapp viral video of vendors coming out of a toilet of Train No. 12759, Charminar Express was noticed in the month of May 2018. Out of three vendors in the video, one vendor working under a Train side vending contractor was found coming out with Tea/Coffee can. The other two vendors were found to be unauthorized hawkers. The investigation conducted by the Indian Railway Catering Corporation (IRCTC) revealed that the video was taken in December 2017. But no substantial evidence has been found regarding toilet water being used for preparation of tea/coffee. However, considering the serious note of the fact that tea and coffee cans were seen being brought out of the toilet, which itself is a wrong practice, a hefty monetary penalty has been imposed on the concerned catering licensee of the train.

(d) and (e) In its endeavour to provide quality and hygienic food to the passengers, Indian Railways have developed and operationalised an institutionalized mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services through regular inspections at various levels to address catering complaints. Further, a policy of zero tolerance towards poor quality of food served to passengers and overcharging is being followed and during last Financial Year (*i.e.* April 2017 to March 2018), 16 catering contracts were terminated and also penalty of an aggregate amount of ₹ 4.87 crores were imposed on licensees across the Railways for various deficiencies/lapses in catering services, including poor quality and hygiene.

Monitoring of bullet train project

438. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated the implementation of Bullet train project in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project;

(c) whether Government has made arrangements for monitoring the progress of the said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the targets set for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Government has sanctioned the High Speed Rail project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad with technical and financial assistance of Government of Japan. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has been formed to implement the Project. Ground breaking ceremony marking the commencement of the project, has been held at Ahmedabad on 14th September, 2017 in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Ministers of India and Japan. Land acquisition process for the project has started. Out of total 25 tender packages for execution of project including the High Speed training institute, 6 tender packages have been floated and 4 of them have been awarded.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A number of high-level Committees including a Joint Committee co-chaired by Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and Special Adviser to Prime Minister of Japan at the apex level have been constituted to monitor the progress of the project. The project is envisaged for completion in the year 2022/23.

Electrification of railway network

439. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not going forward with 100 per cent electrification of the country's railway network; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways has planned to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) routes of Indian Railways, which has been included in Budget 2018-19 and will be taken up for execution after requisite sanctions.

Policy for container traffic

440. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more players other than CONCOR are being allowed for smooth movement of container traffic;

- (b) whether the Ministry has evolved any policy framework in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Railways has unveiled a policy for running of container trains by private container operators also in the year 2006 for transportation of containerized cargo *vide* gazette notification No. 458 dated 26th September, 2006. Based on this, 18 companies including Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) have obtained license to run the container trains. These are:

1. Adani Logistics Ltd.
2. Boxtrans Logistics (India) Services Pvt. Ltd. (newly International Cargo Terminal & Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.)
3. Central Warehousing Corporation Ltd.
4. Container Corporation of India Ltd.
5. Container Rail Road Services Pvt. Ltd.
6. Gateway Rail Freight Ltd.
7. Hind Terminals Pvt. Ltd.
8. Innovative B2B Logistics Solutions Ltd.
9. India Infrastructure and Logistics Pvt. Ltd.
10. Pipavav Railway Corporation Ltd.
11. Reliance Infrastructure Engineers Pvt. Ltd. (newly Pristine Mega Logistics Parks Pvt. Ltd.)
12. Sical Multimodal and Rail Transport Ltd.
13. Darcl Logistics Ltd. (newly CJ Darcl Logistics Ltd.)
14. Distribution Logistics Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.

15. Kribhco Infrastructure Ltd.
16. Arshiya Rail Infrastructure Ltd.
17. Fourcee Infrastructure Equipments Pvt. Ltd.
18. Joshi Konoike Transport and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.

Investigation of scams

‡441. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to get the scams investigated which took place in Delhi Railway Division and Northern Railway, Central Hospital;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any step in this regard, so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The cases for payment of salaries to some of the fictitious employees in Delhi Division and salaries and other allowances to fictitious DNB Trainee Doctors at Northern Railway Central Hospital have been investigated by the Zonal Railway Vigilance. Based on the outcome of investigation, both the cases have since been taken up for remedial system improvements and necessary departmental action against the officials involved in these corrupt practices. Moreover, complaints/FIRs have also been lodged/registered with local Police in these cases.

Project for making bricks from soil

442. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to start a project of making bricks from soil;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railways are not considering to start project of making bricks from soil except that Northeast Frontier Railway has awarded a contract costing ₹5.5 crore to make Soil Cement Blocks (SCBs) by using excess excavated soil in Jiribam-Tupul Project to meet with local conditions. SCBs are planned to be utilised for protection works of bridges, pitching of slopes, steps and lining of drains in the Project.

Corruption cases against senior railway officials

443. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases, for the offence of indulgence in corrupt practices, filed against senior railway officials during 2004-14 and 2014-17 and the status of these litigations as of January, 2018; and

(b) the recent measures taken by the Ministry during 2014-17 to reduce corruption and bring greater transparency and accountability along with the details of the impact of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) During the years 2004-14 (upto April, 2014) and 2014-17 (May, 2014 to December, 2017), cases against 93 and 56 Group 'A' officers of Indian Railways respectively were tiled for their alleged irregularities by the CBI. Out of these, 16 and 07 Group 'A' officers respectively were convicted and punished.

(b) Railways have well established systems, rules and procedures which guide its various functions. The Railways also have a vigilance organization, spread over the entire railway system which conducts preventive, decoy and surprise checks. It also investigates complaints of corruption received. If any irregularity is detected, suitable disciplinary action is taken in cases involving Group 'A' officers depending upon the gravity of the charges and in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission.

Corrective measures for system improvement and increasing transparency are taken regularly. Some of the recent initiatives include e-tendering of Works contract, procurements through e-tendering, e-auctions, changes in Tatkal reservation processes, registering of indents through Freight Operations Information System (FOIS), on line allotment of rakes etc. Regular training and seminars are also organized to educate the officials and enhance their knowledge and awareness.

Effect of Seventh Pay Commission on Railway budget

‡444. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railway Budget is heavily affected by Seventh Pay Commission;
- (b) if so, the effects thereof; and
- (c) the details of operating ratio of Railways at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The annual impact of implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission is assessed to be around ₹22,000 crore on the Railway expenditure.

(c) The operating ratio of Railways was 98.4% in 2017-18 (Provisional) and has been budgeted at 92.8% in 2018-19.

Late running of trains

‡445. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that important trains run late by many hours on many routes even on normal days;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of efforts being made by Government in this direction; and
- (d) by when Railways would start running on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Since last few months, a large number of safety related track maintenance works are being undertaken for which large number of speed restrictions have been imposed. This has led to drop in punctuality of trains over Indian Railways. For maintenance of assets and infrastructure augmentation, 4,60,566 block hours have been given during April to June 2018 as against 4,11,627 block hours during April to June 2017, which is 48,939 (11.89%) more block hours as compared to the corresponding period of 2017-18.

At times, trains get delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but also external factors which are beyond the control of Railways. In addition

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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, 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.

(c) and (d) Focussed attention, daily, is given by the Indian Railways at the station, Division, Zonal headquarter and Railway Board levels for ensuring the punctuality of all passenger carrying trains.

Indian Railways have taken various initiatives such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of limited height subway to replace level crossings, Rail Under Bridges and Rail Over Bridges etc. In addition, Zonal Railways have also been advised to have better coordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with situations arising out of law and order problems. In order to avoid passenger inconvenience due to late running of trains, sending of intimation through SMS regarding late running of trains has also been introduced in some trains on a trial basis. Further, provision of scratch rakes wherever operationally feasible, is also undertaken to ensure that minimum inconvenience is caused to passengers.

Introduction of new trains

‡446. SHRI HARIVANSH: 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 details of routes on which these trains are being run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 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). The details of the new trains that have been introduced are given in Statement.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement*Details of new trains introduced*

Sl. No.	Train no.	From	To	Nature	Frequency	W.e.f.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	79305/79306	Ratlam	Fatehabad Chandrawati Ganj	DEMU	Daily	22-Mar-14
2.	79307/79308	Ratlam	Fatehabad Chandrawati Ganj	DEMU	Daily	22-Mar-14
3.	79309/79310	Ratlam	Fatehabad Chandrawati Ganj	DEMU	Daily	22-Mar-14
4.	55613/55614	Dekargaon	Naharlagun	Passenger	Daily	5-Apr-14
5.	22117/22118	Guntur	Kacheguda	Double Decker Express	Bi-weekly	13-May-14
6.	56033/56034	Mannargudi	Mayiladuthurai	Passenger	Daily	13-May-14
7.	22119/22120	Kacheguda	Tirupati	Double Decker Express	Bi-weekly	14-May-14
8.	16353/16354	Nagercoil	Kacheguda	Express	Weekly	20-May-14
9.	53555/53556	Jasidih	Shikaripara	Passenger	Daily	30-Jun-14
10.	78821/78822	Gondia	Balaghat	DEMU	Daily	01-Jul-14
11.	13131/13132	Kolkata	Anand Vihar (T)	Express	Daily	01-Jul-14
12.	22461/22462	New Delhi	Katra	AC Express	Daily	14-Jul-14
13.	56715/56716	Punalur	Kanniyakumari	Passenger	Daily	01-Sep-14
14.	19717/19718	Jaipur	Chandigarh	Intercity Express	Daily	15-Sep-14
15.	59735/59736	Jaipur	Phulera	Passenger	Daily	16-Sep-14
16.	14713/14714	Sriganganagar	Jammu Tawi	Express	Weekly	24-Sep-14
17.	69133/69134	Anand	Dakor	MEMU	Daily	25-Sep-14

(2 services)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	69135/69136	Anand	Dakor	MEMU	Daily (2 services)	25-Sep-14
19.	79449/79450	Morbi	Maliya Miyana	DEMU	Daily	25-Sep-14
20.	14319/14320	Bareilly	Indore	Express	Weekly	02-Oct-14
21.	19453/19454	Gandhidham	Puri	Express	Weekly	08-Oct-14
22.	13063/13064	Balurghat	Howrah	Express	Bi-weekly	13-Oct-14
23.	19203/19204	Bhavnagar	Bandra (T)	Express	Weekly	19-Oct-14
24.	51603/51604	Bina	Katni	Passenger	Daily	20-Oct-14
25.	14221/14222	Faizabad	Kanpur Anwarganj	Intercity Express	Daily	21-Oct-14
26.	17321/17322	Hubli	Mumbai	Express	Weekly	01-Nov-14
27.	56281/56282	Bangalore	Chamrajnagar	Fast Passenger	Daily	01-Nov-14
28.	56921/56922	Hubli	Belgaum	Fast Passenger	Daily	01-Nov-14
29.	56925/56926	Yesvantpur/ Bangalore City	Tumkur	Passenger	Daily	01-Nov-14
30.	76521/76522	Bengaluru/ Yesvantpur	Neelamangala	DEMU	Daily	01-Nov-14
31.	76523/76524	Yesvantpur	Hosur	DEMU	6 Days a week	01-Nov-14
32.	14611/14612	Amritsar	Gorakhpur	Express	Weekly	02-Nov-14
33.	56277/56278	Chickmagalur	Yesvantpur	Fast Passenger	Daily	04-Nov-14
34.	16577/16578	Yesvantpur	Shivamogga Town	Express	Tri-weekly	07-Nov-14
35.	19421/19422	Ahmedabad	Patna	Express	Weekly	09-Nov-14
36.	19401/19402	Ahmedabad	Lucknow Jn.	Express	Weekly	10-Nov-14
37.	22939/22940	Hapa	Bilaspur	Express	Weekly	11-Nov-14
38.	19805/19806	Kota	Udhampur	Express	Weekly	12-Nov-14
39.	19417/19418	Ahmedabad	Allahabad	Express	Weekly	13-Nov-14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
40.	55819/55820	Guwahati	Mendipathar	Passenger	Daily	29-Nov-14
41.	22935/22936	Mumbai	Palitana	Express	Weekly	05-Dec-14
42.	15117/15118	Manduadih	Jabalpur	Express	Weekly	06-Dec-14
43.	16579/16580	Bengaluru/ Yesvantpur	Shimoga	Express	Bi-weekly	06-Dec-14
44.	16587/16588	Bikaner	Yesvantpur	Express	Bi-weekly	07-Dec-14
45.	11053/11054	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Azamgarh	Express	Weekly	13-Dec-14
46.	17621/17622	Aurangabad	Renigunta	Express	Weekly	13-Dec-14
47.	19021/19022	Bandra Terminus	Lucknow Jn.	Express	Weekly	13-Dec-14
48.	22933/22934	Bandra Terminus	Jaipur	Express	Weekly	13-Dec-14
49.	11073/11074	Mumbai	Chennai	Express	Weekly	15-Dec-14
50.	12047/12048	New Delhi	Bhatinda	Shatabdi Express	Bi-weekly	18-Dec-14
51.	22115/22116	Mumbai	Karmali	AC Express	Weekly	18-Dec-14
52.	64913/64914	Delhi	Rohtak	MEMU	Daily	24-Dec-14
53.	64915/64916	Delhi	Rohtak	MEMU	Daily	24-Dec-14
54.	16229/16230	Varanasi	Mysore	Express	Bi-weekly	25-Dec-14
55.	58303/58304	Sambalpur	Bhawanipatna	Passenger	Daily	28-Dec-14
56.	22941/22942	Indore	Jammu Tawi	Express	Weekly	29-Dec-14
57.	11111/11112	Gwalior	Gonda	Sushasan Express	Weekly	31-Dec-14
58.	58031/58032	Tatanagar	Chakulia	Passenger	Daily	02-Jan-15
59.	22937/22938	Rajkot	Rewa	Express	Weekly	04-Jan-15
60.	75101/75102	Chhapra	Manduadih	DEMU	6 Days a week	05-Jan-15
61.	13429/13430	Malda Town	Anand Vihar	Express	Weekly	06-Jan-15
62.	15529/15530	Saharasa	Anand Vihar	Jansadharan Express	Weekly	06-Jan-15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
63.	22857/22858	Santragachi	Anand Vihar	Express	Weekly	06-Jan-15
64.	15531/15532	Sahasra	Amritsar	Jansadharan Express	Weekly	11-Jan-15
65.	54789/54790	Bikaner	Rewari	Passenger	Daily	13-Jan-15
66.	74017/74018	Rewari	Rohtak	DEMU	6 days a week	13-Jan-15
67.	22443/22444	Kanpur	Bandra (T)	Express	Weekly	18-Jan-15
68.	22801/22802	Visakhapatnam	Chennai	Express	Weekly	18-Jan-15
69.	12783/12784	Secunderabad	Visakhapatnam	AC Express	Weekly	19-Jan-15
70.	17619/17620	Nanded	Aurangabad	Express	Weekly	19-Jan-15
71.	19415/19416	Ahmedabad	Katra	Express	Weekly	25-Jan-15
72.	18111/18112	Tatanagar	Baiyyappanahali (Bengaluru)	Express	Weekly	29-Jan-15
73.	15559/15560	Ahmedabad	Darbhanga	Jansadharan Express	Weekly	31-Jan-15
74.	19419/19420	Ahmedabad	Chennai	Express	Bi-weekly	31-Jan-15
75.	15043/15044	Lucknow	Kathgodam	Express	Tri-weekly	07-Feb-15
76.	14613/14614	Ferozpur	Chandigarh	Express	6 Days a week	09-Feb-15
77.	15547/15548	Jaynagar	Mumbai	Jansadharan Express	Weekly	09-Feb-15
78.	16863/16864	Mannargudi	Jodhpur	Express	Weekly	09-Feb-15
79.	22813/22814	Paradeep	Howrah	Express	Weekly	09-Feb-15
80.	56035/56036	Tiruchendur	Tirunelveli	Passenger	Daily	09-Feb-15
81.	56665/56666	Byndoor	Kasargod	Passenger	Daily	09-Feb-15
82.	58505/58506	Gunupur	Visakhapatnam	Passenger	Daily	09-Feb-15
83.	58659/58660	Hatia	Rourkela	Passenger	Daily	09-Feb-15
84.	11075/11076	Bidar	Mumbai	Express	Weekly	10-Feb-15
85.	11407/11408	Pune	Lucknow	Express	Weekly	10-Feb-15
86.	12597/12598	Mumbai	Gorakhpur	Jansadharan Express	Weekly	10-Feb-15

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87.	11081/11082	Mumbai	Gorakhpur	Express	Weekly	11-Feb-15
88.	11207/11208	Nagpur	Rewa	Express	Weekly	11-Feb-15
89.	12527/12528	Ramnagar	Chandigarh	Express	Weekly	11-Feb-15
90.	22655/22656	Thiruvantha- puram	Nizamuddin	Express	Weekly	11-Feb-15
91.	22655/22656	Thiruvantha- puram	Nizamuddin	Express	Weekly	11-Feb-15
92.	22809/22810	Paradeep	Visakhapatnam	Express	Weekly	11-Feb-15
93.	18629/18630	Ranchi	New Jalpaiguri	Express	Weekly	12-Feb-15
94.	19579/19580	Bhavnagar	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Link Express	Weekly	12-Feb-15
95.	68001/68008	Santragachi	Jhargram	MEMU	5 days a week	12-Feb-15
96.	68749/68750	Anuppur	Ambikapur	MEMU	6 Days a week	12-Feb-15
97.	22653/22654	Thiruvantha- puram	Nizamuddin	Express	Weekly	14-Feb-15
98.	17623/17624	Hazur Saheb Nanded	Bikaner	Express	Weekly	19-Feb-15
99.	15617/15618	Guwahati	Naharlagun	Intercity Express	Daily	20-Feb-15
100.	22411/22412	Naharlagun	New Delhi	AC Express	Weekly	20-Feb-15
101.	64167/64168	Palwal	Delhi-Aligarh	MEMU (EMU)	Daily	27-Feb-15
102.	12581/12582	New Delhi	Varanasi	Express	Daily	01-Mar-15
103.	15053/15054	Chhapra	Lucknow	Express	Tri-weekly	01-Mar-15
104.	15057/15058	Gorakhpur	Anand Vihar	Express	Weekly	25-Mar-15
105.	55069/55070	Gorakhpur	Nautanwa	Passenger	Daily	25-Mar-15
106.	15029/15030	Gorakhpur	Pune	Express	Weekly	26-Mar-15
107.	50101/50102	Madgaon	Ratnagiri	Passenger	Daily	31-Mar-15
108.	14505/14506	Nangal Dam	Amritsar	Express	Daily	13-Apr-15

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109.	12583/12584	Anand Vihar	Lucknow Jn.	Double Decker Express	Bi-weekly	26-Apr-15
110.	14503/14504	Katra	Kalka	Express	Bi-weekly	30-May-15
111.	78103/78104	Sambalpur	Rourkela	DEMU	6 Days a week	07-Jun-15
112.	14155/14156	Kanpur	Jammu Tawi	Express	Bi-weekly	09-Jun-15
113.	52574	Darjeeling	Ghum	Joy Ride	Daily	12-Jun-15
114.	52575	Darjeeling	Ghum	Joy Ride	Daily	12-Jun-15
115.	52572	Kurseong	Mahanadi	Himalayan on Wheels	Weekly	13-Jun-15
116.	52570/52571	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Red Panda	Tri-weekly	13-Jun-15
117.	52573	Mahanadi	Kurseong	Himalayan on Wheels	Weekly	14-Jun-15
118.	74027/74028	Delhi	Baraut	DEMU	6 days a week	25-Jun-15
119.	75105/75106	Mau	Allahabad City	DEMU	6 days a week	30-Jun-15
120.	11031/11032	Solapur	Bijapur	Express	Bi-weekly	04-Jul-15
121.	74025/74026	Delhi	Shamli	DMU	6 days a week	08-Jul-15
122.	74613/74614	Baramula	Banihal	DEMU	Daily	09-Jul-15
123.	74615/74616	Baramula	Banihal	DEMU	Daily	09-Jul-15
124.	58427/58428	Khurda Road	Begunia	Passenger	Daily	16-Jul-15
125.	58429/58430	Khurda Road	Begunia	Passenger	Daily	16-Jul-15
126.	53209/53210	Rajgir	Fatuha	Passenger	Daily	25-Jul-15
127.	15613/15614	Guwahati	Murkongselek	Intercity Express	Daily	10-Aug-15
128.	55429/55430	Rangapara North	Rangiya	Passenger	Daily	10-Aug-15
129.	55823/55824	Rangapara North	Dekargaon	Passenger	Daily	10-Aug-15

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130.	15055/15056	Ramnagar	Agra	Express	Weekly	11-Aug-15
131.	55343/55344	Bareilly	Kasganj	Passenger	Daily	11-Aug-15
132.	55345/55346	Bareilly	Kasganj	Passenger	Daily	11-Aug-15
133.	55719/55720	Dekargoan	Bhalukpong	Passenger	Daily	11-Aug-15
134.	55721/55722	Rangiya	Dekargaon	Passenger	Daily	11-Aug-15
135.	22415/22416	Vijaywada	New Delhi	AC AP Express	Daily	12-Aug-15
136.	19063/19064	Udhna	Danapur	Express	Bi-weekly	22-Aug-15
137.	14811/14812	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Sikar	Express	Bi-weekly	01-Sep-15
138.	59727/59728	Loharu	Sikar	Passenger	Daily	01-Sep-15
139.	59729/59730	Loharu	Sikar	Passenger	Daily	01-Sep-15
140.	53037/53038	Sahebganj	Bhagalpur	Passenger	Daily	01-Oct-15
141.	73037/73038	Azimganj	Nimtita	DEMU	5 days a week	01-Oct-15
142.	55007/55008	Sonpur	Kaptanganj	Passenger	Daily	15-Oct-15
143.	79311/79312	Ratlam	Laxmibai Nagar	DEMU	6 days a week	20-Oct-15
144.	64589/64590	Kanpur	Phaphund	MEMU	Daily	07-Nov-15
145.	22413/22414	Madgaon	H. Nizamuddin	Rajdhani Express	Bi-weekly	15-Nov-15
146.	75111/75112	Ghazipur	Varanasi	DEMU	Daily	20-Nov-15
147.	55615/55616	Guwahati	Silchar	Fast Passenger	Daily	21-Nov-15
148.	11079/11080	Mumbai	Gorakhpur	Express	Weekly	22-Nov-15
149.	75007/75008	Gorakhpur	Gonda	DEMU	Daily	22-Nov-15
150.	55032/55049	Badshahnagar	Nakaha Jungle	Passenger	Daily	26-Nov-15
151.	75005/75002	Gorakhpur	Barhni	Passenger	Daily	26-Nov-15
152.	78823	Balaghat	Katangi	DEMU	Daily	03-Dec-15
153.	11085/11086	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Madgaon	AC Double Decker Express	Tri-weekly	06-Dec-15

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154.	71909/71910	Agra Cantt.	Etawah	DEMU	Daily	24-Dec-15
155.	17417/17418	Tirupati	Sai Nagar Shirdi	Express	Weekly	26-Dec-15
156.	15307/15308	Aishbagh	Izzatnagar	Express	Daily	01-Jan-16
157.	22863/22864	Howrah	Yesvantpur	AC Express	Weekly	08-Jan-16
158.	68687/68688	Panskura	Digha	MEMU	Daily	08-Jan-16
159.	78009/78010	Rupsa	Bhanjpur	DEMU	6 days a week	08-Jan-16
160.	22127/22128	Lokmanya Tilak(T)	Kazipet	Anandwan Superfast Express	Weekly	11-Jan-16
161.	22663/22664	Yesvantpur	Howrah	AC Express	Weekly	13-Jan-16
162.	75113/75114	Bhatni	Varanasi City	DEMU	Daily	16-Jan-16
163.	54821/54822	Parvatsar	Makrana	Passenger	Daily	19-Jan-16
164.	22417/22418	New Delhi	Varanasi	Mahamana Express	Tri-weekly	22-Jan-16
165.	38712/38715	Kharagpur	Santragachi	MEMU	6 days a week	22-Jan-16
166.	18243/18244	Bilaspur	Jodhpur	Express	Bi-weekly	01-Feb-16
167.	18245/18246	Bilaspur	Bikaner	Express	Bi-weekly	01-Feb-16
168.	78824/78825	Durg	Dalli Rajhara	DEMU	Daily	01-Feb-16
169.	75215/75216	Barauni	Pataliputra	Passenger	Daily	03-Feb-16
170.	75213/75214	Sonpur	Pataliputra	Passenger	Daily	04-Feb-16
171.	14259/14260	Mughal Sarai	Lucknow	Ekatmata Express	Weekly	11-Feb-16
172.	58877/58878	Itwari	Nagbhir Jn.	DEMU	Daily	01-Mar-16
173.	15601/15602	Silchar	New Delhi	Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express	Weekly	03-Mar-16
174.	15623/15624	Jodhpur (BGKT)	Kamakhya (Guwahati)	Express	Weekly	04-Mar-16

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175.	75713/75714	Siliguri	Changrabandha	DEMU	Daily	04-Mar-16
176.	12529/12530	Patliputra	Lucknow	Express	Tri-weekly	14-Mar-16
177.	64553/64554	Moradabad	Anand Vihar(T)	MEMU	Daily	19-Mar-16
178.	64555/64556	Anand Vihar	Meerut City	MEMU	Daily	19-Mar-16
179.	12049/12050	Nizamuddin	Agra Cantt.	Gatiman Express	6 days a week	05-Apr-16
180.	73451/73452	Jamalpur	Tilrath	DEMU	Daily	11-Apr-16
181.	73453/73454	Jamalpur	Tilrath	DEMU	Daily	11-Apr-16
182.	73461/73462	Jamalpur	Khagaria	DEMU	Daily	11-Apr-16
183.	22419/22420	Anand Vihar (T)	Ghazipur	Suhaildev Express	Tri-weekly	13-Apr-16
184.	74617/74618	Budgam	Baramullah	DEMU	6 days a week	06-May-16
185.	74619/74620	Banihal	Baramullah	DEMU	6 days a week	06-May-16
186.	12493/12494	Nizamuddin	Pune	AC Express	Weekly	23-May-16
187.	54764/54763	Sriganganagar	Hanumangarh- Sadulpur	Passenger	Daily	24-May-16
188.	15655/15656	Kamakhya	Katra	Express	Weekly	27-May-16
189.	55665/55666	Silchar	Jiribam	Passenger	Daily	27-May-16
190.	55667/55668	Silchar	Bhairabi	Passenger	Daily	27-May-16
191.	14009/14010	Anand Vihar (T)	Bapudham Motihari	Champaran Satyagrah Express	Weekly	10-Jun-16
192.	12795/12796	Secunderabad	Vijaywada	Express	6 days a week	20-Jun-16
193.	25657/25658	Silchar	Sealdah	Kanchan- junga Express	Tri-weekly	20-Jun-16
194.	13205/13206	Danapur	Saharsa	Janhit Express	Daily	22-Jun-16
195.	74019/74020	Jind	Sonipat	DEMU	6 days a week	26-Jun-16

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196.	63213/63214	Patna	Ara	MEMU	Daily	27-Jun-16
197.	19311/19312	Indore	Pune	Express	Bi-weekly	28-Jun-16
198.	19331/19332	Indore	Kochuveli	Express	Weekly	28-Jun-16
199.	79313/79314	Indore	Mhow	DEMU	Daily	28-Jun-16
200.	79315/79316	Indore	Mhow	DEMU	Daily	28-Jun-16
201.	79317/79318	Indore	Mhow	DEMU	Daily	28-Jun-16
202.	79319/79320	Indore	Mhow	DEMU	Daily	28-Jun-16
203.	79321/79322	Indore	Mhow	DEMU	Daily	28-Jun-16
204.	79323/79324	Indore	Mhow	DEMU	Daily	28-Jun-16
205.	79325/79326	Indore	Mhow	DEMU	Daily	28-Jun-16
206.	14101/14102	Kanpur	Prayag/Allahabad	Express	Daily	03-Jul-16
207.	75115/75116	Ghazipur	Prayag	DEMU	Daily	04-Jul-16
208.	17215/17216	Vijaywada	Dharmavaram	Express	Tri-weekly	12-Jul-16
209.	14019/14020	Anand Vihar (T)	Agartala	Tripura Sundari Express	Weekly	31-Jul-16
210.	11083/11084	Mumbai	Kazipet	Tadoba Express	Weekly	08-Aug-16
211.	11307/11308	Hyderabad	Gulbarga	Intercity Express	Daily	08-Aug-16
212.	15059/15060	Lalkua Jn	Anand Vihar	Intercity Express	Bi-weekly	13-Aug-16
213.	14605/14606	Jammu Tawi	Haridwar	Express	Weekly	14-Aug-16
214.	15009/15010	Gomtinagar	Gorakhpur	Express	Daily	14-Aug-16
215.	77401/77402	Yerraguntla	Nosam/ Nanganapalli	DEMU	Daily	23-Aug-16
216.	77403/77404	Yerraguntla	Nosam/ Banaganapalli	DEMU	Daily	23-Aug-16
217.	11801/11802	Jhansi	Etawah	Link Express	6 days a week	01-Sep-16
218.	21801/21802	Jhansi	Indore	Link Express	4 days	01-Sep-16

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219.	59549/59550	Vadodara	Ahmedabad	Passenger	Daily	08-Sep-16
220.	53451/53452	Hansdiha	Dumka	Passenger	Daily	28-Sep-16
221.	15967/15968	Rangiya	Dibrugarh	Express	Tri-weekly	07-Oct-16
222.	55663/55664	Agartala	Silchar	Passenger	Daily	07-Oct-16
223.	55675/55676	Agartala	Dharmanagar	Passenger	Daily	07-Oct-16
224.	55677/55678	Silchar	Dharmanagar	Passenger	Daily	07-Oct-16
225.	55679/55680	Agartala	Dharmanagar	Passenger	Daily	07-Oct-16
226.	55773/55774	Katihar	Teznarayanpur	Passenger	Daily	07-Oct-16
227.	55893/55894	Rangiya	Rangapara North	Passenger	Tri-weekly	07-Oct-16
228.	55895/55896	Rangiya	Murkongselek	Passenger	Tri-weekly	07-Oct-16
229.	75901/75902	Tinsukia	Ledo	DEMU	Daily	08-Oct-16
230.	75903/75904	Dibrugarh Town	Tinsukia	DEMU	Daily	08-Oct-16
231.	75907/75908	Dibrugarh Town	Ledo	DEMU	Daily	08-Oct-16
232.	75909/75910	Dibrugarh Town	Dangari	DEMU	Daily	08-Oct-16
233.	75911/75912	Tinsukia	Ledo	DEMU	Daily	08-Oct-16
234.	51703/51704	Jabalpur	Sukrimangla	Passenger	Daily	18-Oct-16
235.	51705/51706	Jabalpur	Sukrimangla	Passenger	Daily	18-Oct-16
236.	22837/22838	Hatia	Ernakulam	AC Express	Weekly	27-Oct-16
237.	63203/63204	Kiul	Mokama	MEMU	Daily	27-Oct-16
238.	22427/22428	Anand Vihar (T)	Ballia	Bhriгу Express	Weekly	28-Oct-16
239.	15069/15070	Gorakhpur	Badshahnagar	Express	Daily	08-Nov-16
240.	55661/55662	Karimganj	Maishashan	Passenger	6 days a week	10-Nov-16
241.	55685/55686	Silchar	Maishashan	Passenger	6 days a week	10-Nov-16
242.	22323/22324	Kolkata	Ghazipur	Shabd Bhedi Express	Weekly	14-Nov-16

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243.	14117/14118	Allahabad	Basti	Manwar Sangam Express	5 days a week	30-Nov-16
244.	11901/11902	Mathura	Kurukshetra	Gita Jayanti Express	5 days a week	09-Dec-16
245.	55361/55362	Izzatnagar	Pilibhit	Passenger	Daily	14-Dec-16
246.	55363/55366	Izzatnagar	Pilibhit	Passenger	Daily	14-Dec-16
247.	55367/55368	Izzatnagar	Pilibhit	Passenger	Daily	14-Dec-16
248.	55369/55370	Izzatnagar	Pilibhit	Passenger	Daily	14-Dec-16
249.	55364/55365	Bareilly City	Pilibhit	Passenger	Daily	14-Dec-16
250.	12571/12572	Gorakhpur	Anand Vihar	Humsafar Express	Weekly	16-Dec-16
251.	12595/12596	Gorakhpur	Anand Vihar	Humsafar Express	Bi-weekly	16-Dec-16
252.	15063/15064	Gorakhpur	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Express	Weekly	18-Dec-16
253.	15065/15066	Gorakhpur	Panvel	Express	4 days a week	18-Dec-16
254.	15067/15068	Gorakhpur	Bandra(T)	Express	Weekly	18-Dec-16
255.	13121/13122	Kolkata	Ghazipur	Express	Weekly	19-Dec-16
256.	78826/78827	Dallirajahara	Durg	DEMU	Tri-weekly	21-Dec-16
257.	12503/12504	Kamakhya	Benagluru Cantt.	Humsafar Express	Weekly	25-Dec-16
258.	17021/17022	Hyderabad	Vasco Da Gama	Express	Weekly	29-Dec-16
259.	17419/17420	Tirupati	Vasco Da Gama	Express	Weekly	29-Dec-16
260.	22707/22708	Tirupati	Visakhapatnam	Double Decker Express	Weekly	30-Dec-16
261.	55181/55182	Chhapra	Thawe	Passenger	Daily	10-Jan-17
262.	16581/16582	KSR Bengaluru	Shivamogga	Express	Tri-weekly	16-Jan-17
263.	66535/66536	Bengaluru	Ramanagaram	MEMU	6 days a week	16-Jan-17

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264.	66537/66538	Bengaluru	Ramanagaram	MEMU	6 days a week	16-Jan-17
265.	66539/66540	Bengaluru	Ramanagaram	MEMU	6 days a week	16-Jan-17
266.	66541/66542	Bengaluru	Whitefield	MEMU	6 days a week	17-Jan-17
267.	66543/66544	Kuppam	KSR Bengaluru	MEMU	6 days a week	17-Jan-17
268.	22887/22888	Howrah	Yesvantpur	Humsafar Express	Weekly	20-Jan-17
269.	55681/55682	Agartala	Udaipur (Tripura)	Passenger	6 days a week	24-Jan-17
270.	55683/55684	Agartala	Udaipur (Tripura)	Passenger	6 days a week	24-Jan-17
271.	22497/22498	Sriganganagar	Tiruchchirapali	Humsafar Express	Weekly	27-Feb-17
272.	22877/22878	Ernakulam	Howrah	Antyodaya Express	Weekly	27-Feb-17
273.	11309/11310	Solapur	Miraj	Express	Daily	18-Mar-17
274.	22121/22122	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Lucknow	AC Express	Weekly	18-Mar-17
275.	22885/22886	Lokmanya Tilak(T)	Tatanagar	Antyodaya Express	Bi-weekly	18-Mar-17
276.	71407/71408	Pune	Daund	DEMU	Daily	25-Mar-17
277.	71409/71410	Pune	Daund	DEMU	Daily	25-Mar-17
278.	77622/77623	Mahabubnagar	Jaklair	DEMU	Bi-weekly	25-Mar-17
279.	22679/22680	Yesvantpur	Hassan	Express	Daily	26-Mar-17
280.	55371/55372	Pilibhit	Majhola Pakariya	Passenger	Daily	31-Mar-17
281.	55373/55374	Pilibhit	Majhola Pakariya	Passenger	Daily	31-Mar-17
282.	55375/55376	Pilibhit	Majhola Pakariya	Passenger	Daily	31-Mar-17
283.	55687/55688	Silchar	Dullavcherra	Passenger	Daily	31-Mar-17
284.	55689/55690	Badarpur	Dullavcherra	Passenger	Daily	31-Mar-17

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285.	56927/56928	Hubballi	Chikkabankal	Passenger	Daily	31-Mar-17
286.	19577/19578	Hapa	Tirunelveli	Express	Bi-weekly	31-Mar-17
287.	19115/19116	Bandra Terminus	Bhuj	Sayaji Nagari Express	Daily	01-Apr-17
288.	22989/22990	Mahuva	Bandra(T)	Express	Weekly	03-Apr-17
289.	22991/22992	Veraval	Bandra(T)	Express	Weekly	03-Apr-17
290.	22993/22994	Mahuva	Bandra(T)	Express	Weekly	03-Apr-17
291.	74029/74030	Jind	Sonipat	DEMU	6 days a week	04-Apr-17
292.	75723/75724	Guwahati	New Bongaigaon	DEMU	Daily	08-Apr-17
293.	16575/16576	Yesvantpur	Mangaluru Jn.	Gomote- shwara Express	Tri-weekly	09-Apr-17
294.	75727/75728	Guwahati	Haibargaon	DEMU	Daily	09-Apr-17
295.	75729/75730	Guwahati	Silghat	DEMU	Daily	09-Apr-17
296.	16791/16792	Punalur	Palakkad	Palaruvi Express	Daily	19-Apr-17
297.	19041/19042	Bandra(T)	Ghazipur City	Express	Weekly	20-Apr-17
298.	22867/22868	Durg	Nizamuddin	Humsafar Express	Bi-weekly	22-Apr-17
299.	22143/22144	Mumbai CST	Bidar	Express	Tri-weekly	26-Apr-17
300.	12085/12086	Guwahati	Dibrugarh	Shatabdi Express	Tri-weekly	30-Apr-17
301.	22919/22920	Ahmedabad	Chennai Central	Humsafar Express	Weekly	02-May-17
302.	12087/12088	Guwahati	Naharlagun	Shatabdi Express	Tri-weekly	07-May-17
303.	22117/22118	Pune	Amravati	AC Express	Weekly	09-May-17
304.	22123/22124	Ajni	Pune	AC Express	Weekly	09-May-17
305.	22125/22126	Nagpur	Amritsar	AC Express	Weekly	09-May-17
306.	55181/55182	Chhapra	Thawe	Passenger	Daily	28-Sep-17

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307.	55183/55184	Chhapra	Thawe	Passenger	Daily	28-Sep-17
308.	53375/53376	Barkakana	Sidhwar	Passenger	Daily	18-May-17
309.	22119/22120	Mumbai CST	Karmali	Tejas Express	5 days a week	22-May-17
310.	17323/17324	Hubballi	Varanasi	Express	Weekly	23-May-17
311.	17325/17326	Hubballi	Mysur	Express	Daily	23-May-17
312.	20889/20890	Howrah	Vijayawada	Humsafar Express	Weekly	15-Jun-17
313.	22705/22706	Tirupati	Jammu Tawi	Humsafar Express	Weekly	15-Jun-17
314.	77405/77406	Cuddapah	Pendlimarri	DEMU	6 days a week	15-Jun-17
315.	14021/14022	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Sikar	Express	Tri-weekly	20-Jun-17
316.	59735/59736	Sikar	Fatehpur Shekhawati	Passenger	Daily	20-Jun-17
317.	74849/74850	Ratangarh	Sadarshahar	DEMU	Daily	20-Jun-17
318.	74851/74852	Ratangarh	Sadarshahar	DEMU	Daily	20-Jun-17
319.	74853/74854	Ratangarh	Sadarshahar	DEMU	Daily	20-Jun-17
320.	19305/19306	Indore	Guwahati	Express	Weekly	07-Jul-17
321.	22163/22164	Bhopal	Khajuraho	Mahamana Express	Daily	13-Jul-17
322.	22833/22834	Bhubaneswar	Krishnarajapuram	Humsafar Express	Weekly	13-Jul-17
323.	59169/59170	Anand	Vadtal	Swami- narayan Passenger	Daily	13-Jul-17
324.	16793/16794	Rameswaram	Faizabad	Express	Weekly	27-Jul-17
325.	58033/58034	Bokaro Steel City	Ranchi	Passenger	Daily	27-Jul-17
326.	22147/22148	Dadar	Shirdi	Express	Weekly	30-Jul-17
327.	15549/15550	Patna	Jaynagar	Intercity Express	6 days a week	12-Aug-17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
328.	22165/22166	Bhopal	Singrauli	Express	Bi-weekly	12-Aug-17
329.	22167/22168	Nizamuddin	Singrauli	Express	Weekly	12-Aug-17
330.	22433/22434	Anand Vihar (T)	Ghazipur City	Express	Bi-weekly	13-Aug-17
331.	22913/22914	Bandra(T)	Patna	Humsafar Express	Weekly	13-Aug-17
332.	22921/22922	Bandra(T)	Gorakhpur	Antyodaya Express	Weekly	13-Aug-17
333.	75271/75272	Ara	Sasaram	DEMU	6 days a week	22-Aug-17
334.	75273/75274	Ara	Sasaram	DEMU	6 days a week	22-Aug-17
335.	78057/78058	Sonamukhi	Bankura	DEMU	5 days a week	04-Sep-17
336.	78061	Masagram	Bankura	DEMU	Weekly	08-Sep-17
337.	14611/14612	Katra	Ghazipur City	Express	Weekly	20-Sep-17
338.	20903/20904	Vadodara	Varanasi	Mahamana Express	Weekly	22-Sep-17
339.	15563/15564	Jaynagar	Udhna	Antyodaya Express	Weekly	08-Oct-17
340.	22151/22152	Pune	Kazipet	Express	Weekly	20-Oct-17
341.	20501/20502	Agartala	Anand Vihar(T)	Rajdhani Express	Weekly	28-Oct-17
342.	77651/77652	Bidar	Gulbarga	DEMU	6 days a week	29-Oct-17
343.	77655/77656	Bidar	Gulbarga	DEMU	6 days a week	29-Oct-2017
344.	66012	Tiruvallur	Chennai Central	MEMU	Daily	01-Nov-17
345.	66053	Chennai Central	Tiruvallur	MEMU	Daily	01-Nov-17
346.	55817/55818	New Bongaigaon	Guwahati	Passenger	6 days a week	01-Nov-17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
347.	66051/66052	Chennai Central	Avadi	MEMU	Daily	01-Nov-17
348.	75733/75734	Tejnarayanpur	Katihar	DEMU	Daily	1-Nov-17
349.	75735/75736	Tejnarayanpur	Katihar	DEMU	Daily	1-Nov-17
350.	75737/75738	Tejnarayanpur	Katihar	DEMU	Daily	1-Nov-17
351.	75739/75740	Tejnarayanpur	Katihar	DEMU	Daily	1-Nov-17
352.	75743/75744	Katihar	Siliguri	DEMU	Daily	1-Nov-17
353.	75745/75746	Katihar	Jogbani	DEMU	Daily	1-Nov-17
354.	75747/75748	Katihar	Barsoi	DEMU	Daily	1-Nov-17
355.	75749/75750	Katihar	Teta	DEMU	Daily	1-Nov-17
356.	20601/20602	Chennai Central	Madurai	AC Express	Weekly	03-Nov-17
357.	13129/13130	Kolkata	Khulna	Bandhan Express	Weekly	09-Nov-17
358.	51707/51708	Jabalpur	Nainpur	Passenger	Daily	28-Nov-17
359.	14715/14716	Hisar	Haridwar	Express	Bi-weekly	30-Nov-17
360.	14717/17418	Bikaner	Haridwar	Express	Weekly	30-Nov-17
361.	73463/73464	Jamalpur	Khagaria	DEMU	Passenger	01-Dec-17
362.	69174	Dahanu Road	Virar	MEMU	Daily	01-Dec-17
363.	69139	Virar	Surat	MEMU	Daily	01-Dec-17
364.	74857/74858	Sikar	Churu	DEMU	Daily	09-Dec-17
365.	20901/20902	Bandra(T)	Ajmer	Link Express	Tri-weekly	20-Dec-17
366.	74039/74040	Jind	Sonipat	DEMU	Daily	30-Dec-17
367.	59385	Indore	Chhindwara	Passenger	Daily	10-Jan-18
368.	59396	Chhindwara	Betul	Passenger	Daily	10-Jan-18
369.	15611/15612	Silchar	Guwahati	Express	Tri-weekly	01-Feb-18
370.	19667/19668	Udaipur	Mysur	Palace Queen Humsafar Express	Weekly	19-Feb-18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
371.	20817/20818	Bhubaneswar	New Delhi	Rajdhani Express	Weekly	20-Feb-18
372.	55377/55378	Pilibhit	Tanakpur	Passenger	Daily	22-Feb-18
373.	22985/22986	Udaipur	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Humsafar Express	Weekly	24-Feb-18
374.	15125/15126	Manduadih	Patna	Express	Daily	12-Mar-18

Establishment of special railway zone in Andhra Pradesh

447. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government is drawn to the matter of establishment of Special Railway Zone in the State of Andhra Pradesh as promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the present status of the matter and the reasons for the inordinate delay; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for early announcement of a Railway Zone for Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, Ministry of Railways was required to examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh. To *inter-alia*, examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway Zone, a Committee of senior Railway officers had been constituted. The Committee was asked to consult various stakeholders, including the Members of Parliament, State Governments, etc. before a final decision is taken. The Committee has already submitted its report. In view of the complexities involved, the matter is under further detailed examination in the Ministry of Railways.

Revised timetable for trains

448. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increasing delay in train services across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are considering to rework their time table; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that in case a train gets delayed during meal time, passengers with reserved tickets would be provided with free food and water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Since last few months, a large number of safety related track maintenance works are being undertaken for which large number of speed restrictions have been imposed. This has led to drop in punctuality of trains over Indian Railways. For maintenance of assets and infrastructure augmentation, 4,60,566 block hours have been given during April to June 2018 as against 4,11,627 block hours during April to June 2017, which is 48,939 (11.89%) more block hours as compared to the corresponding period of 2017-18.

At times, trains get delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but 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, 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.

(c) Yes, Sir. With a view to facilitate passengers about actual arrival of trains and to incorporate the time required for safety related works, Zonal Railways have proposed certain time table changes, including delayed arrival at certain terminals.

(d) In case trains with facility for pre paid services *viz* Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duranto trains get delayed and, if the journey time is extended by more than 2 hours, service of Tea/coffee, Lunch/Dinner or Breakfast/Evening tea, depending on the timings, are served to the passengers as per the fixed Menu. However, in the case of delay Mail/Express trains where catering services are provided on payment basis, catering services are made available through pantry cars, Train side vending, E-catering, Static catering units at en-route station on payment basis.

Introduction of GPS loggers on all trains

449. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways would introduce GPS loggers on all trains that would help log the progress of each train on a real-time basis which would then be uploaded on the railway website;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Railways have planned to increase the production of coaches to standardize the rakes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that additional coaches and rakes would be kept in each zone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Ministry of Railways is implementing the Real-time Train Information System (RTIS) which involves tracking of train by placing GPS based devices on locomotives. The real-time information on passenger train movement covered under this project will be shared through the existing enquiry system, including the website.

(b) Standardisation of rakes is an ongoing process over Indian Railways and *inter alia* is aimed at improving utilization of coaching stock, ensuring punctual running of trains, releasing maintenance slots and improving turn-around time. In order to standardise rakes, additional coaches, subject to availability of stock, are also provided to Zonal Railways.

(c) and (d) Indian Railways utilize scratch rakes formed from the available internal resources, in order to enable timely start of a train, whose pairing train runs late.

Rail connectivity in border areas of North East India

450. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are executing 43 projects at a cost of ₹9000 crore to extend rail connectivity in the border areas of North East India with other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of new line projects to be added in the mountainous region and the timeline projected for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 15 major new line projects having aggregate length of 1395 km at a cost of ₹55206 crore have been taken up in North Eastern Region. An expenditure of ₹18477 crore has been incurred on these projects upto March, 2018. An outlay of ₹4430 crore has been provided for 2018-19 for these projects and residual liabilities of some completed projects.

(b) Completion of projects depends upon many factors such as availability of funds, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, reduced working season, geographical conditions, law and order situation etc. Therefore, it is not feasible to fix timelines for all the projects.

Bypassing Commission of Railway Safety to increase speed of trains

451. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to bypass the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) to increase the speed of trains as part of Mission Raftaar 2022;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the principal routes identified under Mission Raftaar and how Railways propose to increase the freight and passenger traffic per cent without compromising on safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways is not planning to bypass or ignore Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) for increasing the speed of trains in cases where sanction of CRS is required as per extant rules and procedures.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Principal routes identified under Mission Raftaar are Golden Quadrilateral/ Diagonal routes connecting four metros namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

Initiatives being taken for improving mobility and increasing average speed without compromising safety include removal of speed restrictions, construction of Road Over

Bridges, construction of Road Under Bridges, right powering of trains, introduction of twin-pipe in wagons, replacement of conventional trains by Main Line Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains and Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) trains.

Station Redevelopment Programme

452. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning to execute their ambitious station redevelopment programme and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the new contracts would offer developers a lease term of 99 years compared to 45 years as envisaged earlier and residential premises would be a part of the assets created and the developers would be allowed to give multiple sub-leases rather than just one; and

(c) the number of stations Indian Railway Stations Redevelopment Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) is planning to redevelop on the Engineering-Procurement-Construction (EPC) model along with the timeline therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) It has been Railways' endeavour to redevelop the railway stations by leveraging real estate development of sparable railway land and air space in and around the stations. As the station redevelopment program requires a uniform approach and experts with diverse skill-sets including urban designers/planners, transport planners, architects, real estate experts etc., Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) has been assigned as a specialist Nodal agency to take forward this program on behalf of Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) 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 is formulating 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 and also for longer lease

periods for commercial development has been prepared. Accordingly, a Cabinet note has been initiated seeking Cabinet approval on this revised strategy of station redevelopment programme, including stations redevelopment through EPC mode.

Construction of flyover on railway crossing in Sambhal

‡453. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from the public representatives and social organisations regarding construction of flyover on railway crossing 36B situated at Chandausi, district Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the sanction has been accorded regarding construction of flyover on railway crossing 36B;

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard, so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) No representation has been received for construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing (LC) No.36-B in Chandausi Yard in the recent past. Since, this LC falls on National Highway, the same is to be constructed by National Highway Authority of India, as per Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on 10.11.2014 between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Measures to prevent fleecing of passengers in name of flexi fare

‡454. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway passengers do not get confirmed tickets of trains and passengers are being looted in the name of railway flexi fare and they have to buy tickets at threefold to fourfold rates of the actual rate;

(b) whether Railways propose to increase the number of coaches in trains and run additional trains so as to prevent looting of passengers in the name of flexi fare; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS), confirmed berths/seats are allotted on first come first served basis till the availability and thereafter RAC/Waiting List tickets are issued. The status of RAC/Waiting List tickets get automatically updated against the cancellation of confirmed berths/seats and also against release of unutilised reservation quotas. Since the available accommodation is accessed simultaneously through internet as well as through PRS centres of Indian Railways, particularly during peak rush periods and in popular trains, it gets exhausted within a short span of time. However, during non-peak periods and in non-popular trains, the accommodation is available for relatively longer periods. In case of urgent travel requirement, tickets can also be booked under Tatkal scheme.

The concept of flexi fare has been introduced only in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains *w.e.f.* 09.09.2016. Under this scheme, the fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum limit of 1.5 times in classes Second AC, Sleeper, Second sitting (reserved), AC Chair Car and 1.4 times in 3rd AC class. No change has been made in the fare of 1st AC and Executive class.

Operating cost of running of passenger services is increasing year after year resulting in adverse impact on passenger segment. Passenger segment is being cross subsidised by the freight segment. In order to generate additional revenues from passenger segment and reduce cross-subsidisation from freight, flexi fare system has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains which offer faster transit time and highest level of amenities.

(b) and (c) Introduction of new trains and augmentation of load is a continuous process on Indian Railway which is dependent to factors like operational feasibility, commercial justification and availability of resources etc. Besides, to cater to the needs of passengers during festive seasons, vacations etc, special trains are also run along with temporary augmentation of coaches to the existing services.

Accordingly, during the period April, 2017 to March, 2018, Indian Railways have introduced 90 new trains, extended 43 existing trains and increased the frequency of 9 pair trains. The above efforts to increase carrying capacity have been further reinforced by undertaking permanently augmenting loads of existing trains by inducting 540 coaches. During this period, Indian Railways also operated 36799 special train trips and attached 96723 extra coach trips to cater to the travelling needs of the passengers.

Status of railway project connecting Srinagar

‡455. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of years old project for connecting Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir with railway; and

(b) whether there is any plan to connect tourist places like Mussoorie, Dharamshala, Dalhousie with railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Railway has planned 326 Km. (Kilometre) railway line in Jammu and Kashmir State under two projects namely Jammu-Udhampur Rail Link Project (JURL) 54 Km. and Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL) 272 Km. Jammu-Udhampur Rail Link Project was commissioned in 2005. Out of 272 Km. of USBRL Project, Railway line has been commissioned on 161 Km length which includes 25 Km Udhampur-Katra and 136 Km. Banihal to Baramula. The work on intervening stretch of Katra-Banihal (111 Km) is in progress, of which 52% work has been completed. The target date of completion of USBRL project is March, 2021.

(b) No survey has been carried out to connect Mussorie and Dhalhousie tourist places in recent past. However, survey for new line between Dharamshala to Palampur was conducted in 2016. The cost of the project was assessed as ₹1616.81 crore with Rate of Return (ROR) (-)4.74%. In view of negative rate of return, and non availability of financial justification, the proposal could not be taken up.

New ticket confirmation process through website

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have started new ticket confirmation process through website;

(b) if so, the details of trends of confirmation and cancellation probability of last two years;

(c) the proposal of Government to issue confirm tickets to passengers whenever and wherever the person needs;

(d) whether Government proposes to issue confirm tickets to the patients travelling for treatment purposes for all trains; and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 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. Currently this feature is integrated with Indian Railway Catering & 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 inputted 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.

(b) As far as trends of confirmation chances and cancellation chances probability is concerned, it is informed that it varies depending upon peak and lean periods, type of trains like short distance trains, long journey trains, trains with limited stoppage, etc.

(c) In the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS), confirmed berths/seats are allotted on first come first served basis till the availability and thereafter Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC)/Waiting List tickets are issued. The status of RAC/Waiting List tickets get automatically updated against the cancellation of confirmed berths/seats and also against release of unutilised reservation quotas.

To facilitate those passengers who have to undertake journey at short notice and to save such passengers from the clutches of unscrupulous elements/touts, Tatkal scheme of reservation is available where the accommodation becomes available for booking on the previous day of journey from train originating station.

Further, with a view to providing confirmed accommodation to waiting list passengers and to ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, a scheme known as Alternate Train Accommodation (ATAS) known as "VIKALP" was introduced as a pilot project in November, 2015. This scheme has been expanded to cover all type

of train on all sectors from 01.04.2017. For this facility, waiting list passenger has to give an option at the time of booking of ticket and passengers with waiting list status at the time of preparation of first reservation charts are shifted to other trains, subject to availability of vacant accommodation.

(d) and (e) In the computerized PRS there is already a provision to permit cancer patients and their attendants travelling on concessional tickets issued in exchange of concession certificate, to directly access Emergency Quota at the time of booking itself. Maximum number of berths/seats out of the Emergency Quota in a train, which can be accessed by Cancer patients and their attendants in Sleeper, is 4 and 2 each in AC Chair Car, AC 3 tier, AC 2 tier and First Classes. In addition, separate Cancer Patient Quota has also been defined in some identified trains. Moreover, instructions are also there that in case requests are received for confirmation of berths out of emergency quota from patients who have to undertake journey for checkup like cancer treatment and dangerous ailments which cannot be postponed due to compelling circumstances, the same should be considered by quota controlling authority as per extant norms so as to accommodate to the extent feasible after satisfying themselves of the genuineness of travel.

Rake points for supply and distribution of fertilizers in Odisha

457. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of required infrastructure at existing rake points and non-provision of new rake points and two point rakes, supply of fertilizers and their distribution is affected a lot in Odisha; and

(b) whether the Ministry would take steps for Odisha's long standing demand for modernisation of existing rake points, notification of new rake points at Junagarh, Rengali, Dunguripalli, Narayanpur, Nirgundi and provision of two point rakes at proposed places *i.e.* Kesinga-Khariar Road, Rayagada-Kesinga, Cuttack-Dhenkanal, Rupsa-Dhanmandal, Baragarh Road-Bolangir and Cuttack-Dhanmandal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Junagarh, Rengali, Dungripali, Naranpur, Nirgundi station are already open for fertilizer handling with facility as per norms. (There is no Narayanpur station in Odisha).

Two point rakes can be loaded at notified stations except Cuttack-Dhanmandal and Cuttack-Dhenkanal as there is no operational feasibility.

Jeypore-Malkangiri and Jeypore-Nabarangpur railway projects

458. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons Railways have not decided yet on the executing agencies for Jeypore-Malkangiri (130 Km.) and Jeypore-Nabarangpur (38 Km.) railway projects, though Railways have signed MoU with the State Government of Odisha on 10th October, 2016 and only Jeypore-Nabarangpur railway project has been sanctioned, and

(b) the reasons for no communication from Railways about Jeypore-Malkangiri project and the present status of the above stated two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Execution of both Jeypore-Nabarangpur (38 Km.) and Jeypore-Malkangiri (130 Km.) new line railway projects have been entrusted to Construction Organisation of East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar. Both projects have already been sanctioned on 03.07.2017 and 28.02.2018 respectively and communicated to East Coast Railway. Present status of both the projects is as under:

Jeypore-Nabarangpur (38 Km.) New Line:

Detailed Estimate for ₹747.91 crore has been sanctioned. Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed. Requisitions for land acquisition for complete project from Jeypore to Nabrangpur have been submitted to Special Land Acquisition Officer/Jeypore.

Jeypore-Malkangiri (130 Km.) New Line:

Detailed Estimate amounting to ₹2343.64 crore has been sanctioned. Final Location Survey for first 30 Kms. has been completed. Process for land acquisition has been taken up.

Late running of trains

459. SHRI SAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several trains including premium trains such as Shatabdi, Rajdhani and superfast trains are running late across the country and punctuality of trains is touching 50 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise, category-wise and train-wise; and

(c) the reasons for late running of trains and the steps taken by Railways to improve their punctuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The punctuality performance of premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Superfast trains over Indian Railways for the last year and current year (April to June 2018) on terminating basis is as under:

Zone-wise Punctuality (%) of Rajdhani trains (Financial Year)

Zone	2017-18	2018-2019 (April-June 2018)
East Coast	56.32	71.43
East Central	68.25	65.93
Eastern	51.93	63.19
Konkan	83.5	61.54
Northeast Frontier	61.86	70
Northern	70.44	79.63
South Central	94.23	100
South East Central	37.5	30.77
South Eastern	81.82	86.54
Southern	71.65	73.85
South Western	75.9	66.29
Western	84.13	83.46

Zone-wise Punctuality (%) of Shatabdi trains (Financial Year)

Zones	2017-18	2018-2019 (April-June 2018)
1	2	3
Central	91.05	64.94
East Coast	78.21	70.33
Eastern	78.72	54.93
North Central	86.37	93.37

1	2	3
North Eastern	72.97	71.98
Northeast Frontier	75.9	74.35
Northern	78.86	89.13
North Western	93.47	90.43
South Central	97.1	80.26
South Eastern	92.55	91.03
Southern	89.42	78.43
South Western	86.1	71.24
West Central	69.23	74.73
Western	95.35	91.61

Zone-wise Punctuality (%) of Superfast trains (Financial Year)

Zone	2017-18	2018-2019 (April-June 2018)
Central	80.26	71.89
East Coast	63.8	54.2
East Central	32.42	23.46
Eastern	50.65	30.61
Konkan	86.54	64.02
North Central	67.89	67.69
North Eastern	33.49	13.74
Northeast Frontier	40.59	27.23
Northern	46.8	41.16
North Western	71.92	70.8
South Central	83.73	63.72
South East Central	73.76	54.36
South Eastern	75.68	67.59
Southern	75.62	65.53
South Western	71.41	51.67
West Central	72.55	62.56
Western	82.88	80.93

(c) Since last few months, a large number of safety related track maintenance works are being undertaken for which large number of speed restrictions have been imposed. This has led to drop in punctuality of trains over Indian Railways. For maintenance of assets and infrastructure augmentation, 4,60,566 block hours have been given during April to June 2018 as against 4,11,627 block hours during April to June 2017, which is 48,939 (11.89%) more block hours as compared to the corresponding period of 2017-18.

Trains get delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but 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, 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.

Various steps have been initiated to improve punctuality such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of limited height subway to replace level crossings, Road Under Bridges (RUB) and Road Over Bridges (ROB) etc. Besides, punctuality drives are launched from time to time and staff involved in train operations are sensitized. In addition, Zonal Railways have also been advised to have better coordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with situations arising out of law and order problems.

Tool for prediction of confirmation probability of waitlisted tickets

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

(a) whether Railways have developed a tool which would be able to tell passengers at the time of booking whether there is a high probability of a waitlisted ticket getting confirmed;

(b) if so, the details of such tool/system devised and its salient features;

(c) whether it is a fact that this tool would be available only for bookings made through IRCTC website;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the said tool has been put into operation 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) to (e) 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 inputted 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.

Tour of probationers to Germany

461. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have decided to send the probationers to Germany, in groups of around 35 each, to get to know about the largest railway network in Europe;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that such tours would be permanently integrated with the process of preparing young officers for their career; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The first batch of 40 Railway probationers was deputed to Berlin from 04th June, 2018 to 08th June, 2018 to study the German Railway network.

It has been decided to make 'Study visit of an advance railway system' a part of training for Railway Probationers.

Electrification of North East Frontier Railway

462. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to go in for complete electrification of North East Frontier Railway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial allocations made for the purpose; and
- (c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has decided to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) routes of Indian Railways including all BG routes under Northeast Frontier Railway.

Out of balance Broad Gauge (BG) Routes for electrification, un-sanctioned work of 13675 Route Kilometer (including 2536 RKM of Northeast Frontier Railway) has been included in Budget 2018-19, which will be taken up for execution subject to statutory and mandatory approvals.

- (b) Budget allocation for 2018-19 for ongoing Railway Electrification works falling fully/partly under Northeast Frontier Railway is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of project	Outlay for 2018-19 (₹ in crore)
1.	Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati incl. Katihar-Barsoi	154.29
2.	Kumedpur - Malda - Singhabad & Pakur -Malda	34.75
3.	Guwahati-Dibrugarh <i>via</i> Tinsukia and Simaluguri-Dibrugarh	44.00
4.	Raninagar Jalpaiguri-Samuktala Road	12.00
5.	New Bongaigaon-Goalpara-Kamakhya	28.00

(c) Depending upon the overall availability of resources, the targets for electrification of rail lines are fixed on yearly basis.

Punctuality of trains

463. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether every class of train, from premium trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi to super-fast and express trains is running much behind the scheduled time in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, zone-wise and train-wise, along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has noted that the punctuality of trains terminating at Chennai and other stations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala has deteriorated over the past three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to ensure operation of all these trains as per their schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Since last few months, a large number of safety related track maintenance works are being undertaken for which large number of speed restrictions have been imposed. This has led to drop in punctuality of trains over Indian Railways. For maintenance of assets and infrastructure augmentation, 4,60,566 block hours have been given during April to June 2018 as against 4,11,627 block hours during April to June 2017, which is 48,939 (11.89%) more block hours as compared to the corresponding period of 2017-18.

Trains get delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but 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, 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. The punctuality performance for the last three years and current year (April-June 2018) is as under:

The punctuality performance of Premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, and Superfast trains over Indian Railways for the last three years is as under:

Zone-wise Punctuality (%) of Rajdhani trains on terminating (arrival) basis during last three years.

Zones	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
East Coast	70.17	51.53	56.32
East Central	84.57	62.57	68.25
Eastern	72.41	54.67	51.93
Konkan	94.59	85.44	83.5
Northeast Frontier	79.1	61.69	61.86
Northern	69.55	66.12	70.44
South Central	88	84.62	94.23
Southeast Central	56.19	49.51	37.5
South Eastern	85.51	73.3	81.82
Southern	76.08	84.67	71.65
South Western	84.21	86.76	75.9
Western	91.06	88.37	84.13

Zone-wise Punctuality (%) of Shatabdi trains on terminating (arrival) basis during last three years.

Zones	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Central	82.11	93.61	91.05
East Coast	75.65	74.64	78.21

Zones	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Eastern	91.79	90.72	78.72
North Central	85.76	84.36	86.37
North Eastern	68.00	66.95	72.97
Northeast Frontier	81.67	81.61	75.9
Northern	90.68	86.25	78.86
North Western	95.06	91.42	93.47
South Central	97.11	96.49	97.1
South Eastern	88.75	92.58	92.55
Southern	89.96	93.05	89.42
South Western	88.67	82.85	86.1
West Central	63.09	53.44	69.23
Western	97.6	96.47	95.35

Zone-wise Punctuality (%) of Superfast trains on terminating (arrival) basis during last three years

Zones	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Central	83.04	84.72	80.26
East Coast	65.53	69.58	63.8
East Central	32.72	36.37	32.42
Eastern	58.15	57.66	50.65
Konkan	89.55	90.57	86.54
North Central	45.84	53.45	67.89
North Eastern	36.77	39.28	33.49
Northeast Frontier	47.66	54.09	40.59
Northern	52.84	50.02	46.8
North Western	79.71	77.33	71.92
South Central	87.63	91.35	83.73
South East Central	70.85	73.1	73.76
South Eastern	82.6	82.17	75.68
Southern	83.72	82.03	75.62

Zones	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
South Western	82.2	80.19	71.41
West Central	69.78	74.5	72.55
Western	89.91	89.47	82.88

Zone-wise Punctuality (%) of M/Express trains on terminating (arrival) basis during last three years

Zone	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Central	87.35	88.24	83.33
East Coast	81.42	83.68	77.5
East Central	62.21	62	55
Eastern	81.82	80.6	73.23
Konkan	87.74	88.79	88.7
North Central	42.03	56.02	58.51
North Eastern	66.14	64.78	60.52
Northeast Frontier	82.36	83.97	79.45
Northern	71.77	65.27	59.26
North Western	84.1	81.59	76.24
South Central	95.51	97.25	92.66
South East Central	73.71	72.04	68.05
South Eastern	83.04	82.12	77.42
Southern	91.64	88.76	82.28
South Western	91.73	93.99	87.74
West Central	75.17	83.54	76.29
Western	89.86	89.63	80.13

(c) and (d)

Punctuality Performance (%) of Southern Railway during last three years and current year (April to June 2018)

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (April to June)
88.59	86.96	81.12	69.32

Excessive Engineering speed restrictions were imposed over Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad and Salem divisions of Southern Railway from August 2016 to attend to defective track and other safety related new works which has led to drop in punctuality.

Various steps have been initiated country-wise including trains terminating at Chennai and other stations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala to improve punctuality such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of limited height subways to replace level crossings, Rail Under Bridges and Rail Over Bridges etc. Besides, punctuality drives are launched from time to time and staff involved in train operations are sensitized. In addition, Zonal Railways have also been advised to have better coordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with the situations arising out of law and order problems.

Delay in disposal of compensation cases

464. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that compensation cases are inordinately delayed in Railways;
- (b) if so, the average time taken and the extent of pendency;
- (c) whether Railways have a policy for their expeditious disposal; and
- (d) if not, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Compensation cases are decided by Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) after following due process of law and the Principle of Natural Justice. The reason for delay in disposal of cases is that, settlement of claim cases being a judicial process, the legal procedure adopted involves different stages for completion of statutory and other formalities such as investigation by G.R.P./RPF, filing of written statements, tendering of evidence, summoning of witness, arguments and adjournment sought by the contestants for producing evidence, cross-examination of claimant's documentary evidence, transfer of cases from one Bench to the other sought by the claimants, non-availability of heirship title with the claimants, vacancies in the posts of Members and other officers in RCT, etc.

The average time taken in Accident cases is 3 months and in Untoward Incident cases it is 4 years. As on 1st June, 2018, a total of 44 Accident claims cases and 31787 Untoward Incident claims cases are pending in different Benches of RCT in the country.

(c) and (d) Following steps have been taken for expeditious disposal of compensation cases:

- (i) In cases of train accident, *suo-moto* orders are passed by the Principal Bench of RCT to settle the claims within 6 weeks.
- (ii) RCT is regularly holding circuit Benches to dispose of claims cases in Benches where the pendency of claims cases is high.
- (iii) In cases where the occurrence of the untoward incidents and status of the passengers are not in dispute, simplified procedure is followed based on the submitted documents without oral evidence.

Target to collect non-fare revenue

465. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways' target to collect ₹10,000 crore out of non-fare revenue;
- (b) if so, the targeted time and activities under this plan; and
- (c) the details of physical and financial targets set and achieved, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Non-fare revenue earning consists of Commercial Publicity at Stations, Coaches, Wagons, Loco, Railway land, Foot over Bridge, Road over Bridge, Road under Bridge, etc. To generate revenue from all such advertisement and publicity sources, the consolidated financial target fixed for the Financial Year 2018-19 is ₹ 1200 crore, out of which upto April, 2018, ₹32.65 crore has been achieved. No physical targets have been laid down.

Projects to reduce logistics cost

466. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that rail projects worth 18,800 crore are being implemented to reduce logistics cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the projects are being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. and IPRCL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 184 works of doubling and flyovers, etc and 79 works of third, fourth, fifth and sixth lines, *i.e.* a total of 263 works worth ₹2,11,541 crore are in various stages of implementation on Indian Railways to decongest the highly saturated networks, so as to carry more traffic, thereby reducing the logistic cost.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As on date, 44 projects of new line, gauge conversion and doubling under Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and 12 projects under Indian Port Rail Corporation Limited are being executed and are at various stages of implementation.

Plant-based food on trains

467. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to promote plant-based food on trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways have received many proposals from many organisations urging to promote plant-based food on trains; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken up by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Stainless steel benches at railway stations

468. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide stainless steel benches at railway stations of Maharashtra and other parts of the country by replacing the existing rusting benches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this work is likely to be completed, particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In May, 2018 it has been decided to procure one lakh stainless steel benches to be provided to all the Zonal Railways in addition to the existing benches. The details on provisions of stainless steel benches are maintained zonal railway wise and not state wise. The State of Maharashtra is predominantly served by Central Railway, Western Railway, South Central Railway and South East Central Railway and 24000 stainless steel benches have been allocated on these Zonal Railways. The Zonal Railway wise number of stainless steel benches allocated on the stations on these Railways are as under:

Zonal railway	Number of benches
Central	6000
Western	8000
South Central	6000
South East Central	4000
TOTAL	24000

(c) At present, bid invitation to procure stainless steel benches is under process.

Induction of kitchen equipments for handsfree preparation of food

469. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to set up CCTV cameras in sixteen IRCTC kitchens to ensure cleanliness;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the IRCTC is also considering to induct more kitchen equipments for handsfree preparation of foods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Railway Catering Corporation (IRCTC) has upgraded the sixteen kitchens by undertaking civil/electrical works as per requirements and installed core kitchen equipments for bulk meal preparation.

Under-utilisation of budget allocation for Kerala

470. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds utilised, out of budget allocation in Kerala for the development of railway, during the last four years;

(b) whether Government has taken note of the complaints from northern districts of Kerala that the budget allocation for railway development in northern Kerala was under-utilised; and

(c) if so, the response of the Central Government to the complaints and the steps taken to address them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Projects are not sanctioned State-wise. However, details of total expenditure incurred during the last four years *i.e.* between 2014-18 and outlay provided during 2018-19 for New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala are as under:

Plan Head	Latest Anticipated cost	Expenditure incurred during last 4 years	Outlay during 2018-19
New Line	3292.62	142.27	229.90
Gauge Conversion	2340	695.48	70.87
Doubling	5644.48	839.23	226.65

(₹ in crore)

(b) and (c) Projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala have been affected due to delay in handing over of required land to Railway, protest by local people and restrictions imposed by local authorities or the movement of railway contractors' vehicles. 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.

In this regard, continuous meetings are being conducted with the concerned authorities from the Government of Kerala to sort out the issues affecting the projects to expedite progress of the projects.

Late running of trains

471. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that chronic train delays are the common problem of the Railways now-a-days;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind late running of trains;
- (c) the delay reports of trains during the last two years with quarterly average, zone-wise; and
- (d) the action proposed by Government to maintain punctuality of railway timetable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Since last few months, a large number of safety related track maintenance works are being undertaken for which large number of speed restrictions have been imposed. This has led to drop in punctuality of trains over Indian Railways. For maintenance of assets and infrastructure augmentation, 4,60,566 block hours have been given during April to June 2018 as against 4,11,627 block hours during April to June 2017, which is 48,939 (11.89%) more block hours as compared to the corresponding period of 2017-18.

Trains get delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but 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, 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.

(c) The zone-wise details of trains delayed (%) for the last two years and current year (April-June 2018) are as under:

Zone	Quarterly average trains delayed (%) during 2016-17			
	April-June	July-September	October-December	January-March
Central	6	6	6	10
East Coast	23	13	23	28
East Central	28	31	43	45
Eastern	6	8	9	12
Konkan	7	12	16	19
North Central	45	46	60	63
North Eastern	12	16	29	32
Northeast Frontier	8	8	15	11
Northern	20	22	35	31
North Western	5	3	7	8
South Central	4	3	4	4
South East Central	14	7	15	22
South Eastern	7	4	4	6
Southern	8	11	17	16
South Western	5	3	5	6
West Central	10	10	12	18
Western	5	4	4	4

Zone	Quarterly average trains delayed (%) during 2017-18				Quarterly average trains delayed (%) during 2018-19
	April-June	July-September	October-December	January-March	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central	6	10	11	13	17
East Coast	29	19	22	36	32
East Central	37	32	43	54	48

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1	2	3	4	5	6	
Eastern	13	7	12	39	37	
Konkan	14	18	37	28	26	
North Central	42	37	50	60	54	
North Eastern	20	17	26	44	40	
Northeast Frontier	10	9	17	41	32	
Northern	20	22	46	54	50	
North Western	5	6	17	20	14	
South Central	5	4	7	21	27	
South East Central	14	12	25	29	44	
South Eastern	8	4	8	17	24	
Southern	14	12	22	27	31	
South Western	6	5	8	20	23	
West Central	14	10	15	21	28	
Western	5	6	12	11	9	

(d) Punctuality of passenger carrying trains is being monitored rigorously on a daily basis at Divisional, Zonal and Railway Board levels by Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs), General Managers (GMs) and Railway Board Members and Senior officers. To ensure running of trains right time when pairing trains are running late, scratch rakes are inducted and rakes are standardized to the extent operationally feasible. Also various steps have been initiated to improve punctuality such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of limited height subways to replace level crossings, Road Under Bridges (RUB) and Road Over Bridges (ROB) etc. Besides, punctuality drives are launched from time to time and staff involved in train operations are sensitized. In addition, Zonal Railways have also been advised to have better coordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with situations arising out of law and order problems.

Shelving of Kothavalasa-Tuni railway line

472. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) when Kothavalasa-Tuni single line project was announced;
- (b) whether it is a fact that, as per media reports, Railways have shelved this project;
- (c) if so, the reasons for shelving this long pending and long-needed project at Visakhapatnam;
- (d) whether any report has been given by any entity or the Railway Board on which such a decision has been taken; and
- (e) if so, the details of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Tuni and Kothavalasa are already connected *via* electrified double line. However, a Survey was sanctioned for provision of a new BG single line from Tuni to Kothavalasa (155.34 Km) *via* Narsipatnam and Madugola vide Blue Book 2016-17. Survey report at a construction cost of ₹3771.21 crore and ROR of (-) 4.14%. was examined in detail in Railway Board. It was observed that line capacity utilization of the existing double line between Kothavalasa-Tuni varies from 46% to 122%. In view of negative ROR {i.e. (-) 4.14% } and low traffic potential, the survey project for Tuni to Kothavalasa (155.34 Km) *via* Narsipatnam and Madugola was shelved.

Creation or restructuring of railway zones

473. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to create or restructure railway zones in the near future; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Kotipalli-Navasapuram railway line

474. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the Kotipalli-Navasapuram railway line works;
- (b) whether the work would be completed within the stipulated period of three years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) A New Line between Kotipalli-Narsapur (Navasapuram) (57.21 km.) was sanctioned in the year 2000-01 at a cost of ₹329.05 Cr. The latest estimated cost is ₹2120.16 Cr. This project involves construction of three important bridges (i) on river Gauthami (44X76.5m.) (3.516 km.) (ii) on river Vainatheya (20X76.25m.) (1.598 km.) & (iii) on river Vasistha (17X76.25m.) (1.358 km.). Work for foundation and sub structure of Gauthami Bridge (44 x 76.5m steel girder) has been commenced. Tender for foundation and substructure of two important bridges on river Vainatheya and Vasistha Bridges has also been awarded in May 2018. Further, land acquisition has been taken up. Out of total 930 acres of land required for the project, 276 acres land has been acquired between Kotipalli-Amalapuram.

(b) and (c) The completion of Railway project requires clearances from various departments of State Governments and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearance like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities etc. Therefore, time line for completion of project cannot be fixed.

New railway zone in Andhra Pradesh

475. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government undertook any survey to assess the feasibility of establishing a new railway zone in the State of Andhra Pradesh as provided in section 93 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the survey undertaken by Government in this direction; and

- (c) if no such survey was undertaken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) (mentioned in section 93) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, Ministry of Railways was required to examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh. To *inter-alia*, examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway Zone, a Committee of senior Railway officers had been constituted. The Committee was asked to consult various stakeholders, including the Members of Parliament, State Governments, etc. before a final decision is taken. The Committee has already submitted its report. In view of the complexities involved, the matter is under further detailed examination in the Ministry of Railways.

Availability of upgraded tools to coolies

476. SHRI. B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government intends to recruit coolies from stations across the country with upgraded tools to carry heavy baggages of the passengers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for non-availability of tools to coolies for carrying baggage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

- (b) Does not arise.

Installation of emergency button in trains and washrooms

477. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Women and Child Development asked the Ministry of Railways to ensure installation of emergency button in trains and in washrooms to provide better safety for women passengers during travel;
- (b) if so, the response of the Ministry of Railways and measures taken in this regard; and

(c) the other measures taken in the running trains to ensure safety of women passengers, including display of women helpline number, special police squad, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Suggestions had been received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development with regard to strengthening of security of women passengers which, inter-alia, included provision of emergency button in trains. Since Emergency Alarm Chain System is already available in coaches, provision of emergency push button in all coaches is not being considered at this juncture. On trial basis, Emergency Talk Back System has been provided in 06 ladies coaches of two Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) rakes (03 coaches each) in Mumbai Suburban, v One air conditioned EMU rake running in Mumbai Suburban has also been fitted with this system. Provision of Emergency Talk Back System is also being envisaged in all newly manufactured EMU rakes under Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP)-III project.

(c) The year 2018 has been declared by the Ministry of Railways as the year of women security. For ensuring round the clock security of women passengers, various measures planned to be introduced in Indian Railways include provision of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in ladies coaches of suburban trains, provision of CCTV cameras on platform to cover ladies coaches during halt, initiation of proposal for amendment in the Railways Act, 1989, deployment of women police personnel in suburban trains during night hours, escorting of all ladies special trains, running in metropolitan cities, by lady Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, escorting of ladies compartments in local trains by RPF and Government Railway Police (GRP) during peak/non-peak hours, staff deployment during late night and early morning in local trains to ensure proper security to lady passengers, prosecution of offenders travelling in ladies coaches by conducting intensive drives under section 162 of the Railways Act, recruitment of women in RPF, special drives under the Railways Act against offenders, training/sensitization of Railway staff, posters and signages and media campaign on women security, regular announcements to create awareness regarding Helpline at stations and trains and in society, constitution of a 3-member women officers' Committee and formation a three member committee at Railway Board level to supervise and monitor implementation of Action Plan and constitution of similar committees at Zonal and Divisional levels etc.

All India Security Helpline 182 is being upgraded at a cost of ₹5.59 crore. It is also being integrated with an APP to make it further passenger friendly and effective.

With a view to have wider publicity of Security Helplines and other measures initiated by Railways to strengthen security of passengers, publicity campaigns are being launched by zonal railways. Passengers are being made aware by way of posters, stickers, distribution of pamphlets, etc. Besides, emphasis has also been laid down on audio/visual publicity, nukkad natak, public campaigns, regular announcements, etc.

Ongoing and pending railway projects

478. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of ongoing and pending railway projects in the country, State and Zone-wise;
- (b) whether execution of several ongoing railway projects is getting delayed resulting in huge cost over-run;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of funds spent on such projects, so far and the total funds required for their completion, Project and State/Zone-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by Railways to execute these projects expeditiously to check any further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, 180 New Lines, 57 Gauge Conversion and 263 Doubling Projects are in different stage of execution. State-wise details of projects are as under:

Name of State	No. of projects		
	New Line	Gauge Conversion	Doubling
1	2	3	4
Assam North Eastern Region	15	-	6
Andhra Pradesh	18	-	15
Bihar	34	5	14

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh	8	-	9
Delhi	1	-	5
Gujarat	4	25	13
Haryana	7	1	4
Himachal Pradesh	4	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	1	-	2
Jharkhand	14	-	18
Karnataka	16	-	15
Kerala	2	-	8
Madhya Pradesh	8	5	25
Maharashtra	12	4	18
Odisha	10	-	25
Punjab	6	-	9
Rajasthan	10	6	16
Telangana	9	-	5
Tamil Nadu	8	5	11
Uttar Pradesh	15	8	61
Uttarakhand	3	-	1
West Bengal	18	4	39

* Some of the projects fall in more than one State.

(b) and (c) 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. leading to cost overrun.

(d) The details of all works in progress and new works including, funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e.* www.indianrailways.gov.in and are also available in Pink Books presented before the House alongwith Budget every year.

(e) For timely completion of the projects, Railway is holding regular meetings with State Government and concerned Central Government officials on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law & order problems, shifting of utilities etc.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc, institutional financing has been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for ₹1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Collection of application fee from selected applicants

‡479. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies for which applications were invited in different zones of Railways in the last five years and the application fee demanded and collected with applications of candidates;

(b) the details of utilisation of amount thus collected;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to over unemployment the number of applications received are more than expected ones and huge amount is collected thereby; and

(d) whether the Ministry would consider to take application fee only from those candidates who are selected for service so that the unemployed persons do not get burdened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The information is appended as Statement-I and Statement-II respectively (*See* below).

(c) Applications received are on expected lines as the recruitment is for large number of vacancies (89,409) compared to previous recruitment.

(d) No, Sir.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17. Patna	1271	103	738	0	6435				respectively						
18. Ranchi	2621	352	642	0	4568				who actually						
19. Secunderabad	2839	323	2022	0	9785				appear in						
20. Siliguri	345	129	334	0	477				examination.						
21. Thiruvananthapuram	294	46	477	0	345										
TOTAL	26,567	9,064	20,059	0	89,409					9,74,82,977	7,24,29,869	42,45,10,800	0	8,86,85,49,000	
GRAND TOTAL VACANCY NOTIFIED (2013-2018)	1,45,099														
GRAND TOTAL FEE COLLECTED (2013-2018)**	9,46,29,72,646														

* Provisional

** Subject to refund.

Statement-II**Railway Zone-wise number of vacancies notified for Level I Posts, application fee demanded and amount collected**

Sl. No.	Rly	No. of vacancies notified for Open Market Recruitment for Level I posts						Amount Demanded from each candidate						Amount Collected in ₹						Details of Utilisation of Funds
		2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	₹ 100 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	2017-2018	2018-2019*	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019*		
1.	CR	41	41	10	10	0	0	₹ 100 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)	26,74,835	8,70,036	17,12,533	18,74,582	4,87,500	Amount credited to Railway's Exchequer				
2.	ECR	45	105	10	10	0	0	₹ 100 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)										
3.	ECoR	56	23	10	31	0	0	₹ 100 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)										
4.	ER	166	50	8	8	0	0	₹ 100 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)	₹ 500 (Non-Exempted Categories)										

	34	34	6	6	0	Nil (Exempted Categories)	₹ 250 (Exempted Categories)	₹ 250 (Exempted Categories)	₹ 250 (Exempted Categories)
5. NCR	34	34	6	6	0				
6. NER	10	10	8	8	0				
7. NWR	31	31	10	8	0				
8. NFR	49	56	10	10	0				
9. NR	0	1998	12	14	0				
10. SCR	50	54	0	0	0				
11. SECR	0	0	6	6	0				
12. SER	2	100	0	8	0				
13. SWR	0	0	0	0	0				
14. SR	0	0	0	0	0				
15. WCR	0	31	0	6	0				
16. WR	55	172	0	0	0				
TOTAL	539	2,705	90	117	8				
GRAND TOTAL VACANCY NOTIFIED (2014-19)									
					3,459				
GRAND TOTAL FEE COLLECTED (2014-19)*									
					76,19,486				

* Subject to refund.

26,74,835 8,70,036 17,12,533 18,74,582 4,87,500

who actually appear in examination.

who actually appeared in examination.

who actually appeared in examination.

who actually appeared in examination.

who actually appeared in examination.

who actually appeared in examination.

who actually appeared in examination.

Acquisition of land for bullet train project

480. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land acquisition issues are plaguing the ambitious Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that, so far, the NHSCRC has acquired only 0.9 hectares of land for the project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said project is anticipated to be completed by 2022/2023; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the collaborators in the Bullet train project had asked Government to expedite acquisition of land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Approximately 4.92 hectare of land has been handed over by Indian Railways to National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) in Vadodara. Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has given their consent to hand over 0.9 hectare of land at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project. Land acquisition process for the 1415 hectare approximately required for the project, has been started.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The land acquisition process is as per the schedule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-one minutes past two of the clock,

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN) *in the Chair*]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन): मैं सबसे पहले अपने माननीय सभापति जी का शुक्रिया अदा करती हूँ। आज मुझे पहला मौका मिला है यहां बैठने का और मैं आप लोगों का सहयोग भी चाहती हूँ। Private Members' Legislative Business. Bills for introduction.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN): The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2018, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy-not present. Shri Ripun Bora.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (Insertion of New Article 21B)

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Madam, 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 RIPUN BORA: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2018

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Madam, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 2013.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2018

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI (Nominated): Madam, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

The Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Telangana): Madam, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

The Criminal Laws (Amendment) BILL, 2018

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra): Madam, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

The Prevention of Gender Pay Gap Bill, 2018

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra): Madam, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to address and curb the gender pay gap in the labour and employment sectors and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN): Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya; not present. Now, Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

The National Tribal Education Board Bill, 2018

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Board for promoting and monitoring education and skill development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

**The Farmers' Right to Guaranteed Remunerative Minimum Support Prices for
Agricultural Commodities Bill, 2018**

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Madam, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to confer right on all farmers to obtain Guaranteed Remunerative Minimum Support Prices with minimum fifty percent profit margin over comprehensive cost of production, upon sale of agricultural commodities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH : Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN): Shri Sanjay Singh; not present. Now, we take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray on the 2nd February, 2018. Now, Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017

(Amendment of Article 366) - Contd.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you very much, Madam, for the opportunity you have given to me. The objective of the Bill is to reduce the ambiguity. The term consultation prevents its multiple interpretations. The Bill aims to ensure homogeneity in terms of application of the term consultation to different provisions and interpretations by defining the term, as the action or process of formally consulting or discussing with another, in a merely a consultative, advisory, and non-binding manner. Madam, in fact, I would like to refer to some of the Articles of the Constitution in this regard, and also the backdrop. Article 124 of the Constitution of India deals with the appointment of Supreme Court judges, and Article 217 of the Constitution of India deals with the appointment of judges of High Court. Article 222 of the Constitution of India deals with the transfer of judges. In fact, if we go through the status of appointments or the nature of appointments or the way the appointments that were being made prior to 1993, the President of India used to appoint the judges of the High Court as well as the judges of the Supreme Court. And in 1993, the Supreme Court had delivered a judgment saying that the appointment of judges by the President of India was being made with a political motive. Therefore, the Supreme Court has felt that there is a need to amend the procedure for appointment of Supreme Court judges as well as the High Court judges. Therefore, the Supreme Court has stated that a Collegium System has to be introduced, and the President of India can, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, appoint the judges of the Supreme Court as well as the High Courts. Therefore, in 1993, the Supreme Court has introduced the Collegium System in this country. Now, what will happen, if at

[Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy]

all, the CJI is not concurring with the President of India? That is the question. If the CJI is not concurring with the President of India, then, it will be referred to the Collegium, and if the Collegium reiterates the opinion of the CJI, the matter will be remitted to the President of India, and the President of India will not have any other option but to accept the recommendations of the CJI. Now, what is the word consultation? The word consultation, if you take it in the literal sense, it is not binding. When President makes an appointment in consultation with somebody, that consultation is nothing but advisory in nature. When the President of India consults the CJI, it is not binding on the President of India that the advice given by the CJI should be accepted. It is his prerogative whether to accept it, or, not to accept it. That is the meaning of it. However, what is happening now is this. See, there are two ways of doing it. Proposals can either come from the President of India, or, the proposals can go from the Judiciary to the President of India. There are two ways of doing it because the Constitution does not specify anything. So far, I don't think there is any precedent where the President of India is sending the proposals to the Judiciary. In fact, vice versa, it has always been that the Judiciary has been sending the proposals to the President of India, and it is for the President of India to consult the CJI in this regard. The Collegium decides, and the CJI sends the proposals to the President of India, and the President of India may, sometimes accept, and sometimes, may not accept it. This is what is happening. So, in the Private Member's Bill under discussion, the hon. Member seeks the word 'consultation' to be defined more by suggesting necessary Amendment to Article 366. That is the intention of the Bill, I think.

Madam, to impart the objectivity and transparency in the process, selection of judges should be on the basis of norms rather than the subjective choices. This is what my opinion is. Considering the pitfalls of the events, prior to 1993, the Executive decided, as I have already stated. Then, the Executive decided who are to be appointed and who are not to be appointed as judges. When the Executive decided the composition of the Judiciary, in the aftermath of Emergency particularly in Keshavananda Bharati case, the Supreme Court was of the opinion that it is unwise for the Parliament to decide on appointments since there could be political motives. Madam, I would like to make a reference to the statement made by the retired Chief Justice of India, Shri Sabharwal. Shri Sabharwal stated that it is always good for the democracy to have a little tension between the Judiciary and the Government so long as there is an acknowledgment of the Judiciary being left alone. It means that the independence of the Judiciary is to be maintained. That is the fundamental principle based on which the Constitution of India has been drafted.

Now, let me refer to the NJAC Bill. After the Parliament voted in favour of it, when the NJAC Bill was accepted by almost all the States, then the matter was referred to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court fairly rejected. For what reason did the Supreme Court reject it? The Supreme Court quashed the NJAC Act on the pretext that it is against the basic fabric of the Constitution. According to me, the word 'consultation' has to be well defined. Otherwise, it would lead to so many complications. Further, any appointment of judges, whether by collegium system or some other system which would be introduced, there has to be transparency; there has to be a consultative process. At the same time, the independence of the Judiciary needs to be maintained.

Now that there are some allegations that the collegium system is not working properly since there are some loopholes and infirmities in it, definitely it should be revised. It must be thought of and the collegium system should be revised in accordance with the present structure and the situation.

Therefore, while supporting the Bill, I suggest that the word 'consultation' should be well defined. I support the Bill as a whole with the aforesaid observations. Thank you very much.

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Madam Vice-Chairperson, the present Bill brought by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray raised some important issues. As we all know, the separation of power among the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary is a foundational pillar of the Indian Constitution. The most significant manifestation of the principle of separation of power is the independence of Judiciary, as we all know. But one of the issues plaguing the Judiciary is the legal controversies surrounding the appointment of High Court Judiciary.

This is not a new issue. Since 1969, there have been debates and legal arguments surrounding the process of appointments. As we all know, Article 124(2) of the Constitution says, "Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the State..." In simple words, the President has to consult with the higher judiciary to appoint Supreme Court Judges. A similar process is laid down in Article 217 for the appointment of High Court Judges. Now the fundamental problem, as it is mentioned in the present Bill also, is that it is the definition of consultation because the word 'consultation' is not defined in the Constitution. But it appears in the various Articles of the Constitution—Article 124, Article 217, Article 222, etc. Sometimes the

[Shri Bhupender Yadav]

absence of the definition of consultation creates an ambiguity. That is the reason the word 'consultation' still continues to haunt the Bar and the Bench to this day. To understand the meaning of consultation, we have to look at the previous decisions of the Supreme Court because this is the particular aspect of the Constitution which is every time dealt with by the Supreme Court. The definition of consultation started in 1969 judgement. In 1969, the Supreme Court passed a judgement in 'Chandermouleswar Prasad vs. Patna High and others on the issue of transfer of an Additional District and Sessions Judge by the State Government without consulting the High Court. With regard to the word 'consultation', the Supreme Court broadly observed and I quote, "Consultation or deliberation is not complete or effective before the parties make their respective points of view known to others and discuss and examine the relative merits of their views." After the judgement in 1977, a similar issue of the transfer of a High Court Judge by the Government of India without consulting the Chief Justice of India came up before the Supreme Court in Union of India vs. Sankalchand Himatlal Sheth. Even in this judgement the Supreme Court discussed the intention of our Constitution makers also. In this particular judgement, the Supreme Court explained that the word 'consult' implies a conference of two or more persons in order to enable them to evolve a correct, or at least, a satisfactory solution. It was further held, at the previous decisions of the Supreme Court because this is the particular aspect of the Constitution which is every time dealt with by the Supreme Court. The definition of consultation started in 1969 judgement. In 1969, the Supreme Court passed a judgement in 'Chandermouleswar Prasad vs. Patna High and others on the issue of transfer of an Additional District and Sessions Judge by the State Government without consulting the High Court. With regard to the word 'consultation', the Supreme Court broadly observed and I quote, "Consultation or deliberation is not complete or effective before the parties make their respective points of view known to others and discuss and examine the relative merits of their views." After the judgement in 1977, a similar issue of the transfer of a High Court Judge by the Government of India without consulting the Chief Justice of India came up before the Supreme Court in Union of India vs. Sankalchand Himatlal Sheth. Even in this judgement the Supreme Court discussed the intention of our Constitution makers also. In this particular judgement, the Supreme Court explained that the word 'consult' implies a conference of two or more persons in order to enable them to evolve a correct, or at least, a satisfactory solution. It was further held, and it was mentioned in the judgment which I quote. "The Consultation must be a real, substantial and effective consultation based on full and proper materials placed before the Chief

Justice by the Government. If the Government departs from the opinion of the Chief Justice of India, it has to justify its action by giving cogent and convincing reasons for the same, and if challenged, to prove to the satisfaction of the Court that a case was made out for not accepting the advice of the Chief Justice of India...." Broadly this principle was again upheld by the Supreme Court in 1981 judgement in S.P. Gupta vs. Union of India, this is the First Judges Case, as we know, relating to the issue of redistribution and transfer of the High Court Judges *vide* a notification issued by the Law Minister, the Supreme Court interpreting the term 'consultation' categorically held that the opinion of the Chief Justice of India is merely consultative and the final decision in the matter of appointment of judges is left in the hands of the Government. After this 1981 judgement and till the stages of S.P. Gupta case, it may be said that the consultation only meant non-binding opinion, discussion and there was freedom to disagree with the advice rendered by the Chief Justice of India so long as there were sufficient reasons to do so. What was required was consultation and not concurrence. After that, in 1991, in the case of Subhash Sharma versus Union of India, the Supreme Court observed that the S. P. Gupta versus Union of India case required reconsideration. This is the time when the Supreme Court changed the view. The Supreme Court had held in Sankal Chand case. The Supreme Court took a contrary view that the consultations with the Chief Justice of India was of vital importance and his views must play a decisive role in the appointment of judges. The Supreme Court also deprecated the practice of State Governments sending proposals directly to the Government of India, without reference to the Chief Justice of States and Chief Justice of India. After the first Judge's judgment, again the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association versus Union of India (Second Judges Case) in 1993, — it is the Second Judge's case — which reaffirmed the concept of judicial primacy in the consultation process and over-turned the decision in S.P. Gupta versus Union of India. The Supreme Court held in the Second Judges case: "...in the choice of a candidate suitable for appointment, the opinion of the Chief Justice of India should have the greatest weight". The Chief Justice, in turn, was required to consult the senior-most judges of the Supreme court or the High Court in forming his opinion. The Supreme Court further held: "The selection should be made as a result of a participatory consultative process in which the executive should have power to act as a mere check on the exercise of power by the Chief Justice of India, to achieve the constitutional purpose." It is this judgment that led to the collegium system in judicial appointments. After that, in the landmark judgment, which related to the Special Reference No. 1 of 1998 (Third Judges Case), the collegium system was affirmed by the Supreme Court. They confirmed that consultation means concurrence

3.00 P.M.

[Shri Bhupender Yadav]

and it was held that the Chief Justice of India was required to consult four senior Supreme Court judges for appointments to the Supreme Court and two senior High Court judges for appointment to High Courts. The decision also laid down certain exempt situations where the decision of the collegium is not binding on the Government - where the Chief Justice of India does not consult with the senior Supreme Court or High Court judges, where the candidate lacks eligibility or where norms of the consultation process are not complied with. The Government was also empowered to convey to the Chief Justice of India, reasons for non-appointment of a candidate recommended by the collegium, and the collegium would be bound to reconsider their recommendation. The Three Judges Case led to intensive debate about the ambit and scope of consultation, ultimately vesting the privilege of judicial appointments exclusively in the collegium. After that, Parliament passed the NJAC case. The NJAC case was examined by the Supreme Court, titled *The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association versus Union of India (NJAC Case)* and in that case the Supreme Court noted that consultation was a two stage process. The first stage involves the consultation between Chief Justice of India and his colleagues constituting the collegiums for making recommendations. This stage also involves participation of the executive for giving inputs on the eligibility of the candidate. At the second stage, after the recommendations are made to the executive, the executive may object to the appointment for strong and cogent reasons. The Supreme Court then states, and I quote, "What can be a more meaningful consultation postulated by Article 124(2) of the Constitution?" I mentioned all these cases because this debate started from 1969 till 2016. The famous *Third Judges'* case of the Supreme Court is related to the NJAC Act.

Though the question may have been rhetorical, there is still no clarity on the meaning of the term 'consultation.' The Supreme Court has interpreted and re-interpreted the term a number of times, often taking conflicting and contradictory views. The term 'consultation' is still ambiguous and remains to be objectively defined. As a result, significant time and effort have been wasted debating about what constitutes 'consultation', quite often creating an impasse between judiciary and executive, especially after striking down the NJAC Case. This has led to delay in appointments and it also affected the judicial process. Therefore, it is imperative that the term 'consultation' be defined.

Independence, integrity and transparency of judiciary in its truest form cannot be safeguarded unless there is an absolute clarity regarding appointments to the higher

judiciary. However, independence of judiciary means that we are living in a system of checks and balances. If the term 'consultation' is interpreted to be 'binding consultation' or if 'consultation' involves primacy of the opinion of judiciary over the executive, it would negate the principle of checks and balances enshrined in the spirit of the Constitution and confer unfettered powers on the judiciary, enabling it to tower over both the executive and legislature.

That is why the present Bill moved by Shri Sukhendu Rayji, as a Private Member Bill, requires more discussion. But, one thing is very much clear that judiciary is an institution whom we are giving power to protect our fundamental rights. The judiciary also has power to declare any Act or action taken by Parliament, if it is unconstitutional and against the basic structure of the Constitution, null and void. But, there may be so many other routes required for maintenance of integrity and independence of judiciary. In my view, the need of the hour is to establish a transparent mechanism for the purpose of appointment of higher judiciary which involves 'non-binding goodfaith consultation' between judiciary and executive.

We have already discussed about the independence of judiciary. Complete independence to judiciary, definitely, gives power to deliver free and fair judgments. We all believe in independence of judiciary. But, today, what is needed in our country is a strong democracy with an absolute independent judiciary. But, inter-dependence and coexistence between legislature, executive and judiciary is very important. For the purpose of this inter-dependence, the framers of our Constitution used the word 'consultation', although it is not defined under the Constitution.

The present Bill seeks to amend the Constitution and wants that the definition of 'consultation' be inserted as a new Clause in Article 366.

Madam, many things are not codified, but are governed through conventions. To make our democracy stronger, we have to make our conventions strong. Every institution — judiciary, executive or legislature — has to respect each other. Each of them put its own Lakshman Rekha, maintain checks and balances and, I think, if we do this, we will make our democracy stronger. That is the reason why I say that this is an important Bill brought by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Rayji.. But, I feel, apart from this amendment, we must rely more on conventions which will be a healthy convention for democracy. This is my view. I think, the word 'consultation' is only defined by the Supreme Court in its own judgments from 1969 onwards. Whenever judiciary defines the word 'consultation', the

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scope of 'consultation' becomes wider. So, there must be a certain limit. And, that limit is *Lakshman Rekha*. Every institution must introspect and realize its *Lakshman Rekha*. That is an important aspect of this Bill. Though I think that this is a good Bill, yet apart from amendment of Constitution, the self-introspection and self-restraint is required by every institution.

Thank you very much.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Madam Vice-Chairman. At the outset, I take this opportunity to congratulate my colleague, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, for introducing and discussing this important Bill. While introducing the Bill, he has raised several issues which had already been debated in the Constituent Assembly. It was really very enriching and enlightening on various problems that we are confronting today.

Madam, in a country like ours, the jurisprudence is always in a continuous evolution. Our society is a class society; our society is a caste society. We should try to understand the dynamics between law, class and society. We should try to understand the dialectical relationship between law, class and society. I have certain points to explain. Our colleague, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, has tried to explain that we should be clear about consultation and concurrence. Whether amending the Constitution, Article 366, will set right everything or not, that is a different issue. But, it is in evolution and new problems are coming. Bhupenderji also spoke about Collegium and, at the same time, also about transparency. Very learned Judges of the country, very eminent advocates have very clearly said that there is opaqueness in Collegium System; there is no transparency. And, now, when we discuss the appointment of Judges at higher level, there is a kind of Memorandum of Procedure (MoP). That is between the Government and the Judiciary. Nobody knows the contents of the MoP. All the time, communications go from this side to that side and that side to this side. But, we do not know what exactly the MoP is and as to what is happening. Recently, the Law Minister made a statement that the retirement age would not be increased. We hope that is the decision of the Government. My point is at a different level. When we discuss the appointment of Judges, we should take into consideration the society as a whole. I have quoted in the past also, there are Judges who have pointed out that the Indian Judiciary does not have adequate social representation. There is a strong feeling that there is no adequate representation for women. Madam Vice-Chairman, you are sitting in the Chair.

We are happy. We want to see more women at such places.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन): बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।

SHRI D. RAJA: But the point is, there is no adequate representation for women in Judiciary. How to do it? We need women. There is no adequate representation to SC, ST and OBC. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Minorities also

SHRI D. RAJA: Yes, minorities also. How to provide adequate representation to these sections? There is an argument which is given all the time. That is a very cynical argument. That is, non-availability of suitable candidates and non-availability of meritorious candidates. I find it extremely difficult to buy that argument. After 70 years of independence, we should not give such cynical answer. Whenever a question is asked about adequate representation to all these sections, the reply that we get is non-availability of candidates and no meritorious candidates. This is nothing but a very cynical answer which we should reject. If we have the will, then, we can. There are people who are eligible and meritorious. So, Madam, what I am trying to say is that in our Judiciary, we should have adequate representation for (1) women and (2) all other sections, the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe, the OBC and minorities. Then only, we can give confidence to our people because the last faith for our citizens is court or judiciary. Everything can fail but judiciary should not fail. We need to strengthen our Judiciary, we need to strengthen the independence of our Judiciary and we also need to strengthen the neutrality of our Judiciary, so that people get justice, justice in true sense. Why am I underlining this, 'justice in true sense'? After this two-member judgement on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, what I see is that there is an increase in the atrocities or crimes committed against the SC/ST across the country. It does not confine to one State, it is across the country ...*(Time-bell rings)*... I am concluding, Madam. The problem is, *dalits* are killed and cases are filed. From Lower Court, it goes to the High Court, from the High Court, it goes to the Supreme Court, and, finally, in many cases, all the accused are acquitted and released. But people have been killed. What justice was given to them? ...*(Time-bell rings)*... This is the issue. I am concluding. Our colleague has brought this Bill. It is really a relevant Bill at this point of time. So, we can define or re-define many things in order to ensure true justice and justice delivery system to our citizens. That is my suggestion. The House should consider this. Thank you very much.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन): प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा जी, मैं आपको चार मिनट का समय दूंगी।

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपका शुक्रिया। I have read the proposed Bill. I find these are the times when setting aside every concern, we need to look at this entire issue, all of us, maybe with fresh eyes and fresh ideas. When, in the month of January, four hon. Judges of the Supreme Court held a Press conference, they said a couple of things. Those things were very alarming in nature कि लोकतंत्र खतरे में है। I am reminded of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. In 1943, during Mahadev Govind Ranade's Memorial Lecture, उन्होंने एक बात कही थी कि लोकतंत्र सिर्फ वोटिंग का नाम नहीं है। संस्थाएं और संस्थाओं के बीच में vibrant collaborative mechanism लोकतंत्र को जिन्दा रखता है, वरना लोकतंत्र के बीमार होने में वक्त नहीं लगता है। उन्होंने एक बात कही थी कि अगर इन संस्थाओं का चरित्र हमारे समाज के चरित्र का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करता है, तो लोगों को, माफी के साथ कहूंगा कि लोगों को एक अहसास-ए-कमतरी होता है कि चूंकि फलाने संस्थानों में हमारा प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं है, तो हमारी बात नहीं समझी जाती है, हमारी संवेदनाएं नहीं समझी जाती हैं। किसी से यह शिकायत नहीं है, लेकिन हम सबके लिए यह प्रश्न है। कल भी मैंने एक संदर्भ में कहा था कि हम सबको दलों के दायरे से ऊपर उठ कर एक बार सोचना होगा कि judiciary, higher judiciary में ऐसे एक व्यापक बदलाव की जरूरत है, जिसको अम्बेडकर साहब कहते थे कि राजनीतिक लोकतंत्र का translation अलग-अलग sphere में होना चाहिए। आज मैंने अभी जब पढ़ा, मैं सुखेन्दु जी को मुबारकबाद देना चाहूंगा, क्योंकि हममें से बहुत लोग इस पर खुल कर चर्चा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, लेकिन अब यह वक्त आ गया है।

मैडम, मेरे समक्ष एक और संदर्भ है और वह संदर्भ यह है कि 2010-11 में हॉलीवुड की एक फिल्म आई थी - The Great Debtors. मुझे पहली बार एहसास हुआ, मैं 'lynch' शब्द से वाकिफ़ नहीं था, इसका मतलब judiciary से है। पता चला कि Robert Lynch नाम का एक सचमुच का व्यक्ति था और 1960s में उसकी खाल उधेड़ ली गई थी। फिर वहां बदलाव की एक बयार चली। उन्होंने कुछ बदलाव मुकम्मल हासिल कर लिए। हमने भी कई बदलाव हासिल किए हैं, लेकिन कई बदलाव के लिए हमारा रवैया ढुलमुल रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से, सदन के माध्यम से मुबारकबाद को आगे तक ले जाते हुए सत्ता पक्ष से भी कहूंगा कि यह जो लोकतंत्र में एक व्यापक इंद्रधनुष बनाने की एक कला होती है, वह किसी की थाती नहीं है। यह सदन तय करेगा और जब सदन तय करेगा, तो सदन जनता के प्रतिनिधित्व के आधार पर यह बताएगा कि हमारी यह संस्था अब मकबूल हो गई है, हमारी यह संस्था हमारे सामाजिक चरित्र का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है।

मैडम, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह आखिरी टिप्पणी करूंगा। कई दफा जब हम अंधी गुफा से गुजरते हैं, जो judiciary रोशनी का एकमात्र सुराग होती है। उस सुराग को मकबूल रखने के लिए, जिंदा रखने के लिए, बरकरार रखने के लिए जरूरी है कि रोशनी के उस सुराग के सारे रंग हों, एक एकरंगा न दिखे। आज दिक्कत यह है कि यह थोड़ा एकरंगा है। इसको बहुरंगा बनाएं, ताकि हमारे मुल्क की जो विविधता है, वह उसमें आ सके। Thank you very much, Madam. बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया। मैडम, मैंने बिल्कुल समय exceed नहीं किया।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन): बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया। Now, hon. Minister.

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): Madam Vice-Chairman, the hon. Member has brought forth an amendment Bill by bringing a definition under Article 366 of the Constitution of India by way of inserting the word 'consultation' under Article 366(5A). I appreciate it. The Bill is very good. There is no doubt about it.

I also extend my thanks to all the Members who have participated in this debate. Mr. Sukhendu Sekhar has raised a very important point. The hon. Member, Shri Ramakrishna, also spoke on the issue. Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy also spoke on the Bill. Hon. Members, Shri Bhupender Yadav and Shri D. Raja, also spoke on the Bill. All the Members, except two, Shri Ramakrishna and Shri Bhupender Yadav, supported the Bill.

Madam, so far as the word 'consultation' is concerned, it appears in various provisions of the Constitution of India and we see that the 'consultation' word has been defined by the Supreme Court so far as it relates to Articles 124 and 217. But consultation with the President of India while providing appointment to the High Court and Supreme Court Judges is provided in Articles 124 and 217 which means the concurrence. So, if we see the word 'consultation' appearing in various provisions of the Constitution, it also provided the word 'consultation' in Article 124 and it deals with the appointment of the Supreme Court Judges. Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court. So, there is no provision for a collegiums system under this Article. Again, in Article 127, which provides for appointment of *ad hoc* Judges in the Supreme Court, it is provided that it is only with the previous consent of the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned that the Judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court can be appointed. So, for this purpose, as per Article 127, the previous consent of the President is mandatory.

Sir, again, under Article 124, retired Judges of the Supreme Court can be appointed by the Chief Justice of India, that too with the prior consent of the President of India. Article 217 relates to the appointment of High Court Judges after consultation with the Chief Justice of India. Even in the case of transfer of Judges from one High Court to another High Court, it provides for 'consultation'. Consultation is required if the Chief Justice or other High Court Judges are transferred from one place to another. For appointment of

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additional and acting Judges in the High Court, again, consultation with the President, as also his consent, are required. So, retired Judges can also be appointed only with the prior consent of the President. There is a difference here. If they are appointing retired and adhoc Judges, then the 'prior consent' of the President is required, but for appointment of the Judges under Articles 124 and 217, 'consultation' with the President is required. So, use of the words 'consultation' and 'prior consent' of the President show the intent of the framers of the Constitution.

Further, Articles 103 and 192 are very important Articles, about 'decision on questions as to disqualifications of Members'. So before giving any decision on any such question, 'the President shall obtain the opinion of the Election Commission and shall act according to such opinion'. So, here the President has no discretion. As per Article 103, it is only on the basis of opinion rendered by the Election Commission that the President has to pass the Order. Thus, the President has got no discretion under Article 103, but insofar as the analogous Article 192 is concerned, the Governor is again required to pass the Order as per the order of the Election Commission. So, reading all the provisions would make it clear that the word 'consultation' is appearing not only throughout the provisions, but also in so many other provisions like in Articles 98, 118, 148, 187, 208, 229, 233, 234, 324, 341, 342 and 370. Again, Article 143 provides for reference by the President of India to the Supreme Court for an opinion. If we read all the Articles together, then only under Articles 124 and 217 do we see that in subsequent judgements given by the Supreme Court, the word 'consultation' had been defined, but the word 'consent' has nowhere been defined with respect to the other Articles.

Then, in the First Judges case of Shri S.P. Gupta, the Supreme Court had taken the view that the word 'consultation' does not mean 'consent'. It is only an opinion. But in the 1993 judgement on the Second Judge case, the Supreme Court opined that the word 'consultation' means 'consent'. In the Third Judge case, reference was made by the President of India under Article 143 to the Supreme Court to give its opinion on whether the word 'consultation' meant consent or not. Also, many other issues were referred to the Supreme Court for its opinion. The Supreme Court gave its opinion in the year 1998-99 where it had given certain directions. Now, the question is whether the opinion formed by the Supreme Court under Article 143 is binding or not. Again, this opinion is basically consultation. Those opinions are basically consultation and, if those opinions are binding, then certainly the word 'consultation' is missing in the Constitution

under Article 366. While framing the Constitution, the word 'consultation' could not be defined. Thereafter the Government brought the National Judicial Commission Act. The Constitution was amended; provisions under Articles 124 and 217 were amended, and under that National Judicial Commission was constituted. But that was challenged before the Supreme Court and both the Act and the amendment were declared *ultra vires* and set aside by the Supreme Court. I would also like to refer to the observation of the framer of the Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar, with respect to the word 'consultation' because some of the objections were also raised at the relevant time with respect to the use of the word 'consultation' and the meaning of this word. I quote, "The first is, how are the Judges of the Supreme Court to be appointed? Now grouping the different amendments which are related to this particular matter, I find three different proposals. The first proposal is that the Judges of the Supreme Court should be appointed with the concurrence of the Chief Justice. That is one view. The other view is that the appointments made by the President should be subject to the confirmation of two-thirds vote by Parliament; and the third suggestion is that they should be appointed in consultation with the Council of States. With regard to this matter, I quite agree that the point raised is of the greatest importance. There can be no difference of opinion in the House that our judiciary must both be independent of the executive and must also be competent in itself. And the question is how these two objects could be secured. In Great Britain the appointments are made by the Crown, without any kind of limitation whatsoever, which means by the Executive of the day. There is the opposite system in the United States where, for instance, officers of the Supreme Court as well as other offices of the State shall be made only with the concurrence of the Senate. It seems to me in the circumstances in which we live today, where the sense of responsibility has not grown to the same extent to which we find it in the United States. The draft article, therefore, steers a middle course. It does not make the President the supreme and the absolute authority in the matter of making appointments. It does not also import the influence of the Legislature. The provision in the article is that there should be consultation of persons who are *ex hypothesi*, well qualified to give proper advice in matters of this sort, and my judgment is that this sort of provision may be regarded as sufficient for the moment. With regard to the question of the concurrence of the Chief Justice, it seems to me that those who advocate that proposition seem to rely implicitly both on the impartiality of the Chief Justice and the soundness of his judgment. I personally feel no doubt that the Chief Justice is a very eminent person. But after all the Chief Justice is a man with all the failings, all the sentiments and all the prejudices which we as common people have; and I think, to allow the Chief Justice practically a veto upon

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the appointment of judges is really to transfer the authority to the Chief Justice which we are not prepared to veto is the President or the Government of the day. I therefore, think that is also a thankless proposition." So, in view of this, the word 'consultation' was used under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution, but the Supreme Court has given it the meaning because it seems that the word 'consultation' has not been defined under Article 366 of the Constitution of India. I would also like to refer about the Fourth Judges case and opinion of Justice Verma at the relevant time on the working of the collegium system. I quote, "In so far as the collegium system is concerned, there is no provision under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India for providing collegiums." At the relevant time, Justice Verma also spoke something which I would like to read. He was also of the view that, and he observed that, "the collegium system has completely failed." The NDA Government, headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, appointed a National Commission and that National Commission also gave a Report on this issue. I would also like to read the relevant part of that Report. It is pertinent to mention that, in its 21st Report the Law Commission of India under the Chairmanship of Justice D.A. Desai, submitted in July 1987, one of the aspects dealt with was a forum for judicial appointment.

The report recommended the appointment of a National Judicial Service Commission for selecting and recommending persons for being appointed to the superior judiciary. The Law Commission recommended that the National Judicial Service Commission should comprise 11 members with Chief Justice of India as the Chairman and the three senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court, a retired Chief Justice of India, three Chief Justice of the High Court, according to their seniority, the Law Minister, the Attorney General and an outstanding academician as a member, with the provision to co-opt the Chief Justice of High Court concerned, in case of appointment to the High Court. Again, the NCRWC report stated that it would be worthwhile to have a participatory mode with participation of both the Executive and Judiciary in making such recommendations. The Commission proposes the proposition of the collegium which gives due importance to and provides for an effective participation of both the Executive and Judicial wings of State as an integrated scheme of the machinery for appointment of Judges. This Commission, accordingly, recommends the establishment of the National Judicial Commission under the Constitution for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court which shall comprise the Chief Justice of India as Chairman, two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court as members, the Union Minister of Law and Justice as member, one eminent person

nominated by the President after consulting the Chief Justice of India. So, in view of this report, the 99th Amendment was brought in and Article 124(A) was introduced along with Article 217. But, this Constitutional Amendment for NJAC was struck down by the Supreme Court. But, after that, in one of the contempt proceedings pending before Justice Chelameswar and Justice Ranjan Gogoi, they observed that the collegium system had failed and we were required to re-visit the collegium system. So, in overall situation, we see that the word 'consultation' could not be defined at the time, when the Constitution was framed, when the Constitution was enacted, under Article 366 of the Constitution of India. I think, this is the reason that these judgments are there and the field has been occupied by the judicial pronouncements.

Now, this is a very important Bill, but this is a Bill which requires discussion with various stakeholders who are concerned about it, and we are required to discuss it with all the eminent persons. Thereafter, we are required to frame our opinion and view. Only then, we can bring the legislation. But, at this stage, I request my learned friend that he may withdraw the Bill. And, I assure him that certainly at an appropriate time, we will discuss with various stakeholders and, thereafter, we will come to a particular opinion. Thereafter, we can come with a legislation. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN) : Now, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): Thank you, Madam. In fact, when I initiated this Bill, I explained before this House as to what prompted me to bring out this Private Member Bill. I am grateful to Shri Ramakrishna, who has since retired, Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy, Shri Bhupender Yadav, Shri D. Raja, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha and, of course, the hon. Minister. All of them have elaborately and eloquently dealt with the provisions of the Bill. This is a very simple Bill, but has got a very significant impact on the present situation which is prevailing in our judicial system. On the last occasion, I elaborated as to how the word 'consultation' has been used in different Articles of the Constitution and the hon. Minister has also reiterated it and explained the consequences, if, in each and every Article where this word 'consultation' has been used, that means concurrence, then there may be a stalemate in many areas when the Government may not function properly, if each and every article, which incorporates the word 'consultation', means concurrence. That is why, Madam, I believe in what the hon. Minister has said. I also concluded on the last occasion that this issue should be kept alive and more and more discussion should be held on the issue before arriving at a finality. It is a very

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serious issue. My limited point in moving this Bill was to bring an Amendment to Article 366 of the Constitution. After clause (5), the following clause shall be inserted, namely, 'consultation' means the action or process of formally consulting or discussing with another in merely consultative, advisory and non-binding manner. That is very important. If the President of India is bound every time by some other organisations or institutions, then the Head of the State, which is actually the Central Government, elected by the people of India, it will be a negation of the democracy because in a democracy, the will of the people is supreme. And, when that will is reflected through the elections, and the largest party or the largest group forms the Government, then if such compulsion is thrust upon the Government through an interpretation, which is *non est* even in the eye of the law, it is not good because the Constitution makers never opted for that. I mentioned this in my last speech and I would mention it today also. The hon. Minister has stated this. Now, I am just pointing out two, three things. I will not take so much of time.

Madam, what should be the approach while interpreting a word? First of all, in a nutshell, I would like to mention the Legal Research Methodology published by Allahabad Law Agency in 1997, which made a thorough research on this while referring to different court cases of the English Court as well as the courts of India. It says, "If the words given in the statute are lucid and explicit, it is not for the Judges to go beyond that language or words to try and establish what the Legislature might have meant by using that word. It is also known as a grammatical interpretation. The courts will have to follow this principle even if it results in irrationality or even if it is contrary to the policy or intention of the Legislature. It does not look — 'it does not' means the court does not look — beyond the *litera legis* which means letter of legislation. It just looks at what the law says. Words and phrases ought to be construed by the courts in their ordinary sense and the ordinary rules of grammar and punctuations have to be applied."

Then, again, I would like to quote two lines from what was said in our Supreme Court. In a matter of Bengal Immunity Company Limited vs State of Bihar, reported in the All India Reporter in the year 1955, page 661, the Supreme Court observed, "It is also well settled that in interpreting an enactment, the Court should have regard not merely to the literal meaning of the words used, but also take into consideration the antecedent history of the legislation." Now, this is a different view. I stated earlier that there was one view. This is another view, which the Supreme Court has given. Now, the Supreme Court wants that not only the ordinary meaning, it should also take into

consideration the antecedent history of the legislation. Then, what is the antecedent history of the Constitutional provision? On what premise, the framers of the Constitution incorporated the word 'consultation' in different Articles of the Constitution? Just now, the hon. Minister has explained, right from Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, an eminent lawyer of Madras who was a Member of the Constituent Assembly, he actually proposed that the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts should be appointed by the President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice or senior two Judges. Now, there are contrary views, as rightly pointed out. Some said that not only consultation, but there should also be concurrence. The third view was two-thirds majority in both the Houses of Parliament. It will be decided and they will be appointed by the Parliament by way of two-thirds majority of both the Houses of Parliament as it is prevalent even today in Switzerland where the Swiss Federal Assembly appoints the judges of the Swiss Federal Court. So, that was the third view. Ultimately, Dr. Ambedkar said that there should be a participating process between the executive and the judiciary, and, therefore, consultation is required, not concurrence. Therefore, this is antecedent history of the legislation, this is antecedent history of the provisions of the Constitution and the word consultation. Finally, it is a settled principle. This is reported in the Halsbury's Laws of England, IV Edition, Volume 44, Para 864. I quote two, three lines "It is a settled principle of interpretation that the court must proceed on the assumption that the legislature did not make a mistake and that it did what it intended to do". Therefore, Madam, in good faith, the words are to be interpreted, and, even if there is some mistake, the intention of the legislature should not be questioned. If the result of the interpretation of a Statute by this rule is not what the legislature intended, it is for the legislature to amend the Statute rather than for the courts to attempt the necessary amendment by investing plain language with some other than its natural meaning to produce a result, which it otherwise thought the legislature must have intended. Therefore the court cannot import another meaning, ordinary meaning of a word which is relevant in the context. Therefore, Madam, the way in our country, things are being interpreted, things are being dealt with, it is not only reprehensible but it is dangerous for our democracy to run and no authority can function. In our democracy, powers have been given to different authorities, not to enjoy for themselves but to exercise that authority for 'common good', and, therefore, that 'common good' factor to be kept in mind. But I am sorry to say that in some cases, this 'common good' factor is absent and the authorities are exercising the powers in their own interest. I am against that. So, once this Bill is accepted today or tomorrow, and, if the Government brings in a comprehensive legislation on this matter, I shall be the happiest person that, at least, I tried to invite

[Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray]

the attention of this august House that something should be done. The time is ripe and something should be done. Based on the assurances given by the hon. Minister in this regard, I would like to withdraw the Bill with the permission of the august House. Thank you, Madam.

DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY (Tamil Nadu): But, Madam, there is no quorum in the House.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: I would like to know whether this has been recorded or taken as an assurance and referred to the Assurance Committee, in case if it is not adhered to. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): There is no quorum in the House. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Ask the House whether to withdraw the Bill. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री जयराम रमेश (कर्णाटक): मैडम, मेम्बर्स नहीं हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री बी.के. हरिप्रसाद: मेम्बर्स नहीं हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

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): The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. ...(Interruptions)...

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: We should be grateful to the Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN): Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, are you withdrawing the Bill or should I put the motion to vote?

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: As I have already stated, since the hon. Minister has promised that the matter will be discussed threadbare and some action will be taken, I may be allowed to withdraw the Bill.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN): Does he have the leave of the House to withdraw the Bill?

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN): Now, the Bill is withdrawn. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: मैडम, कोरम नहीं है! ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विजय गोयल: पालियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर यहां बैठे हुए हैं।

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: There is no quorum to withdraw the Bill. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: Withdraw करने के लिए कोरम नहीं है! ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विजय गोयल: जयराम रमेश जी, आप तो जानते हैं, अगर आपको कोरम का इश्यू उठाना है, तो उसको आप पहले उठाइगा! ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: रूल के मुताबिक जब withdrawal होता है, तो कोरम होना जरूरी है। अभी कोरम नहीं है! ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विजय गोयल: पहले कोरम का इश्यू उठेगा, तब यह होगा। अभी withdrawal हुआ है, अब आप कोरम का इश्यू उठा रहे हैं, तो काउंट कर लेते हैं! ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Madam, there is no quorum in the House. The House should be adjourned. The entire country is watching us. Without quorum, how can we proceed?

श्री संजय सिंह (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली): मैडम, मुझे अपना बिल introduce करना है, आप एक मिनट का समय दे दीजिए! ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन): चूंकि सदन में कोरम नहीं है, अतः सदन की कार्यवाही सोमवार, दिनांक 23 जुलाई, 2018 को 11.00 बजे तक स्थगित की जाती है।

*The House then adjourned at forty-nine minutes past three
of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday,
the 23rd July, 2018.*