

Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, April 6, 2023/ 16 Chaitra, 1945 (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

Accumulation of spent nuclear fuel

3841 **Shri P. Wilson:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps with regard to accumulation of Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) in all nuclear power plants in the State of Tamil Nadu, including Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant and the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken steps to establish a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) where SNF from all nuclear power plants in Tamil Nadu, such as, Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant and Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant could be safely stored; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Status of new nuclear power plants

3842 **Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the number of nuclear power plants with varying capacity which are either under-construction or planned for construction apart from the nuclear power plants generating 7,480 MW energy in last five years, year-wise, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the timeline required for completion of each of the under-construction nuclear power plants, power plant-wise; and
- (c) the details of current status of planned nuclear power plants?

Small Modular Reactors

3843 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several experts have suggested that Government should focus on setting up Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as it would help meet the country's energy needs and can replace ageing thermal power plants; and

(b) if so, the views of Government about setting up of SMRs?

Major findings of research Institutes under DAE

3844 **Smt. Sangeeta Yadav:**

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

- (a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) contributes significantly to the country's scientific prowess, if so, details thereof;
- (b) major non-strategic research findings in the field of science and mathematical research by different Institutes/bodies under DAE during the last five years;
- (c) number of peer-reviewed journal articles published in internationally acclaimed journals by faculty members and research scholars of research institutes under DAE during the last five years, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of women scientists in these research institutions, institute-wise; and
- (e) whether allocated budget has been sufficient to carry out research activities?

Streamlining construction of Nuclear Power Reactors

3845 **Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:**

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

- (a) the list of sites accorded in-principle approval for setting up more reactors in future;
- (b) the list of the countries with whom negotiations have been held for the supply of fuel for the Atomic power plants in the last four financial years, including the present year; and
- (c) the details of Nuclear Power Reactors under construction along with their respective capacities in MW?

Mining of rare earth elements

3846 **Shri Jawhar Sircar:**

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

- (a) whether the country has the world's fifth-largest reserves of rare earth elements, if so, the reasons for country's continued heavy dependence on imports of finished products;
- (b) the estimated reserves of the most high value and high demand rare earth elements in the country; and
- (c) the plans to exploit the country's rare earth resources, including inviting foreign collaborations?

Funds to temple trusts and other religious bodies

3847 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

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

- (a) whether Government is providing or has provided any funds to the temple trusts in the country;
- (b) if so, the funds allocated to various temple trusts in the country since 2018, the temple trust-wise, year wise and scheme-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any directive or conditionality about the need to promote Government programmes for the release of funds; and
- (d) the funds allocated to worshipping centres of religious minorities since 2018, the trust-wise, year-wise and scheme-wise details thereof?

Incorrect display of history at Agrasen's stepwell

3848 # Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agrawal:

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

- (a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India, while mentioning King Ugrasen as the ancestor of the Agrawal community, has described Agrasen's stepwell as Ugrasen's stepwell in the rock inscription displayed at the main gate of Agrasen's stepwell located at Hailey Road, Delhi;
- (b) whether Government would conduct a high-level inquiry into this foul play with the glorious history of the Agrawal community, and give directions to punish the culprits and to change the inscriptions and name plates of the site; and
- (c) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of sites related to Lord Buddha

3849 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that sites related to Lord Buddha are visited by a huge number of international tourists;
- (b) if so, whether any special plan has been formulated by Government for the development of sites related to Lord Buddha;
- (c) the total number of sites related to Lord Buddha in the State of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) the total amount spent by Government in the last five years for the development of sites related to Lord Buddha in Uttar Pradesh?

Infrastructure for digital library

3850 Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Central Government to improve the infrastructure for Digital Library under National Mission on Libraries from the year 2018 till date;
- (b) whether the Central Government will take any steps to oversee the development of digital library infrastructure in India; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Monument Mitra scheme

3851 Shri Kartikeya Sharma:

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

- (a) Whether Monument Mitra scheme is going to threaten the pluralistic heritage of the country;
- (b) whether Government has any criteria for permitting a company to maintain a heritage site;
- (c) whether trained professionals will be provided to the companies to understand the sites and their history without interfering with it;
- (d) whether all the monuments under this Scheme would be in accordance with and protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI); and
- (e) if not, the consequences of letting businesses occupy prime public land to build their brands at the cost of further diminishing grounds around iconic monuments?

Virtual Sikh museum

3852 **Shri Raghav Chadha:**

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

- (a) the details of Virtual Experiential Museums set up in the country;
- (b) whether the Ministry plans to set up a Virtual Experiential Museum dedicated to the Sikh community, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Ministry plans to set up a physical museum dedicated to the Sikh community, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Conservation of historical monuments

3853 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar:**

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

- (a) the number of historical monuments in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala along with the district-wise details of the monuments which are being conserved by the Central Government and also funds allocated and spent for the maintenance, revenue earned from the said monuments during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government of Karnataka has made any request for the conservation of other monuments and sites in the State and if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and
- (c) the location-wise number of security guards appointed at the said places along with the details thereof?

Vacancies in various organisations under the Ministry

3854 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether attention of the Ministry has been drawn to the fact that most organisations operating under the Ministry are currently functioning with 35 per cent vacancies on key posts; and
- (b) if so, the steps that are being taken to fill up the vacancies?

Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes in Maharashtra

3855 **Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde:**

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

- (a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes being implemented by the Ministry in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year, year/scheme/district-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, sanctioned, released and utilized for each of the above schemes during the said period, year/scheme/district-wise;
- (c) the details of physical targets set and achieved while implementing the above schemes during the said period and the current year, year/scheme/district-wise; and
- (d) whether there is time and cost overrun of any of the above schemes and if so, the reasons therefor?

Conservation of folk culture in Maharashtra

3856 **Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde:**

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

- (a) the ancient folk cultures being conserved in the State of Maharashtra and the schemes being implemented for this purpose, the details thereof;
- (b) the places to which these folk cultures are associated with, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount sanctioned/allocated for this purpose during the last three years; and
- (d) the details of the measures taken/being taken to conserve the said folk cultures?

Cultural events during G20 summit

3857 Shri Rajeev Shukla:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has any proposal to showcase the rich culture of the State of Chhattisgarh during the G20 summit in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of events planned by the Ministry to be held in Chhattisgarh as part of the G20 cultural outreach programme?

Cultural and religious circuits under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Uttarakhand

3858 # Dr. Kalpana Saini:

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

- (a) the details of places included for development as cultural and religious circuits under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme;
- (b) whether Government is planning to develop tourism circuits for Shiva temples in the State of Uttarakhand under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated and spent in Uttarakhand under this Scheme during the last five years?

Promotion of local and rural culture under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

3859 # Dr. Kalpana Saini:

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

- (a) the steps being taken by Government to promote local and rural culture under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat';
- (b) the details of the efforts being made in respect of preservation of culture in the State of Uttarakhand;
- (c) whether any new action plan is being prepared under the "Vocal for Local" initiative in the field of local culture of Uttarakhand; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Inclusion of temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal in UNESCO's world heritage list

3860 Smt. Shanta Chhetri:

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

- (a) whether Government is expediting the case of inclusion of temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal in the UNESCO's World Heritage sites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Sanctioned strength and vacancies

3861 **Shri A. A. Rahim:**

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

- (a) the sanctioned strength and the number of vacancies in the Ministry of Culture and its attached and subordinate offices; and
- (b) the number of new posts which have been created in the Ministry of Culture and its attached and subordinate offices during the last five years, year-wise?

Budget allocation to the Ministry

3862 **Shri Pabitra Margherita:**

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

- (a) the budget allocation to the Ministry in 2013-14 and its comparison with 2022-23;
- (b) the State-wise disbursement and utilisation of funds under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS);
- (c) whether there are any plans to increase the scope of this Scheme, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the list of major projects under progress in the North-East under NESIDS?

Lack of infrastructure in the NER

3863 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

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

- (a) whether the North Eastern Region (NER) lacks appropriate infrastructure;
- (b) if so, whether this lack of infrastructure has blocked the industrial development in the said region and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

Seasonal weather forecast

3864 **Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik:**

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

- (a) whether the India Meteorological Department has prepared any seasonal forecast for the period upto May, 2023 regarding the expected temperatures and precipitation in different regions of the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to deal with situations in areas likely to have abnormally high temperatures?

Deep sea exploration and Samudrayan project

3865 **Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

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

- (a) the details of the budget allocated, disbursed and spent on the Samudrayan project since its launch;
- (b) whether Government has data on the deep sea explorations undertaken since the launch of the Project, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has information on the findings by such explorations, if so, the details thereof?

Agromet services

3866 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) whether Agromet services are being provided by Government;
- (b) the details of farmers getting Agromet services in the country, district-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that farmers of the State of Andhra Pradesh are not getting the benefits of Agromet services;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the efforts being made by Government to set up District Agromet Units in Andhra Pradesh for dissemination of advisories to farmers in 2023-24?

Impact of the rising sea levels

3867 **Shri S. Selvaganabathy:**

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any plans to rehabilitate people from low-lying coastal areas who may be adversely impacted due to rising sea levels in the coming decade and if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to mitigate rising sea levels and coastal erosion and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India has lost a portion of its original coastline due to rising sea levels and if so, the details thereof reflecting the change in coastline from 1950 to 2021; and
- (d) whether Government plans to offer assistance and rehabilitation to the victims of climate change?

Status of extraction of potential drugs from the ocean

3868 **Smt. Sangeeta Yadav:**

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

- (a) the status of extraction of potential drugs from the ocean, particularly life saving drugs, anti-cancer and anti-tuberculosis, etc.; and
- (b) the details of performance of these drugs from the sea programme vis-a-vis similar programmes of advanced scientific nations?

Study of air quality of metropolitan cities through SAFAR Portal

3869 **Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecast and Research) has conducted a study on post-Diwali air pollution in four cities, namely, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Pune and Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to include all the metropolitan cities of the country under SAFAR initiative as a part of India's Air Quality Early Warning System; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Instruments for measuring gases present in the atmosphere

3870 # **Shri Narain Dass Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is not having instruments to measure the gases present in the atmosphere;
- (b) if so, whether the efforts are being made by Government to install such instruments;
- (c) if so, the time by which these are expected to be installed; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Action plan for introduction of Cheetah in India

3871 Dr. V. Sivadasan:

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

- (a) the estimated cost of the 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' and the actual amount spent so far;
- (b) whether there has been any high level scientific study upon the possible consequences of such introduction, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has noted that some of the National Parks are already having a high number of big cats leading to human-animal conflicts; and
- (d) if so, the social impact of introduction of Cheetah in this context?

Protection of trees and promotion of tree plantation

3872 # Shri Aditya Prasad:

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

- (a) whether Government has any scheme to protect trees and promote tree plantation invariably at the village level across the country, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of ongoing schemes for creating awareness about the importance of tree plantation at the Panchayat level and primary school level; and
- (c) whether Government appoints officers from the local village level to the apex level for environmental awareness, protection and promotion, if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Amrit Dharohar and MISHTI schemes

3873 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

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

- (a) the budget allocated to the new schemes, Amrit Dharohar and MISHTI, announced in the budget speech by the Finance Minister;
- (b) whether Government has streamlined a work plan for the implementation of these schemes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of air pollution on children

3874 Dr. Amar Patnaik:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government is cognizant of the adverse effects of air pollution on the mental health of children;
- (b) whether the Central Government has conducted impact-specific studies on the mechanisms and future projections of air pollution on their health, education and social adaptability levels; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Buffer zone around wildlife sanctuaries, National Parks and Reserve Forests

3875 Dr. Sonal Mansingh:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government has approached the Supreme Court for relaxation on the verdict of 1 kilometre mandatory buffer zone around wildlife sanctuaries, National Parks and Reserve Forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure preservation and protection of the flora and fauna of our ecosystem;
- (d) the reasons for not implementing the Gadgil Committee report;
- (e) the steps taken for eviction of unauthorized encroachments in reserve forest land across the country; and
- (f) the details of the area of land encroached upon in reserve forest across the country, State-wise?

UN climate summit and establishment of compensation fund

3876 Dr. Sonal Mansingh:

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

- (a) the details of major decision in UN Climate Summit COP 27;
- (b) whether India will play a key role in addressing the damages due to climate change disasters;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the COP 27 has taken a decision to establish a compensation fund to help under-developed countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to address the issue within the country?

Threat to world heritage glaciers

3877 Dr. Sonal Mansingh:

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

- (a) whether Government has noticed the warning from UNESCO on threat to world heritage glaciers;
- (b) if so, the details of India's initiatives to preserve and protect the world heritage glaciers within Indian territory;
- (c) whether the recently held COP 27 has taken any concrete steps in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether India has developed and proposed detailed measures in this regard; and
- (f) the response of other important nations in this regard?

Review of prevailing exemption from environmental and social impact assessment

3878 Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde:

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

- (a) whether, in light of the direction of the National Green Tribunal to Ministry to review the exemption in its 27.08.2014 decision in Application 6/2013 c/w Application 12/2013 (Leo F. Saldanha and Environment Support Group vs. MoEF, and ors.), which decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court on 31.07.2015, Government intends to review the prevailing exemption from environmental and social impact review that utility scale renewable energy

projects such as mega solar parks enjoy; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Compliance of the NGT order

3879 Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde:

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

- (a) whether officials of the Ministry have complied with the 23.10.2015 direction of the Chief Information Commissioner (in Davis George Thomas vs. Ministry of Environment and Forests) directing Ministry officials to provide details of compliance with the National Green Tribunal's order in Application 6/2013 c/w Application 12/2013 (Leo F. Saldanha and Environment Support Group vs. Ministry of Environment and Forests, and ors.), which order of the NGT was confirmed by the Supreme Court on 31.07.2015; and
 (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Compliance of Ramsar Declaration

3880 Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde:

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

- (a) whether the announcement of the Chief Minister of Manipur in the 2023-24 budget, that the State would avail a loan from Asian Development Bank for the proposed 'Sustainable Loktak Lake Ecosystem Restoration, Eco Tourism and Livelihood Improvement' project, is in compliance with the Ramsar Declaration; and
 (b) whether approval has been secured for the same from the Department of Economic Affairs and the Finance Ministry, whichever is applicable?

National policy on monkey menace

3881 Dr. Ashok Bajpai:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there is a need for comprehensive national policy to address the monkey menace as for want of such a policy, no concrete initiatives could be taken so far;
 (b) the total number of incidents of injuries and deaths, due to monkeys in the country, in the last five years with the district-wise breakup; and
 (c) the details of initiatives taken by Government, if any, including establishing monkey rescue centres, to meet the menace of the increasing number of monkeys in urban agglomerations and incidents on account thereof?

Experiments and initiatives to address monkey menace

3882 Dr. Ashok Bajpai:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that if the monkey menace in the country is not addressed in a time-bound manner and their numbers keep rapidly increasing, the problem would become uncontrollable;
 (b) the estimated population of monkeys in various States and the decadal increase in their numbers;
 (c) the reasons for monkey menace remaining unresolved in various parts of the country; and
 (d) the details of experiences of various experiments made and initiatives taken to address

the monkey menace in the country?

Registered e-waste processing and recycling units in the country

3883 Dr. Santanu Sen:

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

- (a) the number of registered e-waste processing and recycling units in the country, since last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the total quantity of waste generated and the percentage of electronic e-waste disposed of through these regulated waste processing units, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of the funds allocated for the manufacturing and maintenance of the units, in last three years, year-wise?

Steps to reduce carbon emissions

3884 Dr. Santanu Sen:

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

- (a) whether, according to the UN's Emissions Gap Report (EGR), India was the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide by volume in 2020, although its per capita emissions were lower than the world average, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that India's target date to reach net zero emissions remains 2070 – much later than the date set by many other countries and not in line with the Paris agreement, which proposed 2050 as the target date, if so, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the details of the action taken by Government to reduce carbon emissions?

Mapping of wetlands under NWIA

3885 Ms. Dola Sen:

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

- (a) the total number of wetlands mapped under the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA) from the State of West Bengal;
- (b) whether Government has funded any programme for geo-referencing mapped wetlands under the NWIA; and
- (c) if so, the amount of funds allocated to all States and UTs for the purpose, and if not, whether Government plans on undertaking the same?

E-waste recycling infrastructure

3886 Smt. Vandana Chavan:

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

- (a) the amount of e-waste generated in the country in the last five years;
- (b) the amount of the e-waste that was recycled;
- (c) whether Government has provided any incentives for the creation of e-waste recycling infrastructure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the amount of e-waste processed in Government approved recycling centres?

Management of e-waste

3887 Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that only around 27 per cent of e-waste generated is treated;
- (b) if so, the steps Government is planning to undertake to manage e-waste;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has any plans to increase the number of dismantlers and recycler, especially in the States where there are none;
- (e) if so, the details thereof with timelines; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Monitoring of air quality

3888 Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik:

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

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism to monitor the air quality in towns and cities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether several towns and cities have shown a rapid rise in patients with respiratory diseases;
- (c) whether it is a fact that unhygienic ways of garbage storage/disposal and lack of solid waste treatment plants has led to poor air quality in most of the towns and cities; and
- (d) if so, the action Government plans to take in ensuring that urban India gets to breathe clean air?

Setting up of sewage treatment plants

3889 Dr. C.M. Ramesh:

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

- (a) whether there has been no progress in setting up of sewage treatment plants (STPs) by the Haryana Irrigation Department to prevent effluent from being discharged into Delhi's Najafgarh drain which eventually flows into Yamuna River, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether steps have been taken by Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Disappearing beaches

3890 Shri Sandosh Kumar P:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the disappearing of beaches at an alarming rate;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware of the serious problems faced by fishermen community due to the disappearing beaches;
- (c) whether the Ministry is taking any measures to address the problem; and
- (d) the State-wise data on the loss of beaches in the country and the trend thereof?

Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes

3891 Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:

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

- (a) the total forest area diverted for non-forest purposes, including for infrastructure and industrial projects, over the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the criteria adopted by the Forest Survey of India to count plots of land as part of forest cover;
- (c) the total area of land of limited or no ecological or biodiversity value counted in India's

forest cover at present;

(d) the proportion of dense forests in India's total recorded forest area as on date; and

(e) the details of ministerial and official residences, institutional buildings, university campuses and residential neighborhoods in New Delhi declared forest on the official forest cover map?

Efforts to increase forest cover in Haryana

3892 # Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Haryana possesses the lowest forest cover across the country on the basis of latest assessment on percentage of forest cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any special efforts have been made by Government to increase the forest cover in the States having the minimum forest cover, including in the State of Haryana, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that North Eastern States are witnessing the fastest decline in forest cover, if so, the reasons therefor?

Expansion of forest cover in Jharkhand

3893 # Shri Deepak Prakash:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to launch a new initiative involving local level institutions and the private sector to expand forest cover in the State of Jharkhand, especially in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the efforts made by Government in this regard?

Evaluation of performance of zoos in the country

3894 Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:

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

(a) the total number of zoos in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Maharashtra for setting up of new zoos;

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

(d) whether Government has any proposal for formulation of a grading system to evaluate the performance of zoos in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken so far by Government in this regard?

Global Biodiversity Framework

3895 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

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

(a) the country's vision, commitment and contribution with respect to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) emerged out of the UN Convention on Biodiversity held in Montreal in December, 2022; and

(b) whether Government has set any targets/goals to protect, save and improve the biodiversity in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Death of tigers in the country

3896 **Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that as many as 30 tigers have been found dead in the first two months of the calendar year 2023, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the age, place (the reserve each of them belonged to) and reasons for death of each of these tigers;
- (c) whether any human-animal conflict or poaching/hunting is suspected behind these deaths, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the birth, death and percentage growth of tigers in the country during the last five calendar years?

Special drive for increasing the density of forests

3897 # **Ms. Indu Bala Goswami:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry proposes to start a special drive for increasing the density of forests and for maintenance work in the hill States of north India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether a report has been sought from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding damage to forests for the said drive?

Deaths of elephants in Odisha

3898 **Smt. Mamata Mohanta:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a large number of elephants are dying in various parts and forest areas of Odisha due to various reasons;
- (b) if so, whether any data on the deaths of elephants is available and the number of elephants that have died during the last two years in Odisha;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to prevent the deaths/killings of elephants;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of elephants that have been killed/died due to unknown reasons in various States of the country during the last two years?

Combating desertification

3899 **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 India became a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1994 and pledged to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps that are being taken to combat desertification and the quantum of the target that has been achieved so far; and
- (c) the measures being taken by Government to reverse land degradation and deforestation?

Number of Cheetahs in Gujarat

3900 **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, which were not for reintroduction purpose but for any other purpose;
- (b) the dates on which these Cheetahs were brought and the expenses incurred on them; and
- (c) the number of them alive today?

Carbon Dioxide and greenhouse gases

3901 **Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases next to the USA and China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the effective measures taken by Government to curb the prevailing environmental issues and problems like air pollution, poor management of waste, water scarcity, depletion of groundwater tables, water pollution, degradation of forests, biodiversity loss, and land/soil degradation; and
- (d) the total funds allocated in the last five years, year-wise, to Tamil Nadu to combat major environmental issues?

Action plan for circular economy

3902 **Shri Jaggesh:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that sustainable and efficient use and processing of all raw materials is required to protect the environment;
- (b) whether it is a fact that India has 11,000 billion tonnes of garbage that can be recycled;
- (c) whether Government has framed any policy to manage e-waste;
- (d) whether Government is focusing on circular economy and on reusing and recycling waste to make it raw material for future use; and
- (e) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to establish circular economy as a sustainable, future-oriented concept in the industry?

Guidelines for environmental clearance for execution of railway works

3903 **Shri Jaggesh:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects in the State of Karnataka have been delayed due to environmental clearances;
- (b) whether there is an ambiguity among States/UTs regarding interpretation of the term Right of Way (RoW) mentioned in Government guidelines for environmental clearance for execution of railway works; and
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to pave way for the national transporter to execute infrastructure projects in forest areas without seeking permission from Government?

Forest cover in the country

3904 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

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

- (a) the details of forest cover in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to increase the forest land in the country during the last five years;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to enact a new law for the conservation of forest land, and if so, the details thereof?

Deaths caused by air pollution

3905 **Shri B. Parthasaradhi Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 18 per cent of total deaths in 2019 can be attributed to increasing air pollution;
- (b) if so, the measures being taken to reduce air pollution in the country;
- (c) the number of deaths recorded due to air pollution in 2022; and
- (d) the details of the measures being taken by Government to aid lower-income individuals in dealing with the health-related issues arising from air pollution?

Reservation policy regarding outsourcing in various organizations

3906 **Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:**

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any reservation policy/plan regarding outsourcing in various Ministries, PSUs and other organizations in the Government of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the persons from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community benefitted at national level from outsourcing in all these organizations; and
- (d) whether Government has formulated any scheme or policy for employment generation through the medium of outsourcing in private sector organisations funded by Government and if so, the details thereof?

Cutting of trees for developmental projects

3907 # **Shri Narain Dass Gupta:**

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

- (a) the details of developmental projects for which Government has received requests from States to cut trees from financial year 2017-18 to December, 2022;
- (b) whether all such requests received have been accepted;
- (c) the details of proposals which have not been approved;
- (d) whether the States asking for the permission to cut the trees have also submitted the plans for compensatory plantation; and
- (e) if so, whether Government monitors them and if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of Mission LiFe in Goa

3908 **Shri Luizinho Joaquim Faleiro:**

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

- (a) whether Prime Minister's Global Mass Movement Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFe) has been implemented in Goa;
- (b) if so, whether Government is aware of the devastating fires raging in Goa's wildlife sanctuaries for nearly 15 days, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made regarding areas affected since some of these areas are world's eight hotspots of biodiversity and older than Himalayas;
- (d) the details of Goa's total forest area, area encroached by public and areas affected by fires; and
- (e) whether Government has set up NDRF to combat such fires and to avoid reoccurrence thereof in future?

Regional cooperation on air pollution

3909 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Dr. Amar Patnaik:

Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:

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

- (a) whether there are existing partnerships with neighboring countries to combat the issue of air pollution in South Asia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether there are plans to execute any such agreement;
- (c) whether any MoUs have been signed with neighboring countries to install air pollution monitors at critical points to generate data and adopt cost-effective solutions to tackle the issue of air pollution based on airshed approach; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

High Networth Individuals leaving the country

3910 **Smt. Mausam Noor:**

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

- (a) the total number of Indians who have given up Indian passports permanently and settled abroad in the last four years;
- (b) the number of High Networth Individuals who have moved abroad permanently in the last four years, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to check the outflow of Indians and India's wealth overseas?

Defective passports

3911 **Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several Indian passports issued by Passport Offices are having defective Machine-Readable Zone (MRZ);
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Immigration Officers at airports are required to type the details of passport holders due to defective MRZ or barcodes; and
- (c) if so, the number of such defective passports issued so far and steps being taken to replace defective passports for smooth and hassle-free travelling?

Adoption of citizenship of foreign country

3912 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Shri Raghav Chadha:

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

- (a) the number of Indians who left the country and have opted citizenship of other countries since 2018, year-wise;
- (b) the reasons for Indians leaving the country and opting citizenship of other countries;
- (c) the names of countries preferred by Indians;
- (d) whether Government has found out the reasons for these citizens leaving the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is a fact that majority of Indian citizens who opted to leave the country are High Net Worth citizens; and
- (f) if so, the number of such Indians and their total net worth?

Difficulties faced by labourers working abroad

3913 **Shri Abdul Wahab:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that a large number of Indian citizens are working abroad as labourers in extremely difficult conditions and in some cases their passports have also been confiscated by the employers, particularly in Middle Eastern countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of people who are working as labourers in the Middle Eastern countries; and
- (d) the measures being taken by Government to make the working conditions better for the labourers working in such countries?

India's engagement in G20

3914 **Dr. Sasmit Patra:**

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

- (a) the details of India's engagement in G20 with reference to the motto - One Earth, One Family, One Future; and
- (b) the manner in which India will be positioning itself in the G20 and how it would help India's foreign policy perspective?

India's efforts for UNSC permanent seat

3915 **Dr. Sasmit Patra:**

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

- (a) the steps being undertaken by India for gaining the permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC); and
- (b) the manner in which Indian Parliament and Parliamentarians can help in this regard?

Fishing in overseas waters

3916 **Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj:**

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

- (a) whether Government is cognizant of the fishermen being arrested for poaching in overseas waters;

- (b) if so, whether economic actions are being pursued against the errant fishermen;
- (c) whether a measure will be introduced to sensitize fishermen on the limits of overseas waters; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Emergency assistance for Indian workers living abroad

3917 # **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

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

- (a) whether Government maintains the details of Indian citizens working abroad;
- (b) if so, the details of such citizens during the last two years, country-wise;
- (c) whether Government maintains the details of agents and institutions which undertake the responsibility of providing jobs to Indian citizens abroad; and
- (d) whether any initiative has been launched by Government for emergency assistance to Indian workers living abroad, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Fraudulent recruitment by private agents for foreign countries

3918 **Shri S. Selvaganabathy:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that lot of illegal recruiting agents are fraudulently sending poor and illiterate persons abroad and if so, the details of persons sent fraudulently in the last four years;
- (b) whether Government has taken any action against such illegal recruiting agents in last four years and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether in most of the cases recruiting agents are untraceable and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to create any special operation group to take timely action against the illegal recruiting agents?

MoUs on Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership

3919 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

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

- (a) whether India and Germany have inked MoUs on a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether India has benefited from such MoUs so far in different fields; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Emigrant female domestic workers from India in GCC countries

3920 **Dr. John Brittas:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the predicaments of female domestic workers in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries who don't possess ECR passport or clearance/registration before departure from India;
- (b) actions taken against unscrupulous recruiting agents resorting to unethical ways in recruiting domestic workers circumventing e-migrate system;
- (c) whether Government will execute bilateral agreements with GCC countries insisting that domestic workers can be engaged only after obtaining clearance from Indian Mission

beforehand, on lines of MOUs by Philippines Government with GCC countries; and
 (d) whether Government will prepare database of all domestic workers including those whose original/tourist visas were subsequently converted to domestic employment?

Indians languishing in foreign jails

3921 **Dr. John Brittas:**

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

- (a) the number and details of Indian expatriates languishing in jails of foreign countries as on date, country-wise; and
- (b) the details of prisoner exchange treaties with other countries?

Guidelines for issuing warnings to viewers

3922 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

- (a) whether Government has issued any guidelines to television news channels for issuing trigger warnings before showing violent or sensitive content, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any study in this regard, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures and steps taken by Government to regulate such programmes on television news; and
- (d) whether Government has observed any negative impact of such content on the public, and if so, the details thereof?

Monitoring of YouTube channels

3923 **Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

Dr. Ameer Yajnik:

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

- (a) whether Government has set up any authority to monitor YouTube channels that create and broadcast fake and disturbing videos, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government is aware that children are being tricked through fake and disturbing YouTube videos, if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the list of YouTube channels banned by Government along with the reasons therefor?

Ban on foreign media agencies

3924 **Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham:**

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

- (a) whether any foreign media agencies have been banned or censorship imposed upon them in the country; and
- (b) whether action has been taken against any media agencies on grounds of telecasting news/documentary which was found to be anti-national in nature?

Advisory to private TV channels

3925 **Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

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

- (a) the details of the new advisory issued by the Central Government to private TV channels to broadcast the contents in national and social interest;

- (b) whether this new advisory will also include the themes of secularism in the country to promote communal harmony; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Approval of recommendations of Evaluation Committee by DD Urdu

3926 **Shri Javed Ali Khan:**

Shri Ram Nath Thakur:

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

- (a) whether 580 proposals recommended by Evaluation Committee were approved by DD (Urdu) for commissioning during 2012-13 and out of these only 166 proposals have been commissioned, so far;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) the details of the status of remaining 414 proposals pending for commissioning, proposal-wise;
 (d) whether DD (Urdu) will accelerate the process of commissioning of pending proposals in view of hardships of producers;
 (e) if so, the details thereof; and
 (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Support to PIB Chennai, CBC and Publication Divisions in Tamil Nadu

3927 **Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate funds, infrastructure and manpower to develop PIB Chennai, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) and Publication Divisions in the State of Tamil Nadu;
 (b) the funds allocated, disbursed and utilised during the last five years, year-wise, for the PIB Chennai, CBC and publication department for propagation of Government policies and activities; and
 (c) the details of the publications brought out by the Central Government in various regional languages to reach out to the people from all linguistic areas in the country and the expenditure incurred thereon?

Beneficiaries of ESIC hospitals

3928 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

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

- (a) the list of districts where ESIC hospitals have not been established so far, State-wise;
 (b) whether Government has decided a time-frame within which to bring all districts under ESIC cover; and
 (c) whether the ESIC hospitals also serve people other than the registered beneficiaries of ESIC scheme?

Complaints lodged with Labour Offices

3929 **Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

Dr. Ameer Ajaynik:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that after the change in the tender of the existing security companies, the private security guards are either fired from the job or hefty amount is

- taken in the name of reinstatement, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the State-wise details of the total complaints lodged with the Labour Offices along with the nature of the complaints; and
- (c) the total number of complaints resolved in Labour Offices and the number of complaints transferred to Labour Courts?

Vision document for providing solutions to employment challenges

3930 Ms. Dola Sen:

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

- (a) whether Government has prepared any vision document for providing inclusive, sustainable and equitable solutions to employment challenges as envisaged under G20 Employment Working Group;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken cognizance of the joint ILO-UNICEF report on highlighting the urgency to scale-up social protection net, especially for children;
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to expand the social protection net for children in India; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Registrations and placements through Employment Exchanges

3931 Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu:

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

- (a) whether Government has data on the number of registrations under the Employment Exchanges during the last two Financial Years;
- (b) if so, the number of placements through Employment Exchanges in the State of Jharkhand;
- (c) whether Government is placing special focus on providing employment opportunities to women in rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the number of women placed during the last year, State and UT-wise?

Welfare policy for retail shopkeepers

3932 Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:

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

- (a) whether Government has any data on the number of retail shopkeepers in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has established any policy for the welfare of retail shopkeepers in the country;
- (c) if so, whether such a policy has been able to achieve its aims and objectives, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to introduce a welfare fund for the shopkeepers in the country?

Health insurance for gig workers

3933 Smt. Mausam Noor:

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

- (a) whether the gig workers have been provided with any health insurance by the Central Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether Government has carried out any exercise to determine the number of gig workers employed in the country by different platforms;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise and platform-wise;
- (e) whether Government has provided any relief measures to the gig workers who lost their job and income because of COVID-imposed lockdown; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reason therefor?

Protection of the rights of gig workers

3934 Shri Kartikeya Sharma:

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

- (a) the reasons for the gig workers not being categorized as unorganized labour along with the future provisions to protect their rights;
- (b) whether there is any grievance redressal mechanism for safeguarding their rights, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the manner in which the responsibility between the Central Government and aggregators has been divided under the Codes on Social Security Bill, 2020 for the gig workers; and
- (d) the streamlined guidelines across private companies for the job security of these workers?

Employment opportunities for the youths

3935 Shri Anil Desai:

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

- (a) the employment opportunities that were available for the youths prior to COVID period, during the period when COVID was at its peak, along with the present unemployment situation in the country;
- (b) the efforts made by Government to generate employment opportunities for the youths; and
- (c) whether unskilled labourers have been the main loser of their jobs during these periods?

Insurance cover to unorganised workers registered on e-SHRAM portal

3936 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 10.5 crore unorganized workers have been registered on e-SHRAM portal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, with a particular reference to the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that accidental insurance coverage of ₹ 2 lakh has been given to these workers free of cost for the first year;
- (d) whether Government would consider extending one year of life insurance free of cost in view of the pandemic; and
- (e) the manner in which Government propagates that it is giving insurance benefit to registered unorganized sector workers?

Social security for skilled and semi-skilled labourers

3937 Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:

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

- (a) the total number of skilled and semi-skilled labourers working in different industrial units in the country, especially in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the provision for housing, education of children, medical facility, drinking water and toilets are provided to these labourers under social security; and
- (c) if so, the number of labourers who have been benefited during each of the last three years in the State?

Social security for contractual employees

3938 # **Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki:**

Ms. Kavita Patidar:

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

- (a) whether Government is contemplating any policy to provide social security to the employees working on contract basis in Government departments for the last ten years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether there is any such plan for future?

Schemes for employment generation

3939 **Shri Masthan Rao Beeda:**

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

- (a) the details of the progress of schemes for employment generation, State-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilised for such schemes during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) whether such schemes have actually reduced unemployment in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government seeks to create an urban employment guarantee scheme along the lines of MGNREGA; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Extension of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

3940 # **Ms. Kavita Patidar:**

Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki:

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

- (a) whether Government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress report of this scheme during the last five years?

Increasing unemployment in the country

3941 # **Shri Sandeep Kumar Pathak:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that during 2022 rate of unemployment was at its peak in the last 44 years, if so, reasons therefor;
- (b) the year-wise and State-wise details of rate of unemployment during the last five years;
- (c) the total number of unemployed persons in the country at present, the year-wise and state-wise details of the increase in number of unemployed persons during the last five years; and
- (d) whether Government had set a target of providing two crore jobs per year, if so, the extent to which the target has been achieved, the year-wise details thereof?

Social security fund for gig workers

3942 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

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

- (a) the details of aggregators in the country;
- (b) whether Government has envisaged to set up social security fund by all aggregators who engage gig workers in the country;
- (c) whether it is a fact that 2 per cent of total annual turnover has to be contributed by aggregators towards social security fund;
- (d) if so, details of each aggregator contributing 2 per cent of turnover towards the social security fund, aggregator-wise; and
- (e) the number of gig and platform workers who have benefited from the above fund during last two years and the current year for losing life, disability, accident, maternity, old age, etc., year-wise and aggregator-wise?

Migrant labourers in the country

3943 # **Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of migrant labourers in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the regions in which migrant labourers are more in number, the details thereof; and
- (c) the welfare schemes devised by Government in view of the plight of migrant labourers after COVID-19 pandemic, the details thereof?

EPF Pension - Option for Higher Pension time limit

3944 **Shri Vaiko:**

Shri M. Shanmugam:

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

- (a) whether Government has issued any direction to Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to take steps for immediate follow-up to the Supreme Court's directions on enabling concerned employees and pensioners to opt for higher pension;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether EPFO has issued any circular and opened online facility to pensioners and employees for exercising the higher pension option, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether, in view of the deadline being 4th March, it would be extended, if so, the details thereof?

e-Shram portal for unorganized sector workers

3945 # **Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:**

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

- (a) whether Government has recently launched a national database e-Shram portal with a unique Universal Account Number for the overall welfare of unorganized sector workers in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of workers registered on the e-Shram portal so far after its launch, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government's pension scheme and any life insurance scheme are proposed to be the initial schemes linked to this portal and if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Lok Adalat scheme

3946 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

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

- (a) whether the concept of Lok Adalat has been implemented to reduce the burden on the courts;
- (b) the number of people who have participated in Lok Adalats in the country, State-wise, since 2019 and the number of cases which have been settled;
- (c) whether, considering that the Lok Adalat is held only on certain days, Government is of the view that the objective will be achieved if regular and more frequent Lok Adalats are held at district and taluka levels for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, Government's proposed action in this regard?

Voter ID cards linked to Aadhaar

3947 **Shri Syed Nasir Hussain:**

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

- (a) the details of voter ID cards linked to Aadhaar since enactment of the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021;
- (b) whether the linking of voter ID card is voluntary and has been added after obtaining consent, if so, details of the manner in which consent was obtained from voters;
- (c) whether any target and time frame has been given to the election officials to link the voter card, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the names of voters whose voter ID is not linked with Aadhaar will be struck off from the voter list, if so, the details and the basis thereof?

Drafting of new legislations

3948 **Dr. Ashok Bajpai:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that one of the main reasons for litigation in High Courts and the Supreme Court is the defective and faulty drafting of legislations containing provisions admitting more than one interpretations;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to take the assistance of the retired judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts and senior advocates in drafting new legislations for making them more accurate;
- (c) whether Government has any existing system to periodically overview the working of the legislations with a view to remove difficulties by legislative interventions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

High Court Benches

3949 **Shri Sandosh Kumar P:**

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

- (a) the number of High Court Benches established since 2016;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to start new High Court Benches in States; and
- (c) if so, the States selected for the purpose?

Judicial infrastructure

3950 **Shri Masthan Rao Beeda:**

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

- (a) whether the courts in the country lack infrastructure, such as, court rooms with inadequate space and modern facilities and court complexes not having basic facilities such as separate toilets for women, medical aid centre, water purifier and libraries, making it difficult for them to perform effectively;
- (b) if so, details thereof along with the percentage of lower courts not having separate toilets for women;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to improve judicial infrastructure to ensure ease of doing business; and
- (d) the details of funds provided or proposed to be provided by Government to the States?

Allegations on former Judges being part of anti-India gang

3951 **Shri Javed Ali Khan:**

Shri Ram Nath Thakur:

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

- (a) whether, as per the Union Minister for Law and Justice, few former Judges of Supreme Court are part of anti-India gang;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the source of such information;
- (c) whether, in view of national security, Government has informed the Chief Justice of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the details of action taken by the Chief Justice in this regard?

Encouraging research or study on EBSB theme

3952 # **Shri Aditya Prasad:**

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

- (a) whether, on Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) theme, the students are also being encouraged by the Ministry for conducting research or studying across the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether there is any scheme related to research or study of EBSB, if so, the details of the institutes and procedures managing the same?

Creches in judicial courts

3953 **Shri S Niranjana Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether Government intends to make the creation of creche facility a mandatory requirement under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for judicial infrastructure;
- (b) the number of High Courts and District Courts in the country which have creche facilities, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the budget that has been earmarked and spent for this purpose during the last two years; and
- (d) the number of wards who have been registered in these creches till date along with the occupancy rate, the details thereof, State-wise?

Female standing counsels on Government panels

3954 **Shri S Niranjn Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that presently the number of female counsels on panels of Central Government Ministries /Departments is minuscule as compared to male counterparts;
- (b) the details of steps, which have been taken by Government, to ensure greater gender diversity in the appointment of counsel for its various Ministries/Departments; and
- (c) the Ministry/Department-wise number of male and female lawyers on the panels of Central Government?

Free legal aid by law schools

3955 **Shri Abdul Wahab:**

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

- (a) the number of law schools in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of schools that come under sub-standard category which the Bar Council is planning to shut;
- (c) the number of the schools which operate legal services clinic providing professional training to students and free legal services for the socially and economically weaker sections of the society;
- (d) whether Government is taking any steps to promote legal services clinics across the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

e-courts in Andhra Pradesh

3956 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

- (a) the details of e-courts that are operational in the State of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) the details of the operational mode of e-courts that are functioning in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether Government had undertaken any assessment/survey regarding the operation of e-courts and the manner in which the people of the State perceive/receive the e-courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Post-retirement appointments of judges

3957 **Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

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

- (a) whether a study by the Vidhi Center for Legal Policy states that out of 100 retired Supreme Court judges, 70 have taken up some assignment, if so, the manner in which Government assures that this will not affect independence of judiciary;
- (b) whether it is a fact that tribunals are becoming a haven for retired judicial officers, if so, whether this will affect the outcome of the judgments as Government itself is the litigant as well as the appointing authority; and
- (c) the details of judges who have got post-retirement appointments and whether Government intends to continue with post-retirement appointments?

Bulldozing of houses by police and municipalities

3958 **Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is no provision under any criminal law for bulldozing a house even if a very serious matter is being investigated by an agency;
- (b) if so, the details of cases taken suo motu by courts regarding bulldozing of houses by police and municipalities, State-wise; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that police and municipalities used bulldozers to demolish houses without the permission of the court, if so, the details thereof and the details of punitive action taken against those officers?

Digitization in subordinate courts

3959 **Shri Rajeev Shukla:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the slow pace of digitization in subordinate courts across the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any step to ensure digitization of subordinate court records at a faster pace; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Nyaya Mitra scheme for the poor

3960 # **Shri Neeraj Dangi:**

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

- (a) the details of assistance extended through Nyaya Mitra scheme to provide immediate help to the poor category of citizens in the country;
- (b) the details of Nyaya Mitras appointed in the District Courts in the country, particularly in the State of Rajasthan;
- (c) the details of new districts included in the Nyaya Mitra scheme during the last two years; and
- (d) the details of those States wherein there are no Nyaya Mitras so far?

Reservation of seats for SC/ST in the House of People

3961 **Shri Luizinho Joaquim Faleiro:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the provisions of Article 330 and 332 of the Constitution which mandated reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes of Goa in the House of People;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of SC and ST visited Goa in the month of January 2023 and that they have recommended reservation; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of judgements of the Supreme Court in case of Writ Petition Civil No.540 of 2011/10.01.2012, High Court of Bombay at Goa in Writ Petition No. 230 of 2007 and High Court of Allahabad in Writ Petition No. 3078 of 2017?

Conviction rate of CBI cases

3962 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the conviction rate of CBI cases in last five years, State-wise, UT-wise;
- (b) the number of arrests and prolonged detention of political leaders and activists under the law against Sedition, the National Security Act (NSA), the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) since the last three years, State-wise/UT-wise;
- (c) whether any steps are being taken for a comprehensive review of the system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Pendency of public grievance cases

3963 **Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan:**

Dr. Ameer Yajnik:

Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

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

- (a) whether there is a huge pendency of public grievance cases reported at the end of January, 2023 that were received on the CPGRAMS portal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of a tangible plan to ensure a fast track system for the same?

Total sanctioned strength of Indian Administrative Service

3964 **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

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

- (a) total sanctioned strength of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers vis-a-vis the total in-person strength at present, cadre-wise, State-wise;
- (b) total vacancies in direct recruitment posts and promotion posts, cadre-wise, State-wise;
- (c) pending promotion quota IAS vacancies at present, State-wise;
- (d) reasons for backlog in promotion quota vacancies in States;
- (e) whether Government intends to deliberate with State Governments over expediting the filling up of these vacancies, if so, details thereof;
- (f) details of recommendations submitted by Committee chaired by C. Chandramouli on IAS cadre strength; and
- (g) whether Government plans on increasing the number of direct IAS recruits through Civil Services Examination?

Land acquired by Ministry in Odisha

3965 **Shri Niranjan Bishi:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has obtained certain piece/parcel of land in the year 2022 from the State Government of Odisha for setting up an office/organisation/body under its administrative control;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions on which the piece/parcel of land was received from the State Government of Odisha;
- (c) whether the Ministry has utilised the said piece/parcel of land for the purpose for which it was sought; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Reservation for STs in Central Services

3966 **Shri Niranjan Bishi:**

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

- (a) the proportion of population of persons belonging to the ST community reserved for Central Services, States/UT-wise for the year 2021-22; and
- (b) the details of the number of posts which are lying vacant, Ministry/Department-wise and posts notified by Government under various Departments/Ministries?

Cultural Connectivity Programmes between Jharkhand and Goa

3967 # **Shri Aditya Prasad:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of programmes fixed for cultural connectivity between the paired States of Jharkhand and Goa under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat;
- (b) whether primarily the programmes of tribal cultural partnership have been fixed, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any schemes or programmes have been decided for the literary partnership of both the States in this context, if so, the details thereof?

Outsourced jobs in Government sector

3968 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

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

- (a) whether reservation policy is being followed in the outsourced jobs;
- (b) the total number of works being carried out by outsourcing;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there are complaints of large scale unscrupulous distribution of money and low wages being paid to the employees by the contractors in outsourced jobs;
- (d) whether the Ministry would consider permanent appointment for works that require long-term outsourced assistance; and
- (e) the reasons due to which permanent employees are not being appointed for the said works?

Recommendations of Central Vigilance Commission

3969 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Ministries are ignoring the recommendations of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) due to which action is not being taken against the corrupt officials;
- (b) the details of corrupt officers against whom CVC has recommended action during the last five years, Ministry-wise; and
- (c) the details of the action taken on such recommendations made by CVC during the last five years?

Lateral recruitment scheme

3970 **Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:**

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted an evaluation of the Lateral Recruitment Scheme (LSR) vis-a-vis recruitment through Civil Services and other examinations, if so, the details

thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the recruitment through LSR is in addition to the promotions given to the traditional recruits through Civil Services and other examinations, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the proportion in which the vacancies at the Joint Secretary and Director Level are divided amongst traditional recruits and lateral entrants?

Jobs provided by the Central Government

3971 # **Shri Sandeep Kumar Pathak:**

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

(a) the number of jobs provided by the Central Government during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the number of applications received against these job opportunities during the last five years along with the amount of fee collected by Government, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that approximately 9.8 lakh posts are lying vacant at present in various departments of the Central Government, if so, whether Government has set any time limit to fill them; and

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

Submission of Life Certificate by pensioners

3972 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the issue of submission of Life Certificate has become more cumbersome due to which elderly people are finding it difficult to submit the same in the concerned offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to streamline the process of submission of Life Certificate so that pensioners do not feel any hardship in submitting the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Action-plan to fill the backlog vacancies

3973 # **Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

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

(a) the backlog of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes vacancies in the Ministry and the Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry;

(b) the average backlog vacancies filled per year during the last five years;

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to prepare a time bound action-plan to completely fill the backlog; and

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

Beneficiaries under KIRAN scheme

3974 **Dr. Prashanta Nanda:**

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

(a) the number of female beneficiaries under the KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement for Nurturing) scheme, State-wise, during the year 2022-23;

(b) the funds allocated for the Scheme in the current financial year;

- (c) whether newer avenues of science, such as culinary science, would be covered under the Scheme; and
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

KVPY fellowship programme

3975 **Dr. Dharmasthala Veerendra Heggade:**

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

- (a) the salient features and objectives of launching 'Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY)';
 (b) the eligibility for KVPY Fellowship Programme;
 (c) the number of applications received and youths benefited under KVPY in Karnataka and other States during the last three years, State-wise; and
 (d) whether Government has achieved the objectives set for this Programme and if so, the details thereof?

Increase in budget allocation for research and development

3976 **Shri B. Parthasaradhi Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's relative share in research and development expenditure, amongst G20 countries, is less than 1 per cent; and
 (b) if so, whether there is any plan to increase the budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Science and Technology, which constitutes a meagre 0.36 per cent of the overall 2023-24 Union Budget?

INSPIRE scheme

3977 # **Shri Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya:**

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

- (a) whether the main objective of the INSPIRE scheme is to attract young students to study science and make a career in the field of research;
 (b) if so, the category of students who can participate under this Scheme;
 (c) the number of students selected under this Scheme during the last five years, year-wise; and
 (d) the number of students from the State of Gujarat selected this year under this Scheme?

Biotech-KISAN scheme

3978 # **Shri Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya:**

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

- (a) whether Biotech-KISAN scheme has been launched to counsel and to provide solutions to the farmers on the problems related to water, soil, seeds and marketing;
 (b) if so, the facilities provided to the farmers under this Scheme; and
 (c) the number of farmers who have received benefits under this Scheme in the last one year?

Vacancies in the institutions/organizations under the Ministry

3979 **Shri A. A. Rahim:**

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

- (a) the sanctioned strength and the number of vacancies in the Ministry and each of the institutions and organisations under it;
- (b) the sanctioned strength and the number of vacancies which are there in the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST); and
- (c) whether any new posts have been created at SCTIMST, if so, the details thereof for the last five years, year-wise?

PRASHAD scheme in Uttar Pradesh

3980 # Shri Mithlesh Kumar:

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

- (a) the projects sanctioned under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme till date, the details thereof, State-wise, including Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government has any other proposal to implement under the said Scheme in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds sanctioned under PRASHAD scheme till date, State-wise;
- (d) whether the proposals submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh are still pending; and
- (e) the infrastructure and basic amenities developed for tourists under the above Scheme across the country, the details thereof, State/UT-wise, including Uttar Pradesh?

Development of tourism in Bundelkhand region

3981 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

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

- (a) whether any special plan is being worked on to develop tourism in Bundelkhand region of the State of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the tourist centres, located in Bundelkhand, have been identified;
- (c) if so, the names of the districts in Bundelkhand region and details of the identified tourism centres there; and
- (d) the details of development work which have been carried out during the last five years along with the total amount spent for this purpose?

Destination Based Skill Development Programme in Odisha

3982 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of abundant scope for creation of employment at tourist destinations and undertaken any initiative to exploit the resources;
- (b) if so, whether a Destination Based Skill Development Programme has been undertaken at a tourist site in the State of Odisha;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to identify new destinations in Odisha to be developed into tourist spots; and
- (d) if so, the details of the same?

Implementation of PRASHAD scheme in Kerala

3983 Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham:

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

- (a) the places in the State of Kerala where PRASHAD scheme is being implemented;

- (b) the amount that has been allotted under the PRASHAD scheme for the developmental activities at Sabarimala, Guruvayur and Varkala; and
- (c) the amount that has been allotted for various tourism projects in the State over the last four years, the details of the projects and the stages of their completion?

Tourism in Punjab

3984 **Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of domestic and foreign tourists in the State of Punjab has increased during the last four years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the amount of expenditure spent on the conservation of heritage sites in the State;
- (c) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any measures to increase/promote tourism in the State in consultation with the State Government of Punjab; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign tourist arrivals

3985 **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

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

- (a) whether the foreign tourist arrivals in 2022 has been registered to the tune of 70 lakh which is much higher than 15.5 lakh in 2021;
- (b) the response of the Ministry towards this tremendous increase in foreign tourist arrivals into India in 2022;
- (c) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange earned in 2022 was ₹ 1.32 lakh crore as compared to 65,000 crore in 2021;
- (d) details of pro-active measures being taken to push tourism sector to increase foreign tourist arrivals in 2023; and
- (e) the manner in which Government is taking advantage of G20 presidency to push international tourism in the country?

Promotion of tourism in Punjab

3986 **Shri Raghav Chadha:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to promote border tourism in the State of Punjab;
- (b) the details of allocations made towards this end;
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to promote and facilitate tourism to pilgrimage destinations in the State; and
- (d) the details of implementation of National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) in the State during the last four years?

Swadesh Darshan 2.0

3987 **Shri Narayana Koragappa:**

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

- (a) whether Government has revamped Swadesh Darshan scheme as SW 2.0 to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations;
- (b) the details of difference between SW 1.0 and SW 2.0;
- (c) the details of State perspective plans submitted by the State Government of Karnataka; and

(d) the details of destinations so far approved and status of the same?

Saptha Moksha Puri Tourist Circuit

3988 **Shri Narayana Koragappa:**

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

- (a) whether Government is promoting the Saptha Moksha Puri (Seven Liberation destinations), viz., Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya (Haridwar), Kashi (Varanasi), Kanchi Avantika (Ujjain), Puri (Odisha) and Dwaravati (Dwaraka, Gujarat) as a tourism circuit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the ranking of the above places in terms of tourists, both local and foreign, in the year 2022?

Ramayana Circuit

3989 # **Dr. Anil Jain:**

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

- (a) the details of the Ramayana Circuit;
- (b) the details of the States getting or likely to get benefits of the Ramayana Circuit;
- (c) the districts of the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar that would be benefited from the Ramayana Circuit scheme; and
- (d) the quantum of funds being spent by Government on the Ramayana circuit?

Khelo India programme in Odisha

3990 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

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

- (a) the number of projects sanctioned, completed and ongoing in the State of Odisha along with the budget allocated, released and utilized under the Khelo India programme as of March 2023, project-wise;
- (b) the present status of the twenty-six AstroTurf Hockey Fields sanctioned under the programme;
- (c) whether the Ministry is planning to contribute to the already expanding hockey infrastructure of the State of Odisha by timely release of funds and projects under the programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Building sports infrastructure in West Bengal

3991 **Ms. Dola Sen:**

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

- (a) the details of the funds allocated towards development of sports infrastructure under Central schemes for the State of West Bengal;
- (b) whether the disbursement towards upgradation of basic sports infrastructure has increased over the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details for the State of West Bengal, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the total number of proposals received by the Ministry for building new sports complexes in the State of West Bengal in the last year?

Development of sports in rural areas

3992 # **Smt. Geeta alias Chandrababha:**

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

- (a) whether any special scheme is being run by Government for the development of sports in rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether playgrounds are also being developed in rural areas under this scheme;
- (c) if so, the number of villages in the country where the playgrounds have been developed and the total expenditure incurred thereon as on date; and
- (d) the details of the special programmes being run by Government to promote traditional sports in rural areas?

Sports activities under Khelo India programme in Tamil Nadu

3993 **Shri M. Shanmugam:**

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

- (a) the number of sports academies recognized under the Khelo India programme in the country, with particular reference to the State of Tamil Nadu, the details thereof;
- (b) the amount sanctioned for sports infrastructure projects in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has asked for financial support and grants for sports activities and infrastructure projects in the State under the Khelo India programme and if so, the details thereof and response of Government thereto?

Registrations under Khelo India programme in West Bengal

3994 **Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas:**

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

- (a) number of sportspersons benefited under the Khelo India programme in the last three years, year-wise, State-wise, and district-wise for West Bengal;
- (b) number of applications of sportspersons received under Khelo India programme by Government in last three years, year-wise, State-wise, and district-wise for West Bengal;
- (c) number of players who are associated with Khelo India and have not benefited from any other sports scheme in last three years, year-wise, State-wise, and district-wise for West Bengal; and
- (d) details of funds allocated and utilized under Khelo India programme in last three years, year-wise, State-wise, and district-wise for West Bengal?

Sexual Harassment Committee of Wrestling Federation of India

3995 # **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

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

- (a) reason for giving Chairmanship of the Wrestling Federation of India's Sexual Harassment Committee to a man although it was to be chaired by a woman as per Vishaka guidelines;
- (b) whether more than half of members of the Committee should have been women but there is only one woman member in the said Committee, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a woman representative of any NGO related to sexual harassment has been given membership in the Committee under the Vishaka Guidelines; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any action on disregard of Vishaka Guidelines by the Committee, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

Olympic Park in Odisha

3996 **Smt. Mamata Mohanta:**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to establish National Sports Universities in the country, including Odisha, in order to make it the best sports centre of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government proposes to build Olympic Park in Odisha so that training facilities could be provided to State level players from Odisha to become international players and win Olympic gold medals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Khelo India in Karnataka

3997 **Shri Irranna Kadadi:**

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

- (a) the funds allocated and disbursed for development of sports in the State of Karnataka under the Khelo India programme;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken into account the requirement of sports infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities of the country for improving them;
- (c) the statistics of the development done in infrastructure for sports in the last five years; and
- (d) whether there has been any improvement in providing sponsorships and fellowships to sportspersons and students pursuing sports degrees in the country?

Mission Xi Million programme

3998 # **Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari:**

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

- (a) the details of monetary investment under the "Mission Xi Million" programme, State-wise; and
- (b) whether Government is taking any steps to encourage youth towards football and other sports through this programme, if so, the details thereof?

Inclusion of Kabaddi in Olympics

3999 # **Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

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

- (a) whether any attempt has ever been made to include Kabaddi, an extremely popular sport of India, in the Olympic Games;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has chalked out any action plan to make Kabaddi popular in the country and abroad; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Steps to prevent discrimination against transgender sportspersons

4000 **Shri Derek O' Brien:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure that transgender sportspersons are not discriminated against on the basis of sex determination; and
(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

New Delhi
The 31st March, 2023
10 Chaitra, 1945 (Saka)

P. C. Mody,
Secretary-General.

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