

Rajya Sabha

**List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS**

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, March 16, 2023/ 25 Phalgun, 1944 (Saka)

**(Ministries : Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Culture; Development of North Eastern Region; Earth Sciences; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; External Affairs; Information and Broadcasting; Labour and Employment; Law and Justice; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Science and Technology; Space; Tourism; Youth Affairs and Sports)**

Total number of questions -- 160

**Rare earth mineral exploration in the North East**

1761 **Shri S Niranjana Reddy:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether deposits of atomic minerals and rare earth elements have been discovered in the North Eastern States, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is considering mining the same in an ecologically safe manner in the coming future, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the deposits are large enough to reduce rare earth metal imports from China, if so, the details thereof?

**Current status of Gorakhpur Atomic Power Plant, Haryana**

1762 **Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of work on the Gorakhpur Atomic Power Plant (GAPP) at village Gorakhpur in Fatehabad district of Haryana;
- (b) the status of land acquisition proceedings for the aforementioned Nuclear Power Plant (NPP);
- (c) the target date of completion of phase one of the project;
- (d) the investment made, so far, by Government in this regard and total estimated cost likely to be incurred on the said project, along with the direct and indirect employment likely to be generated therefrom; and
- (e) the CSR activities undertaken by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in the aforesaid area?

**Dilapidated conditions of historical sites/monuments preserved by ASI**

1763 **Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that monuments like statues, dilapidated buildings, irrelevant cultural

and historical sites are being preserved by Government as centrally protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India;

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

(c) the precise reasons for prohibiting residents from constructing their houses within 100 meters of such small and insignificant structures causing lot of inconveniences and revenue loss to them; and

(d) whether Government would remove this 100 meters hurdle for construction of residences away from such monument and burial tombs, forthwith, and if not, the precise reasons therefor?

#### **Maintenance of archival records by NAI**

1764 **Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:**

**Shri Rajmani Patel:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Archives of India (NAI) maintains archival records/holdings of various Government Departments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NAI does not have records of India's three big wars, i.e., of 1962, 1965 and 1971;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether NAI does not have records of atleast 60 Ministers/Government Agencies/Department, and if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Cultural centres in the North East**

1765 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of rich cultural traditions in the North Eastern Region, Government would establish a cultural centre there on the pattern of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts;

(b) whether there is any institution to organise research on micro culture and traditions of tribal communities of the region to make them progressively rich; and

(c) whether Government would carry out a survey of such cultural traditions?

#### **Protected monuments in Odisha**

1766 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of protected monuments in the State of Odisha along with the location-wise details thereof;

(b) the amount of funds spent on the safety and care of the said monuments during the last three years;

(c) the revenue earned from these monuments during the said period; and

(d) whether efforts are being made by Government to increase the revenue earned through these monuments and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Conservation and development of art, culture and crafts**

1767 # **Smt. Kanta Kardam:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is sanctioning grants-in-aid for works related to the conservation

and development of art, culture and crafts throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of grants-in-aid provided to the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last four years?

### **Tagore Theatre Society, Chandigarh**

1768 **Shri Luizinho Joaquim Faleiro:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plays produced and staged by Tagore Theatre Society, Chandigarh, from January, 2021 to till date along with the names of their Directors and fee paid to them, production-wise;

(b) the details of earnings made by Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh during the last three years from Main and Mini Theatre, separately; and

(c) the details of grants extended to Tagore Theatre Society and Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh during the last three years for upkeep of the property and for contractual staff, separately, along with the details of their utilisation?

### **List of monuments conserved and protected in West Bengal**

1769 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

(a) the list of monuments being conserved and protected under the Archaeological Survey of India in the State of West Bengal;

(b) whether funds have been allocated for this purpose in the last three years, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Promotion of cultural heritage**

1770 # **Shri Aditya Prasad:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made to promote the cultural heritage of the country, particularly those of tribal, deprived, backward and exploited sections through the nationwide programmes being organized on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate 75 years of independence, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the efforts made to preserve the cultural heritage and traditions of the forest dwellers and tribes of Jharkhand?

### **Preservation and promotion of tribal culture**

1771 # **Shri Aditya Prasad:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any institute has been established at the national level to preserve and promote rare and extinct tribal dialects, languages and traditions, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the programmes under which the tribes and the tribal values of Jharkhand are given recognition by promoting them at the national and international level, the details thereof?

### Amendment to AMASR Act

1772 **Shri Jawhar Sircar:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, the law pertaining to monuments of national importance, is likely to be amended;
- (b) if so, details of proposals to amend the Act;
- (c) whether Government is aware that de-notifying national monuments is fraught with dangerous consequences to many priceless monuments;
- (d) whether it is a conscious decision to de-notify monuments and open up the presently protected and restricted areas and confer benefit of several lakhs of crores to real estate businesses; and
- (e) the manner in which total transparency and open public consultation would be ensured if de-notification is decided?

### Opening of Regional Centre of Lalit Kala Academy at Agartala, Tripura

1773 **Shri Biplab Kumar Deb:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to open a Regional Centre of Lalit Kala Academy at Agartala, Tripura; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

### Construction in and around Beyt Dwarka

1774 # **Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the demographic balance in Beyt Dwarka has been disturbed during the last fifteen years under a conspiracy with an objective of damaging the sacred original appearance of Beyt Dwarka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that people have unlawfully constructed illegal mosques, shrines and Madarsas in Beyt Dwarka; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

### Cultural mapping of villages

1775 # **Shri Vinay Dinu Tendulkar:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has started cultural mapping of villages in the country;
- (b) if so, the aims and objectives of such mapping;
- (c) the details of the villages selected for cultural mapping in the State of Goa;
- (d) whether Government has collected their information and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the subsequent steps proposed to be taken to preserve the natural and artistic form of the identified villages along with their traditions and culture, etc., and to upgrade them with modern technology?

### **Status of Industrial Corridor for the North-Eastern Region**

1776 **Shri Pabitra Margherita:**

Will the Minister of ***Development of North Eastern Region*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the Industrial Corridor for the North-Eastern Region as was proposed to be established from Dawki (on Indo-Bangladesh Border) Shillong via Guwahati to Nagoan and from Golaghat via Dimapur via Imphal to Moreh (on Indo-Myanmar Border); and
- (b) by when is the corridor expected to be completed?

### **Promoting entrepreneurship in the North Eastern region**

1777 **Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

**Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

Will the Minister of ***Development of North Eastern Region*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress made by Government in promoting entrepreneurship with the collaboration of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and India Post for providing logistics support;
- (b) the percentage of people who got livelihood opportunities with this intervention; and
- (c) the increase in the share of products from the North-East in India's exports after the implementation of the Scheme?

### **Vulnerability to climate change**

1778 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

Will the Minister of ***Development of North Eastern Region*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that among all the States of the country in the Himalayan Region, the State of Assam has the least area under irrigation, the least forest area available per 1,000 rural households, and the second lowest per capita income;
- (b) whether this makes Assam, among other Himalayan States, the most vulnerable to climate change; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to chalk out a policy to protect the residents of the North Eastern Region (NER), especially Assam, from the effects of climate change and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Development Initiative for North Eastern Region**

1779 # **Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agrawal:**

Will the Minister of ***Development of North Eastern Region*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Central Sector Scheme under "Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region" was announced in the budget for the year 2022-23 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has included any plan in the Scheme keeping in view the vast natural potential of the region; and
- (c) if so, the works approved, started, completed under the said Scheme along with their cost, the details thereof, State-wise?

### **Rise of sea level in Visakhapatnam**

1780 **Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) the condition which is referred to as dead zone in a sea/ ocean;
- (b) whether a large dead zone has been discovered in Bay of Bengal, if so, its extent and details;
- (c) whether the dead zone formation extends near Andhra coast and particularly near Visakhapatnam, details thereof;
- (d) the factors contributing to dead zone formation near Visakhapatnam;
- (e) factors responsible for marine pollution in Visakhapatnam coast, its impact;
- (f) whether there is a rise in sea level near Visakhapatnam; and
- (g) impact of the dead zone and sea rise on marine life and marine economy in Andhra Pradesh, particularly the Visakhapatnam coast?

### **Deep Ocean Mission and over-exploitation of marine resources**

1781 **Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the apprehensions that the Deep Ocean Mission would result in over-exploitation of marine resources by the corporate houses affecting the life and livelihoods of millions of fishers in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to hold discussions in this regard with various stakeholders, including the fishers, experts and State Governments, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Deep Ocean Mission is related to the Blue Economy initiatives of Government, if so, the details thereof?

### **Seismic microzonation study to generate risk resilient parameters**

1782 **Shri Jaggesh:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that human consequences of natural disasters in the country are rising rapidly and there is a need to devise proper mitigation strategies;
- (b) whether the seismic microzonation study for the area would generate risk resilient parameters for safer dwellings and infrastructure;
- (c) whether Government proposes to open more seismological centres across the country for improving real-time data monitoring and data collection; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Low orbit nano-satellites**

1783 **Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to make use of low orbit nano-satellites to predict local weather conditions more accurately; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Curbing of Green House Gases emission**

1784 # **Shri Hardwar Dubey:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps being taken by Government to reduce the emission level of Green House Gases (GHGs);
- (b) the details of steps being taken by Government for massive plantation of local varieties/types of bamboo in operational areas of various companies; and
- (c) the details of steps being taken by the respective companies for a periodic monitoring of air pollutants level at vulnerable locations and to reduce sound pollution, in addition to the permanent stations set up for monitoring of air quality neighboring the operational areas of companies in India?

### **Translocation of Cheetahs to Gujarat**

1785 # **Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Cheetahs brought from outside the country to the State of Gujarat, since 2001 till date;
- (b) the dates on which these Cheetahs were brought and the expenses incurred on it; and
- (c) the number of them alive today?

### **Measures to combat the illegal trade of pangolins**

1786 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has information on the number of pangolins that have been poached and trafficked in India over the last five years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is taking any measures to combat the illegal trade of pangolins and protect these endangered animals from further exploitation and if so, the details thereof?

### **Polluted stretches in India's rivers**

1787 **Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) number of polluted stretches in India's rivers between 2017-18 and 2022-23, State-wise;
- (b) whether according to report of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the number of most polluted stretches in Indian rivers has been practically unchanged since 2018, if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) details of most polluted stretches in 2022-23, State-wise, river-wise and category-wise;
- (d) whether Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have the maximum number of 'Priority 1' (most polluted) river stretches, if so, the details thereof and reason therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to control organic pollution?

### **Common Effluent Treatment Plants in the country**

1788 **Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is launching any new projects for the better management and

functioning of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has drafted any regulations for the accountability of the offenders of the effluent treatment system and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has proposed or estimated any funds/budget for the establishment of infrastructure for CETPs; and

(d) whether Government has prescribed any requirements of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be used for the transportation of effluent materials?

### **National Mission for Green India**

1789 **Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established any mission named National Mission for a Green India (GIM), if so, the aims and objectives thereof;

(b) whether the Mission has been able to achieve its aims and objectives, so far, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the dedicated forest corridors developed by Government under GIM; and

(d) the details of the steps undertaken by Government to maintain 33 per cent of the forest area?

### **Environment clearance for Sethusamudram Shipping Canal Project**

1790 **Shri P. Wilson:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the route/alignment approved by environmental clearance for Sethusamudram Shipping Canal Project right from March, 1998; and

(b) whether there are environmental reports relating to Sethusamudram Shipping Canal Project and various alignments approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and

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

### **Pending proposals relating to endangered animals' habitats**

1791 # **Shri Mithlesh Kumar:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved several pending proposals, including projects relating to endangered animals' habitats/adjacent areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the flora and fauna and to stop the decreasing forest area in Uttar Pradesh, the details thereof?

### **Air pollution in Begusarai, Bihar**

1792 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

(a) the top 10 air polluted districts in the country;

(b) the number of districts in the country facing critical stage in terms of air pollution;

(c) whether it is a fact that air pollution level of Begusarai in the State of Bihar has reached critical stage;

(d) the main reasons for deterioration of air quality in Begusarai in the recent years; and

(e) whether Central Government has issued guidelines to the concerned States regarding critical pollution levels?

#### **Human wildlife conflict in Karnataka**

1793 **Shri Narayana Koragappa:**

Will the Minister of *Environment, Forest and Climate Change* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in human - animal conflict involving wild animals, viz., tigers, elephants and leopards in the State of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a PAN-India common policy has been implemented to prevent the conflict, degradation of natural habitat, fringe forest areas and protected areas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether wild animals are straying into human habitat due to increased conflict with co-existing wild animals or due to increase in wild population, the details thereof?

#### **Elephant corridors in Karnataka**

1794 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:**

Will the Minister of *Environment, Forest and Climate Change* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the proposed elephant corridors in the State of Karnataka;
- (b) the details of the land acquired and pending to be acquired from people and forest regions for elephant corridors from 2018 in Karnataka, year-wise and project-wise; and
- (c) the details of the compensation provided and pending to people from 2018, year-wise and project-wise?

#### **Western Regional Research Centre of Botanical Survey of India**

1795 **Shri Anil Desai:**

Will the Minister of *Environment, Forest and Climate Change* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Regional Office of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) at Pune is a major research centre where very old species of flora and fauna of the western part of the country has been preserved;
- (b) whether the Centre is rich in various plant varieties of species found in Goa, Karnataka and Kerala;
- (c) the research facilities which are available here and the amount of annual grant or expenditure incurred during the last three years; and
- (d) whether any expansion of this Centre is also planned in near future?

#### **Amendments to the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986**

1796 **Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:**

Will the Minister of *Environment, Forest and Climate Change* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has prescribed new stringent norms for brick kilns, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure compliance of the new amended Environment (Protection) Rules; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is providing any incentive or financial support to such brick kilns for their sustenance and compliance with the new rules, which includes upgradation of technology, change in fuel, etc.?

### **Additional land requirements for decarbonisation goals**

1797 **Smt. Vandana Chavan:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated amount of additional land requirements for renewable power generation and forest carbon sinks; and
- (b) whether Government has prepared a national land-use plan to ensure the optimal utilisation of land for the dual goals of growth and decarbonisation and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Climate change mitigation**

1798 **Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

**Shri K.C. Venugopal:**

**Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the report by the World Meteorological Organization indicating the rise in sea level;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken to mitigate the same, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the progress made in conservation of mangroves and corals under the National Coastal Mission Programme; and
- (d) the budgetary expenditure, so far, on R&D, infrastructure and warning systems to mitigate the loss of lives and property?

### **Strategy to achieve zero emission targets by 2070**

1799 # **Shri Narain Dass Gupta:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the areas in which work is proposed to be done in the next five years to achieve zero emission target by the year 2070;
- (b) the funds sanctioned for completion of these works, the details thereof, head-wise;
- (c) whether Government is working on any plan to achieve the zero emission target in the future; and
- (d) if so, the details of such a plan made for achieving zero emission target by the year 2070, year-wise?

### **Translocation of Cheetahs from South Africa**

1800 # **Shri Brijlal:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has signed an agreement with South Africa to bring 12 more Cheetahs in the country as a part of its Cheetah Translocation Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these 12 Cheetahs are likely to be brought into the country along with the likely ecological impact of such translocation; and
- (c) the total expenditure incurred/likely to be incurred by Government on procurement, transportation and complete translocation of these Cheetahs from South Africa?

### **Updation and review of elephant corridors**

1801 # **Shri Brijlal:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to update and review/renovate elephant corridors across the country for better management of man-animal conflict;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard and in what manner it would help in better conservation of elephants and improvement in genetic diversity in the area; and
- (c) whether the Central Government has held any discussion with the State Governments in this regard and if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

#### **In-situ stubble management**

1802 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

**Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed technologies for in-situ bio-decomposition of stubble/parali, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any in-situ agricultural waste management technologies have been put to use on farm field areas prone to stubble burning, if so, State and UT-wise details for the last year, and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to increase the coverage of the area for in-situ bio-decomposition of stubble besides adoption of the same by farmers, if so, the details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

#### **Rural ambient air quality monitoring stations**

1803 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has directed States to establish rural monitoring stations to monitor ambient air quality, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the progress of the FY 2022–23 request for the installation of at least 10 rural air pollution monitoring stations in each State under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any funds have been allocated/disbursed to State(s) for funding rural stations under NAMP, if so, State/UT-wise details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

#### **Performance-based grants to control air pollution**

1804 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of performance-based grants that have been given to the State of Andhra Pradesh pursuant to the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission for improvement of air quality; and
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to improve air quality in the various districts of Andhra Pradesh?

#### **Scientific and efficient handling of e-waste**

1805 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that most of the country's e-waste recycling is

informal, unscientific and hazardous, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to handle generated e-wastes in a scientific and harmless manner, both to the human as well as environment?

### **Mining in Surajgad and Gadchiroli**

1806 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mining permissions given in Surajgad and Gadchiroli are being upscaled for both time as well as mining; and

(b) the details of surveys and precautions Government has taken while giving such permissions to the mining company considering that Surajgad and Gadchiroli are ecologically and politically sensitive areas?

### **Uttarakhand tunnels**

1807 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 66 tunnels are being constructed in Uttarakhand;

(b) if not, number of tunnels which are being constructed along with the details of the ones which are in pipeline; and

(c) whether Government has received any warnings from environmentalists or geologists regarding ongoing works and if so, the steps that have been initiated by Government?

### **Population of tigers in the country**

1808 **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of tigers in the country at present and the average annual population growth rate recorded in the last five years;

(b) the total number of tiger deaths reported in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the proportion of adult tiger deaths in total deaths recorded during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) the number and proportion of tiger deaths caused by natural occurrences and poaching, respectively, during the last five years, year-wise; and

(e) whether Government is planning on reviewing and strengthening anti-poaching measures in the country, if so, the details thereof?

### **Conservation of wetlands**

1809 # **Shri Narhari Amin:**

**Shri Anil Baluni:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government for the conservation of wetlands in the country, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has prepared a protection list for conservation of wetlands;

(c) if so, the total number of wetlands in the State of Gujarat that have been included in the protected list; and

(d) the details of the efforts, schemes and funds spent by Government to preserve the wetlands in Gujarat during the last two years?

### Ground water pollution

1810 # **Shri Deepak Prakash:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether indiscriminate use of fertilizers is the primary reason for rapidly increasing ground water pollution in the country over the years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to prevent ground water pollution?

### Monkey menace in the country

1811 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that several cities of the country are facing acute monkey menace, leading to accidents, deaths and losses;
- (b) if so, whether Government has made a national policy to meet this menace as day by day, such menace is increasing manifold; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of initiatives taken if any, by Government to address this menace?

### Unexpected increase in forest cover

1812 # **Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been an unexpected increase in the forest cover across the country during the last three years, if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (b) the total number of trees having been planted from different sources during the last three years and the number of trees having gone dead out of them?

### Elevated rail corridors in forest areas

1813 **Shri Muzibulla Khan:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the wild animals frequently cross and camp at the railway tracks passing through the forest;
- (b) whether special measures are being taken to protect wild animals which frequently cross, come closer to and camp at the railway tracks passing through the forest;
- (c) whether Government plans to create elevated rail corridors in forest areas across the nation to provide safe passage and fool-proof protection to wildlife on the lines of Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary in Odisha; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

### Developmental activities in Great Nicobar Island

1814 **Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of Great Nicobar Island;
- (b) the area which has so far been diverted for developmental projects out of the total area;
- (c) the details of projects conceived in Great Nicobar Island and the extent of area to be used/diverted for them;
- (d) the details of projects that have already become operational;

- (e) the investments already made on the Island, project-wise, over the last five years; and  
 (f) whether Government will ensure that the multi-billion transshipment port would not be constructed on an Island that experienced nearly 444 earthquakes in the last ten years?

#### **Pollution level in NCR**

1815 # **Shri Rajmani Patel:**

Will the Minister of *Environment, Forest and Climate Change* be pleased to state:

- (a) the top most polluted cities in the country;  
 (b) whether Government has failed to control pollution level in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and neighboring cities like Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad, if so, the reasons therefor; and  
 (c) whether Government has any proposal or plan to stop the increasing level of pollution in these cities this year and if so, the complete details thereof?

#### **Data on emission from household cooking**

1816 **Ms. Dola Sen:**

**Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

**Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:**

Will the Minister of *Environment, Forest and Climate Change* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any study/statistics on the drop in household emission levels due to the increase in consumption of LPG under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY);  
 (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and  
 (c) whether Government uses any specific data set for the emission analysis regarding the level of emissions arising from household cooking and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Urban forestry**

1817 **Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:**

Will the Minister of *Environment, Forest and Climate Change* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that urban forestry is the only credible and most effective nature-based solution for building green, sustainable and resilient cities;  
 (b) if so, the initiatives taken/being taken by Government keeping in mind that urban forests provide habitat to animals, decrease wild-fire risk and contribute to community economic stability; and  
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Forest Clearance for NIT campus**

1818 **Shri K. Vanlalvena:**

Will the Minister of *Environment, Forest and Climate Change* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to issue Forest Clearance approval for the Riverine Reserve Forest violation at Lengpui, Kawntengek Land meant for the permanent Campus of NIT Mizoram; and  
 (b) whether there are any issues preventing Government from giving final Forest Clearance approval, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

### **Environment-friendly buildings and eco-restoration parks in the country**

1819 **Shri R. Girirajan:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken appropriate steps for the construction of environment-friendly buildings and eco-restoration parks, especially in the top 100 cities and to reduce pollution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the imminent threats to people living in cities due to increasing pollution and declining air quality, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to prevent polluting activities causing damages to environment, if so, the details thereof and the total funds allocated therefor in the last five years, year-wise?

### **Rehabilitation of Cheetahs in Rajasthan**

1820 # **Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is formulating any plan to rehabilitate Cheetahs in other national parks of the country also after their rehabilitation in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh; and
- (b) whether there is a plan to rehabilitate Cheetahs in Rajasthan as well in the next phase, if so, the details thereof?

### **Climate Action Initiatives**

1821 **Shri Binoy Viswam:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the list of nationally determined contributions that Government plans to make to tackle climate change; and
- (b) whether Government and NITI Aayog plan to expand the 'Lifestyle for Environment' (LIFE) campaign to explicitly support and promote the development of smart protein and if so, the details thereof?

### **Setting up railway line through the southern boundary of Kaziranga National Park**

1822 **Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve is one of the biggest animal habitat parks in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there are plans of setting up railway line through the southern boundary of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve; and
- (c) if so, the details of the actual report of this project and the DPR along with the stand of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) and the Ministry on the same?

### **Human-wildlife conflict in the country**

1823 **Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:**

Will the Minister of ***Environment, Forest and Climate Change*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of human-wildlife conflict have been reported from different parts of the country during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the details of human death due to man-animal conflict in the country, including Karnataka, during the last three years;
- (c) the steps taken by Government for protection of wildlife and management of human-wildlife conflict; and
- (d) whether Government has sanctioned any amount under the 'Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH)' for mitigation of human-wildlife conflict in Karnataka, if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

#### **Status of National Highways passing through various districts of Nagaland**

1824 **Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde:**

Will the Minister of **Development of North Eastern Region** be pleased to state:

- (a) the names and length of National Highways passing through Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator districts of Nagaland, District-wise along with dates of their sanction/completion status;
- (b) whether efforts were made to complete these Highways since their sanctioning;
- (c) the details of funds spent as these Highways, year-wise, since their sanctioning; and
- (d) the length/stretch in Kilometers of each Highways since sanctioning that have been completed and those that remain incomplete?

#### **Environmental and health hazards of lithium mining**

1825 **Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

**Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

**Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

Will the Minister of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change** be pleased to state:

- (a) the environmental and health hazards involved in the mining of lithium metal;
- (b) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure sustainable mining practices in the country; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government for the safe disposal of lithium iron batteries used in mobiles, cars and other electronic devices?

#### **Cases referred to National Green Tribunal**

1826 # **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:**

Will the Minister of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases referred to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) during the last three years and the current year so far along with the number of cases disposed of, State-wise ;
- (b) the number of violations established in the cases disposed of, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken thereon, so far?

#### **Action plan to address forest fires**

1827 **Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:**

Will the Minister of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the data on the percentage of forest cover in the country prone to forest fires;
- (b) the details of the periodic assessments, if any, being carried out to test the preparedness to conduct emergency drills for curbing forest fires;
- (c) whether Government plans to demarcate areas of forest cover as forest fire prone

areas on the basis of the frequency of forest fires in that area; and  
 (d) the steps taken by Government to limit slash and burn cultivation as the main trigger for forest fires?

### **Passport Seva Kendras in the country**

1828 **Shri Kartikeya Sharma:**

Will the Minister of *External Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Passport Seva Kendras in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the number of people going abroad from Haryana and rest of the country is increasing;
- (c) if so, the number of Passport Seva Kendras that are planned to be opened for convenience of the people in the country, State-wise, including in Haryana;
- (d) whether Government is considering to develop an online portal for applying for passports in which any citizen can complete all the requisite paperwork sitting at home; and
- (e) if so, the details and the time by which it is likely to be made operational?

### **Persons in the jails of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**

1829 **Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:**

Will the Minister of *External Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons from Amreli district of Gujarat who are in the jails of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as on date; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to get them back?

### **Indian students studying in Canadian universities**

1830 # **Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

Will the Minister of *External Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian students studying in Canadian universities and the number of Indians who are working there;
- (b) the number of incidents of attacks on Indians living in Canada that have been reported and the number of Indians killed or seriously injured in these incidents; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the attacks on Indians in Canada?

### **Third Disarmament and International Security Fellowship Programme**

1831 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

Will the Minister of *External Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the third Disarmament and International Security Fellowship Programme has achieved its objective;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether India has benefitted from this Fellowship Programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Indian fishermen in Pakistan's custody**

1832 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

Will the Minister of *External Affairs* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian fishermen in Pakistan's custody since 2018, year-wise and State-wise;

- (b) the details of the incidents of crossing international borders by Indian fishermen unintentionally reported since 2018, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the details of the persons who have completed their jail term and are still in Pakistan in the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to get those fishermen released, especially who have completed their jail term in Pakistan's jails, since 2018, year-wise; and
- (e) the details of steps taken to prevent such incidents from happening in the future?

#### **Downsize of Regional Directorates of PIB and FPO**

1833 **Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:**

**Shri R. Girirajan:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is trying to downsize the Regional Directorates of Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Field Publicity Offices in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total number of employees working in Press Information Bureau and FPOs across the country and abroad;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to improve the regional services of Prachar Bharti, both Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio; and
- (e) the total number of employees working in both Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio across the country and abroad?

#### **Upgradation of passport office in Ludhiana, Punjab**

1834 **Shri Sanjeev Arora:**

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

whether Government is planning to upgrade Ludhiana Passport Office since it is getting too congested without any parking space?

#### **Support to Palestine**

1835 **Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:**

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the number of times India has extended support to Palestine since 2018;
- (b) the details of events where India has recognized the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent Palestinian State since 2018;
- (c) the details of events where India has condemned the bombing and firing in Palestine by Israeli forces since 2018; and
- (d) the details of help and support provided to Palestine for capacity building and infrastructure development since 2018?

#### **Complaints by Indians living in foreign countries**

1836 **Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas:**

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Indian diaspora, like, Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Citizens of India, are facing multiple problems in the countries of their residence because of Indian identity;
- (b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) number of complaints filed by Indians living in foreign countries to Indian embassy in the

last five years, year-wise, country-wise;

(d) number of such complaints resolved and pending by Indian embassies in last five years, year-wise, country-wise; and

(e) details of steps taken by Government to resolve their problems through channels of embassies in the last five years, year-wise, country-wise?

### **Bilateral Investment Treaties**

1837 **Shri K.C. Venugopal:**

Will the Minister of *External Affairs* be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) that have been signed and ratified between India and other countries across the globe;

(b) the number of BITs in force under the Model BIT of 1993;

(c) the reasons as to why BITs signed under the Model BIT of 1993 have not yet been renegotiated to the Model BIT of 2015; and

(d) the details of steps taken in furtherance of the Standing Committee of External Affairs (SCEA) Report on India's involvement with BITs?

### **Inclination of South Asian countries towards China**

1838 # **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

Will the Minister of *External Affairs* be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Asian countries, like, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives are showing inclination towards China to get funds for large scale infrastructure projects;

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

(c) the details of projects funded by China in neighbouring South Asian countries of India, since 2018 till date; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to counter this Chinese strategy of cornering India?

### **Racial attacks on Indians in foreign countries**

1839 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

Will the Minister of *External Affairs* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognisance of the racial attacks or hate crimes against Indians and Persons of Indian Origin in USA, UK and Canada which are prime destinations of Indian immigrants;

(b) the number of hate crimes against Indians or Persons of Indian origin in USA, UK and Canada in the last five years, the details thereof, year-wise, country-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to save the Indian citizens staying abroad, Indian immigrants and Persons of Indian Origin from hate crimes?

### **Cuts and modifications in films ordered by CBFC**

1840 **Dr. John Brittas:**

Will the Minister of *Information and Broadcasting* be pleased to state:

(a) the grounds on which cuts and changes are effected in films by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC); and

(b) the number of cuts and changes ordered by the CBFC and the number of films involved in this regard during the last five years, language-wise?

### Initiatives taken to curb fake news

1841 **Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of initiatives taken to curb fake news in the country;
- (b) the details of platforms involved in the spread of fake news in the country;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to regulate such platforms so as to prevent spread of fake news via them, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to launch a portal on which citizens can report fake news, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### Prasar Bharati and news agencies

1842 **Shri Jawhar Sircar:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for Prasar Bharati selecting Hindusthan Samachar as the supplier of news feeds;
- (b) whether Government is aware that Hindusthan Samachar is biased because of its close links with the RSS, BJP and VHP which is not ideal for a public broadcaster supported by public funds;
- (c) the details of funds Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan have been paying to ANI, year-wise, under different agreements, schemes and projects during the last five years and the current year; and
- (d) the reasons for terminating its earlier contract with PTI?

### Status of All India Radio station at Kokrajhar, Assam

1843 **Shri Rwngrwa Narzary:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of programme production and broadcasting in All India Radio station at Kokrajhar, Assam;
- (b) the follow up action on the decision taken for the upgradation of the station along with the present status of infrastructure development in terms of financial and physical targets; and
- (c) the details of present status of programme staff employed therein?

### Digitalisation of All India Radio and Doordarshan

1844 **Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to make All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) fully digital in its day-to-day working of Engineering, Programme and Administrative Sections at its different stations in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Prasar Bharati is providing infrastructure for this digital technology at the different AIR and DD stations;
- (c) if so, the funds provided for different stations for infrastructure upgradation and training; and
- (d) whether any survey was carried out among different stations of AIR and DD, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

### Setting up of Akashvani and Doordarshan Kendras

1845 **Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of locations where the stations of Akashvani and Doordarshan have been set up in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government has prescribed any criteria for setting up of such studios, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up new studios of Doordarshan and Akashvani in different States, especially in Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up and if not, the reasons therefor?

### Regulatory mechanism for OTT platforms

1846 **Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:**

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no separate legislation or body for regulation of Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken note that in the process of subscribing to an OTT platform, people share their confidential information, like, bank details, etc., which has the potential to be misused and may lead to cybercrime, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken note that there is an urgent need for an unbiased regulatory body to put in place a regulatory mechanism on OTT platforms, if so, the response of Government in this regard?

### New option for higher pension by EPF pensioners

1847 **Dr. John Brittas:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of EPF beneficiaries on account of enabling the new joint option for higher pension as per the recent Supreme Court's judgment;
- (b) the quantum of monthly pension payout on account of the new pensioners in the higher option category;
- (c) whether Government would consider granting an option to those employees, to enable them to contribute towards Pension Scheme on their own, where employers are not contributing on actual salary; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### Provision for education of child labourers

1848 # **Smt. Kanta Kardam:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to provide education to child labourers;
- (b) the number of Special Schools (Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Centres) currently functioning across the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the financial assistance provided to these special schools during the last five years and the current year and the details of funds utilized, State/UT-wise, especially with respect to Uttar Pradesh?

### Benefits under e-Shram portal

1849 **Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of workers registered on the e-Shram portal, State-wise;
- (b) the total number of workers who have benefited from the accidental cover under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana through the e-Shram portal, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is planning to link more such schemes with the e-Shram portal for the welfare of unorganised workers; and
- (d) if so, the current progress on such linkages and the details thereof?

### Data on women migrant workers

1850 **Shri Niranjan Bishi:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has data on women migrant workers migrating due to marriage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has data concerning skill levels at which migrant women workers are employed, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has data with respect to number of women migrant workers engaged as domestic workers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### Inclusion of invisible labour in the labour codes

1851 **Shri Niranjan Bishi:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that all the new codes, i.e., the Code on Industrial Relations, Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, Code on Social Security, and the Wage Code fail to include invisible labour;
- (b) if so, whether Government seeks to amend the said legislation to rectify the situation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is aware of the number of States which have not framed rules for implementation of the Code on Industrial Relations, Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, Code on Social Security, and the Wage Code; and
- (e) if so, details thereof?

### Minimum wages in the State of Maharashtra

1852 **Shri Anil Desai:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any decision for increasing the minimum wages of the labourers across the country amid rising inflation;
- (b) if so, the details of category-wise minimum wages of each State, including the State of Maharashtra, and whether the minimum wages have been increased and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any kind of monitoring system to ensure the payment of minimum wages; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

### Beneficiaries of e-Shram portal

1853 **Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

**Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

**Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total number of persons from the unorganised sector who have been registered on the e-Shram portal;
- (b) whether the e-Shram portal has helped the beneficiaries to gain employment as well, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has any justification as to why the e-Shram portal ignored the employers' role in the registration of workers?

### Underutilisation of funds

1854 **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that most schemes under the Ministry have not recorded optimal utilization of funds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same;
- (c) whether Government is taking steps to address the issue of underutilisation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### Minimum wage policy for Gig platforms

1855 **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has advised gig platforms to adopt minimum wages policy;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that gig platforms have not adopted such policy, thereby depriving gig and platform workers stable income, social security, etc.; and
- (c) Government's reaction towards careless attitude of gig platforms and how it would ensure strict compliance of minimum wages policy by the gig platforms for gig and platform workers?

### Details of items included in CPI-IW base

1856 **Shri Javed Ali Khan:**

**Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of 465 items which are included in CPI-IW base year 2016 along with their respective weightage percentage at present;
- (b) whether weightage of above items have been changed during 2021, 2022 and 2023 till date;
- (c) if so, the details of such changes; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for lower CPI-IW when inflation has been highest in three decades?

### Increased employment in organised sector

1857 # **Shri Narhari Amin:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in employment opportunities in the organised sector;
- (b) if so, whether it has resulted into an increase in Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) registrations; and
- (c) if so, the percentage-wise increase in EPFO registrations in the country during the last two years, the State-wise details thereof, particularly for Gujarat?

#### **Financial assistance to weaker sections**

**1858 Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

Will the Minister of ***Labour and Employment*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to formulate a scheme to provide financial assistance to weaker sections, such as, farm labourers, construction workers and non-farm labourers on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would give a serious thought to this aspect?

#### **Benefits to women under National Career Service scheme**

**1859 Shri Derek O' Brien:**

Will the Minister of ***Labour and Employment*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the budget allocation and utilization in respect of National Career Service during the last three years, including the current Financial Year 2022-23, the details thereof; and
- (b) the number of women who have benefitted since the inception of the Scheme, the details thereof?

#### **Beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan**

**1860 Shri Derek O' Brien:**

Will the Minister of ***Labour and Employment*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the budget allocation for Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan during the last three years, including the current Financial Year 2022-23, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any data on the number of informal and unorganized workers who have benefitted from the Scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government has gender-wise data on the number of beneficiaries of the Scheme, the details thereof?

#### **Cases registered for violating child labour laws in Telangana**

**1861 Dr. K. Laxman:**

Will the Minister of ***Labour and Employment*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and details of cases registered and the action taken for violating the child labour laws in the State of Telangana during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether any changes in the laws to stop child labour and the measures are under consideration, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the schemes for the upliftment of child labourers?

### Launching privately developed rockets from Sriharikota

1862 **Dr. K. Laxman:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has allowed Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to launch privately developed rockets from Sriharikota, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether there is any proposal to expand ISRO activities on commercial lines to other countries also, if so, the details thereof?

### Employment exchanges in Maharashtra

1863 **Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of the employment exchanges functioning/operational in the country, particularly in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) the number of unemployed persons, men and women, registered in the employment exchanges of Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the number of persons, including women, who got employment through the employment exchanges of Maharashtra during the said period; and
- (d) whether the registered companies, including the domestic and multinational, fulfill their manpower requirement through the employment exchanges, if so, the details thereof?

### Employment opportunities in the infrastructure sector

1864 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a huge potential for high growth, establishment of new organizations and creation of direct and indirect avenues of employment in the infrastructure sector;
- (b) if so, the details and names of such industrial sectors;
- (c) the efforts made at the level of Government to promote infrastructure sectors and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the annual growth rate of employment opportunities in the infrastructure sector for the last three years?

### Plan to increase minimum wages across the country

1865 **Shri Sandosh Kumar P:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing minimum wages in each State and Union Territory of the country;
- (b) whether Government is planning to increase the minimum wages across the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### Status of funds collected for workers

1866 **Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan:**

**Shri Digvijaya Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 5.06 crore Building and Other Construction (BOC) workers are registered with Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (BOCWFB)

across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that BOCWWB collected ₹ 87,478 crore cess for the welfare of BOC workers till November, 2022, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that BOCWWB spent ₹ 49,269 crore only and remaining ₹ 38,209 crore were unspent till November, 2022; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the unspent amount?

### **Unemployment rate in the country**

1867 **Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

**Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) the unemployment rate in the country during the last three financial years;

(b) the number of jobs created by Government during the last three financial years; and

(c) whether Government is planning to give monthly unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth for their maintenance, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Pendency of court cases involving Government**

1868 **Dr. Ashok Bajpai:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the institution, pendency and disposal of matters/cases during the last five years in the various High Courts and the Supreme Court, wherein, the Central Government is a party, year-wise and Ministry/department-wise;

(b) the details of policy, if any, to ensure the early disposal of cases by the High Courts and the Supreme Court, wherein, the Central Government is a party; and

(c) whether Government is aware that the delay often occurs on account of non-filing of responses by Government?

### **Virtual hearings in Courts**

1869 **Dr. Ashok Bajpai:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken initiative, by writing and having dialogue with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and of High Courts, to promote virtual hearings of the cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the status of implementation of each of the recommendations made in the 103rd Report of the Standing Committee regarding virtual courts; and

(d) whether Government is aware that virtual hearing of the matters by the Courts would help to have easy access to justice?

### **Proposals from Supreme Court Collegium for appointment of judges**

1870 **Shri P. Wilson:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals which were received from the Supreme Court Collegium for consideration of appointment of judges for Supreme Court and High Courts and the status of the proposals;

(b) the reasons for delay in processing the recommendations of the Collegium for appointment of the judges ;

- (c) the reasons for not maintaining any service records/details of judges belonging to different caste/communities since 1950;
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to adhere to social diversity in memorandum of procedure during appointment of the judges to Supreme Court and High Courts; and
- (e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

#### **Shortage of staff in Indian Legal Service**

1871 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Legal Service (ILS) cadre under the Department of Legal Affairs, who are the Principal Legal Advisers to the Government, is operating at 50 per cent of its strength; and
- (b) if so, the reasons behind the shortage of staff and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to address the issue?

#### **New Department for International Treaties**

1872 **Smt. Vandana Chavan:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has plans to establish a Department of International Law specifically committed towards framing/approving/negotiating the provisions of international covenants /multilateral/bilateral treaties or agreements;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the anticipated timeline for the commencement of its operations; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Representation of marginalized sections in the higher judiciary**

1873 **Shri Masthan Rao Beeda:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has planned to set up the Indian Judicial Service (IJS) as an All India Service to fill the vacancies in the higher judiciary and give representation to marginalized sections of the society therein;
- (b) if so, the details and status thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of other steps taken, if any, by Government to ensure representation of marginalized sections of the society in higher judiciary and if no steps taken, the reasons therefor?

#### **Efforts for easy accessibility of justice**

1874 **Shri Masthan Rao Beeda:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any efforts are being made by Government to ensure easy, accessible and affordable judicial system for the people belonging to socially and economically backward classes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the court premises and proceedings have become more accessible for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the manner in which Government proposes to do the same?

### **Insufficient judicial infrastructure**

**1875 Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of courtrooms available for lower courts in the country is less than the sanctioned strength of judges in the subordinate judiciary, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of infrastructural facilities and constraints, if any, being faced by Government in dealing with infrastructural challenges faced by lower judiciary and the steps taken to address the same; and
- (c) the details of the tangible plan to overcome the gap of around 3500 between sanctioned strength and availability of court halls and gap of around 6200 between sanctioned strength and available residential units?

### **Participation of overseas Indians/ NRIs in Elections**

**1876 Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) present election rules for overseas Indians to enrol as eligible voters in Assembly and Parliamentary elections;
- (b) specific provisions in election rules in this regard with their date of commencement, and number of overseas Indians registered as eligible voters as per such provisions;
- (c) whether Election Commission of India (ECI) proposed ETPBS facility to overseas Indians, details thereof;
- (d) Government's response to ECI's e-ballot proposal;
- (e) any other voting provisions under consideration of Government for overseas Indians; and
- (f) the reason for dropping the proposal of proxy voting facility to overseas Indians after the Bill was passed by Lok Sabha?

### **Uniform process for implementation of Collegium recommendation**

**1877 Shri Raghav Chadha:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any uniform process for implementing Collegium recommendations on the appointment and transfer of judges throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to modify the Collegium System and formulate a new Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Cases of Central Ministries/Departments pending before Courts**

**1878 Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of cases of Central Ministries/Departments pending before the Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Sessions Courts as of February, 2023, Ministry/Department-wise;
- (b) the present share of Government litigation in total pending cases in the country;
- (c) the share of contempt cases in total pending case load of Central Ministries/Departments associated with inaction on Court orders;

- (d) the expenditure incurred by Government on litigation during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (e) the extent by which the National Litigation Policy has reduced pendency of Government cases?

#### **Remote voting for domestic migrants**

1879 **Shri Rajeev Shukla:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for introducing remote voting for domestic migrants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to understand the vulnerabilities associated with this system, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any consultation was done with political stakeholders in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Legal status of live-in relationships**

1880 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government intends to legally recognise and register live-in relationships in the light of recent incident of murder of a live-in partner in Delhi;
- (b) whether Government has any data with respect to population living in live-in relationships;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry intends to extend legal protection through legislation to live-in couples beyond judicial decisions;
- (e) whether Government intends to recognise same-sex live-in relationships; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Operation Dost to Earthquake hit Turkey and Syria**

1881 **Shri M. Shanmugam:**

**Shri Vaiko:**

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of relief materials including medical assistance, NDRF teams sent to the quake-hit Turkey and Syria under Operation Dost, country-wise;
- (b) how many days the rescue operations were continued by the Indian teams, with relief packages;
- (c) any relief provided to the lakhs and lakhs of children who were orphaned due to this tragedy, in coordination with the UNICEF; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Legal literacy programs and awareness campaigns**

1882 **Smt. Sulata Deo:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of legal literacy programs and awareness campaigns conducted, State-wise, during the last two years;
- (b) the quantum of funds allocated for the conduct of these programs during the last two years;

- (c) whether Government plans to introduce these programs in secondary and senior secondary schools as well; and  
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Tackling problem of fake lawyers**

1883 **Dr. Prashanta Nanda:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the number of fake lawyers posing as advocates and soliciting work in the country;  
 (b) if so, whether measures are being taken to tackle the problem of fake lawyers, the details thereof; and  
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Stipend for young advocates**

1884 **Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to introduce a system of stipend for young advocates to tackle with the severe under payment faced by them;  
 (b) if so, whether Central Rules will be enacted to facilitate the same; and  
 (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

### **e-Courts project for online hearing**

1885 **Shri Vaiko:**

**Shri M. Shanmugam:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of e-courts project in various High Courts and other Subordinate Courts in the country;  
 (b) the amount allotted for the infrastructure development of e-courts during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;  
 (c) the number of Courts which have started online court hearings, having virtual appearance of lawyers and clients, the details thereof;  
 (d) whether any training programmes were organised for Chief Justices and High Court Judges to familiarize them with the technology for conducting online hearings; and  
 (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **OPS to Central Government employees**

1886 **Shri Javed Ali Khan:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether DoP&PW in response to its latest reference, has received concurrence of the Department of Expenditure along with vetted O.M. to be issued, during February, 2023 to issue orders to cover those employees of Central Government under OPS whose advertisements for recruitment were issued before 01.01.2004;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof;  
 (c) whether consultation in this regard is now complete with every Ministry/Department concerned, including C&AG and CGA;  
 (d) if so, the reasons for delay in issuing orders; and  
 (e) if not, the reasons for prolonging consultation deliberately?

### Backlog vacancies for OBCs

1887 **Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has the details of total number and percentage of backlog vacancies belonging to OBCs that are yet to be appointed in all Central Government offices and PSUs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government will take necessary steps to resolve the above issue; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps taken therefor?

### Demands for reverting to Old Pension Scheme

1888 **Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received representations from various Unions/ Associations of Central Government Employees from all across the country to discontinue the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS);
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government to meet their demands;
- (c) whether Government is considering to revert to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS); and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### Concurrence from DoE regarding OPS

1889 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Department of Expenditure (DoE) has given its concurrence again during February, 2023 to issue general orders to cover those employees under OPS whose advertisements for recruitment were issued before 01.01.2004 instead of 22.12.2003, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether DoP&PW has obtained the approval of Competent Authority to issue the said orders;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and time by when general orders are expected to be issued; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for delay in obtaining approval for the same and by when it is likely to be obtained?

### Shortage of Information Commissioners

1890 # **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pending RTI cases in the country;
- (b) whether the main reason behind the pendency of these cases is the shortage of Information Commissioners, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding recruitment of Information Commissioners during the last three years; and
- (d) the number of Information Commissioners in the country at present, State-wise?

### Vacancies in Administrative Tribunals

1891 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any vacant positions in Administrative Tribunals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the steps taken to fill the same;
- (c) whether Government plans to set up more Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

### Distribution of appointment letters in Rozgar Mela

1892 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people who received appointment letters from the Prime Minister through Rozgar Mela this year;
- (b) the details thereof, department-wise and post-wise; and
- (c) the dates when these vacancies were released and the details of the recruitment process, phase-wise?

### Start-up and Innovation Ecosystem

1893 **Shri B. Parthasaradhi Reddy:**

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the purpose of Technology Business Incubators (TBI) and Science & Technology Entrepreneur's Parks (STEP) under the National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) programme;
- (b) the number of TBIs and STEPs in the country, State-wise; and
- (c) the projects being undertaken at the Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad, Telangana, for the promotion of start-ups in the country?

### Spending on R&D to stop brain drain

1894 **Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's spending on Research and Development (R&D) is amongst the lowest in the world;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Central Government is aware of the fact that lower spending on R&D and less innovative opportunities may lead people to move to other countries for better opportunities; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken to prevent the phenomenon of brain drain in the country?

### Joint Consultative Machinery in ISRO

1895 **Shri A. A. Rahim:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for putting on hold the approval for operating Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) in Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) after re-verification of service association/Union in 2014 and by when Government is going to approve qualified service

associations;

- (b) whether Government has any plans to conduct re-verification afresh in ISRO; and  
 (c) the reasons for JCM Department Council not functioning in ISRO?

### **Socially useful technology developed by Department**

1896 **Smt. Sangeeta Yadav:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Department has developed technologies which are of direct relevance for the mankind; and  
 (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, particularly for women folk?

### **India's share in global space economy**

1897 **Shri Jugalsinh Lokhandwala:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated size of the global space economy and India's share in it;  
 (b) the steps taken by Government to increase India's share and the target for 2030; and  
 (c) the estimated timeline of the launch of Gaganyaan?

### **Effects and extent of the PRASHAD Scheme**

1898 **Shri Kartikeya Sharma:**

Will the Minister of **Tourism** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pilgrimage centres that have been developed and opened for devotees/tourists under the PRASHAD Scheme so far;  
 (b) whether there has been an increase in the number of devotees/tourists at the sites developed under this Scheme;  
 (c) if so, the number of pilgrims/tourists visited these places in the last three years, year-wise;  
 (d) whether any sites in the State of Haryana have been proposed to be included in this Scheme, if so, the details thereof; and  
 (e) if not, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

### **Dwadasha Jyotirlinga Tourist Circuit**

1899 **Shri Narayana Koragappa:**

Will the Minister of **Tourism** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is promoting the Dwadasha Jyotirlinga (Twelve Sacred Abode of Lord Shiva), viz., Somnath - Gujarat, Mallikarjuna - Shrishaila, AndhraPradesh, Mahakal - Ujjain, Omkareshwar - MadhyaPradesh, Vaidyanath - Parli-Jharkhand, Bhimashankar - Pune, Rameshwara - Rameshwaram, Nageshwara - Dwaraka-Gujarat, Vishweshwara - Varanasi, Triyambakeshwara - Nasik, Kedarnath - Kedarnath-Uttarakhand, Grishneshwara - Aurangabad;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (c) the ranking of the above places in terms of tourists, both local and foreign, for the year 2022?

### Heritage places in Karnataka

1900 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekar:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures the Central Government intends to take up with the State Government of Karnataka to develop heritage tourist places in the State;
- (b) whether there is a joint venture between the State and the Centre to further develop heritage places, places of ancient importance and some unexplored sites in the State;
- (c) whether the Ministry is considering a private player and Government module to further boost tourism across the country, particularly in Karnataka, in the upcoming financial year; and
- (d) the details of various methods through which Government expects a boost in tourism?

### Inflow of foreign tourists

1901 # **Shri Narain Dass Gupta:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the inflow of foreign tourists has increased after abatement of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country;
- (b) whether any special discounts and facilities are being given to foreign tourists visiting India; and
- (c) if so, the details of foreign tourists that came to India during 2021 and 2022, month-wise, along with the amount of foreign exchange earned?

### Women representation in tourism industry

1902 **Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that even though women reach top positions in other industries, they are often under-represented in hospitality and tourism; and
- (b) if so, the details of initiatives taken/being taken by Government to bring about a positive change in policies and make the tourism and hospitality industry a more progressive space for people, irrespective of their gender?

### Homestay policy in India

1903 **Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed procedure for the registration of a homestay in the country;
- (b) the details of the total number of registered homestays in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that homestays in the country are becoming unsustainable because of lack of knowledge, skills and experience; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to address the issues of unsustainability?

### Rural tourist destinations for boosting employment and sustainability

1904 **Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the list of niche experience destinations identified by the Central Nodal Agency – Rural Tourism and Rural Homestays-for tourists who intend to visit rural India, including agri-

- tourism, art and culture, eco-tourism, wildlife, tribal tourism, and homestays;
- (b) the details of 134 villages listed for rural tourism aiming to provide a set of unique experiences to tourists;
- (c) the action plan of Government on launching the State assessment and ranking criteria to help foster competition; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to reach the overarching objectives of promoting sustainable and responsible tourism?

#### **Tourism infrastructure in the North-East**

1905 **Shri Biplab Kumar Deb:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that North-East Region of the country presents a tremendous untapped potential for the growth of tourism sector;
- (b) the details of initiatives taken by the Ministry to attract tourists from across the world to the North-East parts of the country during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of the funds utilised for development of tourism infrastructure in the North-East during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise?

#### **Allocation and utilisation of funds under PRASHAD Scheme**

1906 **Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated and utilized under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme in the last five years, year-wise, State-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilized under Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provided to State Governments for promoting tourism at identified destinations in the last five years, year-wise, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of rejuvenation and spiritual augmentation of important national/ global pilgrimage and heritage sites done under PRASHAD Scheme in the last five years, year-wise, State-wise?

#### **Promotion of tourism industry**

1907 **Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourism industry in the country is incurring heavy losses every year due to occurrence of some disease or epidemic or natural calamity, post-monsoon or terror incidents, over the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government has envisaged any plan or proposes to make any plan to protect and encourage tourism industry in the country, particular in the State of Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Tangible and intangible assets identified in the State of Tamil Nadu**

1908 **Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is identifying tangible and intangible assets across the country and promoting those assets as important tourist sites/events;

- (b) if so, the details of the assets identified in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years along with the details of funds allocated to the State to promote those assets; and  
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Role of tourism in creating a \$5 trillion economy**

1909 # **Smt. Sumitra Balmik:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the role of tourism in making India a \$5 trillion economy;  
 (b) the plan of the Ministry to execute this role successfully; and  
 (c) the details of the plan to generate employment from tourism and provide assistance to young entrepreneurs?

### **Tourist Police Scheme**

1910 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the proposed Tourist Police Scheme by the Ministry;  
 (b) whether the Ministry has asked all States and UTs to set up Tourist Police, Tourist Police Stations and other infrastructure;  
 (c) if so, the details thereof;  
 (d) whether it has come to the notice that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has set up Tourism Police in the State;  
 (e) the details of financial and other assistance that Government provides for creating Tourist Police and Tourist Police Stations; and  
 (f) the details of States that have Tourist Police in the country and status of implementation of the same in that State(s)?

### **Representation of Indian players in e-sports events**

1911 **Dr. C.M. Ramesh:**

Will the Minister of *Youth Affairs and Sports* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has prepared a policy paper on the participation of Indian players in e-sports;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;  
 (c) the details of the plan for representation of Indian participants in e-sports events; and  
 (d) the steps underlined by the Ministry for selection, preparation, and training of e-sports players?

### **Promotion of sports at village level in Uttar Pradesh**

1912 # **Shri Mithlesh Kumar:**

Will the Minister of *Youth Affairs and Sports* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is preparing any action plan to promote sports at the village level in the State of Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;  
 (b) whether Government is contemplating on the need for construction of new stadiums or sports complexes to increase participation of youth in sports and to encourage them towards this field; and  
 (c) if so, whether there are any plans to construct new stadiums or sports complexes, especially in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, the details thereof?

### **Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons**

1913 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

Will the Minister of *Youth Affairs and Sports* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sportspersons who have benefited under Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons during the last five years, year-wise, sports-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the number of sportspersons who are eligible but not the beneficiary of the said Scheme during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise, sports-wise;
- (c) the amount of the financial assistance given to the meritorious sportspersons in the country during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by Government to improve implementation and response rate of this Scheme during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise?

### **Khelo India scheme in Punjab**

1914 **Shri Raghav Chadha:**

Will the Minister of *Youth Affairs and Sports* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to promote sports activities in the State of Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details of the implementation of the Khelo India scheme in the State of Punjab, in terms of funds disbursed and the number of beneficiaries since 2018, district-wise; and
- (c) whether Government is considering any additional financial support to sportspersons above and beyond the five lakhs per annum guaranteed through the Khelo India scheme?

### **Welfare of youths**

1915 **Shri Jose K. Mani:**

Will the Minister of *Youth Affairs and Sports* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that most of the schemes and activities related to youth affairs do not reach the rural youths of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has evaluated the functioning of youth commissions of the States and Union Territories, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether it has come to the notice of Government that many youths with no formal education make new inventions, if so, the steps taken to support such youths?

### **Promotion of sports among tribal communities**

1916 # **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

Will the Minister of *Youth Affairs and Sports* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of youths benefited under the Khelo India scheme run by Government;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any scheme to promote sports among the children of the tribal communities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of sportspersons belonging to tribal communities who got opportunities in various sports in the country, so far, in the last two years, State-wise?

### **Honouring Indian contingent of last Commonwealth Games**

1917 **Dr. Sonal Mansingh:**

Will the Minister of *Youth Affairs and Sports* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of awards in the form of monetary benefit/job offers given to the Indian contingent of last Commonwealth Games by various States of the country;
- (b) the details of Central Government welfare schemes for them;
- (c) whether Government has noticed that disparity is prevailing among States in honouring sportspersons of Indian contingent; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure uniformity in this regard?

#### **Allocation of funds to Kerala for development of sports**

1918 **Smt. P. T. Usha:**

Will the Minister of **Youth Affairs and Sports** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated to the State Government of Kerala for the development of sports, including infrastructure and provisioning of advanced sporting equipments during the last five years;
- (b) the details of the projects for which funds have already been allocated to the State Government of Kerala, district-wise; and
- (c) the details of the projects that have been completed, along with those which are yet to be completed, with details of funds remaining unspent/unutilized?

#### **Khelo India Scheme in Kerala**

1919 **Smt. P. T. Usha:**

Will the Minister of **Youth Affairs and Sports** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Khelo India Scheme has been successfully launched across the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of total number of national/international level sportspersons who have benefited under the said Scheme, year-wise;
- (c) the total number of projects that have been undertaken in Kerala under Khelo India Scheme; and
- (d) the budget allocated for the Scheme during the last three years?

#### **Promotion of Sikh Martial Art Gatka in Khelo India games**

1920 **Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney:**

Will the Minister of **Youth Affairs and Sports** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to include Sikh Martial Art Gatka in Khelo India and other National sports events;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any policy and programs to promote regional sports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated and utilised for promotion of regional sports, including Sikh Martial Art Gatka, during the last five years?

New Delhi  
The 9th March, 2023  
 18 Phalgun, 1944 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,  
 Secretary-General.

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