LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixteenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XXXIV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

Original English proceedings included in English Version will be treated as authoritative and not the English translation of the speeches made in Hindi and other languages included in it. For complete authoritative version please *see* Original Version of Lok Sabha Debates.

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OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Dr. M. Thambidurai

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi

Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav

Shri Anandrao Adsul

Shri Pralhad Joshi

Dr. Ratna De (Nag)

Shri Ramen Deka

Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao

Shri K.H. Muniyappa

Dr. P. Venugopal

Dr. Kalraj Mishra

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shrimati Snehlata Shrivastava

LOK SABHA

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Wednesday, December 12, 2018/Agrahayana 21, 1940 (Saka)

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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBERS SWORN

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, two new members will take oath. At the outset, we take up this team.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: The names of the Members will now be called by the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY GENERAL: Shri V.S. Ugrappa.

Shri V.S. Ugrappa (Bellary) - Oath - Kannada

Shri L.R. Shivarame Gowda (Mandya) - Oath - Kannada

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11.05 hrs

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of eleven former members, namely, Sarvashri Mansoor Ali Khan, Puran Chandra, P. Manik Reddy. Gurudas Kamat, Mohan Jain, Shantaram Potdukhe, Sushree Kamla Kumari, Sarvashri Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Madan Lal Khurana, Narayan Swaroop Sharma and C.K. Jaffer Sharief.

Shri Mansoor Ali Khan was a member of the 13th Lok Sabha representing the Saharanpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He was a member of the Committee on Defence from 1999 to 2000. Shri Mansoor Ali Khan passed away on 15 August, 2018 in New Delhi at the age of 77.

Shri Puran Chandra was a member of the 8th Lok Sabha representing the Hathras Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Puran Chandra served as member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for three terms from 1969 to 1984. An active social worker, Shri Puran Chandra founded many educational institutions and actively participated in social welfare and public works.

Shri Puran Chandra passed away on 15 August, 2018 in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 84.

Shri P. Manik Reddy was a member of the 8th Lok Sabha representing the Medak Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh. He was a member of the Committee on Government Assurances. Shri P. Manik Reddy passed away on 19 August, 2018 in Hyderabad, Telangana at the age of 75.

Shri Gurudas Kamat was a member of the 8th, 10th, 12th and 14th Lok Sabha representing the Mumbai North-East and 15th Lok Sabha from Mumbai North-West Parliamentary Constituencies of Maharashtra respectively.

Shri Gurudas Kamat was Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology and Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. An able parliamentarian, Shri Kamat was Chairman of Committee on Energy and also member of various Parliamentary Committees.

Shri Gurudas Kamat passed away on 22 August, 2018 in New Delhi at the age of 63.

Shri Mohan Jain was a member of the 6th Lok Sabha representing the Durg Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh, now in Chhattisgarh. An active social worker, Shri Jain was associated with numerous social welfare and religious activities.

Shri Mohan Jain passed away on 16 September, 2018 in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh at the age of 83.

Shri Shantaram Potdukhe was a member of the 7th to 10th Lok Sabha representing the Chandrapur Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. Shri Potdukhe was Union Minister of State for Finance from 1991 to 1993. An active social and political worker, Shri Potdukhe worked for the promotion of education.

Shri Shantaram Potdukhe passed away on 23 September, 2018 in Nagpur, Maharashtra at the age of 85.

Sushree Kamla Kumari was a member of the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th Lok Sabha representing the Palamu Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar, now in Jharkhand. She was the Union Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Minister for Rural Reconstruction from 1982 to 1983.

Sushree Kamla Kumari worked for Girls' education and upliftment of underprivileged sections of the society.

Sushree Kamla Kumari passed away on 9 October, 2018 in Ranchi, Jharkhand at the age of 81.

Shri N.D. Tiwari was the member of 7th, 11th and 13th Lok Sabha representing the Nainital Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh, now in Uttarakhand. He was also a member of Rajya Sabha from 1985 to 1988.

Shri N.D. Tiwari was Union Minister for Finance and Commerce, External Affairs, Planning and Industry and also held additional charge of the Ministry of Steel and Mines, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Shri Tiwari had served as the Chief Minister of two States, Uttar Pradesh for three terms and Uttarakhand for one term. He also served as Minister in different capacity in the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Tiwari was the member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for nine terms. He was a member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council and a member of Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly. He was also a leader of opposition in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for four terms. He also served as Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

A freedom fighter, Shri N.D. Tiwari participated in the freedom movement during 1942-44.

A man of letters, he was the editor of "Prabhat" and contributed numerous articles on current affairs in various newspapers. He also published a book namely "European Miscellany".

Shri N.D. Twari passed away on 18 October, 2018 in New Delhi at the age of 93.

Shri Madan Lal Khurana was a member of 9th and 10th Lok Sabha representing South Delhi and the 12th and 13th Lok Sabha representing Delhi Sadar Parliamentary Constituency of NCT of Delhi respectively. Shri Madan Lal Khurana was the Chief Minister of Delhi from 1993 to 1996 and also served as Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism from 1998 to 1999.

During his long parliamentary and political career, Shri Khurana was the Governor of Rajasthan in 2004 and also served as a member of various parliamentary committees.

Shri Madan Lal Khurana passed away on 27 October, 2018 in New Delhi at the age of 82.

Shri Narayan Swaroop Sharma was the member of the 4th Lok Sabha representing the Domariaganj Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Sharma was member of Rules Committee, Library Committee and Joint Committee on Judges (Inquiry) Rules.

Shri Narayan Swaroop Sharma passed away on 7 November, 2018 in London at the age of 88 years.

Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief was the member of 5th Lok Sabha representing the Mysore-Kanakpura and 6th to 10, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha from Bangalore North Parliamentary Constituencies of Karnataka respectively.

Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief served as Union Cabinet Minister for Railways and Union Minister of State for Railways, Irrigation and Coal.

Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief passed away on 25 November, 2018 in Bengaluru, Karnataka at the age of 85.

We deeply mourn the loss of our eleven former colleagues. I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Now the House will stand in silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga): Madam, obituary reference of Shri Ambrish is also to be taken today.

HON. SPEAKER: We will take up it up tomorrow.

11.14 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

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HON. SPEAKER: Om shanti shanti !

We will take up the obituary reference of remaining Members tomorrow.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga): Madam, obituary reference of Shri Ambrish is also to be taken up.

HON. SPEAKER: I have told that tomorrow it will be taken up.

11.15 hrs

At this stage, Shrimati V. Sathyabama, Kumari Sushmita Dev, Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri Jayadev Galla and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(*Interruptions*)

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11.16 hrs

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Question No. 21 – Shrimati M. Vasanthi.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

Bharat Net Project

*21. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the Bharat Net Project seeks to connect 2.5 lakh gram panchayats in the country through high speed broadband by March, 2019 and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government has instructed both Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) to submit reports on every day basis on the progress made in the Bharat Net Project and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is true that there is a shirking of responsibility along with inability to resolve on-field problems and inter organisational issues between BBNL and BSNL, if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   whether it is also a fact that this is not only hampering progress of this vital project but is now threatening to derail even earlier achievement of the past four years and if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a)

i.   BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide high speed broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. BharatNet Phase I to connect 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) has been completed in December, 2017. The project is a national asset and middle layer of the communications network. Service Providers and the States are to utilize the network to provide services. All Service Providers are to be provided non-discriminatory access to the network.

ii.   On 19.07.2017, a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet has been approved by the Union Cabinet. Under this strategy, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be provided with broadband connectivity in Phase-II of the project. The total cost of BharatNet approved by the Cabinet is Rs. 42,068 crore. The Phase II implementation is by connecting GPs through an optimal mix of media (*i.e.* OFC, radio and satellite) and by the three models of implementation; *i.e.* State-led model, Private Sector, CPSU model. New OFC is to be laid from Block to GPs.

iii.   The Phase-II of the project is under implementation, mainly through Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode of implementation, where life-time maintenance of the BharatNet infrastructure is to be done by the Implementing Agencies. The project is being

implemented by three models of implementation; 8 States covering 61,492 GPs are implementing the project under State-led model; about 6500 GPs in NER, J&K etc. are being connected by Satellite; and 7494 GPs in two States are being implemented by BBNL through EPC contractors. For the remaining GPs, CPSUs BSNL & PGCIL have been assigned the work of implementation of the project.

iv. As on 02.12.2018, a total of 3,01,154 Km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid connecting 1,21,652 GPs by OFC, of which 1,16,411 GPs are service ready.

(b) to (d) No, Madam. The Department of Telecommunications is taking necessary steps, along with BBNL and BSNL, to ensure effective maintenance and utilization of the BharatNet infrastructure.

i. Network Operating Centre (NOC) is set up to monitor the operation of the network and the project is presently in implementation phase. To monitor connectivity daily, NOC reports are being sought from BSNL & BBNL. The progress is being monitored on a regular basis.

ii. To ensure better utilization of BharatNet, a Wi-Fi network is being set up under the project. On an average, 3 Government Institutions at GP level such as Police Station, Post Office, School, Hospital and citizens at GP are being connected and average 5 Wi-Fi Access Points (AP) are being set up at each GP.

HON. SPEAKER: She is not asking questions.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Jugal Kishore Sharmaji, you please ask supplementary question.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Madam, I thank you for giving me a chance to ask the supplementary question. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam through you, I would like to ask the Minister of Railways that whether the proposed survey of laying a

railway line from Jammu to Poonchh has been completed. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to know that when will the work of Jammu and Poonchh railway line will be started?...(*Interruptions*) As due to this several problems are being faced by the local people of Jammu, Rajouri and Poonchh. ...(*Interruptions*) By laying the said railway line local people will get rid of these problems. ...(*Interruptions*) When will the work of laying railway line from Jammu to Poonchh be started? ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam, through you I would like to know this from the Hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Madam, this question relates to Telecommunication, it is not related to Ministry of Railways ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. This is not the way. I am sorry.

...(*Interruptions*)

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Angamali Erumeli Sabari Rail Project

*22. ADV. JOICE GEORGE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the Angamali Erumeli Sabari Rail Project;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal with revised estimate of the current allocation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is planning to approve the revised estimate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) Angamali-Sabarimala new rail line (116 Km) was sanctioned in 1997-98 at a cost of Rs. 550 crore. The 5 km section of this project was passing through Periyar Tiger Reserve

Forest. On the request of State Government, the project was terminated at Erumeli due to reserve forest area.

Alignment of the project passes through three Districts *i.e.* Ernakulam, Idukki and Kottayam districts. Final Location Survey (FLS) for Angamali-Kaladi-Ramapuram section (70 km) has been completed in 2002 and further survey in the Kottyayam district was stopped by local people in 2007 due to objections on alignment.

To resolve the issue, State Government proposed a revised alignment from Ramapuram to Erumeli (41 km). Revised alignment has been approved.

Even though Government of Kerala has approved alignment in 2013, local people are not permitting survey work in Kottayam District. FLS for Ramapuram-Erumeli (41 km) has been taken up with police protection.

Further, land acquisition document for 253.77 hectare for New Line between Angamali-Kaladi-Ramapuram (70 km.) was submitted to State Government and only 24.4 hectare land has been acquired. Work has been taken up between Angamali-Kaladi-Perumbavoor (16 km) in the available land.

For this project, Government of Kerala had consented for sharing 50% of above project cost in November, 2015. However, the State Government requested in November, 2016 to execute this project with Railway funds.

Due to alignment issues and abnormal increase in land cost, the project cost has increased from Rs. 550 crore to Rs. 2815 crore. Land Cost has been increased from Rs. 22.82 crore (in original estimate) to Rs. 965 crore. Due to increase in project cost on account of alignment issues and abnormal increase in land cost, State Government has been requested to continue to share 50% cost of the project.

Cleanliness at Railway Stations

*23. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that toilets, dormitories and rest rooms are not cleaned by the Railways regularly in spite of allocation of budget for the purpose, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to remedy the situation;

(c) the budget allocated and spent for the above purpose during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise; and

(d) whether tracks at noted railway stations are also not being cleaned at regular intervals and if so, the reasons therefor, particularly in respect of railway stations in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a), (b) and (d) No, Madam. At major stations of Indian Railways, platform, foot over bridge, offices, toilets, dormitories and rest rooms are cleaned by the Railways regularly through provision of Mechanised cleaning contracts with improved processes, machinery and updated management systems. At other stations, the cleaning work is being managed through manual contracts through outsourcing and departmental staff to keep the toilets, dormitories, rest rooms, platforms etc. in a satisfactory condition.

This also includes all the tracks of platform lines, which are cleaned according to the usage of the platform lines at specified periodicity. The schedule of cleaning being followed is uniform over entire Indian Railways, including Madhya Pradesh, and is only dependent and varying as per the categorization of the station. Provision of bio-toilets in trains is further contributing to improve track cleaning, including at stations, by environment friendly digestion and disposal of human waste.

It is emphasised that cleaning is a regular activity and every effort is done by Railways to maintain cleanliness. The fact of improved cleanliness has been established through independent 3rd party survey of major 407 stations of Indian Railways during last 3 years.

(c) The details of budget allocations and expenditure for last 03 years and that of current year are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

*The details of budget allocations and expenditure for last 03 years and
that of current year are as under*

<div align="right">(Figures in crores of Rupees)</div>

Zonal Railway	Revised Estimate 2015-16	Actual 2015-16	Revised Estimate 2016-17	Actual 2016-17	Revised Estimate 2017-18	Actual 2017-18	Budget Estimate 2018-19	Expenditure incurred in 2018-19 (upto 2nd Oct., 2018)
Central	23.60	24.23	44.46	44.96	66.56	49.55	71.76	36.54
Eastern	28.04	20.66	41.79	32.90	44.86	34.71	47.88	24.89
Northern	21.17	30.26	43.01	23.26	20.91	46.61	17.46	15.18
North Eastern	7.48	6.16	6.20	2.95	13.80	11.23	18.20	13.66
North East Frontier	4.85	7.54	10.93	14.04	17.70	23.49	18.82	35.84
Southern	34.03	28.21	9.56	63.99	82.15	76.24	87.13	6.50
South Central	26.37	23.38	41.10	28.16	38.18	24.61	53.37	9.84
South Eastern	9.09	6.76	12.36	9.37	14.15	12.62	17.94	9.50
Western	45.87	39.46	52.61	54.22	63.12	80.53	60.57	12.09
East Central	22.98	16.70	42.06	14.43	25.60	23.67	27.78	47.02
East Coast	12.29	9.88	11.21	17.21	23.82	22.07	26.78	15.11
North Central	10.48	6.41	3.10	11.39	15.03	12.12	20.44	6.22
North Western	11.29	8.22	22.59	6.32	28.98	18.65	35.61	18.39
South East Central	14.00	15.68	25.66	23.99	26.52	35.64	24.87	7.38
South Western	12.02	10.30	15.70	14.41	21.44	19.92	26.75	49.47
West Central	10.18	11.14	28.99	2.71	36.60	15.07	40.09	11.55
Total	293.74	264.99	411.33	364.31	539.42	506.73	595.45	319.18

Committee on Real Sector Statistics

*24. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
        DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that Committee on Real Sector Statistics appointed by the National Statistical Commission had earlier estimated that the economy grew at a faster pace during 2005-06 to 2013-14 as compared to years 2014-15 to 2017-18;

(b)   if so, the facts thereof;

(c)   whether the Government proposes to release the GDP back series;

(d)   if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e)   the time by which the GDP back series will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) The Committee on Real Sector Statistics, appointed by National Statistical Commission (NSC), had undertaken an exercise as per which the average growth rate was

estimated using the production shift approach under certain assumptions. The growth rates estimated by the Committee for the period 2005-06 to 2013-14 are as under:–

Real Sector Statistics Committee GDP growth at Market Prices (2011-12 base)

Years	GDP growth rate (in %)
2005-06	9.6
2006-07	9.7
2007-08	10.2
2008-09	4.2
2009-10	8.8
2010-11	10.8
2011-12	7.0
2012-13	5.5
2013-14	6.4
Average GR (2005-06 to 2013-14)	8.0

Further, the GDP Growth rates released by CSO during the period 2014-15 to 2017-18, are as under:–

GDP growth at Constant Prices (2011-12 base) as per CSO's estimates

Year	Growth Rate (in %)
2014-15	7.4
2015-16	8.2
2016-17	7.1
2017-18	6.7
Average GR (2014-15 to 2017-18)	7.3

The methodology used by the Commitee on Real Sector Statistics is different from that used by CSO in its releases and thus the Growth Rates are not comparable.

(c) to (e) The Government of India *vide* its Press Release dated 28.11.2018 has released the official estimates of Back-Series for the years 2004-05 to 2010-11 with the revised base year 2011-12.

The Back-Series estimates are required for comparability of earlier data series (2004-05 base) based on changed methodology, data sources and coverage used in the revised base year 2011-12.

Uncontested Seats in Panchayat Polls

*25. SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Supreme Court had expressed its shock over the fact that 34 per cent of the seats at the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Panchayat level went uncontested in West Bengal and if so, the details in this regard;

(b)   whether the Election Commission has received any complaints about candidates being prevented from filing nomination in such elections and if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c)   the course of action the Government proposes to take to ensure that such undemocratic practices are not repeated in future and the elections at panchayat levels are conducted in a free and fair manner?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) As per article 243K of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with elections to the Panchayats/Municipalities. The Election Commission of India has informed that the matter does not pertain to it.

Foreign Investment

*26. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Railways are planning to seek foreign investment in areas such as technological upgradation and modernisation;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Railways are also considering to privatise some of the areas of their operation; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in following activities/areas of Railway Infrastructure on automatic route under extant FDI Policy of Government:–

(i)   Suburban Corridors Projects through PPP;

(ii) High Speed Train Projects;

(iii) Dedicated Freight Lines;

(iv) Rolling Stock including train sets and locomotives/coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities;

(v) Railway Electrification;

(vi) Signaling Systems;

(vii) Freight Terminals;

(viii) Passenger Terminals;

(ix) Infrastructure in industrial park pertaining to railway line/sidings including electrified railway lines and connectivities to main railway line; and

(x) Mass Rapid Transport Systems.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to privatise any area of operation of railways. However, Public Private Partnerships and Outsourcing of certain facilities like cleaning, pay and use toilets, retiring rooms, parking etc. is done on need based manner to improve efficiency.

NSP Mobile App

*27. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has recently launched the country's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile App (NSP Mobile App);

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it aims to provide smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students from poor and weaker sections; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof along with the key features of the app?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Government of India has launched the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) Mobile App-National Scholarships (NSP) on 13th September, 2018. The App has been developed primarily targeting the students from the weaker/poor sections of the society living in remote areas where facility of Common Service Centre /internet is limited as it was felt that the mobile app would enable them to access the NSP for registering and applying for scholarship in a smooth and hassle-free manner.

As per data available, number of Mobile App downloads of NSP is 50,626 and total number of applications registered on NSP through the app is 15,276. Out of this, 9,387 applications have been finally submitted by the students.

(d)   The National Scholarships (NSP) Mobile App is available for all the students and has all the facilities available on the NSP. Now the students can easily access NSP through this Mobile App and perform all the activities, which they are able to perform through NSP web based portal. Key features of the National Scholarships (NSP) Mobile App are as under:

●   Study scheme guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and search any information regarding all the scholarship schemes, onboarded on NSP;

●   Eligible students can register and apply for desired scholarship scheme, implemented by the Government and on boarded on NSP;

●   Upload the document, if required.

●   Renew application in the following years of academic course;

●   Check the status of application, scholarship disbursement, etc;

●   Update information/profile as per the scheme guidelines;

●   Check the new update, circulars, etc. issued by Scholarship Ministries/Departments from time to time.

[Translation]

Rail Accidents

*28. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI BHARAT SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether a number of train derailments and accidents occurred in various parts of the country including Amritsar during the last three years and the current year;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of persons killed/injured in these accidents and the total amount of compensation paid to the families of the victims, accident-wise;

(c)   whether any inquiry has been conducted/ordered into these accidents, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d)   the number of Railway officials held guilty for lapses on their part and the action taken against them, accident-wise; and

(e)   the steps taken by the Government to check frequent rail accidents in future and ensure the safety and security of the rail passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Details of type-wise number of consequential train accidents that took place during the last three years and in the current year upto 30th November, 2018 and number of persons killed/injured therein are as under:–

Type of Accidents	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19 (Upto 30.11.2018)		
	Number of accidents	Killed	Injured	Number of accidents	Killed	Injured	Number of accidents	Killed	Injured	Number of accidents	Killed	Injured
Collision	3	1	12	5	5	28	3	0	0	0	0	0
Derailments	65	36	99	78	193	322	54	28	174	35	7	39
Manned Level Crossings	6	12	10	0	0	0	3	3	9	3	4	13
Unmanned Level Crossings	29	58	41	20	40	19	10	26	12	3	16	7
Fire	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	2	1	1
Misc.	4	15	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	107	122	187	104	238	369	73	57	197	44	29	62

Causes-wise details of consequential train accidents that took place during the last three years and in the current year upto 30th November, 2018 are as under:–

Broad Causes	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (upto 30.11.18)
1	2	3	4	5
Failure of Railway staff	55	63	43	28
Failure of other than Railway staff	38	23	18	07
Failure of equipment	02	03	03	00
1	2	3	4	5
Sabotage	01	02	02	00
Combination of factors	01	03	02	00
Incidental	09	07	05	05
Could not established/Non Held	01	00	00	00
Under Investigation	00	03	00	04
Grand Total	107	104	73	44

The amount of compensation paid during the last three years and the current year (upto Nov, 2018) is as follows:–

Year	Compensation paid (Rs. in lakhs)
2015-2016	262.96
2016-2017	303.17
2017-2018	188.51
2018-2019 (upto Nov, 2018)	164.68

Note: The compensation paid in a year need not necessarily relate to the accidents/casualties in that year alone. The amount paid in a year depends upon the number of cases finalized by the Railway Claims Tribunals (RCTs) or other Courts of Law in a particular year irrespective of the year(s) in which the accident they pertain to, have occurred.

In the Amritsar incident on 19.10.2018, as per Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety's preliminary report, the incident has been classified as Trespassing over the Railway property. Ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakhs for kin of deceased and Rs. 50,000/- for injured has been announced from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) in this case.

(c) and (d) Accidents on Indian Railways are inquired into either by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or by the Departmental Inquiry Committees of Railways. During the last three years *i.e.* from 2015-16 to 2017-18 and the current year 2018-19 (upto 30th November, 2018), 33 serious train accidents have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Commission of Railway Safety has submitted final inquiry reports in 25 cases and preliminary inquiry reports in 05 cases of above train accidents.

On the basis of the findings of these inquiry reports, disciplinary action as per the prescribed norms is taken against the staff found guilty and penalties are imposed on the staff found responsible by the concerned departments of the Indian Railways.

During the last 3 years *viz.* 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and current year upto October, 2018, 344 major penalties and 301 minor penalties were imposed on erring officials.

Various corrective and improvement measures have been taken by the Ministry of Railways as per the findings of the various inquiry reports so as to improve the safety aspect over the Indian Railways.

(e) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety.

To ensure safety of rail passengers, the following measures have been taken:–

1. Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK)-As announced by Hon'ble Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech for 2017-18, a fund namely 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK)' had been introduced with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore over a period of five years from 2017-18 onwards for critical safety related works.

   A provision of Rs. 20,000 crore has been made in Budget Estimate 2018-19 out of 'RRSK', as was done in 2017-18. The Funds under RRSK are being utilized to finance works under Plan heads Traffic Facilities, Rolling Stock, Level Crossing, ROB/RUB, Track Renewal, Bridge Works, Signal and Telecommunication Works, other Electrical Works, TRD Works, Machinery and Plant, Workshop and Training/HRD.

2. Expenditure on safety has increased consistently from Rs. 45516 cr. in 2015-16 to Rs. 53457 cr. in 2016-17, Rs. 60885 cr. in 2017-18 and further Rs. 73065 cr. (Budget Estimate) in 2018-19.

3. Topmost priority is given to Rail/Track renewal by making available funds and material for rail renewal. Further adequate traffic blocks for carrying out work are also being provided. In 2017-18, a record rail renewal work of 4405 km was done and in the current year a target of 5509 km of rail renewal has been set, which is about 25% more than the last year.

4. Switch over to the manufacture of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches from 2018-19 onwards and stopping the manufacture of ICF coaches. The LHB coaches having superior design and better safety features like anti-climbing features etc. It has also been planned to retrofit around 32000 existing ICF coaches having a life of up

to 15 years and having Screw Coupling with CBC in the next few years.

5. Indian Railways has also decided to install advanced signaling system like European Train Control System (ETCS) Level-2 which will improve safety.

6. Modern technology that lower reliance on human element and improve efficiency of the system like Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT Car), TPWS (Train Protection and Warning System) and TCAS (Train Collision Avoidance System) as means of Automatic Train Protection to prevent accidents are being tried out.

7. Elimination of unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge through closure, merger, provision of subways and manning, etc. Upto November, 2018 all the Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLC) have been eliminated on Broad Gauge except a very small number *i.e.* 28 UMLCs.

8. New works have been included in the category of Safety works like Platform extension and raising, foot overbridge, pathways and boundary walls etc. to improve passenger safety.

9. Delegation of powers and easing of procedures, improving safety awareness amongst railway employees, and better training facilities like imparting simulator based training for improving the driving skills and the reaction time of Loco Pilots.

In view of the above safety measures taken by the Railways, the numbers of Consequential train accidents have declined from 107 in 2015-16 to 73 in 2017-18 and further in the current financial year *i.e.* 2018-19 (upto November, 2018) consequential train accidents have decreased from 51 to 44 in comparison to corresponding period of the previous year.

Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by the Railways for strengthening and upgradation. Measures initiated for security of passengers include escorting of 2500 trains (on an average daily), in addition to escorting of 2200 trains by GRP, operationalisation and upgradation of Security Help Line number 182, access

control at important stations, erection of morchas, guarding of platforms, yards and circulating areas, surveillance through Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras at important railway stations etc.

Prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order in railway station premises as well as in running trains are the statutory responsibility of State Governments, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP). Railways, through the Railway Protection Force (RPF), are supplementing efforts of respective States to strengthen security across Indian Railways.

For regular monitoring and review of security arrangements for the Railways, State Level Security Committee for Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories (UTs) under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories.

[English]

Electrification of Railway Tracks

*29. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has approved the proposal for electrification of the remaining 13,675 km. of railway tracks at an estimated cost of over Rs. 12,134 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the electrification work is likely to be completed by 2021-22; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways has planned for 100% electrification of Broad Gauge (BG) routes and accordingly work for electrification of balance BG routes of 13,675 Route Kilometer (RKM) has been approved at a cost of Rs. 12,134 crore.

With above, Indian Railways will be first major railway in world to have 100% electrified BG railway network of such size, confirming its commitments towards green and clean environment.

100% electrification will entail following advantages:

(i) Reduced energy bill of Railways by about Rs. 13,000 crores per annum.

(ii) Reduction in diesel oil consumption by about 2.8 billion liters, thereby reducing dependence on imported diesel oil and saving foreign exchange.

(iii) Amenable to adoption of renewable sources of energy like solar, wind power.

(iv) Haulage of heavier freight and longer passenger trains at higher speed due to higher haulage capacity of electric loco.

(v) Increased capacity of railway network due to reduced detention and seamless transport on electric traction.

(vi) Reduce carbon emission and improve environment particularly in cities like New Delhi.

(b) Details of section with kilometers and cost are as under:–

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Zonal Railway (s)	RKM	Cost Rs. in cr. (Estimate)
1.	Lonand-Phaltan	Central	26	19.96
2.	Dauram Madhepura-Purnia	East Central	77.30	81.06
3.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	East Central	64.52	70.99
4.	Dildarnagar-Tarighat	East Central	18.67	15.63
5.	Khurda Road-Balangir	East Coast	301	269.09
6.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh Road	East Coast	56	56.51
7.	Naupada-Gunupur	East Coast	90	89.82
8.	Katwa-Ahmadpur	Eastern	52	53.66
9.	Rampurhat (excl.)-Dumka-Bhagalpur (excl.) & Jasidih-Deoghar-Dumka (excl.) incl. Barahat-Banka (excl.)-Chandan-Deoghar and Madhupur-Giridih	Eastern	361	304.52
10.	Shahjahanpur-Pilibhit, Pilibhit-Tanakpur	North Eastern	145.46	143.15
11.	Hathua-Bathua Bazar-Bhatni New Line	North Eastern	79.6	70.35
12.	Salempur-Barhaj Bazar exisiting BG Line	North Eastern	20.25	13.11
13.	Duraundha-Maharajganj-Masrakh	North Eastern	41.53	38.19
14.	Mandhana Jn-Brahmavard	North Eastern	8	6.98
15.	Gorakhpur-Anand Nagar-Gonda & Anand Nagar-Nautanwa	North Eastern	261.61	202.94
16.	Gonda-Bahraich	North Eastern	59.84	62.19
17.	Moradabad-Kashipur-Ramnagar, Rampur-Lalkua-Kathgodam incl. Lalkua-Kashipur and Bareilly-Lalkua	North Eastern	309	236.73
18.	Paniahwa-Chhitauni-Tamkuhi Road	North Eastern	67.69	61.11
19.	Barhan-Etah	North Central	59	52.13
20.	Mahoba-Udaipura	North Central	196	168.2
21.	Luni-Marwar	North Western	71.71	56.58
22.	Bikaner-Merta-Jodhpur and Merta-Phulera	North Western	424	374.63

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Zonal Railway (s)	RKM	Cost Rs. in cr. (Estimate)
23.	Degana-Ratangarh	North Western	142.89	111.55
24.	Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar-Sarupsar-Suratgarh incl Sarupsar-Anupgarh	North Western	281	228.87
25.	Hisar-Suratpura	North Western	64.6	49.96
26.	Samdari-Barmer-Munabao	North Western	250.29	173.75
27.	Udaipur City-Himmatnagar	North Western	209.66	194.29
28.	Sikar-Loharu	North Western	122	102.51
29.	Mavli-Bari Sadri	North Western	82	55.24
30.	Dausa-Gangapur City	North Western	93	77.46
31.	Madar-Pushkar	North Western	25.7	22.95
32.	Ringas-Sikar-Churu	North Western	140	96.31
33.	Thiyat Hamira-Sanu incl. Pipar Road-Bilara, Makrana-Parbatsar and Merta Rd-Merta City	North Western	135.72	90.09
34.	Chaparmukh-Silghat Town incl. Senchoa Jn-Mairabari Single line	Northeast Frontier	130	109.35
35.	Lumding-Badarpur Single Line	Northeast Frontier	172	189.04
36.	Badarpur-Jiribam, Katakhal-Bhairabi & Badarpur-Karimganj-Sabroom incl. Karimganj-Maishasan, Agartala-Akhaura & Baraigram-Dullabachera	Northeast Frontier	590	494.24
37.	Rangiya Jn.-Rangapara-Harmuty-Naharlagun including Branch Lines	Northeast Frontier	339	311.09
38.	Mariani-Jorhat Town-Furkating & Tinsukia Jn-Makum-Tirap & Makum-Dangri Single Line	Northeast Frontier	174	183.99
39.	Harmuty-Murkongselek including Branch Line	Northeast Frontier	230	237.52
40.	Katihar-Jogbani Single Line	Northeast Frontier	109	109.91
41.	Raninagar-Haldibari Single Line	Northeast Frontier	34	27.71
42.	New Jalpaigudi-New Mal Jn-Alipurduar-Samuktala and Alipurduar-New Coochbehar incl. New Mal Jn-Changrabandha, New Changrabandha-New Coochbehar, New Coochbehar-Bamanhat, New Coochbehar-Fakiragram-Dhubri	Northeast Frontier	506	475.31
43.	Katihar-Teznarayanpur, Barsoi-Radhikapur & Eklakhi-Balurghat Single Line	Northeast Frontier	176	154.87
44.	Aluabari-Siliguri *via* Baghdogra	Northeast Frontier	76.23	59.6
45.	Prayag-Prayag Ghat	Northern	2.46	0.68
46.	Raebareli-Unchahar incl. Dalmau-Daryapur	Northern	63	44.92
47.	Phaphamau-Pratapgarh	Northern	46	36.9

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Zonal Railway (s)	RKM	Cost Rs. in cr. (Estimate)
48.	Akbarpur-Faizabad-Barabanki	Northern	161	211.7
49.	2nd Line Utratia-Raebareli-Amethi	Northern	126	63.32
50.	Amb Andaura-Talwara	Northern	40	34.21
51.	Bhatinda-Firozpur-Jalandhar City Incl. Lohian Khas-Nakodar-Phillaur & Nakodar-Jalandhar	Northern	301	223.93
52.	Ludhiana-Ferozpur City-Hussainiwala including Ferozpur City-Fazilka-Abohar & Kotkapura-Fazilka	Northern	339	235.08
53.	Phagwara Jn.-Nawanshahar Doaba-Jaijon Doaba incl.Nawanshahar-Rahon	Northern	74	56.89
54.	Jalandhar City-Hoshiarpur	Northern	38.4	31.81
55.	Verka Jn.-Dera Baba Nanak	Northern	45	33.38
56.	Taran Taran-Patti-Khemkaran	Northern	54.4	41.79
57.	Batala Jn.-Qadian	Northern	19	11.35
58.	Bathinda Jn.-Abohar-Sri Ganganagar	Northern	125	116.75
59.	Sonipat-Gohana-Jind	Northern	86	80.55
60.	Raja Ka Sahaspur-Sambhal Hatim Sarai	Northern	23	15.84
61.	Faizabad-Sultanpur-Chilbila	Northern	94.4	60.14
62.	Janghai-Zafrabad	Northern	47	49.19
63.	Parli Vaijnath-Vikarabad	South Central	269	262.12
64.	Pimpalkutti-Mudkhed & Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath	South Central	246	224.17
65.	Tenali-Repalle	South Central	34	25.98
66.	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	South Central	123	111.48
67.	Purna-Akola	South Central	209	211.58
68.	Lingempet Jagtiyal-Nizamabad	South Central	95	80.29
69.	Dharamavaram-Pakala	South Central	228	210.47
70.	Gadwal-Raichur	South Central	57	46.1
71.	Tirodi-Katangi	South East Central	15	6.53
72.	Wadsa-Gadchiroli	South East Central	49.2	37.87
73.	Tumsar Road-Tirodi	South East Central	46.8	53.51
74.	Balaghat-Katangi	South East Central	46.8	43.36
75.	Marauda-Dallirajhara	South East Central	76	75.96
76.	Rupsa-Bangriposi	South Eastern	89	68.66
77.	Bankura-Mashagram	South Eastern	118	92.8
78.	Tata-Badampahar	South Eastern	89	70.08
79.	Loops and Yard Lines	South Eastern	0	116.85

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Zonal Railway (s)	RKM	Cost Rs. in cr. (Estimate)
80.	Hospet-Swamihalli	South Western	59	61.81
81.	Birur-Talguppa	South Western	161	151.99
82.	Mysuru-Hassan-Mangalore incl. Arsikere-Hassan	South Western	347	315.81
83.	Mysuru-Chamarajanagar	South Western	61	56.71
84.	Kadur-Chikmaglur	South Western	46	39.74
85.	Chikbanavar-Hassan	South Western	166	155.17
86.	Bangarpet-Yelehanka	South Western	149	138.21
87.	Dindigul-Palghat	Southern	179	159.08
88.	Tiruchchirapalli-Manamadurai-Virudunagar	Southern	217	193.44
89.	Salem-Vridachalam-Cuddalore Port	Southern	196	179.27
90.	Shoranur-Nilambur	Southern	66	53.68
91.	Kollam-Punalur	Southern	44	43.44
92.	Virudunagar-Tenkasi Jn	Southern	122	94.45
93.	Sengottai-Tenkasi Jn.-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur	Southern	141	121.14
94.	Madurai-Manamadurai Jn.-Rameswaram	Southern	161	158.28
95.	Pollachi-Podanur	Southern	40	37.36
96.	Kanalus-Wansjalia-Porbandar	Western	103.33	96.82
97.	Rajkot-Jetalsar-Verval-Somnathwith Jetalsar-Wansjalia	Western	277.54	223.73
98.	Mhow-Khandwa	Western	138	127.82
99.	Vasad-Kathana	Western	43	40.1
100.	Anand-Khambhat	Western	51.79	48.12
101.	Vishvamitri-Pratap Nagar-Chhota Udepur	Western	102	95.71
102.	Kanjari Boriyavi-Vadtal	Western	6.4	5.71
103.	Nadiad-Modasa	Western	104.79	99.33
104.	Ankleshwar-Rajpipla	Western	62.84	58.82
105.	Jhund-Kharagoda	Western	23.3	23.27
106.	Adipur-New Bhuj	Western	48.94	48.36
107.	Mahesana-Patan-Bhildi	Western	90.61	96.24
108.	Dhola-Bhavnagar with Sihor Jn.-Palitana & Rajula Road Jn-Mahuva	Western	119.21	121.51
	Total		13675.48	12134.50

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Action Plan to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) Routes is as under:–

Year	Route Kilometers planned for electrification
2018-19	6000
2019-20	7000
2020-21	10500
2021-22	10500

[Translation]

Women Employees in Central Government

*30. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of women officers and employees working in the Central Government Offices;

(b) whether the Government has recruited the women in all its offices as per 33 per cent reservation;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) the names of the Departments of the Union Government which have not recruited women as per 33 per cent reservation till date; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Centralized data relating to number of women officers and employees working in the Central Government offices is not maintained. However, as per the Census of Central Government employees brought out by Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour and Employment, total number of employees in various Central Ministries/Departments was 30,87,278 out of which 3,37,439 employees were women as on March, 2011. The publication of the report on the Census of Central Government employees has since been discontinued from 2011.

(b) No, Madam, there is no such policy.

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of (b).

Website Hacking

*31. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of several cases of website hacking;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to secure the computer system from hacking; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), 33147, 30067 and 15779 Indian websites were hacked during the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto November) respectively.

(c) and (d) In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology and emerging cyber threats, continuous efforts are required to be made by owners to protect networks by way of hardening and deploying appropriate security controls.

Government has taken following measures to enhance the cyber security and prevent cyber attacks:–

(i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing IT infrastructure, which are available on its website (*www.certin.org.in*).

(ii) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

(iii) Cyber security exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 38 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In, wherein organisations from different sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS etc. participated.

(iv) Government has issued guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) regarding their key roles and responsibilities for securing applications/infrastructure and compliance.

(v) New Government websites and applications are audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the websites and applications is conducted on a regular basis after hosting.

(vi) Government has empanelled 76 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.

(vii) CERT-In conducts regular training programmes for network/system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations regarding securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks.

[English]

Illegally Occupied Areas

*32. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has asked Pakistan at diplomatic level to vacate all illegally occupied areas of Kashmir;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the details of the areas in Kashmir under illegal occupation of Pakistan till date;

(d)   whether Pakistan has reverted and taken initiative to vacate the illegally occupied areas of Kashmir; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) India's consistent and principled position, as also enunciated in the 1994 Parliament Resolution adopted unanimously, is that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir has been, is, and shall be an integral part of India. Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of approximately 78,000 sq.kms of Indian territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Under the so-called 'Boundary Agreement' signed between China and Pakistan on 2 March, 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq.kms of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to China.

We have repeatedly and consistently called upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation, most recently on 30 November, 2018.

Pakistan continues to be in illegal and forcible occupation of a part of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Regulatory Control on Conducting Festivals

*33. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether there is any regulatory control on conducting festivals and celebrations adjacent to railway track;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   if not, whether the Government will think of having such regulatory measures in light of the recent Amritsar issue; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Railway area adjacent to railway track is duly demarcated and no gathering of people is allowed within this area near the railway track for conducting festivals and celebrations. Trespassing by any person into any part of a railway without lawful authority, or having lawfully entered upon or into such part misuses such property is a punishable offence under section 147 of the Railways Act, 1989. However, there is no regulatory control of Railways on conducting festivals and celebrations in the areas which are adjacent to railway track but are outside the railway

limit. Local Administration, which is in charge of law & order and crowd control in areas outside Railway jurisdiction, is responsible for taking adequate precautionary measures in these areas.

(c) and (d) Areas outside the Railway limit come under the jurisdiction of State Government. The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS)/Northern Circle in his Preliminary Enquiry Report on the incident of Amritsar train run-over has given some recommendations to prevent such type of incidents in future. Action on most of these recommendations is required to be taken by the State Governments. The recommendations of the CRS preliminary enquiry report will be circulated to all States Government for taking necessary action.

Air Force Training College

*34. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to open an Air Force Training College in Thanjavur Air Force Station to focus on efforts towards achievement of key result areas, realistic training, developing operational expertise and professional competency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) There is no plan to open an Air Force Training College at Thanjavur Air Force Station.

[Translation]

Tarapur Atomic Power Station

*35. SHRI RAJENDRA D. GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on any plan for the development and upliftment of people affected by the Tarapur Atomic Power Station in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is making any provision to provide free education to the children of these affected people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b)The Project Affected Persons (PAPs) at Tarapur were rehabilitated in line with the rehabilitation package formulated by the Maharashtra Government as per the Maharashtra Rehabilitation of Project Affected Persons (MRPAP) Act, 1999.

For upliftment and development of PAPs several programmes are implemented and these are on-going. These include providing civic amenities, Healthcare, Education & Skill Development, Infrastructure, Sanitation and Sustainable Development through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Diversified Initiatives to enable PAPs for securing employment/livelihood are implemented. These include,

- Relaxation in age and percentage of marks in qualifying criteria in recruitment to Group C posts advertised by TAPS.

- Recruitment examination question papers in Marathi language.

- Preference to PAPs employment in the contracts awarded by TAPS.

- Award of Services and maintenance contracts to PAPs.

- Special dispensation through allotment of Shops in TAPS Township.

(c) and (d) Education, for the surrounding population including PAPs, is an important on-going programme implemented through CSR. This is essentially to enable PAPs and other locals in upgrading their potential and skills. The programme provides for development/up gradation of schools infrastructure through construction of classrooms & toilets, providing drinking water, provision of computers, pedagogy and study material.

A Societal Enrichment and Education Programme (SEEP), for tribal and rural communities in and around Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) have been implemented and on-going. The programme is providing free education, monthly scholarship, medical facilities, school uniforms, textbooks and notebooks to selected students.

High Speed Rail Corridor

*36. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Union Government is going to start a high speed rail corridor from Nagpur to Mumbai;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the said corridor is planned to pass through Aurangabad also;

(d)   if so, the details therof; and

(e)   the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on this corridor and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) A feasibility study for the High Speed Rail Corridor between Mumbai and Nagpur has been carried out under Government to Government cooperation with Government of Spain.

(c) and (d) Aurangabad has been indicated as a Station on the alignment in the feasibility study report.

(e)   Sanction and execution of High Speed Rail Project depends on several factors like traffic study, economic feasibility, availability of resources etc. The project is under consideration.

Extra Charging on Fares

*37. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Railways is fleecing double fare from passengers in the name of tatkal, premium, flexi fare;

(b)   if so, whether additional services are being provided to passengers by railways in lieu of the above extra charge and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c)   the reasons for introduction of said systems by the Government;

(d)   whether this is not a fare hike through the back door; and

(e)   if not, the reasons for introduction of such extra charging on fares?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) Tatkal Scheme has been started in December, 1997. This enables passengers to book confirmed tickets one day before departure. Apart from basic fare, 10% of basic fare in second class (reserved) and 30% of basic fare in other classes, subject to maximum and minimum limit, is levied. In Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains, tatkal fare is 1.5 times of basic fare.

2.   With effect from 01.10.2014, 50% of the Tatkal accommodation in selected popular trains has been earmarked as Premium Tatkal Quota. For the premium Tatkal tickets, the fare increases by 20% after each slab of 10% berths are sold subject to maximum three times of tatkal fare.

3.   Flexi Fare Scheme has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi & Duronto trains *w.e.f.* 09.09.2016 and later in Humsafar train in a different format. Under this scheme, the fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum limit of 1.5 times in classes Second AC, Sleeper, Second sitting (reserved), AC Chair Car and 1.4 times in 3rd AC class. No change has been made in the fares of 1st AC and Executive class.

4.   However, Flexi Fare Scheme in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains has been rationalized as under:–

(i)   Discontinuation of Flexi Fare Scheme from 15 trains for full year and from 32 trains during pre defined lean period of 3 months (February, March & August).

(ii)   Maximum cap of Flexi Fare Scheme has been reduced to 1.4 times in all flexi fare applicable classes.

(iii) Graded discount has been introduced in Flexi Fare trains and Humsafar trains, where class-

wise occupancy is less than 60%, 4 days prior to scheduled departure of the train as under:–

Occupancy	Discount
Up to 70%	20% on last fare
70 to 80%	10% on last fare
Above 80%	Nil

The above changes have been implemented *w.e.f.* 15.03.2019 on an experimental basis for 6 months for which booking has already been started.

5.   Provision of additional facilities to passengers are ongoing and continuous process. Moreover, recently Project Swarn has been launched with the objective of significantly improving the passenger experience across 9 dimensions which include coach interiors, toilets, on-board cleanliness, staff behavior, catering, linen, punctuality, security, on-board entertainment, real-time feedback. 14 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi trains have been selected under this project.

The cost of additional services is borne by Railways and the same is not being transferred to the passengers. Earnings from Flexi Fare Scheme can offset the cost being borne by Railways in providing improved services.

Further, new types of coaches with better facilities have been introduced over Indian Railways.

6.   The concept of tatkal quota, premium tatkal quota and flexi fare schemes has been introduced based on the demand pattern on popular trains. Total number of trains having Tatkal Quota and Premium Tatkal Quota facility during 2017-18 were on an aveage 2857 and 904 per day respectively.

Flexi Fare Scheme is confined to Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto and also in Humsafar trains in a different format.

7.   Indian Railways have given concessions/ discounts as under:–

(i)   10% discount in basic fare on vacant berths/ seats booked after preparation of first chart.

(ii)   Discounted fare in Shatabdi trains over 4 sections *viz.* Bengaluru-Mysuru, Mysuru-Bengaluru, Ahmedabad-Vadodara and Jalpaiguri-Malda Town sections.

(iii)   To facilitate second class passengers, sleeper class coaches running vacant have been de-reserved on a particular section as second class unreserved on second class fare.

(iv)   Further Graded discount has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto and Humsafar trains as mentioned in para 4 above.

[English]

Appointments in Judiciary

*38. SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has accused the judiciary of delaying the process of judicial appointments by not just months but years together and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the steps being taken by the Government to fill all the vacancies in each court in a timebound manner; and

(c)   whether the Government is fast-tracking the process of filling up judicial vacancies without letting the long-drawn process of finalisation of a new Memorandum of Procedure (MOP) for judicial appointments stall fresh appointments to the Supreme Court and the High Courts, if so, the details thereof and the progress made therein?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Madam. It is not correct to say that Government has accused the judiciary for delay in appointments. Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts is a collaborative and integrated process, between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judge of High Courts, the Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposals for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies but this timeline is rarely adhered to. Differences of opinion if any are mutually reconciled by the Executive and the Judiciary to ensure that only the apposite person is appointed to the high Constitutional post of Judge. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously and in a time bound manner, vacancies of

Judges in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned.

(c) As the process of finalizing the supplementation of the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MOP) was likely to take some time, at the initiative of the Government, the matter of continuing the appointment process was taken up with Supreme Court, and appointments of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts are being made in accordance with the existing Mop. The details of the appointments made in the Supreme Court and High Courts during the last three years are given below:–

Position on Appointments in Supreme Court &
High Courts

(As on 01.12.2018)

	2016	2017	2018
Judges appointed in the Supreme Court	04	05	08
Appointment of Chief Justice	14	08	25
Judges appointed in the High Courts	*126	115	108
Additional Judges made Permanent in High Courts	*131	31	115
Additional Judges given fresh term	22	05	02

[*Highest ever in a given year]

[Translation]

Setting up of BSNL Towers

*39. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
    SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration for setting up towers at such places in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand where there are no signals of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the names of the locations where the said towers are proposed to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not setting up the said towers at other such places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to set up towers/Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) as a part of its ongoing Phase-VIII. 4 of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) expansion project. Details of such locations in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are enclosed as Statement-I, II and III respectively.

Statement-I

Locations Planned in Gujarat

Sl.No.	Location
1.	Shilana
2.	Pansada
3.	Mota Munjiasar
4.	Pithavadi
5.	Dhuliya Agariya
6.	Ingorala
7.	Kantala
8.	Kutana-Bhoringada
9.	Mota Barman
10.	Navi Haliyad
11.	Varasada
12.	Vavera
13.	Keriya Nagas
14.	Hathigadh
15.	Oliya
16.	Gavdka
17.	Anida
18.	Jikyali

Sl.No.	Location		Sl.No.	Location
19.	Mota Mandavda		52.	Indore
20.	Bhadi		53.	Jolva
21.	Boridra		54.	Kavitha
22.	Dharmad		55.	Ninghat
23.	Vatariya		56.	Karmali
24.	Nahiyer		57.	Chopadvav
25.	Pandvai		58.	Dehgam
26.	Patanamau		59.	Kothi
27.	Rohid		60.	Ralda
28.	Sambheti		61.	Jambusar
29.	Vadi		62.	Nanabandra
30.	Siludi		63.	Bhuj Rural
31.	Bitada		64.	Dagara
32.	Boriya		65.	Dayapar
33.	Dahej		66.	Bhuj Rural
34.	Digas		67.	Gedi
35.	Kamboli		68.	Jakhauport
36.	Mangrol		69.	Janan
37.	Nahar		70.	Jatawada
38.	Nanasanja		71.	Jawaharnagar
39.	Poicha		72.	Khandek
40.	Dahej		73.	Kotdi
41.	Umarava		74.	Kurbai
42.	Kevadia		75.	Limdivandh
43.	Vilayat		76.	Lodrani
44.	Bhadkodara		77.	Ludwa
45.	Gantoli		78.	Maumoti
46.	Kavi Kamboi		79.	Nakhatrana
47.	Kantiyajal		80.	Nanithumbadi
48.	Kosmadi		81.	Sumrasarj
49.	Raima		82.	Umaiya
50.	Tankaria		83.	Varnun
51.	Zangar		84.	Vichhiya

Sl.No.	Location	Sl.No.	Location
85.	Anjar	118.	Devali
86.	Anjar	119.	Koliyak
87.	Bhadai	120.	Longadi
88.	Bhuj Rural	121.	Motaasrana
89.	Madhapar	122.	Moti Paniyali
90.	Chandrani	123.	Nagalpar
91.	Bhuj Rural	124.	Parwala
92.	Dolatpar	125.	Rajpara No. 2
93.	Bhuj Rural	126.	Royal
94.	Lakhpat	127.	Delol
95.	Mokha	128.	Kanjeta
96.	Mundra	129.	Mander
97.	Bhuj Rural	130.	Pawagadh
98.	Nanikhakhar	131.	Ratanpur
99.	Nanisudhadhro	132.	Sarori
100.	Samagoga	133.	Jhanvad
101.	Sapeda	134.	Boriala
102.	Bhuj Rural	135.	Chhaparwad
103.	Talwana	136.	Gultora
104.	Vinjan	137.	Jbukhajuri
105.	Vondh	138.	Dahod
106.	Nanakapaya	139.	Saraswa
107.	Naliya	140.	Sukhiyapure
108.	Lakhapar	141.	Amargadh
109.	Nagalpur	142.	Bakrol
110.	Laiyari	143.	Beladiya
111.	Nana Angiya	144.	Bhanpur
112.	Bela	145.	Bolundra
113.	Bhadra	146.	Chandap
114.	Lakhnaka	147.	Eklara
115.	Nanakhuntavada	148.	Fatehpura
116.	Piparala	149.	Sakhvaniya
117.	Rajpara	150.	Amodara

Sl.No.	Location
151.	Hadiyol
152.	Himatnagar
153.	Himatnagar
154.	Hirapurkampa
155.	Jaisinghpur
156.	Jumsar
157.	Khalwad
158.	Khedawada
159.	Kherancha
160.	Khokhra
161.	Kubadharol
162.	Laloda
163.	Lalpur Badoli
164.	Mau Navalpur
165.	Moti Moydi
166.	Navi Metral
167.	Pratappura
168.	Davli
169.	Gadha
170.	Mohanpur
171.	Limb
172.	Limbhoi
173.	Navagam
174.	Nanawada
175.	Unchha
176.	Vav
177.	Ranjitpar
178.	Jamraval
179.	Khavdi
180.	Khavdi
181.	Kajurda
182.	Sikka
183.	Baradia

Sl.No.	Location
184.	Ambaliya
185.	Chanaka
186.	Inajpatia
187.	Loej
188.	Malanka
189.	Mandavad/Monia
190.	Mobatpur(Navagam)
191.	Piplana
192.	Reydi
193.	Shobhavadla
194.	Sudavad
195.	Tikar
196.	Gorakhmadhi
197.	Kadaya
198.	Kalsari
199.	Khirasara
200.	Koylana
201.	Pajod (JND-PBD H/W)
202.	Prasnavada/LOD HVA
203.	Laxmipura (Bhalak)
204.	Manipur
205.	Mevad
206.	Moti Hirvani
207.	Mubarakpura
208.	Mudana
209.	Rancharda
210.	Rangpur
211.	Rasulpur
212.	Sankhalpur
213.	Sodhav
214.	Sojitra, Mehsana
215.	Agol
216.	Badarpur

Sl.No.	Location
217.	Biliya, Mehsana
218.	Bilodra
219.	Boru
220.	Dudharampura
221.	Dunavada
222.	Ekalva
223.	Gilosan
224.	Gochnad
225.	Golathara
226.	Gorad
227.	Grambharti
228.	Kaiyal
229.	Kalri
230.	Khali
231.	Khambhel
232.	Khorsam
233.	Koita
234.	Madhi
235.	Mandvi
236.	Martoli
237.	Palasar
238.	Sankhari
239.	Savala
240.	Tundali
241.	Vadani
242.	Veda
243.	Katra
244.	Siddhpur
245.	Alindra
246.	Kanera
247.	Nenpur
248.	Piplav
249.	Shahpur

Sl.No.	Location
250.	Simarda
251.	Sundarna
252.	Vaghasi
253.	Virpur
254.	Zanda
255.	Badarpara
256.	Bhabhar
257.	Bhatib
258.	Dama
259.	Jasleni
260.	Kabirpura
261.	Mandali
262.	Mota
263.	Nada Bet
264.	Panchha
265.	Patosan
266.	Pirojpura
267.	Saklana
268.	Sembalpani
269.	Bhesana
270.	Deesa
271.	Gathaman
272.	Hathidara
273.	Pruthvipura
274.	Rajendranagar
275.	Sabalvad
276.	Sachodar
277.	Sapawada
278.	Sarsoli
279.	Sonasan
280.	Tintoi
281.	Adpodara
282.	Totu

Sl.No.	Location
283.	Bilvaniya
284.	Moti Chichano
285.	Daramali
286.	Sutrapada
287.	Chitrod
288.	Anodiya
289.	Bapupura
290.	Bhilvan
291.	Chandravati
292.	Dagavadiya
293.	Dalisana
294.	Devpura
295.	Dhamanva
296.	Dhandhusan
297.	Gundrasan
298.	Katpur
299.	Rafu
300.	Ralisana
301.	Rampura
302.	Sadra
303.	Sametra
304.	Kaleda
305.	Kanodar
306.	Kapasiya
307.	Khardosan
308.	Kuchawada
309.	Madhutara
310.	Magarwada
311.	Mitha
312.	Navavas
313.	Panthawada
314.	Sarotra
315.	Thawar

Sl.No.	Location
316.	Vansol
317.	Varan
318.	Godh
319.	Balapar
320.	Bandhiya
321.	Bhunava
322.	Biliya
323.	Chhadvavadar
324.	Fareni
325.	Isra
326.	Jamgadh
327.	Jhilariya
328.	Kagvad
329.	Kanpar
330.	Khambha
331.	Khambhala
332.	Khamta
333.	Lilapar
334.	Lothada
335.	Mervadar
336.	Motiparbadi
337.	Nanimarad
338.	Nasitpar
339.	Rampar
340.	Sajadiyali
341.	Sheluka
342.	Suvag
343.	Vachhra
344.	Vejagam
345.	Amrapur
346.	Ardoi
347.	Bhukhi
348.	Bhupgadh

Sl.No.	Location
349.	Charakhdi
350.	Ghoghavadar
351.	Harbatiyali
352.	Kanesara
353.	Kharachiya
354.	Kuvadava Villege
355.	Kuvadava
356.	Lath
357.	Manekvada
358.	Metakhambhaliya
359.	Mota Bhadra
360.	Mota Mandava
361.	Mota Vada
362.	Panchpipla
363.	Sanosara
364.	Sartanpar
365.	Shrinathgadh
366.	Station Vavdi
367.	Vadasada
368.	Vaddhari
369.	Zanzmer
370.	Ghela Somnath
371.	Bhavanigadh
372.	At Dhrumath, TA Dhangdhra
373.	Ghanshyamgadh
374.	Piyava
375.	Somasar
376.	Ankewadiya
377.	Bhrugupur
378.	Navrangpura
379.	Sara
380.	Vadgav
381.	Vegadvav

Sl.No.	Location
382.	Vijaliya
383.	Jolva
384.	Velanja
385.	Mahuva
386.	Anasthu
387.	Anjesar
388.	Asoj
389.	Varnama
390.	Dugdha
391.	Dungarwat
392.	Ekalbara
393.	Paldi
394.	Karjan
395.	Khatiyavad
396.	Laxmipura
397.	Lotna
398.	Madodhar
399.	Miyagam
400.	Moletha
401.	Mora Dungari
402.	Moti Bej
403.	Nava Shihora
404.	Pavijetpur
405.	Pipariya
406.	Raypura
407.	Tajpura
408.	Thalki
409.	Vemar
410.	Ajod
411.	Ankodia
412.	Bahadarpur
413.	Bakrol
414.	Chanvada

Sl.No.	Location	Sl.No.	Location
415.	Mobha	448.	Bodwak
416.	Moksi	449.	Dhavat
417.	Motafofalia	450.	Goraj
418.	Nimeta	451.	Jarod
419.	Pandu	452.	Kalarani
420.	Por	453.	Karjan
421.	Sadhali	454.	Khanpur
422.	Sankheda	455.	Limda
423.	Sarsavni	456.	Manjusar
424.	Segva Chokdi	457.	Masar
425.	Sindhrot	458.	Kakadkuva
426.	Sokhada	459.	Valsad
427.	Vadu	460.	Ghanveri
428.	Varsada	461.	Khambala
429.	Vasna Kotariya	462.	Khergam Bazar
430.	Karchiya	463.	Manekpore
431.	Agmalgadh	464.	Vansda
432.	Pipalghodi	465.	Thala
433.	Palsamal	466.	Singharbhatia
434.	Kasadbari	467.	Karjun
435.	Garvi	468.	Sondar
436.	Waghmal	469.	Avadha
437.	Wasurna	470.	Gothan
438.	Jogbari	471.	Varna
439.	Barda	472.	Marla
440.	Bilmal	473.	Bhavada
441.	Chincli	474.	Dondwal
442.	Chinchvihir	475.	Chepa
443.	Pimpri	476.	Nagadhar
444.	Samghan	477.	Ghanveri
445.	Silotmal	478.	Astal
446.	Kalamkhet	479.	Viraxet
447.	Galkund	480.	Amalsad, Andheshwar Mandir

Sl.No.	Location
481.	Bamanvel
482.	Bhomapardi
483.	Chikhali Blmroad
484.	Nanaponda Charrasta
485.	Dungra
486.	Endthal
487.	Kccholi
488.	Machhivad
489.	Maroli Umb
490.	Salvav, Vapi
491.	Udwada NH-8, Tighara
492.	Undach
493.	Vesma
494.	Jhavda
495.	Changa
496.	Nandod
497.	Khatana
498.	Anumala

Statement-II

Location Planned in Rajasthan

Sl.No.	Location
1.	Barmer
2.	Ajmer (15 sites)
3.	Alsisar
4.	Alwar
5.	Ambara
6.	Amet
7.	Amli
8.	Amrapura
9.	Asan
10.	Asawara
11.	Asora
12.	Bagora

Sl.No.	Location
13.	Bagri Nagar
14.	Bajor
15.	Bakani
16.	Balana
17.	Balotra
18.	Baori
19.	Bargaowra
20.	Barmer (2 sites)
21.	Baseetar Samchot
22.	Beawar (2 sites)
23.	Bera
24.	Bhagesar
25.	Bhalotan Ki Kheri
26.	Bharatpur
27.	Bhat Kheri
28.	Bhilwara
29.	Bichhawari
30.	Bikaner (3 sites)
31.	Bissau (2 sites)
32.	Bokhara
33.	Buchiya Bara
34.	Bundi
35.	Charwas
36.	Chaylon Ka Khera
37.	Chittorgarh
38.	Chomu
39.	Churu
40.	Dabal
41.	Dag
42.	Dausa
43.	Degana JN
44.	Demat
45.	Desuri
46.	Dewan

Sl.No.	Location
47.	Dhamana
48.	Dhariawad
49.	Dholipal (11 DLP)
50.	Dibra Bara
51.	Didwana
52.	Doodani
53.	Dubbi
54.	Fatehnagar
55.	Gadota
56.	Gajsinghpur
57.	Gamrabamniya
58.	Gangapur
59.	Garoda
60.	Genji
61.	Goda Gorji
62.	Golwara
63.	Gulabpura
64.	Guralas
65.	Hanumangarh (2 sites)
66.	Islampur
67.	Itawa
68.	Jaipur (14 sites)
69.	Jaitsar
70.	Jajiwal Gehlotan
71.	Jalor
72.	Jasol
73.	Jhadoli
74.	Jhalarapatan
75.	Jhunjhunu
76.	Jodhpur (13 sites)
77.	Jodwara
78.	Jolpur
79.	Kalab Kallan
80.	Kanwari

Sl.No.	Location
81.	Kapasan
82.	Karera
83.	Karji
84.	Kasarwari
85.	Katariyasar
86.	Kekri
87.	Keshoraipatan
88.	Khajuwala
89.	Khetri Nagar (2 sites)
90.	Kishangarh (4 sites)
91.	Kishanpuriya
92.	Kitasar Bhatiyan
93.	Komta
94.	Kota (2 sites)
95.	Kuchaman City (3 sites)
96.	Kushalgarh
97.	Ladnu
98.	Ledarmer
99.	LeerdiKhera
100.	Losal
101.	Maitriwara
102.	Makrana (3 sites)
103.	Mandal
104.	Masooda
105.	Mengalwa
106.	Mermandwara
107.	Mindawas
108.	Mundara
109.	Nainwa
110.	Nakor
111.	Nasirabad (2 sites)
112.	Naya Morseem
113.	Nimaj
114.	Nimbawas

Sl.No.	Location
115.	Nokha (3 sites)
116.	Nosra
117.	Osian
118.	Pachlasa Chhota
119.	Padauli
120.	Pamera
121.	Partapur
122.	Pasoond
123.	Peesangan
124.	Phalodi
125.	Phephana (1 KNN)
126.	Pilani (3 sites)
127.	Pipar City
128.	Pipli Acharya
129.	Puriya Kheri
130.	Raipuriya
131.	Rajakhera
132.	Rajyawas
133.	Rangala
134.	Ranodar
135.	Ratannagar
136.	Rawatsar
137.	Rikabdeo-03
138.	Sagot
139.	Sangod
140.	Sangwara
141.	Sanwas
142.	Saradhana
143.	Sawar
144.	Seruna
145.	Shergarh
146.	Sirohi (2 sites)
147.	Sojat City
148.	Sojat Road

Sl.No.	Location
149.	Soonkhar
150.	Sriganganagar (3 sites)
151.	Subedra
152.	Surachand
153.	Suwap
154.	Swaroopganj
155.	Tancha
156.	Teetop
157.	Therawar
158.	Thihawali
159.	Tonk
160.	Udaipur (13 sites)
161.	Udaipurwati (2 sites)
162.	Veerawa
163.	Vijainagar (3 sites)
Total	240 Sites

Statement-III

Locations Planned in Jharkhand

Sl.No.	Location
1.	Jamuniya
2.	Dahibari Coillary
3.	Gonudih PO Office
4.	Regional Store Makoli
5.	Gogna (Maithan)
6.	Bera Colony
7.	Dhaiya
8.	Dhaiya New Colony
9.	Electrosteel 1
10.	Electrosteel 2
11.	Pelawal
12.	Korra 2
13.	Jemco Burma Mines
14.	Chaibasa New DC Office
15.	Kandra Market

Sl.No.	Location
16.	Telco Area
17.	Gutua (Nayasarai)
18.	Kuchhu
19.	L.N. Mishra Colony
20.	Viksh Bharti
21.	Rampur Asian Paints
22.	CRPF Khunti
23.	Manika Block Office
24.	Urlung
25.	Pakur DC Office
26.	Chouparan PS
27.	Mahasinghpur
28.	Ratu Block Office
29.	Nagri Block Office
30.	Khunti DC Office
31.	Fudi ITI
32.	Patrhatu Block Office
33.	Muddma
34.	Makhmandro
35.	Police Kendra, Chaibasa
36.	IRB Camp Lesliganj
37.	Chaibasa Circuit House
38.	Rajabar PS
39.	Dagra CRPF Camp
40.	Sikursai (Tamar Band)
41.	Jagarnathpur SDO Office
42.	Digha CRPF
43.	Kumharia
44.	Ghagra
45.	Circuit House Koderma
46.	Piperwar
47.	Purnadih
48.	Rohini
49.	Bhandaro

Sl.No.	Location
50.	Vikash Bharti Bishunpur
51.	Vikash Bharti Ranchi
52.	Meru 1
53.	Meru 2
54.	Nahalgara, RCH-JSR Road
55.	Singhpur, Silli Bypass
56.	Garkhatanga, Ring Rd
57.	Uparkonki, Pithoria
58.	Margora
59.	Ray Talabsariya
60.	Leda
61.	Shivalaya Colony, Dhanbad
62.	City Colony
63.	Ghunghusha
64.	Birsa Munda Park
65.	Bhuli Block C
66.	Hariharpur
67.	Sangramdih
68.	Kharkhari
69.	Bijulia More
70.	Dugdabasti
71.	Khetkobasti
72.	Kashi Jharia
73.	SMS-II BSP
74.	NUSRL, Ranchi
75.	Chandwar, Hazaribag
76.	GGSES Engg College, Bokaro

[English]

Sale of Loss Making Coal Mines

*40. SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has recently taken a decision to sell coal mines which are running in losses at present;

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

(c)   whether tenders have been invited in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the time by which the process of sale of such coal mines is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Creation of Indian Judicial Service

231. DR. UDIT RAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has received any proposal for creation of an All India Judicial Service on lines of the Indian Administrative Services;

(b)   whether creation of such a service was ordered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2009; and

(c)   if so, the status of implementation of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for constitution of All India Judicial Service (AIJS) which was recommended by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal along with views received from High Courts and States was included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 05th April, 2015.

(b)   The Supreme Court of India, *vide* its judgment of 13.11.1991 in the matter of All India Judges Association versus Union of India and others, recommended that Government should examine the feasibility of implementing the recommendations of the Law Commission for setting up of All India Judicial Service. They have reiterated this later in their judgment of 24.11.1993 in the same case.

(c)   Keeping in view the divergence of opinion among the States and High Courts on constitution of All India Judicial Service (AIJS), the Government has undertaken the consultative process to arrive at a common ground. However, no progress has been made on the subject.

Whistleblowers Act

232. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   the time by which the Government intends to bring the Whistleblowers Act, 2011 into force;

(b)   whether the Act does not provide any incentive to disclose any information under the private sectors;

(c)   if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to afford similar protection to whistleblowers in the private sector;

(d)   whether the Government is taking any step towards including 'anonymous disclosures' under the purview of the Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011 (No. 17 of 2014) has been notified on 12th May, 2014. In terms of section 1(3) of the Act, the provisions of the Act shall come into force only on such date, as the Central Government may notify. The said Act requires some amendments aimed at safeguarding against disclosures affecting sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, etc., before it is brought into force. To make these amendments to the Act, the Government introduced the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha on 11th May, 2015 which has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 13th May, 2015 and the said Bill is presently before the Rajya Sabha. Thus, the matter is presently under the domain of the legislature.

(b)   The Act does not provide any incentive to disclose any information under the private sectors.

(c)   Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Madam.

[Translation]

Expenditure in Election

233. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is considering to put the burden of expenditure incurred in elections on the candidate contesting from two seats in State Assembly and Parliamentary elections in case he/she resigns from one seat;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c)   whether the Government has taken any action in this regard so far and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) No, Madam. No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Momo Challenge Game

234. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU:
      DR SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the 'The Momo Challenge Game' is creating havoc among children and students and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(b)   the number of persons who have fallen prey to the Momo Challenge Game so far;

(c)   the details of the instructions or advisory that have been issued to schools and colleges on Momo Challenge Game;

(d)   the details of the feedback that has come for controlling or checking the spread of Momo Challenge Game;

(e)   whether the concerned Ministry is coordinating with Ministry of Home Affairs to control and stop the spread of Momo Challenge Game among children and if so, the details thereof; and

(f)   whether the Government is taking any active steps to regulate the information spread through whatsapp including the menace of fake news and spread of games like "Momo Challenge Game" and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) There had been media reports about alleged suicides/attempted suicides due to dangerous online game like Momo Challenge Game. Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for certain due diligence to be followed by Intermediaries failing which they would be liable. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act, *inter alia*, specifies that the intermediaries shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is grossly harmful, harms minor in any way; violates any law for the time being in force; etc. Law Enforcement Agencies regularly monitor the social media sites and take action under existing legal provisions for removal of malicious contents/materials and prosecuting the offenders.

(c) and (d) Government issued Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies to all CBSE schools *vide* circular dated. 18.08.2017. Further, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) had issued an Advisory on "Momo Challenge Game" on 27.08.2018. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had also written to all the institutions affiliated to CBSE detailing the precautions to be taken on an online game.

(e) and (f) MeitY and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) interacted with service providers of social media regarding the steps to be taken to prevent users from falling prey to harmful online games. Government has asked popular social media sites not to host any such dangerous online games and immediately remove the same as and when detected.

It is also understood that there is no formal Application, website or URL available for downloading/accessing online games like Blue Whale Challenge. Hence, there is little scope for using technical solutions to identify or block the dangerous online games.

[Translation]

Fast Track Courts in M.P

235. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fast track courts have been set up in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds are not being released for the proper operation of fast track courts along with the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the amount of funds released for the said purpose to Madhya Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) falls within the domain of the State Governments, who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

In its judgment dated 19.04.2012 in Brij Mohan Lal & Others Vs Union of India & Others case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that continuation of FTCs is within the domain of the States and has further directed the States that they need to decide either to bring the FTC Scheme to an end or to continue the same as a permanent feature in the State.

At present, as per available information, no funds have been released to Government of Madhya Pradesh for the said purpose, in the last three years and no FTCs are functioning in Madhya Pradesh at present.

(c) to (d) The 14th Finance Commission (FC) endorsed the proposal of the Union Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing FTCs for cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. The State Governments were urged to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the form of enhanced tax devolution (from 32% to 42%) to meet such requirements. Hence the entire funding for establishment and operations of the FTCs is being provided by the respective State Governments.

[English]

Coastal Security

236. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
     SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
     SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
     SHRI S. R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
     SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
     SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:
     KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct full spectrum exercise of coastal security;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;

(c) the time by which the said exercise will commence and the number of agencies/stakeholders involved in such exercise;

(d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the coastal/maritime security in the country; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to acquire modern equipments for coastal security and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. A large scale, pan-India coastal defence exercise, 'Sea Vigil' is being scheduled during the Indian Navy's biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise, TROPEX-19 in January, 2019. The main aims/objectives of the exercise are:–

(i)   Simultaneous activation of complete coastal security infrastructure.

(ii) Gauge response and enhance interagency coordination.

(iii) Identify gaps in the coastal security set up and means to mitigate the shortfalls.

(iv) Test the information/data sharing mechanism of technical infrastructure related to coastal security.

(v) Identify lessons to further strengthen the existing set up.

The exercise would involve participation from all stake holders in the nation's coastal security framework including the Indian Coast Guard, all Coastal States, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Shipping, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Finance (for Customs) and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Threats to the security of the country through the sea route are assessed at regular intervals. Monitoring, review and assessment of the coastal security construct is an ongoing process and is undertaken on a periodic basis. The Government is implementing the Coastal Security Scheme in phases since 2005 to augment capacity & infrastructure of Police forces of Coastal States/UTs. National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS) monitors the progress in respect of coastal security initiatives, any shortfall encountered, and decides on measures to plug the gaps.

A coastal security ring all along our coast is provided by Marine Police, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy. Other measures include improving surveillance mechanism, enhanced patrolling and joint operational exercises conducted on regular basis among Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Customs and others. Patrolling the EEZ [Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard] and territorial waters (ICG) by surface and air assets, electronic surveillance of the maritime zones is undertaken using Coastal Radars, Automatic Identification System (AIS), Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT), etc.

Poor Network Connectivity

237. DR. KULMANI SAMAL:
     SHRI J. J. T. NATTERJEE:
     DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed that call drop phenomenon was common in all networks in the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(b) whether the Government has received numerous petitions/representations about call drops;

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

(d) whether the call drops are common in BSNL networks;

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

(f) whether the Government has any concrete action plan to improve the situation and if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether there is a gap between the norms laid down for quality services and the actual service provided and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, operator-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The call drop in a mobile network can happen due to many reasons including characteristics of radio propagation for wireless communications, non-availability of sites due to acquisition problems, sealing of sites by local authorities due to fear of Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) from mobile radiations etc. Therefore, the occurrence of call drops is found to be common in mobile networks across the world with varying degree of occurrences. Telecom Service Providers in India are required to ensure that the call-drop rate in their mobile networks remain within the benchmarks laid down by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

TRAI has issued "The Standards for Quality of Service for Basic (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2017" effective from 1st October, 2017. These Regulations have prescribed two revised parameters for assessing call drop in mobile network, *viz.* Call drop-rate Spatial distribution measure (benchmark $\leq$ 2%) implies that at-least 90% of Cells in the network should perform better than specified 2% benchmark on at-least 90% of days. Similarly, another new parameter, Call drop-rate Temporal distribution measure (benchmark

≤ 3%) will give confidence that on at-least 90% of Days, network performed better than specified 3% benchmark for at-least 97% of the Cells.

(b) and (c) Service Area-wise total number of consumer complaints received in TRAI and DoT against Call Drops *w.e.f.* 01st January, 2018 to 05th December, 2018 are mentioned in enclosed Statement-I & II respectively.

(d) and (e) BSNL complies to both the Call-drop rate benchmarks in all License Service Areas except West Bengal for the quarter ending in September, 2018.

Main reasons include problems due to hilly terrain in Sikkim, Darjeeling and isolated islands in Sunderbans (South 24 Parganas); frequent thefts of waveguide and battery bank in areas particularly in Asansol, Berhampur, Kharagpur, and Kolkata SSAs; frequent OFC cut in major routes; prolonged power outages as well as low voltage in most areas of West Bengal and LWE affected areas such as Bankura, Purulia & West Midnapore which results in difficulty in Operations & Maintenance (O&M) activity and fault restoration work.

(f)   In order to address call-drops, following steps have been taken by the Government/TSPs:

(i)   DoT has taken several policy intiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth for delivery of quality services. These include permitting trading/ sharing/liberalisation of spectrum already granted, permitting passive & active infrastructure-sharing, Notification of Right of Way Rules- 2016, making available government land/buildings for installations of towers etc.

(ii)   About 9.74 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by TSPs since July, 2015 across the country. The number of BTS installed has been significantly increased from about 7.94 lakh in March, 2014 to about 20.07 lakh in November, 2018. Moreover, about 9.59 lakh 2G/3G Cells have been rectified/optimised by TSPs during July, 2016 to October, 2018.

(iii)   In order to obtain direct feedback from subscribers, DoT has launched an Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) wherein, around 2.15 crore subscribers have been individually contacted since December, 2016, out of which 30.1 lakh subscribers have participated in the survey. The feedback is shared with the TSPs every week for taking corrective actions.

(g)   As per TRAI Report for the quarter ending September, 2018, TSPs are mostly complying with benchmark for various parameters. The details of the non-compliance are given in enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Service Area-wise total number of consumer complaints received in TRAI against
Call Drop w.e.f. 01.01.2018 to 05.12.2018

Sl. No.	Service Area	Telecom Service Providers									Total
		Aircel	Airtel	BSNL	Idea	MTNL	TTSL	Telenor	Vodafone	Reliance Jio	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	27	2	2	1	0	0	3	2	37
2.	Assam	3	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
3.	Bihar	0	12	0	2	0	2	1	12	3	32
4.	Chennai	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	10
5.	Delhi	1	129	0	16	5	1	0	55	13	220
6.	Gujarat	0	21	6	2	0	1	0	31	6	67
7.	Haryana	0	10	0	6	0	0	0	5	2	23
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
10.	Karnataka	0	73	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	89
11.	Kerala	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	5	1	15
12.	Kolkata	0	16	0	2	0	1	0	24	4	47
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	18	1	12	0	0	0	1	10	42
14.	Maharashtra	0	41	2	27	0	1	0	27	3	101
15.	Mumbai	0	47	0	9	11	0	0	88	8	163
16.	North East	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
17.	Odisa	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8
18.	Punjab	0	17	0	4	0	1	0	3	4	29
19.	Rajasthan	0	24	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	29
20.	Tamil Nadu	1	30	0	1	0	0	0	7	7	46
21.	UP-West	0	17	2	4	0	0	0	1	6	30
22.	UP-East	2	20	1	3	0	0	1	6	6	39
23.	West Bengal	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	28
	Total	7	543	16	95	17	7	2	290	96	1073

Statement-II

Service Area-wise total number of consumer complaints received in Public Grievances Cell, DoT against Call drop/improper Network coverage w.e.f. 01.01.2018 to 05.12.2018

Sl.No.	State Name	Count of grievances
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
4.	Assam	27
5.	Bihar	68
6.	Chandigarh	7
7.	Chhattisgarh	28
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0
10.	Delhi	179
11.	Goa	1
12.	Gujarat	54
13.	Haryana	88
14.	Himachal Pradesh	8
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	13
16.	Jharkhand	29
17.	Karnataka	130
18.	Kerala	28
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	18
21.	Maharashtra	165
22.	Manipur	0
23.	Meghalaya	2
24.	Mizoram	1
25.	Nagaland	0
26.	Odisha	70
27.	Puducherry	1

Sl.No.	State Name	Count of grievances
28.	Punjab	37
29.	Rajasthan	87
30.	Sikkim	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	60
32.	Telangana	28
33.	Tripura	2
34.	Uttar Pradesh	280
35.	Uttarakhand	25
36.	West Bengal	106

TSP-wise total number of consumer complaints received in Public Grievances Cell, DoT against Call drop/improper Network coverage w.e.f. 01.01.2018 to 05.12.2018

Sl.No.	State Name	Count of grievances
1.	Bharti Airtel	482
2.	BSNL	312
3.	Idea	118
4.	Reliance Jio	398
5.	Tata Tele	13
6.	Vodafone	203
7.	MTNL	49

Statement-III

Service Provider-wise analysis of non-compliance against identified parameters related to Network Performance for quarter ending in September, 2018

Telecom Service Provider	Parameter	Bench-mark	License Service Area	Performance
1	2	3	4	5
BSNL	Network QoS DCR Spatial Distribution Measure [Network_QSD (90,90)]	≤ 2%	West Bengal	3.09
	Network QoS DCR Temporal Distribution Measure [Network_QTD (97,90)]	≤ 3%	West Bengal	3.67
	Point of Interconnection (POI) Congestion (No. of POIs not meeting the benchmark) (Averaged over a period of quarter)	≤ 0.5%	Rajasthan	1
Idea	TCH, RAB and E-RAB Congestion (% age)	≤ 2%	Madhya Pradesh	2.22
			UP-West	2.51
	Network QoS DCR Spatial Distribution Measure [Network_QSD(90,90)]	≤ 2%	Assam	2.16
			Himachal Pradesh	2.24
			Jammu and Kashmir	2.16
			North East	2.22
	Network QoS DCR Temporal Distribution Measure [Network_QTD(97,90)]	≤ 3%	Assam	3.51
			North East	3.39
			North East	61.64
			Rajasthan	99.97
R Jio	Point of Interconnection (POI) Congestion (No. of POIs not meeting the benchmark) (Averaged over a period of quarter)	≤ 0.5%	Rajasthan	1

1	2	3	4	5
Vodafone	Call Set-up Success Rate and Session Establishment Success Rate for Circuit Switched Voice or VoLTE as applicable (within licensee's own network)	≥ 95%	UP-West	94.97
	TCH, RAB and E-RAB Congestion (% age)	≤ 2%	UP-East	3.04
			UP-West	5.00

Allotment of 4G Spectrum

238. SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is true that the Government is considering to allot 4G spectrum to BSNL and MTNL;

(b)   whether it is also true that BSNL has already submitted a detailed project report to the Government seeking 4G spectrum allocation, if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is also true that survival of both BSNL and MTNL without 4G spectrum is tough;

(d)   whether it is also true that the Government is working on a strategy to settle issues that have emerged due to some decisions of the apex court; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Proposals for allotment of spectrum for providing 4G services by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) with Government support have been received in Department of Telecommunications (DoT). BSNL has already started 4G services in a few Licensed Service Areas (LSAs). However, keeping in view of the data driven telecom scenario where around 85% of the data usage is through 4G services, BSNL and MTNL have submitted proposal to allot spectrum for providing 4G services to remain competitive in the Telecom market.

(d) and (e) DoT decides the issues keeping in view the relevant criteria in this regard, including the decision of the Apex Court.

Meeting with Telecom Operators

239. DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the Government held discussions with telecom operators on worsening call drop situation in the month of November, 2018 and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether it is also true that a similar meeting was held in the month of January, 2018 on the same issue and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is also true that the operators had informed the Government that they will be investing more than Rs. 74,000 crore in financial year 2019 on networks including telecom towers and base transreceiver station; and

(d)   if so, the steps taken by the private operators in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has been interacting with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and reviewing the progress of their action-plans for addressing call drops in their mobile networks on a continuous basis. DoT has recently interacted with concerned TSPs in October, 2018 to lay emphasis on developing technological solutions by TSPs to monitor & address call drops in their mobile networks.

(b)   Yes, DoT has earlier interacted with TSPs in January, 2018 for an interactive review on call-drop issue and action-plans thereof. TSPs were asked to take effective steps to resolve problems of call-drops in a time-bound manner.

(c) and (d) TSPs have informed DoT that they have planned to invest more than Rupees 74,000/- crore for telecom networks during the financial year 2018-19. TSPs have been making substantial investments in telecom networks. As a result thereof, about 9.74 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by TSPs since July, 2015 across the country. The number of BTS installed have been significantly increased from about 7.94 lakh in March, 2014 to about 20.07 lakh in November, 2018.

TSPs have also informed DoT that they have been continuously augmenting the mobile networks across the country to keep-up with increasing usage of mobile networks both for voice & data services. Further, they have started implementing latest technical solutions & tool-sets such as Geo-location Analysis, Self Organising Networks (S.O.N.), Remote Electrical Antenna Tilt (RET) etc. for monitoring and addressing the identified issues in near real-time.

Educational Scholarship Scheme

240. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is implementing any educational scholarship schemes exclusively for the Christian students across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated for the last three years, scheme-wise; and

(c) the total number of the Christian students benefited out of this scholarship scheme for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Minority Affairs implements three Scholarship Schemes *viz.* Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for educational empowerment of six notified minority communities including Christian community across the country. There is no State/UT-wise and community-wise financial allocation under these Scholarship Schemes.

Physical targets are allocated amongst the six notified minority communities based on their percentage of population in the State and country. Number of eligible students who had applied amongst Christian community under the above mentioned Scholarship Schemes during the last three years, State-wise and Scheme-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State/UT-wise and year-wise number of students from Christian community benefited under the Scholarship Schemes during the last three years

Sl.No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7928	6363	7243
2.	Telangana	7640	5462	6004
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam	707	678	2305
5.	Bihar	159	64	314
6.	Chhattisgarh	1239	678	570
7.	Goa	1814	1252	0
8.	Gujarat	2027	955	906
9.	Haryana	5	18	98
10.	Himachal Pradesh	28	16	13
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	145	138
12.	Jharkhand	5410	3284	6783
13.	Karnataka	32980	37928	30157
14.	Kerala	203914	222071	225080
15.	Madhya Pradesh	264	387	489
16.	Maharashtra	4238	3781	3936
17.	Manipur	1269	2047	4105
18.	Meghalaya	863	6572	4263
19.	Mizoram	50233	47112	29471
20.	Nagaland	33932	16481	22925
21.	Odisha	129	2936	1263
22.	Punjab	11339	4198	4720
23.	Rajasthan	159	91	117
24.	Sikkim	341	433	135
25.	Tamil Nadu	201917	182965	164363
26.	Tripura	45	0	419

Sl.No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
27.	Uttar Pradesh	238	1153	1103
28.	Uttarakhand	84	130	172
29.	West Bengal	13998	13577	22018
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	3	0
31.	Chandigarh	91	98	107
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	3	3
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
34.	Delhi	1	0	46
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	536	566	581
	Total	583530	561447	539847

Post-matric Scholarship Scheme

Sl.No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	298	472	902
2.	Telangana	622	549	592
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam	1667	781	1369
5.	Bihar	145	168	153
6.	Chhattisgarh	302	242	236
7.	Goa	123	193	0
8.	Gujarat	674	545	668
9.	Haryana	15	9	33
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4	9	16
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	20	52	62
12.	Jharkhand	951	1215	1566
13.	Karnataka	5916	6990	4699
14.	Kerala	21614	26495	25129
15.	Madhya Pradesh	181	177	251
16.	Maharashtra	1301	1413	1418
17.	Manipur	2040	2127	2595
18.	Meghalaya	4192	4619	5715
19.	Mizoram	559	1286	1099
20.	Nagaland	758	3568	5402
21.	Odisha	159	336	388

Sl.No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
22.	Punjab	746	1011	947
23.	Rajasthan	139	120	115
24.	Sikkim	100	133	16
25.	Tamil Nadu	21274	22156	18198
26.	Tripura	172	87	155
27.	Uttar Pradesh	386	187	142
28.	Uttarakhand	33	38	55
29.	West Bengal	1578	1897	1654
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1	0
31.	Chandigarh	11	20	10
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	8	3
33.	Daman and Diu	3	1	0
34.	Delhi	10	2	49
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	64	112	177
	Total	66061	77019	73814

Merit-cim-Means based scholarship Scheme

Sl.No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	69	134	247
2.	Telangana	131	122	198
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam	228	192	230
5.	Bihar	21	33	40
6.	Chhattisgarh	99	113	73
7.	Goa	116	72	0
8.	Gujarat	181	154	150
9.	Haryana	9	10	14
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	3	8
12.	Jharkhand	62	99	116
13.	Karnataka	1845	1564	1351
14.	Kerala	11135	9742	8952
15.	Madhya Pradesh	68	67	62
16.	Maharashtra	513	334	296

Sl.No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
17.	Manipur	259	240	189
18.	Meghalaya	1021	1106	1116
19.	Mizoram	89	244	300
20.	Nagaland	1268	1251	1213
21.	Odisha	41	65	102
22.	Punjab	69	98	102
23.	Rajasthan	24	33	28
24.	Sikkim	16	19	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	2619	2609	2906
26.	Tripura	30	44	20
27.	Uttar Pradesh	66	79	39
28.	Uttarakhand	10	8	5
29.	West Bengal	156	148	110
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	2	1	1
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
34.	Delhi	16	8	12
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	25	19	17
	Total	20196	18613	17899

* Provisional data (as on 30.11.2018). Disbursement of Scholarships for the year 2017-18 is still going on in 2018-19.

Mobile Towers

241. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that thousands of mobile towers are being added every year in the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof along with the number of mobile towers added during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c)   whether any regulatory mechanism is in place to check on the telecom companies in selecting the locations for their mobile towers so as to minimize the mobile radiations especially in residential areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) During the last three years, aggregate number of mobile towers has increased from about 4.21 lakh to 5.06 lakh, due to the addition of approximately 85,000 mobile towers across the country. It includes different types of tower structures including ground-based towers/poles, roof-top based towers/poles, Cell-On-Wheels (CoW) etc.

As telecom licenses for mobile services are specific to License Service Area (LSA), the number of mobile towers added in each LSA since February, 2017 is mentioned in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has adopted the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines, as recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO), to limit Electro-Magnetic Field (EMF) radiations from mobile towers within safety limits. Since 2011, these norms for exposure limits have been made more stringent and reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits, prescribed by ICNIRP. Keeping the precautionary EMF safe limits at this level eliminates the need for fixing lower limits for specific areas like schools, hospitals, residential premises etc.

As per extant terms & conditions, each licensee is mandated to conduct audit and provide self-certificate in each case, after every two years, for compliance of limits/ levels prescribed. This is subject to further technical audit by field units of DoT. Moreover, any person can request for EMF emission measurement at a location by paying a nominal fee of Rs. 4000/- online. DoT field offices carry-out such testing, as requested, and provide the test-report.

Besides, DoT has also mandated Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) to be below ICNIRP's prescribed values so that the exposure from mobile handsets remains well within safety limits. All mobile handsets manufactured in the country or imported from abroad are required to be compliant to mandated SAR value.

Statement

Mobile Towers, License Service Area-wise

Sl. No.	License Service Area	Tower-count February, 2017	Tower-count February, 2018	Tower-count December, 2018	Additions since February, 2017
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33,988	35,804	39,680	5,692
2.	Assam	9,984	10,415	11,444	1,460
3.	Bihar	29,399	31,921	36,147	6,748
4.	Delhi	18,559	21,023	24,096	5,537
5.	Gujarat	25,587	26,593	29,275	3,688
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4,955	5,049	6,048	1,093
7.	Haryana	9,685	10,154	11,782	2,097
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	7,559	8,050	9,037	1,478
9.	Karnataka	28,072	28,085	32,503	4,431
10.	Kolkata	8,498	10,030	11,666	3,168
11.	Kerala	15,705	15,913	16,588	883
12.	Mumbai	14,189	14,751	14,944	755
13.	Maharashtra	35,701	36,045	38,242	2,541
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29,622	31,368	36,394	6,772
15.	North-East	6,211	6,635	7,185	974
16.	Odisha	14,854	15,636	16,719	1,865
17.	Punjab	17,334	18,390	19,628	2,294
18.	Rajasthan	23,654	24,668	27,691	4,037
19.	Tamil Nadu (inc Chennai)	38,843	38,573	40,379	1,536
20.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	29,718	29,910	30,693	975
21.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	22,839	24,107	26,358	3,519
22.	West Bengal	17,224	18,307	20,247	3,023
	Total	4,42,180	4,61,427	5,06,746	64,566

Bank Loan for Minority Communities

242. SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
    SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
    SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
    SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
    DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
    SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM:
    DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether some Nationalized banks are providing loans and advances exclusively for minority communities;

(b)   if so, the details of loans provided during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c)   whether the Government has identified minority concentration districts for this purpose;

(d)   if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(e)   whether the Government's attention is drawn to the difficulties faced by minority community in getting loans for business/enterprises and if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that nationalized banks extend credit to minority communities including other sections of the society. In addition, as per instructions received from the Government of India (GoI) to the RBI, all commercial banks have been advised to ensure smooth flow of bank credit to minority communities *via* RBI's Master Circular dated 02.07.2018 on credit facilities to minority communities. Details of loans thus provided, as available, are as under:–

Year (As on March)	Amount Outstanding (Rs. in crore)
2015	3,12,061.08
2016	3,36,708.92
2017	3,68,276.33
2018	3,52,734.44

The Master Circular also provides the list of 121 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) having at least 25% minority population, excluding the States/UTs where minorities are in majority *viz.* Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Punjab (Details of these MCDs are on the link *https://rbidocs.rbi.org. in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/08MCA2A057C4748247B9B4470 F8C8F5A1D92.PDF*).

Besides, National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Public Sector Unit under the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA), implements, *inter alia*, loan schemes for the socio-economic development of backward sections amongst the notified minorities through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the respective State/UT. These Schemes are (i) Term Loan, (ii) Educational Loan, (iii) Micro Finance and; (iv) Mahila Samriddhi Yojana.

The RBI has put in place a mechanism by which the disposal of loan applications of the beneficiaries is monitored and the information of the individual application is available to indicate whether the loan application has been accepted or rejected or pending.

As regards NMDFC, it has been stated that no reference has been received by it regarding difficulties being faced by the minority communities in getting loans for business/enterprises. However, the following steps have been introduced to strengthen the functioning of NMDFC for effective implementation of its schemes and to simplify the procedure for availing funds under the schemes of NMDFC:

(i)   Providing Grant-in-Aid assistance by MoMA for strengthening the infrastructure and operational capability of SCAs for effective implementation of schemes of NMDFC.

(ii)   Introduction of new Annual Family Income eligibility criterion of up to Rs. 6 lakh per annum for greater coverage of persons from the targeted minority communities.

(iii)   Quantum of loans under its Term Loan Scheme increased from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh while under Micro Finance Scheme, it has been increased from Rs. 50 thousand to Rs. 1.50 lakh per Self Help Group member. Under Education Loan Scheme, the quantum of loans has been increased from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh for domestic courses and from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh for courses abroad.

(iv)   Self Declaration/Self Certification/Self Attestation of documents in case of religion certificate, family income, residence proof, mark sheet, etc.

(v)   Insurance of beneficiary and their assets to safeguard against any untoward incident.

[Translation]

Internet Service in Gram Panchayats

243. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it has been planned to connect every gram panchayat of the country to the internet service;

(b)   if so, the State-wise details including Rajasthan at present;

(c)   the time by which the Gram Panchayats will be connected with internet;

(d)   whether it is true that internet work is not done smoothly in Gram Panchayats connected with internet;

(e)   whether the Government has prepared any work plan for its monitoring; and

(f)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) BharatNet project, to connect by broadband all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country, including Rajasthan is being implemented in a phased manner. Details are enclosed as Statement. As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband/internet services, is being implemented at all the GPs in the country. The Wi-Fi network under the project is to provide internet services to average 3 Government Institutions at GP level such as Police Station, Post Office, School, Hospital and through two other Access Points (APs). In all, on an average, 5 Wi-Fi APs are planned for each GP. In Rajasthan, Wi-Fi Services at all the 10,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats will be provided through Government of Rajasthan/RISL (a PSU of State Government).

(c)   BharatNet is planned to be completed by March, 2019.

(d)   No, Madam

(e) and (f) The following monitoring mechanism is in place to monitor the project:

a.   Empowered Committee, headed by Secretary, Department of Telecom.

b.   Steering Committee, headed by Administrator, USOF

Statement

Status of State/UT-wise GPs where broadband connectivity is provided

Sl.No.	State/UT	GPs where Optical Fiber Cable laid and equipment installed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1160
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	43
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
4.	Assam	1589
5.	Bihar	5865
6.	Chandigarh	13
7.	Chhattisgarh	4052
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	21
9.	Daman and Diu	17
10.	Gujarat	5113
11.	Haryana	6186
12.	Himachal Pradesh	226
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	257
14.	Jharkhand	2302
15.	Karnataka	6110
16.	Kerala	1129
17.	Madhya Pradesh	12689
18.	Maharashtra	15126
19.	Manipur	248
20.	Meghalaya	122
21.	Mizoram	19
22.	Nagaland	86
23.	Odisha	3470
24.	Puducherry	101
25.	Punjab	7903
26.	Rajasthan	8447
27.	Sikkim	14
28.	Telangana	2047
29.	Tripura	527
30.	Uttar Pradesh	27940
31.	Uttarakhand	1508
32.	West Bengal	2081
	Total	116411

Derailments/Accident

244. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents/derailments occurred including accidents on tracks that took place during the last three years and the current year along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the loss of life and property caused therein;

(c) whether the Railways is planning to construct boundary walls to prevent encroachment, movement of cattle and trespassing;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the routes identified therefor along with the target fixed for construction of walls and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the manner in which the funds are mobilized for construction of walls and the other steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such train accidents/incidents on tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Details of type-wise number of consequential train accidents that took place during the last three years and in the current year upto 30th November, 2018 and number of persons killed/injured therein are as under:–

Type of Accidents	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			2018-19 (Upto 30.11.2018)		
	Number of accidents	Killed	Injured	Number of accidents	Killed	Injured	Number of accidents	Killed	Injured	Number of accidents	Killed	Injured
Collision	3	1	12	5	5	28	3	0	0	0	0	0
Derailments	65	36	99	78	193	322	54	28	174	35	7	39
Manned Level Crossings	6	12	10	0	0	0	3	3	9	3	4	13
Unmanned Level Crossings	29	58	41	20	40	19	10	26	12	3	16	7
Fire	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	2	1	1
Misc.	4	15	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	107	122	187	104	238	369	73	57	197	44	29	62

Causes-wise details of consequential train accidents that took place during the last three years and in the current year upto 30th November, 2018 are as under:–

Broad Causes	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (upto 30.11.18)
1	2	3	4	5
Failure of Railway staff	55	63	43	28
Failure of other than Railway staff	38	23	18	07
Failure of equipment	02	03	03	00
Sabotage	01	02	02	00
Combination of factors	01	03	02	00
Incidental	09	07	05	05
Could not established/Non Held	01	00	00	00

1	2	3	4	5
Under Investigation	00	03	00	04
Grand Total	107	104	73	44

Loss to Railway Property occurred during the last three years and in the current year upto 30th November, 2018 is as under:–

2015-16	Rs. 45.24 cr
2016-17	Rs. 62.29 cr*
2017-18	Rs. 51.59 cr*
2018-19 (upto 30.11.18)	Rs. 13.52 cr*

*Provisional.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. Two work costing Rs. 650 cr. chargeable to Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) were included in the budget 2018-2019. The allocation during 2018-19 is Rs. 200 cr.

The zonal railways worked out detail of vulnerable location on Golden Quadrilateral/Diagonals/High density routes for encroachment/trespassing/cattle crossing (about 2000 Km).

Based on this and quantum of work sanctioned zonal railways were advised distribution of cost of work and outlay during 2018-19 on 16.07.2018. Tender for the work already sanctioned (Rs. 650 crore) have been floated. Hon'ble Minister of Railways instructed on 24.10.2018 for construction of 3000 Km Boundary/compound wall. For this work costing Rs. 2500 cr has been approved by Hon'ble Minister of Railways for inclusion in supplementary budget.

E-Migrate Registration

245. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made e-Migrate registration mandatory for Indian expatriates in ECR countries from January, 2019;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of expatriates registered so far, country-wise;

(d) whether the Indian missions concerned in those countries have taken steps to help the expatriates and address their concerns; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) The system in vogue is continuing. Only ECR passport holders are required to register in the e-Migrate while going to ECR countries for employment for taking emigration clearance.

(b) and (c) The details of number of persons registered in the e-Migrate system during the current year given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Whenever our Missions receive complaints from the workers, their cases are immediately addressed. In case the Overseas Employer and the Recruiting Agent are registered in the e-Migrate system, both are contacted to do the needful. In extreme cases, even if the problems are not solved on account of laxity on the part of Recruiting Agent, the agent's license is suspended or revoked according to the laid down rules. In case of Overseas Employer, there is provision of blacklisting.

Statement

State-wise number of ECR passport holder Indian emigrants registered in e-Migrate system during the current year 2018.

State-wise EC count from 1st Jan, 2018 to 30th Nov, 2018

State	EC Count
Mizoram	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
Meghalaya	5
Nagaland	5
Manipur	10
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12
Sikkim	13
Daman and Diu	24
Chandigarh	95

State	EC Count
Chhattisgarh	102
Puducherry	274
Himachal Pradesh	351
Goa	578
Madhya Pradesh	889
Delhi	1014
Tripura	1084
Haryana	1279
Assam	1508
Uttarakhand	1903
Jammu and Kashmir	2448
Gujarat	2903
Jharkhand	3418
Karnataka	3881
Maharashtra	6535
Odisha	9183
Telangana	11914
Kerala	12957
Andhra Pradesh	13925
Punjab	18311
West Bengal	26508
Rajasthan	28331
Tamil Nadu	28972
Bihar	55050
Uttar Pradesh	78793
Total	312279

[Translation]

Hindu Marriage Act

246. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is considering to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and Special Marriage Act, 1954;

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

(c)   the details of various Acts and Laws regarding disposal of matters related to divorce/null marriages in the country;

(d)   the number of divorce cases filed/disposed of, court-wise by various courts in the country including those of Chhattisgarh during each of the last three years;

(e)   the procedure followed by the Government to dispose of the divorce cases in a time-bound manner;

(f)   whether any maximum time-limit is fixed for the disposal of divorce cases, if so, the details thereof; and

(g)   the other measures taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018, introduced in Lok Sabha on the 10th August, 2018, seeks to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 (4 of 1869), the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939 (8 of 1939), the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (43 of 1954), the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (25 of 1955) and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 (78 of 1956), so as to omit the provisions that are discriminatory to the leprosy affected persons contained therein. Notice is given for consideration and passing of the said Bill in the current session.

(c)   The following are various enactments under which the divorce cases are settled in the country:–

(i)   the Divorce Act, 1869 (4 of 1869);

(ii)   the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 (3 of 1936).

(iii)   the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939 (8 of 1939);

(iv)   the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (43 of 1954); and

(v)   the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (25 of 1955).

(d)   The Government does not maintain any data relating to divorce cases filed/disposed of by various courts in the country.

(e) and (f) The Family Courts Act, 1984 (66 of 1984) has been enacted to provide for the establishment of Family Courts with a view to promote conciliation in, and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters connected therewith. However, no time limit has been prescribed therein for disposal of cases.

(g) Section 3 of the Family Courts Act, 1984, provides for establishment of Family Courts. Clause (a) of said section, *inter alia*, mandates the State Governments to establish Family Courts for every area in the State comprising of a city or a town, whose population exceeds one million. Further, clause (b) of the said section, *inter alia*, provides for establishment of Family Courts for such other areas as it may deem necessary.

Mobile Train Radio Communication

247. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains that use Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system on its complete routes;

(b) the details of the number of trains and routes that are yet to avail the MTRC system completely and/or partially; and

(c) the time by which all major train routes are going to use the MTRC system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 25 nos. of trains are using Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) on its complete routes.

(b) and (c) Long Term Evolution (LTE) based Telecommunication System is being planned for MTRC System over Indian Railways to cover all the trains. Accordingly, steps have been taken for Pan India allocation of 10 MHz frequency spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways.

Losses in MTNL

248. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
     DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
     SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
     DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
     SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government-owned telecom operator MTNL continues to post losses and has failed to provide required facilities to their customers, both landline and mobile users;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the loss suffered by the MTNL during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has classified MTNL as 'Incipient Sick Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE)';

(d) whether DPE has issued guidelines on how to deal with the revival and restructuring of incipient sick Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE);

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for the revival and restructuring of MTNL;

(f) the success achieved so far; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government for providing better services to MTNL customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is providing satisfactory telecom services in its license service areas of Delhi & Mumbai. MTNL is also meeting benchmarks of most of the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in respect of Landline/Broadband/Mobile services. The details of losses incurred by MTNL during the last three years are as under:–

Financial Year	Profit/(Loss) for the period (in Rs. crores)
2015-16	(2005.74)
2016-17	(2970.57)
2017-18	(2970.65)

One of the major reasons for losses of MTNL is huge legacy staff cost. Besides, the service revenue is declining due to intense competition resulting into cut throat tariffs, inability of MTNL to infuse Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)

to upgrade its network. All private telecom operators are offering 4G services leading to churn in mobile segment of MTNL. Due to this MTNL's revenue from operation has reduced.

(c) and (d) MTNL has been declared 'Incipient Sick' as per DPE Guidelines. DPE Guidelines have been issued *vide* DPE/5(1)2014-Fin.(Part-IX) dated 29.10.2015 for preparation of restructuring/revival plan.

(e) and (f) The "Revival Plan of MTNL" has been received by DoT. The summary of recommendations include focus on customer, defending current revenue and gaining additional revenue, Network CAPEX investment, Asset Monetization-Lease, Sale of real estate, buildings, Lease/sale of Tower, Fiber, Copper and active equipments, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), Debt restructuring and Synergy in operations of MTNL and BSNL etc.

(g) Steps taken by MTNL for providing better services to its customer is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Some of the salient initiatives of MTNL are as below:–

- **Expansion of GSM/3G RF network in Delhi:** MTNL is in the process of expansion of mobile network by adding 1080 nos. of 3G sites for upgrading Data handling capacity to 10 Gbps. Purchase Order for Rs. 295 cr. has been placed on 18.06.2016. Purchase Order for Rs. 48 cr has been placed for up gradation of existing 720 nos. of 3G Node-B for High Speed Packet Access (HSPA)+ capability.

- **3G Network Up-Gradation in Mumbai:** To improve network capabilities and provide better speed MTNL is upgrading the existing 3G network (720 Node-Bs) at a cost of Rs. 28 cr. Software Up-gradation for the existing Node-Bs has been implemented for HSPA+ and 324 Node B's have been integrated in IP for 21Mbps (Mega bytes per second) speed.

- **Microwave Backhaul Connectivity:** In Delhi, Purchase order for adding 800 new Hybrid Microwave hops at the total cost of Rs 19.36 cr and upgradation/replacement of 754 no.

of existing TDM Microwave hops to Hybrid Microwave hops of 400 Mbps capacity at the total cost of Rs. 18.75 has already been placed. In Mumbai, upgradation/replacement of 497 no. of existing TDM Microwave hops to Hybrid Microwave hops of 400 Mbps capacity are already placed for total cost of Rs. 11.54 cr.

- **Synergy with BSNL:** To enhance the synergy in between MTNL and BSNL in line to the MOU signed between these two companies, BSNL has been requested to take care of Billing of Leased Lines/Land Line/Broadband of MTNL. Work has been started already to make over Leased Circuit data for billing purpose. In addition, BSNL has also allowed MTNL to share its STP for Mobile network of MTNL Delhi and Mumbai.

- **Redeployment of DSLAMs (Digital Subscriber Line Asynchronous Mode) of existing Broadband Network:** MTNL has launched a special program to progressively increase the fibre length by redeploying the broadband nodes (DSLAMS) near to the subscriber premises in Delhi and Mumbai thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of broadband service. 186 DSLAMs in Delhi and approx. 164 in Mumbai have been redeployed thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of Broadband service. This has improved customer experience and reduced the number of complaints.

- **Fibre to the Home (FTTH):** MTNL has finalized and made operational its new policy to engage partners on revenue share basis to extend its FTTx services.

- **Provision of High Speed Internet on FTTH and Wi-Fi at the Hon'ble M.Ps residences:** The House Committee, Lok Sabha has assigned MTNL the work to provide high speed Broadband on FTTH and Wi-Fi services at the residences of Hon'ble MPs in Delhi. The project includes OFC laying, FTTH provisioning and Wi-Fi equipment installation at 790 residences of Hon'ble MPs in New Delhi and involved laying of 86 Km

of Optical Fiber Cable in 11 rings. MTNL has provided FTTH connections to 750 MPs in their residential accommodations in New Delhi. The Wi-Fi service has also been activated at 728 residences. The Project cost of about Rs. 43.2 crore is funded by DoT.

● **ATC project for Mumbai Traffic Police:** MTNL has extended bandwidth to ATC (Area Traffic Control) Project of Mumbai Traffic Police for Road Traffic Monitoring. 125 Locations of ATC were given OF and Copper Bandwidth. 8 Locations of ATC on Eastern Freeway were extended OFC bandwidth. 23 more locations are planned to be connected in ATC.

[Translation]

Digital Village

249. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI VIJAY KUAMR HANSDAK:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of villages in Jharkhand made digital at present, district-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for Jharkhand so far to digitise the said villages along with year-wise details in this regard for the last three years;

(c) the details of various facilities being provided in the said digital villages presently; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the impact on the development of villages as a result of the facilities provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 31st October, 2018 has launched the 'Digital Village Pilot Project' under which 700 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with atleast 1 Gram Panchayat per District per State/UT including 24 Gram Panchayats one each from each of the 24 districts in Jharkhand are being covered.

(b) Rs. 20 crores has been released to the implementing agency during the year towards implementation of the project out of a budget allocation of Rs. 69.965 cr from Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology with a total project outlay Rs. 98.324 crores over duration of 3 years for implementation.

(c) and (d) The project covers the following services- Digital Health Services (Tele-Health & Tele-Veterinary consultation), Education Service, Financial Services, Skill Development, Solar panel powered street lights including Government to Citizens Services (G2C), Business to Citizen (B2C) Services. The implementation of the pilot project is being closely monitored for impacting the development of villages.

[English]

VVPAT

250. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising incidence of failure of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) have become a major area of concern for Election Commission of India (ECI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the reasons for such rising failures in VVPAT's and if so, the details of remedial action taken by the Government in this direction; and

(d) whether the Government would extend all possible assistance to the Election Commission to substantially increase its reserve of the machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No Madam. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that incidents of VVPAT failure during polls have shown a marked decline.

(c) The ECI has informed that there is a constant endeavor on the part of the Commission (and the Technical Experts Committee (TEC), which comprises of independent eminent domain experts), to improve the functioning of various sensors for optimal performance, based on field

experience. Root cause Analysis of non-functioning noticed in EVM/VVPAT during various stages of their preparation/ operation, including during actual polls, have been carried out and necessary modifications and improvements have been done to make the machines more efficient and robust across different environmental and weather conditions. Intensive trainings are being given to the election officials to prevent VVPAT failures due to human errors. In addition, adequate replacement reserves are being provided to replace any EVMs and VVPATs that would go out of operation on the polling day.

(d)   All requests from the ECI for additional requirements of VVPAT units are acceded to after following the procedure laid down in this regard.

PMGDISHA

251. SHRI KONAKALLA NARAYANA RAO:
    SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the Government has recently launched PM Grameen Digital Sakshrata Abhiyan;

(b)   if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   the aims and objectives of the mission and the funds being allocated under this abhiyan to each State in the present financial year, particularly to the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved a Scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" in February, 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) in the age group of 14-60 years at a total outlay Rs. 2,351.38 crore (approx.).

The Scheme is implemented through an implementing agency namely CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC-SPV), with active collaboration of all the State Governments and UT Administrations. To ensure equitable geographical reach, the Scheme envisages to register an average of 200-300 candidates in each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country. Each beneficiary is provided with digital literacy training of 20 Hours covering 5 modules. The total expenditure per candidate comes out to Rs. 391.90/- which includes training fee, certification fee and programme management/operational expenses, etc.

So far, an amount of Rs. 500 crore (including Rs. 400 crore in the present financial year) has been allocated by the Government of India for implementation of the Scheme. A total of around 1.60 crore candidates have been trained so far out of which more than 85.97 lakh candidates have been duly certified.

As the above Scheme is funded as a Central Sector Scheme, hence, funds are not allocated to States and UTs. The State/UT-wise details of fund requirements based on targets for certified candidates, number of candidates registered, trained and certified so far is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

The State/UT-wise details of fund requirements based on targets for certified candidates, number of candidates registered, trained and certified so far under PMGDISHA Scheme

(As on 07.12.2018)

Sl.No.	State	Targets (no. of candidates)	Overall fund requirement for meeting the targets (Rs. in crore)	Achievement Status (no. of candidates) Registered	Trained	Certified
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18000	0.71	167	116	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2028000	79.48	455029	430501	195782
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	77000	3.02	1666	1621	317
4.	Assam	1929000	75.6	678511	660467	115305
5.	Bihar	6630000	259.83	1166927	1134536	643406
6.	Chandigarh	2000	0.08	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	1412000	55.33	944369	909522	520404
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13000	0.51	1	1	0
9.	Daman and Diu	4000	0.15	330	317	33
10.	Delhi	30000	1.17	0	0	0
11.	Goa	40000	1.57	11	11	0
12.	Gujarat	2497000	97.86	956276	936897	561363
13.	Haryana	1191000	46.67	891874	865176	518048
14.	Himachal Pradesh	444000	17.39	104918	102130	43761
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	658000	25.79	212996	212134	122649
16.	Jharkhand	1803000	70.66	1118984	1106199	598247
17.	Karnataka	2705000	106.01	371215	357601	196317
18.	Kerala	1257000	49.26	16715	16320	6203
19.	Lakshadweep	1000	0.04	6	6	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3784000	148.29	1072029	1037768	556597
21.	Maharashtra	4433000	173.73	811223	785396	427559
22.	Manipur	137000	5.37	7395	7339	2236
23.	Meghalaya	171000	6.7	20930	19229	329
24.	Mizoram	38000	1.49	4768	4760	2325
25.	Nagaland	101000	3.96	2023	1962	1050
26.	Odisha	2517000	98.64	1054859	1033450	571662
27.	Puducherry	28000	1.1	8831	8653	3791
28.	Punjab	1247000	48.87	538290	511727	319563
29.	Rajasthan	3712000	145.47	947416	917311	483318
30.	Sikkim	33000	1.29	40	40	3
31.	Tamil Nadu	2679000	104.99	453885	445105	254002
32.	Telangana	2028000	79.48	316217	311795	175467
33.	Tripura	195000	7.64	53483	50633	25475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34.	Uttarakhand	506000	19.83	220435	213296	127659
35.	Uttar Pradesh	11171000	437.79	3638480	3518498	1910513
36.	West Bengal	4481000	175.61	424075	418329	214100
	Total	60000000	Rs. 2,351.38	16494374	16018846	8597484

[Translation]

Festival Special Trains

252. SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:
   SHRI BHARAT SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the special trains on festivals and special occasions, the Railways is charging the fare equivalent to tatkal ticket, which is putting extra burden on passengers; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which the extra burden is likely to be on the passengers because of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The following types of special trains are introduced to clear extra rush during peak demand periods:–

Type of special trains	Fare
(i). Fully unreserved (second class) train	(i). Normal second class Mail/Express fare for unreserved second class
(ii). Special trains with mixed composition/fully reserved.	(ii). (a) Second class (unreserved): Normal second class Mail/Express fare for unreserved second class.
	(b) Second class (reserved): 10% higher than the normal Mail/Express fare for second class.
	(c) Other classes: 30% higher than the normal Mail/Express fare of the particular class.
(iii). Suvidha Special	(iii). (a) Unreserved second class: Normal superfast Mail/Express fares.
	(b) Reserved Class: Minimum fare is Tatkal fare for initial 20% of the berths and thereafter the fare increases for subsequent slabs of 20% of seats/berths booked subject to maximum three times of the Tatkal fare.

From above it may be seen that no increase in fare for second class (unreserved). However for other classes higher fares have been fixed in view of investments for the coaches, empty running of certain rakes/locos from one location to another, arrangements of spare Guard/loco pilots, special arrangements for stabling/maintenance of the rakes and in certain cases unidirectional demand pattern etc.

[English]

Integrated Legal Division

253. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:
   SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government seeks to create an integrated legal division;

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

(c) the details of the clubbing of Ministries in the proposed plan and the reasons for clubbing Ministries in the said manner; and

(d) the challenges that might arise in the implementation of the proposed plan and the steps being taken to remedy the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A proposal has been prepared to set up Integrated Legal Divisions (ILD). As part of the ILD Scheme, appropriate Officers will work in Ministries/Departments and clusters thereof, to facilitate the Ministries/Departments on the issues which are generally referred by them to the Ministry of Law and Justice for legal opinion, vetting etc.

(c)   The ILD Scheme envisages clustering of Ministries/Departments based upon their geographical location and work load for deployment of ILS officers and legal support staff. The deployment will be as per the size and requirements of the Ministries/Departments concerned which have been clustered intomajor and minor groups-major groups being headed by an officer of the level of Joint Secretary and minor groups by an officer of the level of Director.

(d)   No major challenges are foreseen in this regard except routine administrative issues that can be taken care of adequately in due course on their merits.

[Translation]

Contractual Appointment of Judges

254. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is formulating any scheme to appoint judges on contract to speed up the process of providing justice in the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government proposes to take the services of retired judges in order to settle the pending cases;

(d)   if so, the details of the schemes prepared by the Government in this regard; and

(e)   the time by which the said schemes are likely to be implemented in all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Madam.

(b)   Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The appointment of retired Judges as sitting Judges of the High Courts and their allowances is provided under Article 224-A of the Constitution. Article 128 mentions the provision of attendance of retired Judges at sittings of Supreme Court and their allowances. The process of appointment of retired Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are prescribed in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for Appointment of Judges of the High Courts, respectively. Time line of appointment is also prescribed in the MoP. The subject matter relating to filling up of vacancies in the District and Subordinate Courts falls with the domain of the High Courts and the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has no role in appointment of Subordinate Judiciary.

[English]

Conference of Minority Community

255. SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether any conference is held at National/State level with the representative groups of minority communities with a view to elicit their view points on the emerging needs of their communities;

(b)   if so, whether any such interaction is in place for holding discussions with them periodically;

(c)   if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (d) With a view to enhance opportunities for education; ensure an equitable share for minorities in economic activities & employment through existing and new schemes; enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented various schemes/initiatives for the welfare of the six notified minority communities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis. In order to review the performance of these schemes and make it more effective, discussions are held with the stakeholders

on a continuous basis. Ministry of Minority Affairs has initiated coordination, cooperation and communication by holding of various Conferences/Meetings at the National/ State level with the various stakeholders. During the current year, following events have been held wherein schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs were discussed:–

(i)   Zonal Co-ordination Meeting at Lucknow on 18.01.2018.

(ii) National Conference on 16.07.2018 at New Delhi.

(iii) Zonal Conference Meeting held at Guwahati on 4th & 5th October, 2018.

In order to directly reach out to the public, especially minority communities, 'Progress Panchayats' are also organized periodically at various places in the country to establish direct communication with deprived sections of the society, particularly minorities, and generate awareness about Government's welfare and empowerment schemes for them. Various meetings with representatives of six notified minority communities and Anglo Indian Community were held from time to time.

Under Social Safeguard component of Nai Manzil Scheme of this Ministry, eight State Level Consultation Meetings were held in March, 2018, in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Manipur & Gujarat for the development of Indigenous People's Policy Framework (IPPF). The representatives from Minority Communities, State Social Welfare, Tribal Affairs & Other Govt. Departments participated in these meetings. The aim was to get feedback and to communicate & spread the message to the tribal communities and other vulnerable groups (like the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) who may be from minority communities so that they also benefit from the scheme. It was one time activity to create awareness & sensitize the community about the Nai Manzil Scheme.

National Commission for Minorities

256. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether a review of implementation of Central schemes by National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has

revealed that of the 44 districts with significant minority population in Uttar Pradesh, nearly 10 have not send any proposal till October this year under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram;

(b)   if so, the details thereof along with names of such districts and reasons put forward by them;

(c)   whether NCM is also reviewing the implementation of such schemes in other States also; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that States follow the development schemes in minority concentrated districts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), about 108 districts were covered. The Scheme was restructured this year as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram covering 308 districts including cluster of villages in 32 States/UTs. In light of restructuring of the scheme, the States/UTs have been requested to send project proposals for consideration of the Empowered Committee of the Ministry headed by Secretary, Minority Affairs. As far as State of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the number of Minority Concentrated Areas (MCAs) have been increased after restructuring of the scheme from 162 to 249. National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has reported that project proposals from 10 districts of Uttar Pradesh were being formulated by the State as per the recently restructured scheme.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Minority Affairs reviews its schemes and programmes from time to time. In so far as implementation of PMJVK in minority concentration districts is concerned, there are sufficient provisions under the scheme. Projects are conceived, formulated, considered and examined by the Block Level Committee (BLC), District Level Committee (DLC) and State Level Committee (SLC). The recommendations of SLC are sent to the Empowered Committee in the Ministry for approval. These committees monitor the implementation of the schemes in the States. Implementation of the scheme is also monitored by the National/Regional/State Level Conferences and Meetings and also through visits by the officers of the Ministry.

Black-Box Facility in Trains

257. SHRI GEORGE BAKER:
　　　SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)　whether the Government is planning to have black box facility in all/some of the trains running across the country;

(b)　if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be installed;

(c)　the details of the funds likely to be sanctioned for this along with the target likely to be set for this; and

(d)　whether the Government is also planning to add some more facilities including smart coaches in all of the trains running across the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Similar to Black Box, Indian Railway has started installing Loco Cab Audio Video Recording System (LCAVR)/Crew Voice/Video Recording System (CVVRS) in Diesel and Electric locomotives. This system provides invaluable data to investigators which will help them in understanding the sequence of events leading up to an accident and for identifying operational issues and human factors. 26 locomotives (23 Diesel and 3 Electric) have already been installed with LCAVRs/CVVRSs.

(c)　Rs. 100.40 crore has been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19 for acquisition of 3500 LCVRs/CVVRS.

(d)　One smart coach has been turned out from Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli in June, 2018. Further, such coaches for 5 rakes are being planned to be manufactured at Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli.

Convention Against Torture

258. SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)　the steps taken for torture prevention following the Law Commission's 273rd report;

(b)　the comments received from State Governments on Law Commission's 273rd report;

(c)　the steps taken towards ratification of Convention Against Torture after India accepted recommendation of 24 countries in the third Universal Periodic Review in 2017;

(d)　the status of the proposal to amend section 330 and 331 of the Indian Penal Code; and

(e)　the action taken in the case of G.N. Saibaba based on the statements made by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights defenders, Special Rapporteur on right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on 28 June, 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) To ratify the "United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment" 'The prevention of Torture Bill, 2010' was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26.04.2010 and passed by the Lok Sabha on 07.05.2010. when the bill was taken up for consideration in Rajya Sabha it was referred to the select committee which recommended certain additions and modifications in the Bill. However the Bill lapsed on dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha on 18th May, 2014.

2.　Thereafter a proposal was formulated to amend the existing sections 330 and 331 of the IPC to include 'torture' therein. This was forwarded to Law Commission of India, on 31.05.2017, seeking his comments on the adequacy and legislative intent of the proposed amendments. The Law Commission after examining this Ministry's draft formulation *vide* their D.O letter dated 30.10.2017 has submitted its 273rd report on implementation of "United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment" wherein they have recommended for a standalone legislation and to make consequential amendments in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Evidence Act, 1872. The Law Commission of India has also presented a draft bill titled "The prevention of Torture Bill, 2017".

3.　As the Criminal Laws are in the concurrent list, this report of the Law Commission along with the

draft Bill was circulated to all the State Governments/UTs on 28.02.2018. Till date comments of 4 States (Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh) & 2 UT (Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar) have been received wherein they agree with the recommendations given by the Law Commission. Rest of the State Governments/UTs have again been reminded on 27.11.2018 to furnish their views on the Law Commission's report. A decision in the matter can only be taken after the receipt of the comments/view of all the State Governments.

(e)   The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rollout of Wi-Fi Hotspots

259. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is true that Indian telecom industry will rollout one million Wi-fi hotspots in the country by December, 2019;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is also true that Bharat Wi-fi would be a country wide common inter operable platform for these million hotspots which would be owned and operated by telecom service providers, internet service providers and virtual network operators; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) and Virtual Network Operators Association of India (VNOAI) have submitted a joint proposal to Department of Telecommunications for providing seamless and interoperable Internet and Broadband Services through Public Wi-Fi Hotspots. These services are proposed to be provided through a common platform to be owned and operated by them. They have envisaged roll out of one million Wi-Fi Hotspots by September, 2019 under this platform.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rural Areas

260. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of post offices in the country at present along with the number of post offices located in villages and cities out of the same;

(b)   the State-wise number of post offices set up in villages, tehsil and at district level during the last three years;

(c)   the total budget allocated for the said purpose during the last three years;

(d)   the population based international norm for providing facility of post office and the rank held by India in this regard;

(e)   the details of facilities provided to public at post offices; and

(f)   the number of digitized post offices in the country along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Madam, the number of post offices in the country as on 31.03.2018, State and UT-wise in villages and cities, is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b)   The State-wise number of post offices set up in villages, tehsils and at district level under the Scheme "Rural Business & Access to Postal Network" during the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is enclosed as Statement-II.

(c)   The budget allocated for these post offices during the last three years is enclosed as Statement-III.

(d)   The Government is not aware of any established population based international norms for providing facility of post office.

(e)   An indicative list of various types of public facilities (products/services) available in the post offices is enclosed as Statement-IV.

(f)   1,28,767 Branch Post Offices and 25,585 Departmental Post Offices have been digitized/ computerized in the country as on 06.12.2018. The details of the same are enclosed as Statement-V and VI respectively.

Statement-I

State/UT-wise Number of Post Offices in villages (Rural areas) and cities (Urban areas)
of the country (as on 31.03.2018)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Post Offices in villages (Rural Areas)	No. of Post Offices in cities (Urban Areas)	Total No. of Post Offices
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9,707	783	10,490
2.	Assam	3,631	381	4,012
3.	Bihar	8,625	459	9,084
4.	Chhattisgarh	2,898	289	3,187
5.	Delhi (NCT)	83	471	554
6.	Gujarat	8,116	776	8,892
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	37	1	38
8.	Daman and Diu	14	4	18
9.	Haryana	2,318	375	2,693
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2,661	131	2,792
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,508	191	1,699
12.	Jharkhand	3,190	270	3,460
13.	Karnataka	8,624	1,039	9,663
14.	Kerala	4,177	877	5,054
15.	Lakshadweep	4	6	10
16.	Madhya Pradesh	7,473	807	8,280
17.	Maharashtra	11,381	1,233	12,614
18.	Goa	203	53	256
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	273	29	302
20.	Manipur	644	57	701
21.	Meghalaya	465	26	491
22.	Mizoram	349	35	384
23.	Nagaland	302	28	330
24.	Tripura	633	78	711
25.	Odisha	7,615	600	8,215
26.	Punjab	3,408	411	3,819
27.	Chandigarh	9	42	51
28.	Rajasthan	9,679	632	10,311

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Tamil Nadu	10,226	1,817	12,043
30.	Puducherry	57	38	95
31.	Telangana	5,280	531	5,811
32.	Uttarakhand	2,513	210	2,723
33.	Uttar Pradesh	15,747	1,924	17,671
34.	West Bengal	7,658	1,110	8,768
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	85	15	100
36.	Sikkim	197	12	209
	Total	1,39,790	15,741	1,55,531

Statement-II

Number of Post Offices set up in villages, tehsils and district level under the Scheme "Rural Business & Access to Postal Network" during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Branch Post Offices (BOs) and Sub Post Offices (SOs) set up in villages, tehsils and district level during 2015-16	Number of Branch Post Offices (BOs) and Sub Post Offices (SOs) set up in villages, tehsils and district level during 2016-17	Number of Branch Post Offices (BOs) and Sub Post Offices (SOs) set up in villages, tehsils and district level during 2017-18
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	8	15
2.	Assam	7	0	3
3.	Bihar	16	9	10
4.	Chhattisgarh	13	9	27
5.	Delhi NCT	4	2	1
6.	Gujarat (including UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu)	6	6	28
7.	Haryana	10	8	7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	3	6
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	2	2
10.	Jharkhand	10	11	28
11.	Karnataka	5	9	7
12.	Kerala (including UT of Lakshadweep)	4	2	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6	8	11
14.	Maharashtra (Including Goa State)	10	10	21

1	2	3	4	5
15.	North East (including Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh States)	14	8	2
16.	Odisha	10	11	13
17.	Punjab (including UT of Chandigarh)	2	7	9
18.	Rajasthan	10	7	16
19.	Tamil Nadu (including UT of Puducherry)	12	8	9
20.	Telangana	4	5	14
21.	Uttarakhand	4	4	5
22.	Uttar Pradesh	6	11	16
23.	West Bengal (including UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Sikkim State)	3	5	9
	Total	168	153	260

Statement-III

The budget allocated for opening of Branch Post Offices (BOs) and Sub Post Offices (SOs) during the last three financial years i.e. 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18

(Rs. in crores)

Sub Scheme	Budget allocated during 2015-16	Budget allocated during 2016-17	Budget allocated during 2017-18
Rural Business & Access to Postal Network	1.62	1.00	3.16

Statement-IV

An Indicative list of various facilities (Products/ Services) available in Post Offices

1.   Traditional Mail:

- Post Card
- Inland Letter Card
- Book Post
- Envelopes
- Business Reply Service

- Parcels
- Add on features-Registration, cash on delivery, VPP & Insurance

2.   Premium Products:

- Speed Post
- Business Post
- Express Parcel Post
- Logistic Post

3.   E-enabled services:

- e-Post
- E-Bill Post

4.   Money Transfer:

- Electronic Money Order (eMO)
- Instant Money Order (iMO)
- International Money Transfer

5.   Financial Services:

- Post Office Savings Bank Accounts-on CBS Platform-Saving Bank, Recurring Deposit, Time

Deposit, Monthly Income Scheme, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, PPF, NSC, KVP, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana.

- ATM Cards

6. Life Insurance:

- Postal Life Insurance-for urban/semi urban areas

- Rural Postal Life Insurance-for rural areas

7. Retail Services:

- Bill Collection

- Data Collection/Survey

- Forms of Universities, etc.

- Payment of Wages to beneficiaries of MGNREGS, Payment of Social

- Security Pension, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana etc.

- Booking of Railway Tickets (service available in selected Post Offices)

- Post Office Passport Seva (service available in selected Post Offices)

- Aadhaar Enrolment and Updation (service available in selected Post Offices)

- Employment Registration (available in Head Post Offices)

Statement-V

Postal Circle-wise number of Branch Post Offices rolled out under Digital Advancement of Rural Post Offices for a New India (DARPAN) as on 06.12.2018

Sl. No.	Postal Circle (State/UT)	No. of Branch Post Offices Rolled out
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8,887
2.	Assam	3,385
3.	Bihar	7,913
4.	Chhattisgarh	2,775

1	2	3
5.	Delhi NCT	88
6.	Gujarat (including UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu)	7,641
7.	Haryana	2,183
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2,315
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,303
10.	Jharkhand	2,647
11.	Karnataka	7,938
12.	Kerala (including UT of Lakshadweep)	3,555
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7,259
14.	Maharashtra (Including Goa State)	10,644
15.	North East (including Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh States)	2,340
16.	Odisha	6,951
17.	Punjab (including UT of Chandigarh)	3,096
18.	Rajasthan	8,977
19.	Tamil Nadu (including UT of Puducherry)	9,264
20.	Telangana	4,968
21.	Uttar Pradesh	15,104
22.	Uttarakhand	2,316
23.	West Bengal (including UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Sikkim State)	7,218
	Total	1,28,767

Statement-VI

Postal Circle-wise number of Departmental Post Offices (Head Post Offices and Sub-Post offices) Computerized as on 06.12.2018

Sl. No.	Postal Circle (State/UT)	No. of Post Offices Computerized
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,594
2.	Assam	625

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	1,058
4.	Chhattisgarh	349
5.	Delhi NCT	407
6.	Gujarat (including UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu)	1,341
7.	Haryana	504
8.	Himachal Pradesh	469
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	266
10.	Jharkhand	463
11.	Karnataka	1,717
12.	Kerala (including UT of Lakshadweep)	1,507
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1,021
14.	Maharashtra (Including Goa State)	2,216
15.	North East Region (including Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh States)	340
16.	Odisha	1,204
17.	Punjab (including UT of Chandigarh)	768
18.	Rajasthan	1,335
19.	Tamil Nadu (including UT of Puducherry)	2,834
20.	Telangana	852
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2,554
22.	Uttarakhand	393
23.	West Bengal (including UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Sikkim State)	1,768
	Total	25,585

Indians Saved from Punishment

261. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of Indian people who have been saved from severe punishments in several countries since April, 2014;

(b)   the country-wise data along with their punishment; and

(c)   the details of the total number of Indian people rescued from troubled areas since April, 2014?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) and (b) As per information made available by our Missions and Posts abroad, 7,198 Indian nationals were saved from punishment as a result of efforts of Government of India from May, 2014-May, 2018. The major countries where such assistance was rendered include United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, Maldives, Iran, Cote d'Ivoire, Saudi Arabia and Belarus.

(c)   As per information available, total number of Indian nationals in distress repatriated by Missions/Posts from May, 2014-May, 2018 is 208186, including 16,821 rescued from the troubled areas in Ukraine, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and South Sudan.

PSK in West Bengal

262. SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government proposes to set up new PSK in Uluberia PC in West Bengal and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government has received any proposals for the same for the locations in Bagnan and Howrah in West Bengal;

(c)   if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the number of PSKs set up during the last two years across the country including West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) Yes, the Ministry has decided to set up a Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) in Uluberia PC.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has also decided to set up a POPSK at Howrah. The POPSK in Uluberia PC will also serve the passport applicants of Bagnan which falls in Uluberia PC.

(d)   The Ministry has set up 248 Passport Kendras between 01 January, 2017 and 06 December, 2018,

including 14 in West Bengal. The Ministry set up 12 Passport Kendras between 01 June, 2014 and December, 2016 taking the number of new Passport Kendras in the country to 260. The list is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

List of Passport Kendras set up since May, 2014

Sl.No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
1.	Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
2.	Amalapuram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
3.	Bapatla	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
4.	Bhimavaram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
5.	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
6.	Eluru	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
7.	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
8.	Krishna-Gudivada	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
9.	Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
10.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
11.	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
12.	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
13.	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
14.	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
15.	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
16.	Vizianagaram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
17.	Changlang	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
18.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
19.	Tirap	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
20.	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
21.	Dhubri	Assam	Guwahati
22.	Goalpara	Assam	Guwahati
23.	Karbi Anglong	Assam	Guwahati
24.	Kokrajhar	Assam	Guwahati
25.	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
26.	North Lakhimpur	Assam	Guwahati
27.	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
28.	Sonitpur (Tezpur)	Assam	Guwahati
29.	Tinsukia	Assam	Guwahati

Sl.No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
30.	Begusarai	Bihar	Patna
31.	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
32.	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
33.	Darbhanga	Bihar	Patna
34.	East Champaran (Motihari)	Bihar	Patna
35.	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
36.	Hajipur	Bihar	Patna
37.	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna
38.	Munger	Bihar	Patna
39.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
40.	Nalanda	Bihar	Patna
41.	Navada	Bihar	Patna
42.	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
43.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
44.	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
45.	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
46.	Bettiah	Bihar	Patna
47.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
48.	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
49.	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
50.	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
51.	Silvasa	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Mumbai
52.	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
53.	Janak Puri	Delhi	Delhi
54.	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi
55.	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
56.	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi
57.	South Goa	Goa	Panaji
58.	Amreli	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
59.	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
60.	Bardoli	Gujarat	Surat
61.	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
62.	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad

Sl.No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
63.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
64.	Junagadh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
65.	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
66.	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
67.	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
68.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
69.	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
70.	Porbandar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
71.	Sabarkantha	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
72.	Surendranagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
73.	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
74.	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
75.	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat
76.	Bhiwani	Haryana	Chandigarh
77.	Kaithal	Haryana	Chandigarh
78.	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
79.	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
80.	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
81.	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
82.	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
83.	Narnaul	Haryana	Delhi
84.	Rohtak	Haryana	Delhi
85.	Sonipat	Haryana	Delhi
86.	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
87.	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
88.	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
89.	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
90.	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
91.	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
92.	Kathua	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
93.	Rajouri	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
94.	Anantnag	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
95.	Baramulla	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar

Sl.No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
96.	Udhampur	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
97.	Leh	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
98.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
99.	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi
100.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi
101.	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
102.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
103.	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
104.	Medininagar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
105.	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
106.	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
107.	Bellary	Karnataka	Bengaluru
108.	Bidar	Karnataka	Bengaluru
109.	Davangere	Karnataka	Bengaluru
110.	Gadag	Karnataka	Bengaluru
111.	Hassan	Karnataka	Bengaluru
112.	Kalaburagi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
113.	Raichur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
114.	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
115.	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
116.	Udupi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
117.	Vijayapur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
118.	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
119.	Idukki (Kattappana)	Kerala	Cochin
120.	Kasargod	Kerala	Kozhikode
121.	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivandrum
122.	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
123.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
124.	Betul	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
125.	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
126.	Damoh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
127.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
128.	Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal

Sl.No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
129.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
130.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
131.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
132.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
133.	Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
134.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
135.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
136.	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	Pune
137.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
138.	Baramati	Maharashtra	Pune
139.	Beed	Maharashtra	Pune
140.	Chandrapur	Maharashtra	Nagpur
141.	Ghatkopar/Vikhroli	Maharashtra	Mumbai
142.	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	Mumbai
143.	Jalna	Maharashtra	Pune
144.	Latur	Maharashtra	Pune
145.	Wardha	Maharashtra	Nagpur
146.	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
147.	Nanded	Maharashtra	Pune
148.	Pandharpur	Maharashtra	Pune
149.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
150.	Rajapur	Maharashtra	Mumbai
151.	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
152.	Satara	Maharashtra	Pune
153.	Solapur	Maharashtra	Pune
154.	Imphal	Manipur	Guwahati
155.	Shillong	Meghalaya	Guwahati
156.	Tura	Meghalaya	Guwahati
157.	Aizawl	Mizoram	Guwahati
158.	Dimapur	Nagaland	Guwahati
159.	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
160.	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
161.	Berhampur	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar

Sl.No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
162.	Bhawanipatna	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
163.	Keonjhar	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
164.	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
165.	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
166.	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
167.	Karaikal	Puducherry	Tiruchirapalli
168.	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
169.	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
170.	Pathankot	Punjab	Jalandhar
171.	Phagwara	Punjab	Jalandhar
172.	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
173.	Puducherry	Puducherry	Chennai
174.	Ajmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
175.	Alwar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
176.	Banswara	Rajasthan	Jaipur
177.	Barmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
178.	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
179.	Churu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
180.	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
181.	Kota	Rajasthan	Jaipur
182.	Bikaner	Rajasthan	Jaipur
183.	Hanumangarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
184.	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
185.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
186.	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
187.	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
188.	Pali	Rajasthan	Jaipur
189.	Sriganganagar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
190.	Udaipur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
191.	Gangtok	Sikkim	Kolkata
192.	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
193.	Devakottai	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
194.	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	Chennai

Sl.No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
195.	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
196.	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
197.	Rasipuram	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
198.	Salem	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
199.	Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
200.	Dindigul (Kodairoad)	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
201.	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
202.	Perambalur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli
203.	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
204.	Karimnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
205.	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
206.	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
207.	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
208.	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
209.	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
210.	Warangal (Hanamkonda)	Telangana	Hyderabad
211.	Agartala	Tripura	Kolkata
212.	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
213.	Amethi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
214.	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
215.	Bulandshahr	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
216.	Chunar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
217.	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
218.	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
219.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
220.	Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
221.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
222.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
223.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
224.	Balrampur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
225.	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
226.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
227.	Ayodhya/Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow

Sl.No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
228.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
229.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
230.	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
231.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
232.	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
233.	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
234.	Mau	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
235.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
236.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
237.	Rae Bareli	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
238.	Rampur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
239.	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
240.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
241.	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
242.	Haldwani (Kathgodam)	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
243.	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
244.	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
245.	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
246.	Srinagar	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
247.	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
248.	Balurghat	West Bengal	Kolkata
249.	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
250.	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata
251.	Birbhum (Rampurhat)	West Bengal	Kolkata
252.	Raiganj (North Dinajpur)	West Bengal	Kolkata
253.	Chinsurah	West Bengal	Kolkata
254.	Diamond Harbour	West Bengal	Kolkata
255.	Jalpaiguri	West Bengal	Kolkata
256.	Malda	West Bengal	Kolkata
257.	Medinipur (Kharagpur)	West Bengal	Kolkata
258.	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	West Bengal	Kolkata
259.	North Kolkata (Beadon Street)	West Bengal	Kolkata
260.	Siliguri	West Bengal	Kolkata

Bio Toilets

263. SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:
    SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the railways has installed Bio-toilets in trains;

(b)   if so, the total number of toilets installed so far and the number of toilets remaining to be installed; and

(c)   the cost of each bio-toilet and the total amount so far spent on installing bio-toilets in trains, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. So far more than 1,67,000 bio-toilets have been installed in about 45,800 passenger carrying coaches and around 14,500 more passenger carrying coaches are to be provided with bio-toilets.

(c)   Presently, the cost of providing 4 bio-toilets on a coach is Rs. 4.56 lakh approximately *i.e.* Rs. 1.14 lakh per toilet. Zone-wise detail of expenditure booked for installation of bio-toilets in passenger coaches upto March 2018 is appended and in the current Financial Year 2018-19, Rs. 256 crores approximately have been spent by Zonal Railways for installation of bio-toilets. In addition, expenditure of Rs. 506 crore approximately have been made by coach Production Units of Indian Railways for installation of bio-toilets in newly manufactured coaches so far.

(c)   Zone-wise detail of expenditure booked for installation of bio-toilets in passenger coaches upto March 2018:

Zonal Railway	Expenditure booked (in Rs. crore)
Central	58.66
East Coast	133.1
East Central	21.69
Eastern	33.3
North Central	16.54
North Eastern	33.46
Northeast Frontier	26.39

Zonal Railway	Expenditure booked (in Rs. crore)
Northern	47.96
North Western	34.94
South Central	61.48
South East Central	22.58
South Eastern	37.05
Southern	86.62
South Western	26.93
West Central	158.8
Western	56.64

Recycling of Plastic Waste

264. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether certain countries are producing crude oil from plastic waste and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether any research has been undertaken in the country in this regard;

(c)   if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes, Madam. Some of the companies having conversion plants installed in India and abroad, claim to produce liquid hydrocarbon oil (plastic crude oil) from plastic wastes. The plastic crude oils do not however meet the standard specifications of gasoline or diesel and thus cannot be used as transportation fuel.

(b) and (c) CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun along with Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) is working on a project involving conversion of Waste Plastics to transportation fuel (gasoline/diesel). After successful completion of lab and bench scale studies, they are installing a 1 Ton Per Day (TPD) capacity pilot plant for converting waste plastics to diesel.

CSIR-IICT has developed a solid catalyst to convert waste plastics into fuel oil. The solid catalyst developed

by CSIR-IICT for conversion of waste plastics to fuel oil is available for up scaling by the industry.

(d)   Does not arise.

Punctuality of Trains

265. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that chronic train delays are the common problems of the Railways;

(b)   if so, the reasons behind late running of trains;

(c)   the zone-wise delay reports of trains during the last two years with quarterly average; and

(d)   the action taken by the Railways to maintain punctuality of trains particularly during the winter/foggy season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Trains get delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but also external factors which are beyond the control of Railways. In addition to asset failures, certain factors such as line capacity and terminal capacity constraints on account of increasing passenger and freight traffic, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches), intermittent natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates across the Indian Railways network, mid-section run over cases involving cattle and humans etc. also adversely affect the Punctuality of trains over Indian Railways.

(c)   The zone-wise quarterly average trains delayed for the last two years and current year (April-September, 2018) is as under:–

Zone	Quarterly average trains delayed during 2016-17			
	April-June	July-September	October-December	January-March
Central	614	536	548	894
East Coast	906	516	904	1109
East Central	2468	2769	3730	3816
Eastern	330	432	525	647
Konkan	75	134	180	219
North Central	4626	4821	6027	6268
North Eastern	571	793	1370	1512
Northeast Frontier	245	249	452	329
Northern	3368	3750	5766	4885
North Western	230	130	352	357
South Central	303	230	300	352
South East Central	309	157	326	462
South Eastern	331	177	216	301
Southern	686	924	1360	1300
South Western	204	137	197	270
West Central	788	791	969	1364
Western	315	227	227	267

Zone	Quarterly average trains delayed during 2017-18				Quarterly average trains delayed during 2018-19	
	April-June	July-September	October-December	January-March	April-June	July-September
Central	614	959	1072	1158	1561	520
East Coast	1162	696	838	1380	1244	415
East Central	3280	2586	3503	4296	4146	1382
Eastern	738	386	668	2136	2088	696
Konkan	168	219	446	336	313	104
North Central	4463	3872	5075	5967	5736	1912
North Eastern	1024	861	1286	2100	2048	683
Northeast Frontier	284	209	429	1069	988	329
Northern	3325	3680	7622	8542	8474	2825
North Western	226	285	842	957	687	229
South Central	449	360	556	1693	2191	730
South East Central	309	265	540	621	969	323
South Eastern	394	208	358	797	1100	367
Southern	1201	1032	1870	2212	2579	860
South Western	255	212	389	922	1043	348
West Central	1102	831	1211	1705	2331	777
Western	328	382	789	708	590	197

(d)   Punctuality of passenger carrying trains is being monitored rigorously on a daily basis at Divisional, Zonal and Railway Board levels by Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs), General Managers (GMs) and Railway Board Members and Senior Officers. To ensure running of trains right time when pairing trains are running late, scratch rakes are inducted and rakes are standardized to the extent operationally feasible. Also various steps have been initiated to improve punctuality such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of limited height subways to replace level crossings, Road Under Bridges (RUB) and Road Over Bridges (ROB) etc. Besides, punctuality drives are launched from time to time and staff involved in train operations are sensitized. In addition, Zonal Railways have also been advised to have better coordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with situations arising out of law and order problems.

The following actions have been taken by Indian Railways to prevent unnecessary delay and for smooth and safe movement of trains especially during winter/fog:

(i)   Adequate availability of detonators at stations.

(ii)   Lime marking across the track at the Signal Warning/Sighting Board.

(iii)   Fresh painting of the Signal Warning (Sighting Board).

(iv)   Fresh painting of Whistle Board, Fog Signal Posts, Road Signs, Lifting barriers of busy level crossings with Yellow/Black luminous indication strips.

(v) Adequate availability of additional staff for placement of detonators either from the Engineering Department or from the Operating Department.

(vi) Display of flashing red light tail lamp at the last vehicle of trains even during day time if the dense fog persists in lieu of tail boards in normal working.

(vii) Counseling of staff involved in train operation.

(viii) Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains is done during fog at all three levels *viz.*, Divisional, Zonal Head Quarter and Railway Board to ensure their punctuality.

(ix) To ensure running of trains right time when pairing trains are running late, scratch rakes are inducted to the extent operationally feasible.

(x) To avoid delay of trains due to foggy weather and to enhance level of safety in automatic block signaling sections affected by fog, the modified automatic signaling has been introduced which allows only two trains between stations.

(xi) In addition, technological advancements with respect to signaling are also being undertaken.

New Website for Online Booking

266. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the Railways has started new ticket confirmation process through website and has decided to withdraw dynamic ticketing system;

(b)   if so, the details of the new confirmation process and chances with cancellation probability of last two years trend therefor;

(c)   the proposal of the Government to issue confirmed tickets to passengers whenever and wherever the person need it;

(d)   the year-wise collection details of dynamic system and berth confirmation since 2015;

(e)   whether the Government proposes to issue confirmed tickets to the patients travelling for treatment purpose for all the trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) A tool has been developed to predict the probability of waitlisted ticket getting confirmed at the time of booking as well as during Passenger Name Record (PNR) enquiry of waitlisted ticket. The tool has been developed using the algorithm of Machine learning. The machine learning model has been developed using the waitlisted PNR data of past 2 years. This model creates the pattern for the various waitlist scenarios and predicts the probability for the future date journey. Currently this feature is integrated with Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website. In IRCTC website this feature is operational as under:

(i)   When the user is doing the booking transaction, and if the status of accommodation availability of the desired/enquired journey is waitlisted, then the user can check the probability of confirmation.

(ii)   At the time of PNR enquiry of waitlisted ticket, the user can check the probability of confirmation.

At present, there is no proposal to withdraw premium Tatkal quota on dynamic fare and other variable fare schemes. However, Flexi Fare Scheme in Rajdhani, Shatabdi & Duronto Trains has been rationalized as under:

(i)   Discontinuation of Flexi Fare Scheme from 15 trains full year and from 32 trains during pre defined lean period of 3 months (February, March & August)

(ii)   Maximum cap of Flexi Fare Scheme has been reduced to 1.4 times in all flexi fare applicable classes.

(iii)   Graded discount has been introduced in flexi fare trains and Humsafar trains, where class-wise occupancy is less than 60%, 4 days prior to scheduled departure of the train as under:-

Occupancy	Discount
Upto 70%	20% on last fare
70 to 80%	10% on last fare
Above 80%	Nil

The above changes have been implemented *w.e.f.* 15.03.2019 on an experimental basis for 6 months.

(b)   As far as trends of confirmation chances and cancellation chances probability is concerned, it is informed that it varies depending upon peak and lean periods, type of trains like short distance trains, long journey trains, trains with limited stoppage, etc.

(c)   In the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS), confirmed berths/seats are allotted on first come first served basis till the availability and thereafter Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC)/Waiting List Tickets are issued. The status of RAC/Waiting List Tickets get automatically updated against the cancellation of confirmed berths/seats and also against release of unutilised reservation quotas.

To facilitate those passengers who have to undertake journey at short notice and to save such passengers from the clutches of unscrupulous elements/touts, Tatkal Scheme of reservation is available where the accommodation becomes available for booking on the previous day of journey from train originating station. Further, with a view to provide confirmed accommodation to waiting list passengers and to ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, a Scheme known as Alternate Train Accommodation (ATAS) known as "VIKALP" was introduced as a pilot project in November, 2015. This Scheme has since been expanded to cover all type of train on all sectors from April, 2017. For this facility, waiting list passenger has to give an option at the time of booking of ticket & passengers with waiting list status at the time of preparation of first reservation charts are shifted to other trains, subject to availability of vacant accommodation.

(d)   The concept of Premium trains with dynamic fare structure was introduced in December, 2013 and it continued till June, 2015. This concept was reviewed and from July, 2015, Suvidha trains with variable fare structure were introduced. Premium Tatkal Quota having element of dynamic fare structure was introduced *w.e.f.* 01.10.2014 whereas, Flexi Fare System (also having variable fare structure) was introduced *w.e.f.* 09.09.2016. Total year-wise earnings from Dynamic/Variable/Flexi Fare System including that from Premium/Suvidha trains, flexi fare trains as well as Premium Tatkal Quota from January, 2015 till November, 2018 has been as under:–

Financial Year	Earnings from Dynamic fare structure/Premium Tatkal Quota/flexi fare variable fare (Rs. in crores)
2014-15 (January, 2015 to March, 2015)	88.31
2015-16	458.18
2016-17	864.61
2017-18	1477.35
2018-19 (upto November)	1127.74

The details of approximate number of waiting list passengers whose status got upgraded to RAC/Confirmed during the above said period are as under:–

Financial Year	Number of waiting list passengers whose status got upgraded to RAC/ Confirmed (in millions)
2014-15 (January, 2015 to March, 2015)	17.46
2015-16	73.69
2016-17	70.98
2017-18	70.22
2018-19 (upto November)	51.29

(e) and (f) In the computerized PRS there is already a provision to permit cancer patients and their attendants travelling on concessional tickets issued in exchange of concession certificate, to directly access Emergency Quota at the time of booking itself. Maximum number of berths/seats out of the Emergency Quota in a train, which can be accessed by Cancer patients and their attendants in Sleeper, is 4 and 2 each in AC Chair Car, AC 3 tier, AC 2 tier and First Classes. In addition, separate Cancer Patient Quota has also been defined in some identified trains. Moreover, instructions are also there that in case requests are received for confirmation of berths out of emergency quota from patients who have to undertake journey for checkup like cancer treatment and dangerous ailments which cannot be postponed due to compelling circumstances, the same should be considered

by quota controlling authority as per extant norms so as to accommodate to the extent feasible after satisfying themselves of the genuineness of travel.

Launch of India Post Payments Bank

267. SHRIMATI P. K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER:
     SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
     SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI PATIL:
     SHRI GEORGE BAKER:
     SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:
     SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:
     DR. P. K. BIJU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the salient features of the India Post Payments Bank;

(b)   the details of the funds sanctioned for this, State/UT-wise including Gujarat;

(c)   the details of the number of branches and access points opened across the country, State/UT-wise including West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra;

(d)   the details of the number of facilities being provided under this bank across the country;

(e)   whether the Government has set any target to connect the post offices with the postal bank;

(f)   if so, the details thereof; and

(g)   whether there is any proposal to open more such banks in remote and rural areas in States in including Kerala and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been incorporated as a Public Sector Under taking under Department of Posts with 100% Government of India Equity. IPPB as an organization, is designed to leverage the field network of the Department of Posts (DoP) and is required to carry out its sales and operations through the workforce of the DoP. IPPB will be responsible for designing the products and services, defining the technology and service delivery platforms, marketing and third party tie-ups, setting and monitoring the service quality standards, handling customer grievances, managing the risks of the banking operations, and dealing with statutory and regulatory compliances etc.

IPPB would be offering the payment bank services to the rural population using Door Step (Assisted) Banking along with the regular counter services through the Postmen/Gramin Dak Sewaks (GDS) and Postal Assistants.

(b)   The details of the funds allocated by IPPB to circles including Gujarat circle are given at enclosed Statement-I.

(c)   The details of the number of branches and access points opened across the country including West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra are given at enclosed Statement-II.

(d)   The details of the facilities provided by the bank are:

(i)   IPPB is offering a range of products such as savings and current accounts, remittances and money transfer, direct benefit transfers, bill and utility payments, and enterprise and merchant payments.

(ii)   These products, and related services, are being offered across multiple channels (Counter Services, Micro-ATM, Mobile Banking App. SMS and IVR), using a bank grade, cutting edge technology platform.

(iii) Third-Party Products: Based on the payments bank guidelines, IPPB has partnered with financial organizations to provide loans, investment and insurance products. IPPB has partnered with (i) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance for the distribution of Life Insurance products such as term insurance which are complimentary to Postal Life Insurance products and (ii) PNB MetLife Insurance for the distribution of PMJJBY, the Governments' flagship insurance program.

IPPB shall provide these services through 1.55 lakh post offices.

(e) and (f) It is proposed all the 1.55 lakh post offices shall be linked with IPPB subject to feasibility by 31.12.2018, and provide the postal banking services through counter and doorstep services.

(g)   No Madam there is no such proposal. However IPPB shall provide these services across the country through 1.55 lakh post offices.

Statement-I

Details of the funds allotted to Postal Circles* for setting up of India Post Payments bank including Gujarat Circle by IPPB.

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	Funds allotted in Rs lakhs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	431.41
2.	Assam	185.59
3.	Bihar	414.23
4.	Chhattisgarh	157.51
5.	Delhi	68.17
6.	Gujarat (including 2 UTs Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli)	410.42
7.	Haryana	168.77
8.	Himachal Pradesh	143.29
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	88.28
10.	Jharkhand	159.73
11.	Karnataka	467.86
12.	Kerala (including UT Lakshadweep)	309.77
13.	Maharashtra (including Goa State)	641.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	369.41
15.	North East (consisting of 6 States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura)	242.56
16.	Odhisa	397.95
17.	Punjab (including UT-Chandigarh)	233.81
18.	Rajasthan	438.59
19.	Tamil Nadu (including UT Puducherry)	617.02

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	Funds allotted in Rs lakhs
20.	Telangana	250.64
21.	Uttarakhand	136.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	811.11
23.	West Bengal (including Sikkim and UT Andaman and Nicobar)	438.76
	Total	7581.86

* Funds have been allotted to Postal Circle-wise rather State/UT-wise

Statement-II

Details of the number of IPPB branches and Access Points opened across the country State-wise/UT-wise including West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra as on 07.12.2018

Sl. No.	Circle	Number of Branches	Access Points Live
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	1311
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	42
3.	Assam	26	178
4.	Bihar	38	772
5.	Chhattisgarh	27	135
6.	Gujarat	30	4677
7.	Goa	1	193
8.	Haryana	20	367
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	179
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	40
11.	Jharkhand	22	223
12.	Karnataka	31	713
13.	Kerala	14	369
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42	768
15.	Maharashtra	41	592
16.	Manipur	9	39
17.	Meghalaya	8	37
18.	Mizoram	6	29
19.	Nagaland	9	41

1	2	3	4
20.	Odhisa	33	346
21.	Punjab	22	254
22.	Sikkim	1	5
23.	Rajasthan	33	461
24.	Tripura	5	73
25.	Tamil Nadu	37	900
26.	Telangana	23	644
27.	Uttar Pradesh	73	499
28.	Uttarakhand	12	167
29.	West Bengal	25	404
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	1
2.	Chandigarh	1	31
3.	Delhi	3	192
4.	Diu and Daman	1	1
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	10
6.	Lakshadweep	1	1
7.	Puducherry	1	20
	Grand Total	650	14706

Agreement with France

268. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has recently signed new agreements in strategic areas of security, nuclear energy, protection of classified information and also in the field of education, environment, urban development and railways with France;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has considered all aspects and their impact on domestic economy before entering into these agreements; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)] (a) to (d) Yes. During the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India in March, 2018, the two sides signed a total of 14 Agreements/MoUs (list placed below).

1. Agreement between India and France on the Prevention of Illicit Consumption and Reduction of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors and Related Offences.

2. India-France Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement.

3. Agreement between India and France to facilitate Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications.

4. Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and SNCF Motilities, France on technical cooperation in the field of Railways.

5. Letter of Intent between India and France for creation of a permanent Indo-French Railways Forum.

6. Agreement between India and France regarding the provision of reciprocal logistics support between their Armed Forces.

7. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and France on cooperation in the field of Environment.

8. Agreement between India and France on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.

9. Agreement between India and France regarding the exchange and reciprocal protection of classified or protected information.

10. Implementing Arrangement between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Central National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) for pre-formulation studies of a Maritime Awareness Mission.

11. Industrial Way Forward Agreement between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. and EDF, France.

12. Bilateral Arrangement between India and France on cooperation in the matter of Hydrography and Maritime Cartography.

13. Credit Facility Agreement between India and France of Euros 100 million for funding of the Smart City Projects through a Challenge Process.

14. Memorandum of Understanding between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and the National Solar Energy Institute (INES), France.

The Agreements/MoUs are a result of detailed consultations with all stakeholders.

Funds Released in 16th Lok Sabha

269. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the details regarding funds released and utilized in the 16th Lok Sabha as on date;

(b)   the under-utilization and subsequent lapse of funds and non-release of funds, if any, visualized due to slow pace of implementation of the scheme, if so, details thereof; and

(c)   whether the Govt. has any proposal for relaxing existing conditions for release of annual MPLAD funds for a constituency, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), the works are recommended by the honourable Members of Parliament and are sanctioned as well as executed through District Authorities concerned. The data on MPLADS funds released and utilized in the 16th Lok Sabha is detailed in Statement enclosed.

Funds under the MPLADS are non-lapsable, both at the end of the Central Government and at the end of the District Authorities. Members of Parliament can recommend works up to their full annual entitlement and District Authorities are required to undertake immediate sanction and implementation of the eligible works so recommended without availability of the funds in the account.

(c)   A proposal to release the entire amount of Rs. 5.0 crore of MPLADS fund for one year in one go is under consideration in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

Statement

Details regarding funds released and utilized in the 16th Lok Sabha as on 05.12.2018

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Fund Released by GOI	Actual Expenditure Incurred with Admin Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20.00	20.43
2.	Andhra Pradesh	432.50	395.54
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	47.50	42.58
4.	Assam	275.00	220.08
5.	Bihar	752.50	718.76
6.	Chandigarh	17.50	22.77
7.	Chhattisgarh	242.50	228.80
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15.00	6.91
9.	Daman and Diu	17.50	12.97
10.	Delhi	87.50	88.33
11.	Goa	27.50	26.05
12.	Gujarat	522.50	479.09
13.	Haryana	212.50	183.81
14.	Himachal Pradesh	90.00	83.12
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	95.00	81.81
16.	Jharkhand	242.50	199.92
17.	Karnataka	485.00	403.79
18.	Kerala	342.50	332.36
19.	Lakshadweep	17.50	13.49
20.	Madhya Pradesh	612.50	553.26
21.	Maharashtra	820.00	713.26
22.	Manipur	47.50	42.33
23.	Meghalaya	42.50	40.14

1	2	3	4
24.	Mizoram	22.50	21.61
25.	Nagaland	25.00	22.61
26.	Nominated	22.50	16.37
27.	Odisha	400.00	334.95
28.	Puducherry	15.00	16.89
29.	Punjab	285.00	235.27
30.	Rajasthan	460.00	396.01
31.	Sikkim	20.00	17.61
32.	Tamil Nadu	805.00	723.35
33.	Telangana	255.00	276.43
34.	Tripura	37.50	32.79
35.	Uttar Pradesh	1600.00	1336.45
36.	Uttarakhand	77.50	56.44
37.	West Bengal	825.00	732.02
	Total	10315.00	9128.4

Invitation to Trump

270. SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the circumstance under which an invite was sent to the US President Donald Trump to visit India in January, 2019; and

(b)   the reasons for sending an invite without ascertaining the willingness/ability to come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) The India-U.S. Joint Statement issued on 27 June, 2017 States, 'President Trump gladly accepted Prime Minister Modi's invitation to visit India.' No formal invitation has been sent to the U.S. President to visit India in January, 2019.

[Translation]

Pilgrimage Trains

271. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has received any request for expansion of the railway network in the famous pilgrimage and tourist destination Chitrakoot Dham in the country; and

(b)   if so, the details of new action plan formulated by the Government for improving rail services in this world famous religious place Chitrakoot Dham?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, Chitrakoot Dham Karwi station is connected to prominent locations of the country like Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Kanpur, Varanasi, Gwalior etc. Further, requests/demands for new lines, gauge conversion and doubling, both formal as well as informal, are received by Railways at various levels, Railway Board, Zonal Railways and Divisional Headquarters, etc. As receipt of such requests/suggestions/demands is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained.

(b)   In process of improvement of rail services in Chitrakoot Dham, the work for doubling of Jhansi-Manikpur and Khairar-Bhimsen (Kanpur) of 425 km has been sanctioned at estimated cost of 4329.54 crore in March, 2018. After completion of this project, Chitrakoot Dham will be connected with double line.

Further, additional connectivity to Allahabad & Kanpur has been provided by extending 22441/22442 Kanpur-Allahabad Express up to Chitrakoot Dham Karwi *w.e.f.* 25.02.2018. Besides, introduction of new train services is an ongoing process over Indian Railways.

[English]

Satellite of Foreign Countries

272. PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether ISRO has given its facilities to launch satellites of foreign countries regularly;

(b)   if so, the details of the countries having used ISRO's facilities so far;

(c)   the total revenue earned through such launchings;

(d)   whether the Government is keen to provide ISRO's facilities on commercial basis to foreign countries; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Madam. Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been regularly launching satellites of foreign countries from ISRO's launch facility named Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) located at Sriharikota.

(b) As on date, 269 foreign satellites from 33 countries have been successfully launched using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from ISRO's launch facility. The countries that utilized ISRO's launch facility for launching their satellites include Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Singapore, Turkey, UAE, UK and USA.

(c) The total revenue earned through launching of these satellites from foreign countries amounts to approx. 22 Million USD and 179 Million Euros.

(d) and (e) Yes Madam. In the coming years, ISRO through Antrix would continue to provide the launch facility for launching foreign satellites using its launch vehicles on commercial basis.

Internet Broadband Facilities

273. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide internet broadband facilities to non-electrified villages and the villages which have less than 100 population;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the villages so far connected, State-wise;

(c) if not, the State-wise reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the broadband services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Phase-I of BharatNet for connecting 1 lakh Gram Panchayats has been completed in December, 2017. As on 02.12.2018, a total of 1,16,411 GPs have been made service ready. State-wise list of service ready Gram Panchayats is given in the enclosed Statement.

Further, as part of the BharatNet Project, Telecom Commission on 11.07.2018 has approved a Last Mile connectivity model for providing Wi-Fi connectivity to Government institutions. At each GP, 5 Access Points (APs) are being set up, and out of these Access Points, 3 APs are to be installed at Government institutions and 2 APs at public places.

The following Schemes, funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), are also under implementation for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots in the country:

(i) Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at its 25,000 Rural Telephone Exchanges.

(ii) Wi-Fi Choupals are being set up by CSC at 5,000 Gram Panchayats.

(iii) Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by Rail Tel at 200 rural Railway Stations.

So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,359 GPs and out of them, services are being provided in 10,775 GPs, catering to more than 11 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 50 Tera Bytes (TB) per month.

Statement

State-wise list of Service Ready Gram Panchayats

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	Number of Service Ready Gram Panchayats
1	2	3
1.	Assam	1589
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0

1	2	3
3.	Andhra Pradesh	1160
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	43
5.	Bihar	5865
6.	Chandigarh	13
7.	Chhattisgarh	4052
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	21
9.	Daman and Diu	17
10.	Gujarat	5113
11.	Haryana	6186
12.	Himachal Pradesh	226
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	257
14.	Jharkhand	2302
15.	Karnataka	6110
16.	Kerala	1129
17.	Madhya Pradesh	12689
18.	Maharashtra	15126
19.	Manipur	248
20.	Meghalaya	122
21.	Mizoram	19
22.	Nagaland	86
23.	Odisha	3470
24.	Puducherry	101
25.	Punjab	7903
26.	Rajasthan	8447
27.	Sikkim	14
28.	Telangana	2047
29.	Tripura	527
30.	Uttar Pradesh	27940
31.	Uttarakhand	1508
32.	West Bengal	2081
	Total	116411

Illegal Encroachment of Wakf Land

274. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wakf land which has been illegally encroached by corporate houses/public till date in the country, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether any action has been taken to make the waqf land free from encroachers during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government has any plan to use the wakf land for the welfare of the community; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) As per Section 32 of the Waqf Act, 1995 as amended, the general superintendence of auqaf in a State is vested with the State Waqf Board (SWB) and it is the duty of the concerned SWB to ensure that Waqf Properties are properly maintained, controlled and administered. As per the available information with Central Waqf Council (CWC) received from various State Waqf Boards, State-wise available data on number of Waqf Properties are facing encroachment is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) As per the provision of Section 54, the Chief Executive Officer of the Waqf Board is empowered to remove the encroachment from the Waqf Property. Such removal is normally carried out with the help of State Government machinery. CWC also takes up the issue with the concerned Waqf Board with a view to expedite the process of disposal of litigation and retrieval of the Waqf Properties facing encroachment. In addition CWC also takes up complaints received in respect of encroachment, unauthorised occupation and alienation of the Waqf Properties with the concerned Waqf Boards and State Governments etc.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has established "National Waqf Development Corporation Limited (NAWADCO)", under the aegis of Ministry of Minority Affairs. NAWADCO provides an opportunity to Waqf Institutions or to the State Waqf Boards for commercial development of waqf properties to enhance their income which can be utilised for the welfare of the Muslim community. Ministry of Minority Affairs is also implementing

a Scheme named Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) for bringing identified minority concentration area at par to national average in respect of socio-economic and basic amenities indicators on the basis of 2011 Census by providing infrastructure for education, skill, health etc. Under this scheme based on local need, the project proposed on land of waqf or similar land of other notified minority communities offered by respective Authority/Board, small minority communities free of any lease amount/nominal amount for a particular period on lease basis would also be considered. Besides that, Ministry also implements Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana through Central Waqf Council under which interest free loans is provided to Waqf Institution/State Waqf Boards for development of waqf land parcels for the welfare of the community.

Statement

State-wise available data on number of Waqf Properties with Encroachment

Sl. No.	Name of Waqf Board	Number of Waqf Properties encroached by Private/Public
1	2	3
1.	Punjab Waqf Board	5,610
2.	Madhya Pradesh Waqf Board	3,240
3.	Board of Waqfs, West Bengal	3,082
4.	Tamil Nadu State Waqf Board	1,335
5.	Karnataka State Waqf Board	862
6.	Haryana Waqf Board	754
7.	Himachal Pradesh Waqf Board	503
8.	Delhi Waqf Board	373
9.	Chhattisgarh State Waqf Board	200
10.	Assam Board of Waqfs	191
11.	Bihar State Sunni Waqf Board	181
12.	Rajasthan Board of Muslim Waqf	164
13.	Manipur State Waqf Board	137

1	2	3
14.	Maharashtra State Waqf Board	81
15.	Bihar State Shia Waqf Board	58
16.	Kerala State Waqf Board	29
17.	Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board	12
18.	Tripura Board of Waqf	10
19.	Odisha Board of Waqfs	7
20.	Chandigarh Waqf Board	6
21.	Puducherry Waqf Board	5
22.	Jharkhand Waqf Board	2
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Waqf Boards	2
24.	Uttarakhand Waqf Board	119

[Translation]

Fare of Luxury Trains

275. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Railways has decided to slash the fare of its luxury and popular trains namely Palace on Wheels, the Golden Chariot, Maharaja Express and Deccan Odyssey due to rapid decline noticed in their popularity and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the total number of people who travelled by these trains during the last two years along with the revenue earned by the Government;

(c)   whether the Government is planning to terminate their service due to loss being incurred by these trains;

(d)   if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Five luxury tourist trains namely Palace on Wheels, Heritage Palace on Wheels (started on 29.12.2017), Deccan Odyssey, Golden Chariot and Maharajas' Express are run over Indian

Railways. The fare of these luxury tourist trains is decided by concerned State Tourism Corporations (STCs)/Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The number of passengers who travelled by these trains along with the revenue earned during last two financial years is as under:–

Financial Year	Number of Passengers travelled	Revenue earned (in cr. Rs.)
Palace on Wheels-Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation		
2016-17	1373	27.36
2017-18	1498	27.59
Deccan Odyssey-Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation		
2016-17	643	9.51
2017-18	879	12.76
Golden Chariot-Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation		
2016-17	336	5.49
2017-18	291	2.61
Maharajas' Express-Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation		
2016-17	894	41.38
2017-18	945	42.11
Heritage Palace on Wheels-Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation		
2017-18	44	0.21

(c) to (e) No, Madam. Luxury tourist trains are run over Indian Railways by Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC), Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), Karnataka Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The operation of these luxury tourist trains is responsibility of these STCs/IRCTC.

MoU with US

276. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the MoUs signed with US with respect to defence technology in the past two years;

(b) the details of the development projects and progress of technology under such deals along with the budgetary allocations made to such projects; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to foster technological progress in defence and the projects, if any, taken up by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Real GDP Growth

277. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth during the last one year on quarterly basis;

(b) whether the rate of GDP growth in the country has been on the rise and if so the details thereof; and

(c) the growth rate of services, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors separately during the last three quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The details of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) Prices and corresponding growth rates during the last one year on quarterly basis are given below:–

Item	2017-18				2018-19	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
At Constant (2011-12) Prices						
GDP (Rs. in crore)	31,18,417	31,72,110	32,43,489	34,76,827	33,73,983	33,97,620
GDP Growth Rate (in %)	5.6	6.3	7.0	7.7	8.2	7.1

Qi= ith Quarter; i=1,2,3,4

(b)   The quarter-wise growth rates are given in the table above.

(c)   The details of Quarterly Growth Rate of services, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors at constant (2011-12) prices are given below:–

Items	2017-18	2018-19	
	Q4	Q1	Q2
At Constant (2011-12) Prices (In %)			
Services	7.7	7.3	7.5
Manufacturing	9.1	13.5	7.4
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	4.5	5.3	3.8

Defence Training Centres

278. SHRI K. R. P. PRABAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government proposes to set up defence training centres in the country;

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

(c)   the time by which they are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Air Defence System

279. SHRI J. J. T. NATTERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has picked Russia's Igla-S missile system as choice for its multibillion dollar contract for Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS);

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government is aware that this deal is under shadow of US financial sanctions for arms purchases from Russia under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) law that restricts defence purchases from Russia, Iran and North Korea;

(d)   if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   whether the Government has any plan to couple this with Make in India initiative and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The case for procurement of Very Short Range Air Defence Missiles (VSHORADS) is at Contract Negotiation stage with M/s ROSOBORONEXPORT (ROE, Russia), the L1 vendor, which has offered Igla-S missile system.

(c) and (d) Government is aware of all developments that may impact procurement of defence equipment, which is carried out based on threat perception, operational and technological aspects to keep the Armed Forced in a state of readiness to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges.

(e)   Yes, Madam. The successful vendor shall provide Transfer of Technology (ToT) to M/s Bharat Dynamic Limited (BDL) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

Visit by Dignitaries

280. SHRI S. R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
        SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU:
        SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
        SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
        SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
        SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
        KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of foreign trips undertaken by the Prime Minister of India, External Affairs Minister and other dignitaries during each of the last four months and the current month, country-wise;

(b)   the areas identified for co-operation and discussions held during the said visits;

(c)   the agreements and MoUs signed and the advantages to the country as a result thereof; and

(d)   the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the bilateral relations with foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (d) Information as desired is placed in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Visit by dignitaries

SI. No.	The details of foreign trips undertaken by the Prime Minister of India, External Affairs Minister (EAM) and other dignitaries (President and Vice President) during each of the last four months and the current month (from 01.08.2018 till date), country-wise	The areas identified for co-operation and discussions held during the said visits	The agreements and MoUs signed and the advantages to the country as a result thereof	The steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the bilateral relations with foreign countries
1	2	3	4	5
1.	**August 02-03, 2018** Visit of EAM to Kazakhstan	Political, Economic, Trade and Defence	No MoU was signed	Both sides engage on a regular basis to widen areas of cooperation.
2.	**August 03-04, 2018** Visit of EAM to Kyrgyzstan	Bilateral cooperation in the areas of culture, hydro-energy, healthcare, agriculture and IT was discussed.	No MoU was signed	On the cultural front Embassy is conducting Yoga and Kathak dance classes in Kyrgyz schools. Plays based on Mahabharata and Ramayana were shown in local language. To increase bilateral relations tele-medicine projects, KIMBMRC projects have been done by Indian side through grants-in-aid. Bhabhatron & Imagin system has been installed & operationalised in Bishkek. Bhabatron-II is under active consideration.
3.	**August 04-05, 2018** Visit of EAM to Uzbekistan	To expand bilateral cooperation in all areas including political, trade, and investment, science & technology, agriculture, information technology, nuclear energy, pharmaceuticals & healthcare, culture and academics. To have consultations including on Afghanistan.	No MoU was signed	Both sides are in continuous interaction to widen our areas of cooperation. 17 Agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit of President of Uzbekistan in October, 2018.
4.	**August 17-20, 2018** Visit of EAM to Mauritius	11th World Hindi Conference held at Port Louis	N.A.	Promotion of Hindi abroad

5. **August 27-30, 2018**

Visit of EAM to Vietnam and Cambodia

EAM visited Vietnam and Cambodia to attend the Joint Consultation Mechanism. All aspects of the bilateral relations were discussed and reviewed.

The Government has taken numerous steps to boost the relations with Vietnam. The bilateral relations between the two countries were upgraded to that of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016. There has been high level visits taking place regularly. The bilateral relations are comprehensive and we are engaging Vietnam through Economic, defence, security, space, science and technology, IT, Atomic energy, tourism, people to people exchanges and cultural cooperation. India is also offering Vietnam LOCs and grants through various bilateral and multilateral fora. India is extending assistance to Vietnam for conservation of its heritage sites. The two countries are also cooperating closely at Multilateral organisations and supporting each others candidatures in UN. Vietnam was India's coordinator country to ASEAN from 2015-18.

(i) Construction of Son Ca Kindergarten (2 Classrooms and restroom) at Chung My Hamlet (Street 6), Phuoc Dan Town, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province

(ii) Construction of Phuoc Huu Kindergarten (02 Classrooms), Hau Sanh Hamlet, Phuoc Huu Commune, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province.

(iii) Construction of Classroom building-Administration building with 12 rooms and other items at Phuoc Dong Primary School, Phuoc Dong Village 2, Phuoc Hau Commune, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province.

(iv) Construction of Cham Community House in Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province.

(v) Construction of 4 storey Classroom building at Hieu Thien Primary School, Phuoc Ninh Commune, Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province.

(vi) Construction of Classroom building at Van Lam Primary School, Van Lam Hamlet, Phuoc Nam Commune, Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province.

(vii) Construction of Cham Community House in Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province.

(viii) MoU between People's Committee of Ninh Thuan Province and ONGC Videsh Limited relating to grant of financial assistance from ONGC Videsh Limited for construction of Cham Community House at Bau Truc Village, Phuoc Dan Town, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province.

List of documents signed during the visit of EAM to Cambodia

(i) Agreement between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Cambodia was signed for the Conservation/Restoration of Preah Vihar Temple, Cambodia

1	2	3	4	5
			(ii) MoU between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine. (iii) MoU between Foreign Services Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, India and National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cambodia.	
6.	**August 30-31, 2018** Visit of Prime Minister to Nepal from 30th to 31st August, 2018 for 4th BIMSTEC Summit	Prime Minister visited Nepal in August, 2018 to participate in the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held on the theme of "Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region", which discussed ways to take forward regional cooperation in various sectors including transport and communications (connectivity), trade and investment, counter terrorism and transnational crime, environment and disaster management, climate change, energy, technology, agriculture, fisheries, public health, people-to-people contacts, cultural cooperation, tourism, mountain economy and blue economy. Prime Minister held bilateral discussion with his Nepalese counterpart during the visit, which was in keeping with the tradition of regular political exchanges between India and Nepal at the highest levels. The visit provided an opportunity to review the close and multifaceted relations between the two countries and to further advance ongoing cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, railway linkages, inland waterways development, economic and development cooperation, trade, economic, civil aviation, water resources, power, culture, and people- to-people ties. The two Prime Ministers inaugurated the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala in Kathmandu on 31 August, 2018, which was constructed with GoI assistance.	(i) On the sidelines of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit, an MoU regarding preliminary survey of the rail line between Raxaul (India) and Kathmandu (Nepal) was signed and exchanged by the two sides, pursuant to the decision made by the two Prime Ministers in April, 2018 to construct a new electrified rail line, with India's financial support, connecting the border city of Raxaul in India to Kathmandu in Nepal with the objective of expanding connectivity to enhance people-to-people linkages and promote economic growth and development. (ii) MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection was signed during the 4th BIMSTEC Summit, which will promote regional energy and trade.	India and Nepal share historical and civilizational links and have close and friendly political, economic, cultural and social ties.

These exchanges reflect the wide canvass of bilateral cooperative agenda for shared prosperity and development of the two peoples.

7. September 02-09, 2018

Visit of President to Cyprus, Bulgaria and Czech Republic

Cyprus: During the visit Rashtrapatiji met President Anastasiades, Mr. Demetris, President of the House of Representatives. He addressed an extraordinary sessions of the House of the Representatives and also delivered a lecture at the university of Cyprus.

Both sides reviewed the ongoing bilateral and multilateral engagements and discussed issues of regional and global concerns. Both sides called for enhancing business collaboration in the field of IT, tourism, shipping, renewable energy etc.

Bulgaria: In the course of the bilateral talks, the two sides acknowledged the relations of traditional friendship and cooperation between Bulgaria and India and reaffirmed the mutual desire to further strengthen the relationship including high level political exchanges, trade, investment, science & technology, education, culture & tourism and other areas of mutual interest.

Cyprus: During the visit, following MoUs were signed:

(i) MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit, India and Unit for Combating Money Laundering of Cyprus. The agreement would strengthen the institutional framework to facilitate investment cross-flows.

(ii) MoU on cooperation in the areas of Environment between the Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus. The MoU aims at joint collaboration between the two countries to promote sustainable development and help tackle climate change.

Bulgaria: During the visit, 5 MoUs/documents were signed:

(i) MoU on Cooperation between the Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy (GCNEP) of India;

(ii) Programme of Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology for the period 2018-2021;

(iii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Tourism;

(iv) MoU between Sofia University and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on establishment of ICCR Chair for Hindi Language; and

(v) MoU between Invest Bulgaria and Invest India.

The above MoUs will open avenues for collaboration with Bulgaria in these fields for the mutual benefit of both countries.

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		Czech Republic: The two leaders had detailed discussions on all areas of our bilateral cooperation and further strengthen the relationship to take up to strategic levels.	**Czech Republic:** 8 agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit which included the Visa Waiver for Diplomatic Passport holders; MoU on S&T cooperation between Czech Academy of Sciences and CSIR; Work Plan on joint S&T projects between DST and M/o Youth, Education and Sports; Agreement on Laser research between the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and ELI Beamlines; MoU between Hisaar Agricultural University and Czech University of Life Sciences; MoU between Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) and TATRA Trucks; MoU between PHDCCI and Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Crafts CZ and MoU between Faculty of Business Administration, University of Economics Prague and IIM, Bangalore.	
8.	**September 08-09, 2018** Visit of Vice President to United States of America	People-to-People contacts, cultural exchanges, economic and commercial ties between India and the U.S..	No MoU was signed	The multifaceted relations between India and the U.S. have witnessed significant growth and expansion. Cooperation on defence and security issues has been boosted by India's designation as a Major Defence Partner. The inaugural 2+2 Dialogue held in September, 2018 helped in creating additional synergy in bilateral cooperation on strategic and security matters. The U.S. is India's largest trading partner (goods and services combined).
9.	**September 13-14, 2018** Visit of EAM to Moscow	The Visit of the EAM was to co chair the 23rd session of the India Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade Economic and Cultural Cooperation. Issues ranging from Agriculture, elimination of trade barriers, education, co-operation in pharmaceuticals, priority investment	Signing of the Protocol of the 23rd Session of IRIGC-TEC	The Government has instituted various mechanisms to give an impetus to bilateral relations between the two countries. This includes the annual India Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Technical, Economic and Cultural

Cooperation, Co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister; the India Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation Co-chaired by the India Defence Minister; India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue; Co-chaired by the Vice Chairman Niti Ayog. There also exists a mechanism of annual meetings between the leaders of the two countries. These impart to the Strategic Partnership its Special and Privileged character.

projects, space cooperation and economic cooperation were discussed. Focused discussions were held on the following:

1. Interest of Russian companies to participate in the Railway sector through the Make in India programme.

2. Expediting the logistical requirements for the realisation of the INSTC.

3. Discussion on increasing use of national currencies for bi-lateral trade.

4. Cooperation in the field of Space technology, including co-operation in India's Chandrayan 2 program.

5. Cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

Serbia: This was the first VVIP visit from India to Serbia after 29 years.

On the occasion of 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Serbia Post and India Post released commemorative stamps on Serbian Physicist and Innovator Nikola Tesla and Swami Vivekananda.

Serbia: Two agreements were signed during the visit namely

(i) Agreement on Plant Protection and Quarantine and

(ii) Revised Air Services agreement.

Serbia: Both sides held detailed discussions on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues and agreed to expand the bilateral cooperation especially in the areas of economic and cultural relations. Agriculture, food processing, science and technology, information technology, infrastructure, tourism and pharmaceuticals were identified as priority areas for enhancing economic cooperation.

10. **September 14-20, 2018** Visit of Vice President to Serbia, Malta and Romania

Malta: Following MoUs were signed during the visit:

(i) MoU on Maritime cooperation between Ministry of Shipping, India and Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Malta.

Malta: The two leaders discussed the whole gamut of bilateral relations and also cooperation in multilateral and international forums. The two leaders expressed concerns about issue of terrorism, global warming and climate change. President Colerio commended India's efforts to focus on renewable energy and the initiative of International Solar Alliance. The two leaders also addressed the India-Malta Business Forum. Malta confirmed its support to India's candidature to non-permanent seat of UNSC for the years 2021-22 and reiterated their support to India's candidature to the NSG and Human Rights Council.

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		Romania: The leaders reviewed the existing bilateral ties and discussed possibilities of enhancing relations across the broad spectrum of relationship including political, economic, academic and cultural linkages. Both sides also committed to continue their support and cooperation in UN and other multilateral foras.	(ii) MoU on mutual cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta (iii) MoU in the field of tourism cooperation to promote tourism between the two countries. **Romania**: MoU between Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of India and Ministry of Tourism of Romania on cooperation in the filed of tourism was signed during the visit. In addition, the following MoUs were signed between the universities/ chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries during the vice President's visit. (i) MoU between Pt. Deen Dayal Petroleum University, Gandhi Nagar and Petroleum-Gas University, Ploiesti. (ii) Three MoUs of the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce each with CII, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI were signed.	**Romania**: The visit coincided with the 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Romania and also the Centenary year for Romania. The Foreign Minister of Romania visited India from 24-27 November, 2018 which was seen as a follow up to the visit of Vice President of India to Romania.
11.	**September 22-27, 2018** Visit of EAM to New York for 73rd UNGA	EAM addressed the UN General Assembly on 29 September, 2018. She outlined the broad themes of priority to us in the multilateral front, including SDGs, climate change, counter terrorism, support for multilateralism and its reform etc. EAM held separate discussions with leaders of 24 countries. They included 3 Heads of Government (Fiji, Mauritius and Nepal) and 21 Ministers (Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Armenia, Bolivia, Chile, Cyprus, Colombia, Ecuador, Estonia, European Union, Germany, Iran, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Spain, Syria and Suriname). She also had pull-aside meetings with ministers from Bangladesh, Equatorial Guinea,	No MoU was signed	N.A.

Italy, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Singapore and Sri Lanka. During the meetings all aspects of bilateral relationship were reviewed. Besides, EAM participated in the G-4 Foreign Ministers Meeting, NAM Committee Meeting on Palestine, BRICS Ministerial Meeting, IBSA Foreign Ministerial Meeting, SAARC Ministerial Meeting, Nelson Mandela Peace Summit and High Level Meeting on Climate Change. EAM also attended the special event hosted by US President Trump on Global Call for Action on World Drug Problem during the visit.

| 12. | **October 07-09, 2018**
Visit of President to Tajikstan | Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji paid state visit to Tajikistan from 7-9 October, 2018.

Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji held bilateral meetings with President Rahmon both in a tete-a-tete format and extended format. Tajik Speaker and Prime Minister called on HR during the visit. Issues were discussed on trade and economic cooperation, Afghanistan, defence cooperation and connectivity. | List/details of MoUs were signed during the visit are as follows;

I. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation on Peaceful Use of Space Technology for Development.

II. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management.

III. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.

IV. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Youth matters between the Committee on Youth Affairs and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India.

V. Memorandum of Understanding between Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, India for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education. | Mission is following up for the implementation of the announcements made during the visit. |

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			VI. Memorandum of Understanding between State Educational Establishment "Tajik State Medical University named after Abuali Ibn Sino" and the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, an Organization under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in Unani Medicine. VII. Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India for the period 2018-2021. VIII. Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India for the Years 2019-2023. The Centre for Strategic Researches under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding.	
13.	**October 11-12, 2018** Visit of EAM to Tajikistan	EAM attended the Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Heads of Governments (SCO-HoG) on 11-12 October, 2018 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. On the side lines EAM called on visiting Afghan CEO Dr. Abdullah and had a meeting with Tajik Foreign Minister Mr. Sirojiddin Muhriddin. Bilateral issues with Tajikistan/Afghanistan were discussed in the respective meetings.	Memorandum on Technical Cooperation in Joint Prevention and Control of Transboundary and Epizootic Diseases was signed by the participating Heads of Government/designated Ministers. In addition, Documents on Cooperation Programme of SCO on Food Security and Development of Inter-regional cooperation, cooperation of scientific research institutes of SCO countries were agreed upon during the meeting.	NA
14.	**October 17-20, 2018** Visit of Vice President to Belgium	This was not a bilateral visit. Hon'ble Vice President had visited Belgium to attend ASEM Summit.	NA	During the Summit Leaders sought to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the two continents on a wide range of areas, including: trade & investment, connectivity, sustainable development and climate and security challenges such as terrorism, non-

	proliferation, cyber-security, irregular migration	In recent years, the bilateral relations between India and Japan have attained an unprecedented momentum sustained by continuous high-level exchanges between the two countries including at the leadership-level through the Annual Summit mechanism. During the 13th India-Japan Annual Summit, PM Modi and PM Abe signed a Vision Statement focusing on (i) Partnership for Prosperity; (ii) Partnership for Peace; and (iii) Partnership for Global Action, and consisting of a guiding framework for future India-Japan relations.
15.	**October 27-30, 2018** Visit of Prime Minister to Tokyo & Yamanashi, Japan	During the visit of PM Modi for the 13th India-Japan Annual Summit, wide ranging discussions taking stock of the existing cooperation and considering possibilities of future relations under the framework of India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership were held in the following major areas:	1. Implementing arrangement for deeper cooperation between Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and Indian Navy-For greater cooperation and exchange of information in Maritime domain awareness between the Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force.
		• **Economic Cooperation:** Official Development Assistance for India's socio-economic development, investment by Japanese companies in India and support for 'Make in India', etc.;	2. MoC between Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry on Japan-India Digital Partnership- To tap into the synergies and complementarities between Japan's "Society 5.0" and India's flagship programmes like "Digital India", "Smart City" and "Start-up India" in areas of next generation technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and IoT (Internet of Things), etc.
		• **Defence and Strategic** Cooperation including cooperation in defence equipment and technology;	3. Statement of Intent between NITI Aayog and Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI), Japan on Artificial Intelligence (AI)-To encourage and develop cooperation on Artificial Intelligence technologies.
		• Digital Partnership;	4. MoC between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Republic of India and the Office of Healthcare Policy, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan in the field of Healthcare and Wellness-To establish a mechanism to identify potential areas for collaboration between India and Japan in common domains of primary healthcare, prevention of non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health services, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and elderly care.
		• Healthcare and Wellness;	5. MoC between The Ministry of AYUSH of Republic of India and the Kanagawa Prefectural Government of Japan in the field of Healthcare and Wellness-To promote and deepen mutual

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			understanding and interaction between India's Traditional Medicine Systems like "Ayurveda & Yoga" and Japan's ME-BYO.	
		• **Connectivity**: Within India and in Indo-Pacific region including Africa;	6. MoU on Food Safety between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) & The Food Safety Commission of Japan, The Consumer Affairs Agency of Japan, The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan-For furthering cooperation between the agencies from India and Japan in area of food safety.	
		• **Railways**: High Speed Rail, Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Upgradation of infrastructure and technical cooperation for rail safety;	7. MoC between Ministry of Food Processing & Industries and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan in the field of Food Processing Industry-Aims at developing India's food processing industry with involvement of relevant stakeholders such as local Governments, private companies, etc.	
		• **Cooperation between India and Japan on Agriculture, Food Processing, Food Safety, Forestry, and Fisheries;**	8. The Program for Promoting Investment into India by Japan in the Field of Agriculture and Fisheries between Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, India & Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan-To promote development of agricultural value chain and fisheries, including aquaculture, by improving the investment environment for Japanese companies.	
		• **Science and Technology**;	9. MoC on Development of Food Value Chain in Maharashtra between State Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan-To facilitate investment of Japanese companies in food value chain in State of Maharashtra.	
		• **People to People Exchanges** including between Parliamentarians, State to Prefecture and Sister City linkages , Track-1.5 engagements, Sports Exchanges, etc.;	10. Memorandum of Cooperation on Development of Food Value Chain in Uttar Pradesh Between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, India-To facilitate investment of Japanese	

companies in food value chain in State of Uttar Pradesh.

• **Disaster Risk Reduction;**

• **Environment Cooperation, Clean forms of energy, Sustainable Development Goals;**

• **Global Challenges and Issues like Climate Change, Nuclear Proliferation, Terrorism, UNSC reforms, WTO and RCEP;**

• **Japanese Language Education in India.**

11. MoU between Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India and NEXI, Japan-For stimulating trade and investment between India and Japan and strengthening cooperation in projects in third countries.

12. MOC in Postal Field between the Ministry of Communications, Government of India and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan-To strengthen cooperation in postal field including through setting up of Postal Services Dialogue between Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

13. MoU between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Hiroshima University, Japan for Research Partnership-To promote research partnership in areas such as Electronics, Sensors, High Speed Vision, Robotics, Advanced Manufacturing including Mechatronics, Environmental Research, Intelligent Transportation, etc.

14. MoU between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Research Centre for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), The University of Tokyo, Japan for Research Partnership - To promote research partnership in areas like Renewable Energy, Electronics including Robotics/IoT, Advanced Materials, etc.

15. Agreement for Cooperation between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India and Institute of Innovative Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT), Japan for joint research in interdisciplinary areas for application in Industrial Research-To establish research partnership between Council of Scientific and Industrial

Research (CSIR), India and Institute of Innovative Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT) in areas such as Advanced Materials, Bioscience and Information Technologies.

16. MoC between The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences and The National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) of Japan, The Research Organisation of Information and Systems on Polar Research-To strengthen cooperation in the study of Polar Sciences and related logistics.

17. MoC between India and Japan in the field of Environment Cooperation-To promote greater cooperation between India and Japan for protection and improvement of environment.

18. MoU between National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), India, and Shizuoka University, Japan for Academic and Research exchanges-To promote academic linkages between the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research S.A.S Nagar, and Shizuoka University.

19. Memorandum of Understanding on Further Cooperation toward Indo-Japan Global Startup between Nagasaki University and IIITDM Kancheepuram, India-Information Technology and Human Resources Development along with Indo-Japan Global Startup.

20. Memorandum of Understanding on Academic and Educational Exchange between Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India and Hiroshima University, Japan-Joint Research Promotion and exchange of students and faculties between the two institutions.

21. Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad and National

Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology-Joint Research Promotion and exchange of students and faculties between the two institutions.

22. (Agreement)Academic Exchange Agreement between Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Faculty, Graduate School and School of Engineering, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Graduate School of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Hokkaido University (MOU)Memorandum of Understanding on Student Exchange between Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Graduate School and School of Engineering, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Graduate School of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Hokkaido University-Joint Research Promotion and exchange of students and faculties between the two institutions.

23. MoU between Sports Authority of India (SAI), India and University of Tsukuba, Japan for academic exchanges and sports cooperation-To strengthen cooperation in the field of sports development and excellence through joint programmes. Exchange of Notes of Loan Agreements

24. Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (II)

25. Project for Renovation and Modernization of Umiam-Umtru Stage-III Hydroelectric Power Station

26. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 3) (III)

27. North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 3) (I)

28. Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management in Tripura

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			G2B/B2B Agreements	
			29. Memorandum of Understanding between KAGOME Co., LTD., Japan and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India	
			30. Joint Venture Agreement between State Bank of India (SBI) and SBI Payment Services Pvt. Ltd and Hitachi Payment Services Pvt. Ltd.	
			31. Memorandum of Understanding between Nissan Steel Industry Co., Ltd., Japan and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India	
			32. Letter of Intents and Acknowledgement of Private Sector Investment Project Proposals by 57 Japanese companies and 15 Indian companies for making investments in India and Japan respectively, supported by Indian and Japanese Governments.	
16.	**October 28-29, 2018** Visit of EAM to Qatar	During the visit, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj called on His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. She also held meeting with her counterpart H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar. Both sides discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and agreed to tap the immense potential that exists in bilateral trade and investment. Qatari investments were invited in the areas including petrochemicals, infrastructure, agriculture and food processing.	External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar signed a Declaration to establish Joint Commission at the level of External Affairs and Foreign Minister to periodically review progress in various cooperation initiatives.	
17.	**October 30-31, 2018** Visit of EAM to Kuwait	During the visit, EAM called on His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al- Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait and Kuwaiti Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamd Al- Sabah	**Agreement on exemption of visa for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Special Passports**-to promote hassle free travel of diplomats and officials between the two countries leading to greater cooperation and understanding.	

		EAM later held wide-ranging discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait. The two sides reviewed the bilateral cooperation including in areas of Trade & Investment, Defence and Labour issues. Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister accepted India's invitation to join International Solar Alliance. Both sides agreed on need to move beyond oil trade as also explore avenues for trade and investment. Issues relating to Indian Community in Kuwait, especially issues regarding Indian Engineers, Nurses and employment of Indian domestic workers were discussed.	**Agreement on recruitment of Domestic Workers-** Will lead to safer and smoother employment of Indian domestic workers in Kuwait with safeguards to prevent exploitation.	
18.	**Oct 31-Nov 6, 2018** Visit of Vice President to Botswana & Zimbawe & Malawi	**Botswana** During the visit, a wide range of areas for further developing cooperation in bilateral, multilateral including regional spheres, were identified **Zimbabwe** During the visit, a wide range of areas were identified including health, infrastructure development, capacity building, agriculture, trade, ICT and energy etc. **Malawi** Water Projects, Health Sector, Education Sector	**Botswana** Agreement on the Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passport. **Zimbabwe** (i) Agreement on the reciprocal exemption of Visa requirements for holder of Diplomatic Passport (ii) MoU for Cooperation on broadcasting between Prasar Bharti and ZBC (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of art, culture and heritage (iv) MoU on cooperation in the fields of Geology, Mining, and Mineral resources	**Botswana** The visit of VP has enhanced bilateral relations with Botswana. India's proposal for further cooperation in the area of defence is under discussions. **Zimbabwe** The announcements made by the GoI for Zimbabwe like US$ 310 mn LoC for up-gradation of Hwange Thermal Power Station, US$2.93 mn grant for Up-gradation of Indo-Zim Technology Centre and Gifting of ambulances, medicines and deputation of experts in five specialised areas are under process.

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			(v) MoU on cooperation in traditional Medicine and Homeopathy (vi) Action plan on cooperation in Information and communication technology **Malawi** (i) Exemption fo Visa for Diplomatic & Official Passport Holders (ii) Extradition Treaty (iii) MoU for capacity building in regulating the mining of Radio-active/Atomic Minerals and Rare Earth materials.	**Malawi** The announcements made by the GoI for Malawi like-LoC of US$ 215.68 for Water projects, gifting of Bhabhatron Cancer treatment machine; medicines; ambulances; books etc. are under process.
19.	**November 09-11, 2018** Visit of Vice President to France (Armistice Centenary & Paris Peace Forum)	This was not a bilateral visit. Hon'ble Vice President had visited France to attend Armistice Centenary Celebrations and Paris Peace Forum. The first edition of the Paris Peace Forum was aimed to facilitate exchange among global leaders and to discuss concrete global governance solutions.	No MoUs/Agreement were signed during the Forum. However, 5 projects from India were identified by the Forum as providing solutions to global governance issues. One of the projects - Climate Resilient Zero-budget Natural Farming in Andhra Pradesh was selected by the Forum for special support for a period of one year.	The Paris Peace Forum brought together under one roof more than 50 Heads of State and Government as well as international organizations leaders who deliberated on issues such as sustainable peace, digital policies, climate change, and the future of multilateralism. The Forum provided an opportunity to the leader of the Indian delegation to exchange views with Heads of State/ Government of a number of countries.
20.	**November 14-15, 2018** Visit of Prime Minister to Singapore to attend the 16th ASEAN-India Summit and 13th East Asia Summit (EAS)	During the visit, Prime Minister participated in ASEAN-India Summit, East Asia Summit, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Meeting. On the sidelines, he also held bilateral meetings with Prime Minister of Singapore, Prime Minister of Thailand, Prime Minister of Australia and Vice President of USA. Prime Minister became the first Head of Government to deliver Keynote address at-Singapore Fintech Festival. His other engagements included greeting winners and participants of India-Singapore Hackathon	N Multilateral visit	A Discussions on issues of mutual importance at the meetings as mentioned in (b) Prime Minister launched Application Programming Interface Exchange (APIX) platform connecting the ASEAN and Indian financial institutions, innovators and users.

21.	**November 17, 2018** Visit of Prime Minister to Maldives	2018, which was agreed during his last visit in June, 2018. PM met President Solih immediately after his swearing in. Both leaders agreed on the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean and being mindful of each other's concerns and aspirations for the stability of the region. PM assured President Solih of India's complete support in assisting the Maldives to achieve sustainable social and economic development. PM Modi also welcomed the expanding opportunities for Indian companies to invest in the Maldives in different sectors for the mutual benefit of both countries.	PM visited Maldives at the invitation of President elect Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to attend his swearing in ceremony. PM extended an invitation to President Solih to make a State Visit to India at his earliest convenience which was accepted by President Solih. Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid paid his first visit, after assuming office, to India from 24-27 November, 2018, accompanied by the Minister of Finance Mr Ibrahim Ameer and Minister of Economic Development Mr. Fayyaz Ismail and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ahmed Khaleel.	No agreement/MOU was signed.
22.	**November 18-24, 2018** Visit of President to Australia and Vietnam	**Australia**: During the visit, the President held bilateral meetings with the Governor General, His Excellency, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Prime Minister Scott Morrison, MP. During the meetings both sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. President unveiled the statute of Mahatma Gandhi at Paramatta and addressed the Indian Community. As part of his economic engagement	India and Australia recognize that there is significant potential for further engagement across a broad range of areas. In addition to the Presidents recent visit , the two way Prime Ministerial visits in 2014 built significant momentum in the bilateral relationship, signifying the growing depth of the India- Australia strategic partnership and building on converging interests, shared values and common democratic institutions. Political interaction is further advanced through Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue (last annual FMFD was held in Delhi on 18-19 July, 2017) and	List of documents exchanged during the visit of President to Australia 1. Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Australia for cooperation in the area of disability and to deliver services to the differently-abled. 2. Agreement between Invest India and Austrade to facilitate bilateral investment.

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		President addressed the India Business Summit organized by Australian Financial Review and Australia-India Business Council.		other Ministerial official mechanism field of Trade & Commerce, Science &Technology, Education etc. This was the first ever visit to Australia by an Indian President.
		In Melbourne, the President held a meeting with Governor of Victoria, Hon. Linda Dessau and addressed the students in Melbourne University.	3. The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, based in Ranchi, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation, based in Canberra, to foster scientific collaboration and innovation	
		Vietnam: The Joint Statement issued by the President's of the two countries identifying the various areas of cooperation.	4. Agreement between the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Guntur, and the University of Western Australia, Perth, for cooperation in agricultural research and education	**Vietnam**:
			5. Joint PhD agreement between the Indraprashta Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, and the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane	The Government has taken numerous steps to boost the relations with Vietnam. The bilateral relations between the two countries were upgraded to that of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016. There has been high level visits taking place regularly. The bilateral relations are comprehensive and we are engaging Vietnam through Economic, defence, security, space, science and technology, IT, Atomic energy, tourism, people to people exchanges and cultural cooperation. India is also offering Vietnam LOCs and grants through various bilateral and multilateral fora. India is extending assistance to Vietnam for conservation of its heritage sites. The two countries are also cooperating closely at Multilateral organizations and supporting each others candidatures in UN. Vietnam was India's coordinator country to ASEAN from 2015-18.
		Vietnam: The Joint Statement issued by the President's of the two countries identifying the various areas of cooperation.	List of documents exchanged during the visit of President to Vietnam	
			1. MOU between the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of Communications;	

	Visit	Agreements / Outcomes		
		2. MOU on cooperation between the Department of Foreign Affairs of Provinces of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and the Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM); 3. MOU between the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Ha Noi, Vietnam and the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India; 4. Cooperation Agreement between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI)		
23.	**November 22-23, 2018** Visit of EAM to Laos	India-Laos 9th Joint Commission was held during which discussions were held to strengthen cooperation in defence, agriculture, trade and investment, education and culture, science and information technology, energy and mining, transport, natural resources and environment.	Agreed minutes of Joint Commission was signed by the Foreign Ministers.	India Lao has longstanding historical and cultural relationship. It is an important country for India under Act East Policy. There are various mechanism to progress are bilateral relationship through India- ASEAN Strategic Partnership. Indian Government supports various developments assistance projects in Laos, including capacity building programme bilaterally and through ASEAN Mechanism.
24.	**Nov 28-Dec 02, 2018** Visit of Prime Minister to Argentina to attend the Thirteenth G20 Summit in Bunenos Aires, Argentina.	The theme of the Summit was "Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development". The Summit focussed on : the future of work, infrastructure for development, sustainable food future and gender mainstreaming strategy across the G20 agenda. G20 Leaders' Declaration was issued at the Summit. PM also attended informal meeting of BRICS Leaders on margins of G20 Summit on 30 November, 2018. Bilateral meetings were held with 3 LAC countries *viz.* Chile, Argentina and Jamaica during the visit.	Under G20, no agreement/MoU was signed. However, G20 Leaders' Declaration was issued at the Summit. A media note was issued at the BRICS Leaders' meeting.	The Govt. of India continues to strive to enhance, expand and deepen bilateral relations with LAC countries through various bilateral and multilateral mechanisms including: 1. Regular political interactions through high-level political visits, FOCs, JCMs, JWGs

1	2	3	4	5
		Areas of Cooperation identified: Argentina-Investment, energy, mining, agriculture, science and technology, education and other multilateral issues of common interest. Chile-outerspace, agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals, ayurveda and traditional medicines, as well as regional and multilateral issues of common interest. Jamaica-sports, solar energy, energy efficiency, technology, infrastructure, as well as regional and multilateral issues of common interest.		2. Regular trade and investment promotion activities through trade delegation visits, trade fairs, market studies, publicity etc. 3. Technical and educational cooperation through numerous GOI scholarship schemes. 4. Developmental projects 5. Cultural exchange and promotion through cultural events and visits among other activities.
25.	December 03-05, 2018 Visit of EAM to UAE	For Co-chairing the 12th session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting for Economic & Technical Cooperation. During the JCM, the two sides took review of the whole gamut of bilateral relations under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and identified new areas of cooperation.	To pursue the agreement during PM Modi's visit to the UAE in August, 2015 for extending bilateral cooperation to developmental projects in Africa, an MOU for tripartite cooperation in Ethiopia was signed during the visit. A currency swap agreement just concluded between the RBI and the Central Bank of the UAE, was also exchanged during the visit.	

Space Activities Bill

281. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has invited suggestions from the public or stakeholders regarding the draft Space Activities Bill, 2017;

(b)   if so, the details thereof including the objectives and salient features of the draft Space Activities Bill, 2017;

(c)   the details and number of suggestions on the draft bill received by the Government from various stakeholders including organisations and individuals; and

(d)   the timeframe by which the Government is expected to approve the draft Space Activities Bill, 2017 and introduce the same in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Madam.

(b)   The objective of the Space Bill is to facilitate the overall growth of the space activities in India with higher order of participation of public/non-governmental/private sector stakeholders.

The Bill provides for establishment of a regulatory mechanism through an appropriate body, by the Central Government for the purpose of authorization and licensing of space activities. The provision on liability for damages caused by space activities of licensee, provides for a risk sharing mechanism, by which the Central Government may determine the quantum of liability to be borne by the licensee.

(c)   Totally 52 responses were received from various group of stake holders, which includes General public (15), Indian Aerospace industry and start-ups (04), Law firms and lawyers (04), Space law experts and scholars (09), Satcom companies (04), Industry fora (07) and Scientists (09).

Responses fall broadly under the category of seeking clarifications and suggestions on certain provisions, such as scope of space activities, regulatory mechanism, licencing and authorization procedures, sharing of liability burden with a limit on damage costs, penal provisions, powers of Central Government, etc.

(d)   Steps are being taken up on best effort basis so that the Bill could be possibly introduced during Budget session in 2019.

IT Awareness in Rural Areas

282. DR. P. K. BIJU: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the action taken by the Government to increase IT awareness in rural areas of the country;

(b)   whether the Government proposes to increase the internet connectivity in various States including the State of Kerala and if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c)   whether the Government proposes to use IT for helping villagers in the areas of education, training, healthcare, agriculture, etc., and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India is implementing a Scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household). Besides digital literacy, the beneficiaries under the PMGDISHA Scheme are also trained on use of electronic payment system covering UPI (including BHIM app), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Point of Sale (PoS), Aadhar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), Cards, and Internet Banking.

As on 10th December, 2018, a total of 1.61 crore candidates have been trained under PMGDISHA Scheme, out of which more than 86.54 Lakh candidates have been certified.

(b)   Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. DoT is

implementing BharatNet project, to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country, including Kerala, by broadband in a phased manner. As on 02.12.2018, by laying 3,01,154 Km Optical Fibre Cable; a total of 1,21,652 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 1,16,411 GPs, which are Service Ready.

As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile connectivity is envisaged through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology for accessing broadband/internet services at the respective GPs in the country, including Kerala. Every GP is being provided with, on an, average 5 Access Points (APs), *i.e.* 2 APs at Public places & 3 APs at Government Institutions such as school, hospital, post offices, police station, etc. For around 1.07 lakh GPs, the agencies for setting up of Wi-Fi hotspots have been selected. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,359 GPs and out of them, services are being provided at 10,775 GPs, catering to more than 11 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 50 TB per month.

In Kerala, under BharatNet project, as on 02.12.2018, by laying 830 Km Optical Fibre Cable; OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 1129 GPs, which are Service Ready.

(c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 31st October, 2018 has launched the Digital Village pilot project with a total project outlay of Rs. 98.324 cr. for implementation in a duration of 3 years. Under this initiative, 700 Gram Panchayats across the country are envisaged to offer Education Services, Digital Health Services-Tele-Health & Tele-Veterinary consultation, Financial Services, Skill Development and Solar panel powered street lights including Government to Citizens Services (G2C), Business to Citizens (B2C) Services.

Various programmes such as e-Hospital, National Agriculture Market (eNAM), Soil Health Card, etc. for helping villagers are also being implemented. In addition to these schemes, Common Services Centres (CSCs) deliver a range of services related to social welfare schemes, financial services, education & skill development, healthcare, agriculture and digital literacy in villages.

Composite Sleepers Instead of Wooden

283. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to replace wooden sleepers with composite sleepers which are not only lighter but also stronger and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways has preferred them over wooden sleepers because of environmental issues that cropped up over the cutting of trees and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether all wooden sleepers will be replaced with composite sleepers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) No, Madam. For environmental issues, Indian Railways has already developed and adopted Steel Channel Sleepers as alternative to wooden sleepers. Further, the Composite Sleepers made of polymer matrix have also been developed and adopted.

(c) No, Madam. On broad gauge, wooden sleepers have been replaced with channel sleepers mostly. Composite sleepers are being used as replacement to channel sleepers on some girder bridges.

[Translation]

G2C Services

284. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to integrate Government to Citizens (G2C) services with State e-Government applications;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Identification of G2C services of State e-Government applications for integration is a continuous process and will go on as development of newer G2C e-Governance applications is being done to keep up with changing technology.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Joint Coordination among Three Defence Wings

285. SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA:
     SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an institutionalised structure for joint coordination/planning among all three defence wings has been planned or set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its likely effectiveness and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is proposed to create a joint commission of such nature; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) A Defence Planning Committee (DPC) has been set up to facilitate comprehensive and integrated planning for defence matters. The mandate of DPC includes analyses and evaluation of all relevant inputs relating to defence planning, *inter alia*, national defence and security priorities, foreign policy imperatives, relevant strategic and security-related doctrines, defence acquisition and infrastructure development plans, defence technology and development of the Indian defence industry and global technological advancements.

Shortage of Coal

286. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
     SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal required per day in Karnataka for its thermal plants;

(b) whether power generation is steadily declining in all the three thermal power plants of Karnataka due to severe shortage of coal supply;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Ministry to ensure supply of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) quantity in full for sustainable power generation to the State's thermal power plants;

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto and the quantum of coal supplied to TPSs in Karnataka during the last three years; and

(e) whether coal is supplied to Karnataka from Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL), Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL); and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The daily coal requirement for the Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) in Karnataka as on 04.12.2018, based on the average consumption pattern of the last 7 days, is as under:–

Name of TPPs	Capacity (MW)	Daily Coal Requirement ('000 Tonnes)
Bellary TPS	1700	14.59
Raichur TPS	1720	16.55
Yermarus TPS	1600	6.86

(b) In the year 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), 2.595 MT coal has been supplied by Coal India Limited (CIL). Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has supplied 3.23 MT to Raichur, Bellary and Yermarus TPPs. The power demand of Karnataka is met mainly by generation from thermal, hydro and nuclear sources apart from allocation from Central Generating Stations. The generation from coal based thermal power plants, therefore, varies depending upon demand and generation from other sources *viz.* when hydro power generation in monsoon season increases, the generation from coal based power plants decreases. The month-wise generation [in million units (MU)] by the three TPPs of Karnataka is as under:–

Name of TPS	Capacity (MW)	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18
Bellary TPS	1700	642.1	349.5	0	0	0	436.3	360.9
Raichur TPS	1720	963.8	977.6	539.2	395.1	377.8	920.6	736.5
Yermarus TPS	1600	68.2	150.7	224.2	120.7	0	0	156.4

As per CEA report of October, 2018, the total energy demand of Karnataka for April-October, 2018 (39026 MU) has been met with 99.90% fulfillment with no notified power cuts. Further, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited had injected 584.91 MU in IEX during April to October, 2018. It is thus evident that there was no loss in generation in the Power Plants of Karnataka due to shortage of coal.

(c) and (d) The total quantum of coal supplied to the three Karnataka based power station by CIL & SCCL for the last three years is as under:–

(Fig in Million Tonnes)

Year	Total coal supply	
	CIL	SCCL
2015-16	6.257	6.438
2016-17	4.643	7.148
2017-18	4.241	5.572

(e)   Coal supplied during 2018-19 (till Nov, 18) from WCL, MCL and SCCL is as under:–

(Fig in Million Tonnes)

Period	Subsidiary Company	Supply
2018-19 (till Nov)	WCL	0.726
	MCL	1.869
	SCCL	3.23

Coal Exploration

287. SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA:
       SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is taking up measures to expand coal exploration in the country and if so, the details thereof, it not the reasons therefor;

(b)   whether the Government has taken cognizance to the fact that India's coal reserves will be exhausted in a few decades and if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c)   the details of the steps being taken to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Exploration of coal resources in the country is a continuous process. Ministry of Coal through its Central Sector Scheme supports the promotional/regional exploration and detailed exploration in non Coal India Limited (CIL) blocks. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) is the nodal agency in coal exploration and does exploration departmentally or through its contractual agencies for Coal India subsidiaries companies and also for Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India. The drilling/exploration done by CMPDI in last 4 years & current year are given in below table:–

Item	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Apr'18- Nov'18)
Promotional (Regional) & Detailed drilling in Coal (in Lakh Meter)	8.98	10.46	11.75	14.08	8.40

(b) and (c) The total estimated coal resources in the country is 319.02 billion tonnes as per "The inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal" (as on 01.04.2018), prepared by the Geological Survey of India. The total coal extracted from the coalfields of India during 2017-18 is 680.46 million tonnes and since 1950 upto 2017-18 is around 15122.28 million tonne (as per Coal Controller, MoC, Govt. of India). Every year about 3 to 5 billion tonnes of proved (measured) resources are being added through fresh exploration to the Coal Inventory of India. At the present rate of extraction, coal will last for several decades.

Electrification of Railway Network

288. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the ratio of electric rail-lines against total length of rail-lines in the country in percentage terms;

(b)   whether the Railways has any action plan to achieve total electrification of its network, if so, the details thereof and the time by which the target may be achieved; and

(c)   the details regarding progress in the on going rail-line electrification works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As on 01.04.2018, 30,212 Route Kilometers of rail lines have been commissioned on electric traction, which is 44.85% of total Indian Railway network.

(b)   Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways have prepared an Action Plan to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) Routes of Indian Railways.

Year-wise planning for electrification is as under:–

Year	Route Kilometers planned for electrification
2018-19	6000
2019-20	7000
2020-21	10500
2021-22	10500

(c)   Present status of the ongoing electrification projects under Plan Head "Railway Electrification" is as under:–

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway(s)	Name of Project	Total Route Kilometer (RKM)	Balance RKM to be electrified as on 01.12.2018
1	2	3	4	5
1.	East Central & Northeast Frontier	Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati incl Katihar-Barsoi	836	562
2.	Southern	Shoranur-Mangalore-Penambur	328	22
3.	East Coast	Vizianagaram-Rayagada-Titlagarh-Raipur	465	158
4.	South Central & South Western	Guntakal-Bellary-Hospet incl. Tornagallu-Ranjitpura Branch Line	138	138
5.	Central & South East Central	Amla-Chhindwara-Kalumna	257	106
6.	West Central & North Central	Itarsi-Katni-Manikpur incl Satna-Rewa and Manikpur-Chheoki	653	226
7.	East Central	Garwa Road-Chopan-Singrauli	257	115
8.	Northern, North Western & Western	Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Rewari-Palanpur-Ahmedabad, incl. Kalol-Gandhinagar-Khodiyar and Alwar-Bandikui-Jaipur-Phulera	1087	727
9.	Northern	Rajpura-Dhuri-Lehra Muhabhat	151	151
10.	Northern	Jakhal-Dhuri-Ludhiana	123	123
11.	East Coast	Singapur Road-Damanjodi	152	100
12.	Eastern	Katwa-Azimganj-Nalhati & Azimganj-Tildanga/ New Farakka incl. Nalhati & Azimganj bypass line	200	82
13.	North Eastern	Chhapra-Ballia-Ghazipur-Varanasi-Allahabad	330	191

1	2	3	4	5
14.	West Central	Singrauli-Katni	260	260
15.	Western	Ahmedabad-Rajkot	233	233
16.	Western	Mehsana-Viramgam-Samakhiyali	292	292
17.	Southern	Erode-Karur-Tiruchchirapalli & Salem-Karur-Dindigul	300	89
18.	West Central & Western	Ratlam-Nimach-Chanderia-Kota	348	348
19.	East Central	Koderma-Hazaribagh-Barkakana-Ranchi	203	203
20.	North Eastern	Ghazipur-Aunrihar-Manduadih	78	78
21.	Northern	Utretia-Rae Bareli-Amethi-Janghai	214	214
22.	South Central	Paddapalli-Lingampet-Jagtiyal	83	83
23.	Southern	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagapattinam-Karaikkal	153	153
24.	Eastern	Bonidanga Link Cabin/Bonidanga-Barharwa-Sahibganj-Kiul incl. Tinpahar-Rajmahal	247	247
25.	South Central	Pagidipalli-Nallapadu	285	206
26.	North Western	Hissar-Bhatinda-Suratgarh	328	171
27.	East Central	Valmiki Nagar-Narkatiaganj-Sugaul-Muzaffarpur incl Sugauli-Raxaul	240	118
28.	North Central	Jhansi-Manikpur incl Khairar-Bhimsen	409	113
29.	North Western	Ajmer-Berach-Mavli-Udaipur	294	127
30.	South Central	Manmad-Mudkhed-Dhone excl. Umdanagar-Mehboobnagar	783	783
31.	South Western	Hospet-Hubli-Vasco da Gama	346	346
32.	Central	Jasai-Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust	9	9
33.	Central	Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur	326	326
34.	Central	Pen-Roha	40	40
35.	North Eastern	Mathura-Kasganj-Kalyanpur	338	338
36.	North Eastern	Aunrihar-Jaunpur	60	60
37.	North Central	Chunar-Chopan	100	100
38.	Northern	Beas-Gownidwal Sahib-Taran Taran-Amritsar	72	72
39.	Western	Samakhiyali-Gandhidham-Kandla Port-Mundra Port	77	77
40.	North Western	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur-Ringas	188	188
41.	Northern	Noli-Tapri	143	143
42.	South Western	Miraj-Londa	189	189
43.	South East Central	Gondia-Nainpur-Jabalpur	229	112

1	2	3	4	5
44.	West Central	Vijaipur-Maksi	188	188
45.	South East Central	Chhindwara-Nainpur-Mandala Fort	183	183
46.	Central	Chalisgaon-Dhule	56	56
47.	East Central	Biharsharif-Daniawan	38	38
48.	East Central	Ara-Sasaram	97	97
49.	North Central	Bandikui-Bharatpur	97	97
50.	North Central	Birlanagar-Etawah	115	115
51.	North Central	Bhandai-Udi	113	113
52.	Northern	Unnao-Balamau-Sitapur	162	162
53.	Northern	Narwana-Kurukshetra	86	86
54.	Northern	Bareilly-Chandausi-Harduaganj incl. Chandausi-Moradabad	199	199
55.	Northern	Gajraula-Muazzampur Narain	95	95
56.	Northern	Panipat-Jind	70	70
57.	Northern	Rohtak-Panipat	71	71
58.	South Western	Bengaluru-Omalur *via* Hosur	196	196
59.	West Central	Guna-Gwalior	227	227
60.	East Central	Fatuha-Islampur	43	43
61.	East Central	Darbhanga-Jaynagar	69	69
62.	Northeast Frontier	Guwahati-Dibrugarh *via* Tinsukia and Simaluguri-Dibrugarh	661	661
63.	Northern	Raiwala-Rishikesh	12	12
64.	Western	Rajkot-Sikka-Okha	271	271
65.	East Central	Giridih-Nawadih-Koderma	114	114
66.	North Eastern	Kaptanganj-Thawe-Khairah-Chhapra Kacheri	206	206
67.	East Central	Raxaul-Sitamarhi-Darbhanga-Samastipur	231	231
68.	Northern	Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar	12	12
69.	Northeast Frontier	Raninagar Jalpaiguri-Samuktala Road	129	129
70.	North Western	Alwar-Bandikui-2nd line	60	60
71.	Northern	Amritsar-Batala-Bharoli	104	104
72.	East Central	Samastipur-Khagaria	85	85
73.	Northeast Frontier	New Bongaigaon-Goalpara-Kamakhya	175	175
74.	Southern	Villupuram-Cuddalore Port-Mayiladuturai-Thanjavur & Mayiladuturai-Thiruvarur	228	228
75.	Northern	Mankapur-Katra-Ayodhya	38	38

1	2	3	4	5
76.	North Central	Shikohabad-Farrukhabad	158	158
77.	North Western	Rewari-Sadulpur-Hanumangarh	320	320
78.	Central	Daund-Baramati	44	44
79.	Central	Wani-Pimpalkhutti	66	66
80.	North Western	Sadulpur-Ratangarh-Bikaner Lalgarh incl. Ratangarh Sardarshahar	286	286
81.	South Western	Chikjajur-Bellary	184	184
82.	Central	Miraj-Kurduwadi-Latur	377	377
83.	South Western	Gadag-Hotgi	284	284
84.	Northern	Unnao-Unchahar	113	113
85.	Western	Ratlam-Fatehabad-Laxmibainagar	115	115
86.	Western	Wankaner-Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana & Surendranagar-Dhrangandhra	132	132
87.	South Western	Chikbanavar-Hubballi	456	456
88.	Northern	Najibabad-Kotdwara	24	24
89.	North Eastern	Kasganj-Bareilly, Bhojipura-Daliganj	401	401
90.	North Western	Suratgarh-Phalodi-Bhildi incl. Phalodi-Jaisalmer	902	902

Further, in September, 2018 Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for electrification of balance un-electrified BG routes of Indian Railways comprising of 108 sections covering 13,675 route kilometers (16,540 track kilometers) at a cost of Rs. 12,134.50 crore.

Indian Passport in Passport Index

289. SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the reasons for Indian passport scoring poorly amongst all Asian countries on the passport index as released for the year 2018-19;

(b)   whether the Ministry is taking any measures to improve the global rating of the Indian Passport; and

(c)   if so, the details of the measures planned and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) As per the information available on *www.*

passportindex.org, the Arton Capital Passport Index (ACPI) gives global ranking to various passports based on the "visa free" status accorded to the passport holders of a specific country. The current passport ranking is based on the number of countries a passport holder can visit Visa Free or gets Visa on Arrival. To determine the individual rank of each passport, a Visa Free Score (VFS) is prepared which is the sum of Visa Free (VF) and Visa on Arrival (VoA) facility accorded to the passport holder of a country.

According to ACPI 2018, India is ranked 66th with a VFS of 65; 25 countries according VF entry and 40 countries granting VOA facility to Indian passport holders. India was ranked 73rd in 2017 with a VFS of 57 with 25 countries according VF entry and 32 countries granting VOA facility to Indian passport holders.

(b) and (c) Yes. The Government has been continuously liberalizing the visa policy with the objective of promoting investments and tourism into India from other countries. The e-Visa scheme has been further liberalized to allow business visits and medical treatment in India. The number of entries and validity of e-Visas has been

increased and the scheme has been expanded to include 166 countries and territories till date. These initiatives are expected to encourage other countries to reciprocate and facilitate travel of Indian passport holders to their countries. As more countries permit Indian passport holders to visit Visa Free or grant them Visa on Arrival facility, the rank of the Indian passport on the Global Passport Index is expected to improve.

Corrupt Bureaucracy

290. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a survey, Indian bureaucracy is the most corrupt and inefficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard along with the details of steps being taken by the Government; and

(c) whether the Government has formulated any plan to make the bureaucracy of the country efficient and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No such survey has been conducted at the behest of Government of India.

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

(c) Government is promoting efficiency by encouraging greater transparency, introducing simplified procedures and reducing scope for discretion.

These *inter alia* include:

(a) Disbursement of welfare benefits directly to the citizens under various schemes of the Government in a transparent manner through the Direct Benefit Transfer initiative.

(b) Implementation of E-tendering in public procurements.

(c) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedure and systems.

(d) Introduction of Government procurement through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

(e) Invocation of FR-56(j) and AIS(DCRB) rule for prematurely retiring officials whose performance has been reviewed and found unsatisfactory.

Live Streaming of Court Proceedings

291. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes live streaming of court proceedings for the benefit of all including the litigants and the lawyers;

(b) if so, whether the Government is framing up comprehensive guidelines for live streaming of court proceedings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) A Writ Petition was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, seeking declaration for permitting live streaming of Supreme Court case proceedings of constitutional and national importance having an impact on the public at large and a direction to make available the necessary infrastructure for live streaming and to frame guidelines for the determination of such cases which are of constitutional and national importance. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its Judgment dated 26th September, 2018 has *inter alia* observed that: (i) It is important to re-emphasise the significance of live-streaming as an extension of the principle of open justice and open courts; (ii) The process of live-streaming should be subjected to carefully structured guidelines, (iii) Initially, a pilot project may be conducted for about three months by live-streaming only cases of national and constitutional importance which can be expanded in due course with availability of infrastructure.

[Translation]

BPL Beneficiaries

292. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a)   the present income limit for qualifying as BPL beneficiary in the country;

(b)   whether the Government proposes to increase the income limit for BPL category keeping in view the rising inflation;

(c)   if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be placed in the House.

[English]

Cost Overrun of Infra Projects

293. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:
         ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR:
         SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a)   whether 358 infrastructure projects across the country have shown cost overruns of over Rs. 3 trillion;

(b)   if so, the details and the reasons thereof, project and year-wise including those of Railways;

(c)   the State and year-wise details of funds allocated, released and utilized on infrastructure projects worth Rs. 150 crore and above from 2014 to 2018; and

(d)   whether any corrective framework has been implemented for effective monitoring and to reduce cost overruns of all Central Government projects including those of Railway and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Government

in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 150 crore and above on time and cost overruns, on the basis of information provided by the project implementing agencies. As on 01.08.2018, a total of 1361 projects were on the monitor of this Ministry. Of these, 358 projects worth Rs. 3.53 lakh crore are showing cost overruns.

(b) The details of projects showing cost overruns are available in the flash report of July, 18 at *http://www. cspm.gov.in/english/lsmfr.htm*.

The causes for cost overruns are project-specific, depend on a variety of technical, financial and administrative factors, and differ from project to project. However, as reported by the project implementing agencies on this Ministry's OCMS, the main reasons for cost overrun of the Projects are: law and order problems, delay in land acquisition, delay in environment and forest clearances, funding constraints, rehabilitation and resettlement issues, local body/municipal permissions, utility shifting, contractual issues, etc.

(c)   The State and year-wise details of funds released and utilized on infrastructure projects worth Rs. 150 crore and above from 2014 to 2018 are enclosed Statement-I, II, III and IV. State-wise and year-wise details of allocation of funds is not held with the Ministry.

(d)   The major steps undertaken to ensure completion of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects without time and cost overruns include; Periodic review of projects under PRAGATI through video conferencing by Hon'ble Prime Minister; rigorous project appraisal; On-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) for better monitoring; setting up of Revised Cost Committees in the Ministries for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns; regular review of infrastructure projects by the concerned administrative Ministries; and setting up of Central Sector Projects Coordination Committees (CSPCCs) in the States under the Chief Secretaries for removal of bottlenecks and for facilitating the speedy implementation of major projects.

Statement-I

State-wise detail of Fund Released and Fund Utilized in the year 2014-15

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of Projects	Original Cost	Anticipated Cost	Budget Outlay/ Fund Released for FYR 2014-2015	Total Expenditure/ Fund Utilised in FYR 2014-2015
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	314.61	314.61	12.00	16.50
2.	Andhra Pradesh	27	26542.92	31076.50	1612.37	4572.27
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	9356.22	21463.83	1025.88	1949.52
4.	Assam	38	26127.92	42683.32	5238.69	6180.48
5.	Bihar	47	39106.11	51348.56	1238.81	9766.71
6.	Chandigarh	1	452.00	452.00	57.00	152.26
7.	Chhattisgarh	28	90574.11	75920.08	6668.65	10126.09
8.	Delhi	11	50123.12	50123.12	7479.68	7474.91
9.	Goa	1	335.61	388.53	15.00	14.35
10.	Gujarat	30	38685.59	36875.79	3682.89	6944.85
11.	Haryana	8	4259.81	6230.43	173.50	874.11
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5	11681.24	19906.33	7.00	1531.05
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	21314.62	40235.30	1500.00	6675.70
14.	Jharkhand	34	36010.57	38266.95	810.39	2269.43
15.	Karnataka	33	71513.99	80777.89	1705.27	7101.01
16.	Kerala	12	26759.67	26918.45	3086.00	6773.72
17.	Madhya Pradesh	21	30356.47	28503.24	577.30	4488.14
18.	Maharashtra	49	107249.83	113799.43	7245.72	12116.56
19.	Manipur	1	4454.17	6570.75	1750.00	764.17
20.	Meghalaya	3	1668.46	6069.90	5.00	623.22
21.	Mizoram	2	2762.19	4201.96	470.00	249.12
22.	Multi State	181	216462.46	243522.37	17748.52	22742.07
23.	Nagaland	2	6600.52	7461.12	55.00	1.21
24.	Odisha	42	74862.97	79210.29	4449.24	7957.75
25.	Punjab	3	792.50	765.46	37.00	28.94
26.	Rajasthan	25	25603.41	25694.20	2325.57	5746.30
27.	Sikkim	2	1648.94	4499.46	124.10	56.45
28.	Tamil Nadu	43	69901.15	91494.81	5192.54	9844.81
29.	Telangana	21	10525.79	12179.13	543.22	287.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	Tripura	6	3612.55	6617.14	956.62	574.77
31.	Uttar Pradesh	28	26804.60	29864.04	583.41	16715.80
32.	Uttarakhand	6	9352.40	12905.21	768.46	1129.80
33.	West Bengal	42	44201.84	54887.86	3194.76	10761.27
	Total	763	1090018.36	1251228.06	80339.59	166511.23

Statement-II

State-wise detail of Fund Released and Fund Utilized in the year 2015-16

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of Projects	Original Cost	Anticipated Cost	Budget Outlay/ Fund Released for FYR 2015-16	Total Expenditure/ Fund Utilised in FYR (2015-16)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	314.61	314.61	25.00	3.94
2.	Andhra Pradesh	47	22915.78	23061.97	2039.96	2707.31
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	12006.22	28372.49	2439.25	2027.42
4.	Assam	50	30698.93	44485.17	2975.11	4012.29
5.	Bihar	67	63506.28	75007.35	1179.57	6994.18
6.	Chhattisgarh	41	98213.36	89995.24	6135.60	10625.96
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	6086.08	6086.08	104.00	749.75
8.	Delhi	17	50160.38	50160.38	8784.76	10223.57
9.	Goa	8	3925.48	3907.87	5.85	39.90
10.	Gujarat	31	32994.78	31660.45	3327.85	3014.34
11.	Haryana	20	14065.88	16036.50	182.65	2082.59
12.	Himachal Pradesh	5	8088.55	14487.83	703.28	984.24
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	9	25620.25	45229.68	2936.72	4264.24
14.	Jharkhand	45	41607.54	45868.59	1336.82	5337.67
15.	Karnataka	43	78799.63	89071.98	1406.95	6524.11
16.	Kerala	15	28127.82	28607.97	4207.00	7871.84
17.	Madhya Pradesh	52	56752.89	56251.11	475.84	3505.91
18.	Maharashtra	76	127247.07	131552.82	6785.55	14607.66
19.	Manipur	3	4773.88	6958.48	1750.00	878.59
20.	Meghalaya	6	3793.47	8194.91	5.00	2135.75
21.	Mizoram	6	3962.29	5402.06	557.37	721.70
22.	Multi State	171	199493.61	242282.93	14378.14	17921.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Nagaland	3	7896.52	8757.12	55.00	1.21
24.	Odisha	51	79710.27	84481.85	2862.18	8097.40
25.	Punjab	24	11987.57	11985.90	40.00	1672.63
26.	Rajasthan	61	41274.89	41853.65	3399.27	3914.77
27.	Sikkim	5	2149.08	4999.32	124.10	112.39
28.	Tamil Nadu	59	70904.51	89410.09	10684.59	6806.95
29.	Telangana	33	14874.83	16706.05	168.66	826.99
30.	Tripura	9	4422.36	7489.01	792.26	1057.13
31.	Uttar Pradesh	60	52422.97	56264.19	896.36	5432.07
32.	Uttarakhand	6	9352.40	11651.71	1180.04	1180.03
33.	West Bengal	48	49234.26	64256.58	4811.00	4030.59
	Total	1088	1257384.44	1440851.94	86755.73	140366.44

Statement-III

State-wise detail of Fund Released and Fund Utilized in the year 2016-17

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of Projects	Original Cost	Anticipated Cost	Budget Outlay/ Fund Released for FYR 2016-17	Total Expenditure/ Fund Utilised in FYR 2016-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	314.61	441.33	0.00	2.22
2.	Andhra Pradesh	56	97357.15	99737.92	2704.44	3399.75
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	13401.94	29214.96	967.07	2195.48
4.	Assam	51	41109.46	57223.96	4651.55	3863.81
5.	Bihar	79	71537.13	82576.99	3907.28	8058.04
6.	Chhattisgarh	42	97720.14	99754.71	7172.27	8768.63
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	6086.08	4701.44	1001.00	1047.95
8.	Delhi	18	51186.92	51093.74	9061.33	8522.88
9.	Goa	10	4379.12	4361.51	142.35	291.22
10.	Gujarat	46	42507.80	43830.52	4181.19	3836.04
11.	Haryana	22	14364.47	16250.70	220.41	2259.81
12.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12531.81	18931.08	276.00	1162.69
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	27408.66	46614.79	2590.50	4351.23
14.	Jharkhand	48	46950.37	49958.75	3435.13	4760.41
15.	Karnataka	47	85199.23	97832.65	10374.97	7441.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Kerala	21	38702.04	38770.19	6050.87	8556.39
17.	Madhya Pradesh	53	58222.73	59070.21	4531.10	5890.78
18.	Maharashtra	111	173488.62	176063.08	12379.81	18196.79
19.	Manipur	2	4670.86	9874.69	1065.00	1359.88
20.	Meghalaya	6	3931.46	9025.00	300.00	517.75
21.	Mizoram	5	3775.33	7054.66	754.96	764.31
22.	Multi State	183	214892.06	262652.38	27057.12	23068.95
23.	Nagaland	3	7896.52	8570.00	360.00	189.58
24.	Odisha	62	74641.49	77571.56	6107.07	7100.58
25.	Punjab	27	15261.77	15267.50	2.69	764.28
26.	Rajasthan	65	45055.29	46852.62	4781.47	4800.00
27.	Sikkim	5	2149.08	5138.08	250.00	60.76
28.	Tamil Nadu	52	74884.91	90133.72	9480.23	7476.88
29.	Telangana	35	25993.85	27207.21	656.61	2301.92
30.	Tripura	11	5046.93	9067.42	1320.20	1042.34
31.	Uttar Pradesh	83	109181.75	113036.37	7537.02	11032.52
32.	Uttarakhand	10	26822.69	15962.05	1144.74	925.86
33.	West Bengal	53	53540.20	66160.14	5066.64	4419.06
	Total	1250	1550212.47	1740001.93	139531.02	158430.19

Statement-IV

State-wise detail of Fund Released and Fund Utilized in the year 2017-18

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Total No. of Projects	Original Cost	Anticipated Cost	Budget Outlay/ Fund Released for FYR 2017-18	Total Expenditure/ Fund Utilised in FYR 2017-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	1889.87	2016.59	0.00	2.31
2.	Andhra Pradesh	62	99426.52	102872.35	3756.97	3026.18
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	31	16602.41	32431.50	2114.40	2005.34
4.	Assam	49	35722.82	49550.77	2933.51	3354.65
5.	Bihar	81	72090.83	86662.38	6406.62	3841.51
6.	Chhattisgarh	40	86777.24	89158.79	6840.01	6629.04
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	6086.08	5842.31	1305.00	829.52
8.	Delhi	18	53421.22	53688.53	1439.00	14127.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Goa	9	4043.51	4058.91	0.00	66.30
10.	Gujarat	48	45854.58	47616.96	3999.14	3394.13
11.	Haryana	23	14552.14	16438.37	46.25	1581.93
12.	Himachal Pradesh	12	14659.32	22591.60	911.82	1003.46
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	28880.41	57111.68	1883.89	2095.62
14.	Jharkhand	49	48168.01	52543.49	2917.29	4375.62
15.	Karnataka	43	77730.61	82214.88	3248.35	6320.77
16.	Kerala	22	24434.15	29641.49	1115.00	1003.35
17.	Madhya Pradesh	63	67757.75	71130.88	5610.98	7188.44
18.	Maharashtra	130	185819.49	193417.07	14432.92	17983.11
19.	Manipur	2	4670.86	9874.69	1352.02	985.70
20.	Meghalaya	6	3931.46	9025.00	165.00	39.51
21.	Mizoram	5	3775.33	6942.57	779.72	760.91
22.	Multi State	186	238777.07	307612.05	26964.21	24682.95
23.	Nagaland	7	9603.31	10276.79	351.00	83.77
24.	Odisha	82	86649.12	90908.41	7351.09	7400.39
25.	Punjab	30	16014.41	16020.14	0.00	487.91
26.	Rajasthan	61	45188.13	47031.59	3371.32	3170.51
27.	Sikkim	6	2537.08	5585.45	0.00	42.38
28.	Tamil Nadu	67	111197.27	126944.46	2667.87	8490.43
29.	Telangana	36	26113.58	27652.97	1431.51	1591.97
30.	Tripura	11	5046.93	9067.42	653.81	665.09
31.	Uttar Pradesh	91	112819.11	115930.61	6328.16	10215.38
32.	Uttarakhand	17	30497.29	36046.09	2291.95	1728.13
33.	West Bengal	56	55380.82	71263.96	3253.95	4644.95
	Total	1,361	1636118.73	1889170.75	115922.76	143819.15

Compulsory Military Service

294. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether there is any constitutional constraint in introducing compulsory military service for young aspirants for Government service, elected public representatives such as M.P./M.L.A. and Member of Panchayat;

(b)   if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   if not, the initiative taken by the Government to remove the obstacle on the way to the mission of compulsory military service for the youth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE) (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Encouraging Young Scientists

295. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is running any programme to keep young scientists connected with scientific activities during their studies or after completion of their studies to encourage them;

(b)   if so, the time by which the Government is considering to implement this scheme; and

(c)   if not, the future plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) The Government has instituted several schemes/programmes to keep young scientists connected with scientific activities during their studies and also after completion of their studies. The schemes are designed to encourage them to study and facilitate to take up research as a career and identify promising young researchers with innovative ideas and provide them with training and research opportunities in niche areas of science and engineering. Children Science Congress, Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE), The INSPIRE Award-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), Internship Programmes like S.N Bose Scholars, Khorana Scholars etc. are some of the activities/schemes of the Ministry which are aimed to connect the youngsters with science during their studies. The Ministry is also running several postdoctoral level research schemes for young scientists after completion of their studies through fellowships and extramural research projects to nurture their scientific talent for taking up challenging research problems for the benefit of the country.

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

Installation of Latest Signalling Equipments

296. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation and CIDCO have taken a decision to bear the cost of installing latest signalling equipments under the Central Railways;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has not made provision of funds for the installation of signalling equipments for new rail routes under the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP);

(d)   if so, the reasons therefor;

(e)   whether the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation is capable of bearing the expenditure of installing signalling equipments alongwith providing basic facilities to citizens; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) There is no direct cost sharing arrangement with Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation(NMMC)/CIDCO for any of the sanctioned Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) works.

(c) and (d) Necessary funds for associated S&T works of new line routes under MUTP-1 & 2 namely 5th & 6th line Kurla-Thane, 3rd & 4th line Borivali-Virar, 5th line Mahim-Santacruz, 5th & 6th line CSTM-Kurla, Extension of Andheri-Goregaon Harbour line, 5th & 6th line Thane-Diva and 6th line Mumbai Central-Borivali have been provided.

Funds for the installation of signalling equipment for new line works under MUTP-3 namely Panvel-Karjat (double line) on Central Railway and quadrupling of the Virar-Dahanu Road on Western Railway, would be provided after funds are arranged for the whole project.

(e) and (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

First Solar Powered Station

297. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:
       DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Guwahati railway station has become the first solar powered railway station;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to convert railway stations of Jharkhand also to solar powered stations;

(c) if so, the targets set by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the approximate yearly expenditure of railways on diesel and electricity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Action has been taken to convert major stations of Jharkhand State into solar powered stations. Till date, following stations in Jharkhand have been converted into partly solar powered railway stations:

(i) Tatanagar-350 Kilo Watt Peak (kWp)

(ii) Chakradharpur-40 kWp

(iii) Rajkarsawan-2 kWp

Further, Dhanbad and Gomoh Railway Stations will be partially powered by solar plant of 641.365 kWp capacity including hospital and workshop and this work is targeted to be completed by 2018-19.

(d) Expenditure on diesel is Rs. 17070 cr. & Rs. 17959 cr. in the year 2016-17 & 2017-18 respectively and expenditure on electricity is Rs. 11263 cr. & Rs. 11894 cr. in the year 2016-17 & 2017-18 respectively.

Setting Up of Mobile Towers

298. DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile tower is proposed to be set up in Margoda and Seria of Giridih district;

(b) if so, the current position of setting up tower in both places; and

(c) the time by which the said mobile tower is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to set-up a mobile tower each at Margoda and Seria in

District Giridih of Jharkhand State by 31st March, 2019 and foundation-works are in progress.

[English]

Non-Delivery of Parcels

299. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is aware that the complaints of non-delivery of parcels of goods booked on the Railways are on the increase and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways are paying huge amounts as compensation for non-delivery of goods to the consignees and if so, the region-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways is also aware that non-delivery of valuable goods is alleged to have reached the proportion of a scam in the Southern Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Year-wise comparative figures for the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 of complaints registered for non-delivery of parcels of goods booked on the Railways show a decreasing trend.

Year	No. of Complaints
2016-17	4750
2017-18	4344

(b) Region-wise details of amounts paid as compensation for non-delivery of goods to the consignees are not maintained. However, an amount of Rs. 2.74 crore has been paid as compensation by the Railways for non-delivery of goods to the consignees in the year 2017-18.

(c) No such case of non-delivery of valuable goods has come to notice.

(d) Does not arise.

Objectionable Content on Social Media

300. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has directed any social networking media websites to remove certain objectionable contents from their websites;

(b)   if so, the details thereof including the number of such requests made to these websites during each of the last three years and the current year and their response therein along with the details of web pages blocked by the Government recently and the reasons therefor;

(c)   the number of individuals booked in the country under section 66-A of the Information Technology Act during each of the last three years and the current year along with the reasons therefor;

(d)   whether there is any monitoring mechanism in place to regulate the contents posted on social networking sites; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government to check the posting of objectionable contents on such sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides for blocking any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of - (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States, (v) public order, or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules 2009, notified under section 69A provides detailed process including checks-and-balances for blocking of information. The website/webpage is blocked following the due process prescribed in these Rules. The number of Social media URLs blocked/removed during the last 3 years under the provisions of rule 7 Section 69A of the IT Act 2000 are 587, 964, 1329 and 2388 for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto 31.12.2018) respectively. Further, Government orders for blocking/removal of specific URLs on social media platforms websites/webpages in compliance with the directions of the competent Courts of India.

(c)   The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 24.03.2015 in Shreya Singhal vs. UoI case has struck down section 66A of Information Technology Act, 2000 in its entirety and therefore cannot be enforced. As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 2,423 persons in 2014 and 3,137 persons in 2015 were arrested under combined sections of 66 & 66A of IT Act. NCRB did not maintain data separately for section 66A. The data on section 66A of IT Act is not collected by NCRB since 2016 onwards.

(d) and (e) Government is fully committed to freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution of India. Government does not regulate content appearing on social media sites. Law enforcement agencies take action on posting of malicious content on specific case-to-case basis as appropriate.

The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. Section 79 of the Act provides that intermediaries are required to disable/remove unlawful content on being notified by appropriate government or its agency. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, Publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

Committee on NDCP

301. SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the Government has constituted Committees to work on objectives set by National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP);

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is also true that according to private service providers, the telecom sector remains highly taxed just like tobacco industry in addition to the GST at 18 per cent which is almost at the higher tax bracket; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No. Madam.

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

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, the telecommunication services attract standard rate of GST @ 18% and is not taxed like tobacco industry.

[Translation]

Recruitment in Defence Services

302. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:
       SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   the new recruitment made in Army, Navy and Airforce in the country during the last three years;

(b)   whether any State-wise details of the recruitments made in Defence services is maintained; and

(c)   if so, the details of the new recruitment made State-wise including Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The details regarding new recruitment made in the Armed Forces during the last three years, State/UT-wise, including Rajasthan, are as under:–

Army:
JCOs/Other Ranks:

Sl. No.	State/UT	Recruiting Year		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2277	1389	1431
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	254	156	217
3.	Assam	1227	829	900
4.	Bihar	3865	2932	2726
5.	Chhattisgarh	852	817	606
6.	Delhi	806	798	166

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Goa	50	16	1
8.	Gujarat including Dadar Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	1214	1257	728
9.	Haryana	4340	3538	3634
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3072	2174	2376
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2504	1954	1817
12.	Jharkhand	879	687	925
13.	Karnataka including Lakshdweep	1697	1157	1417
14.	Kerala	2425	1584	1278
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3413	2281	2352
16.	Maharashtra	6106	3980	3836
17.	Manipur	359	247	400
18.	Meghalaya	141	86	75
19.	Mizoram	123	200	108
20.	Nagaland	128	112	103
21.	Odisha	1533	642	737
22.	Punjab including Chandigarh	5048	4618	4991
23.	Rajasthan	5384	4658	4298
24.	Sikkim	155	39	109
25.	Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry	2622	1886	1875
26.	Telangana	153	515	643
27.	Tripura	1226	89	55
28.	Uttar Pradesh	10128	6245	6339
29.	Uttarakhand	4390	3360	2384
30.	West Bengal	4397	2116	1862

Officers:

State-wise data relating to recruitment of officers is not maintained.

Navy:

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015		2016		2017	
		Officer	Sailor	Officer	Sailor	Officer	Sailor
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	30	358	15	309	26	403
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	0	1	1	7
3.	Assam	3	30	2	9	2	18
4.	Bihar	20	472	22	260	34	371
5.	Chandigarh	3	0	5	0	3	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	3	9	2	33	1	12
7.	Delhi	31	19	34	25	26	80
8.	Goa	1	16	1	3	1	21
9.	Gujarat	7	59	6	40	2	124
10.	Haryana	35	532	27	729	35	464
11.	Himachal Pradesh	11	110	14	137	19	112
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	55	5	66	6	84
13.	Jharkhand	8	68	4	75	10	108
14.	Karnataka	25	84	35	61	37	179
15.	Kerala	39	122	55	80	43	171
16.	Madhya Pradesh	14	279	24	165	21	348
17.	Maharashtra	31	163	31	176	19	313
18.	Manipur	1	25	0	18	2	19
19.	Meghalaya	0	5	0	11	0	7
20.	Mizoram	0	9	0	13	1	17
21.	Nagaland	0	5	0	1	0	3
22.	Odisha	12	166	7	155	9	288
23.	Puducherry	2	0	0	0	1	0
24.	Punjab	25	65	20	105	22	129
25.	Rajasthan	27	810	25	666	21	954
26.	Sikkim	1	8	0	10	0	13
27.	Tamil Nadu	19	68	32	56	16	72
28.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	3
29.	Uttar Pradesh	66	877	59	917	51	1082
30.	Uttarakhand	25	97	23	136	19	141
31.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17	121	17	95	20	182

Note: State-wise data of Officers does not include NDA cadets.

Air Force:

Sl. No.	State/UT	2015		2016		2017	
		Officer	Airmen	Officer	Airmen	Officer	Airmen
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	1	1	0	0	24
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	26	195	11	93	5	137
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	24	2	12	0	16
4.	Assam	2	200	0	99	1	28
5.	Bihar	26	336	12	360	14	291
6.	Chandigarh	3	0	5	2	0	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	5	27	3	115	0	21
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	1
9.	Delhi	59	10	19	12	9	25
10.	Gujarat	11	61	6	53	1	35
11.	Goa	1	0	0	0	1	10
12.	Haryana	76	753	27	532	14	760
13.	Himachal Pradesh	20	35	10	38	7	28
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	12	7	15	5	26
15.	Jharkhand	5	14	3	73	1	184
16.	Karnataka	31	44	18	69	3	56
17.	Kerala	22	161	15	157	6	113
18.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	18	108	9	295	13	237
20.	Maharashtra	31	28	18	34	9	43
21.	Manipur	4	4	0	101	0	17
22.	Meghalaya	0	5	0	4	0	7
23.	Mizoram	0	1	1	0	0	17
24.	Nagaland	0	3	0	0	0	0
25.	Odisha	4	336	1	147	2	258
26.	Puducherry	2	3	0	0	0	2
27.	Punjab	27	74	21	15	8	12
28.	Rajasthan	30	697	13	733	17	1393
29.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	Tamil Nadu	17	37	11	12	4	122
31.	Tripura	0	7	1	6	0	14
32.	Uttar Pradesh	104	1535	44	1805	25	2274
33.	Uttarakhand	36	88	11	35	7	46
34.	West Bengal	15	210	2	334	3	28

Note: Data as per permanent address declared by the person at the time of induction.

Improvement in Railway Security

303. KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has formulated any scheme for improvement in Railway Security;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the State-wise details of rail accidents and people injured and killed in these accidents during the last three years;

(d)   whether the Government has any scheme for expansion of rail network in Bundelkhand; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by the Railways for strengthening and upgradation. Measures initiated for strengthening of security at railway stations include access control at all the important railway stations, scanning of baggage through baggage scanners, erection of morchas, guarding of platforms, yards and circulating areas, surveillance through Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras at important railway stations etc. To provide round the clock security to passengers, Security Help Line number 182 has been operationalised through Divisional Security Control Rooms of RPF. Upgradation of Security Helpline 182 has also been envisaged for speedier initiation of action on receipt of calls from passengers. In addition, escorting of 2500 trains (on an average daily), is done by Railway Protection Force (RPF) besides escorting of 2200 trains by Government Railway Police (GRP).

Prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order in railway station premises as well as in running trains are the statutory responsibility of State Governments, which they discharge through the GRP. Railways, through the RPF, are supplementing efforts of respective States to strengthen security across Indian Railways.

For regular monitoring and review of security arrangements for the Railways, State Level Security Committee for Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories (UTs) under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories.

(c)   State-wise data of consequential train accidents is not maintained. However, Zone-wise number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to the negligence of road vehicle users) and casualties (killed and injured) therein over Indian Railways are enclosed as Statement.

(d) and (e) With a view of expand railway network in Bundelkhand region, following railway projects have been sanctioned/included in the Budget:–

(i)   Jhansi-Bina 3rd line project of 155.75 km.

(ii) Jhansi-Khairar-Manikpur double line project of 411 km.

(iii) Lalitpur-Birari with flyover at Lalitpur of 15.80 km.

(iv) Dholapur-Jhansi-Bina 4th line of 321.80 km.

Statement

Number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at unmanned level crossings
caused due to the negligence of road vehicle users) and Casualties
(killed and injuries) therein over Indian Railways

Zonal Railway	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18		
	No.	Killed	Injured	No.	Killed	Injured	No.	Killed	Injured
Central	7	2	9	7	0	0	8	0	0
East Coast	2	0	0	7	41	56	4	0	0
East Central	12	15	5	17	6	0	9	3	2
Eastern	4	1	1	7	2	2	2	0	0
North Central	4	8	6	7	153	264	5	10	59
North Eastern	9	12	26	3	9	9	5	5	0
Northeast Frontier	4	2	5	8	6	7	2	1	0
Northern	20	30	39	14	9	7	16	32	121
North Western	11	9	4	4	3	8	5	1	2
South Central	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
South East Central	3	0	7	5	0	0	1	0	0
South Eastern	4	7	7	2	3	5	3	0	0
Southern	6	0	7	8	0	7	3	0	0
South Western	8	6	18	3	6	4	1	0	0
West Central	2	29	45	2	0	0	0	0	0
Western	8	1	8	8	0	0	5	5	13
Konkan Railway Corp.	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Kolkata Metro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	107	122	187	104	238	369	73	57	197

Army Recruitment Centre

304. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more Army recruitment centres specially in East Singhbhum and West Singbhum, Jharkhand to encourage the youth of the adjoining districts to join the Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to

(c) No such proposal for opening more Army Recruitment Centres, including in East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum, Jharkhand is under consideration.

Recruitment in Indian Army is done through Army Recruiting Offices (AROs) spread across the whole country which cater to the requirements of all districts. It is also ensured that recruitment from each of the districts of the country is done at least once in the Recruiting year (April to March).

Army Recruiting Office, Ranchi, Jharkhand is responsible for recruiting candidates from East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum.

Flap Gates at Stations

305. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government proposes to install flap gates with barcode at the railway stations;

(b)   if not, whether the Government has prepared any plans to reduce the existing workload on ticket checker and to provide any facility to the persons without ticket; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. In the year 2017-18, the work of "Automatic Gate Based Ticket Checking System(for trial in two stations)" has been sanctioned at an abstract cost of Rs. 4.16 crore.

(b) and (c) Various measures have been undertaken to reduce the existing workload of the ticket checking staff. The same includes sanctioning of additional posts and filling of vacant posts. In order to optimize the human resource available, it has been decided to utilize spare Enquiry-cum-Reservation-Clerk manpower in stationary ticket checking activities. Rationalizing the workload through system improvements and technological solutions is continuous and ongoing process.

Railway Projects in Bihar

306. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the number and names of the railway projects approved for Bihar during the last three years;

(b)   the details of the projects out of the above where work has been started; and

(c)   the amount of funds allocated/utilized for the projects which have been started during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Details of Railway projects, falling fully/partly in Bihar, sanctioned/included during last three years and current financial year (2018-19) are as under:–

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Year of sanction	Latest Anticipated cost	Exp. Upto Mar'18	Outlay 2018-19	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Doublings						
1.	Patratu-Sonnagar 3rd line (291 km)	2015-16	3406	60	250	Sanctioned. Work taken up.
2.	Hajipur-Bachwara (72 km)	2015-16	679	176	260	Sanctioned. Work taken up.
3.	Samastipur-Darbhanga (38 km)	2015-16	491	58	50	Sanctioned. Work taken up.
4.	Kiul-Gaya (123 km)	2015-16	1200	328	240	Sanctioned. Work taken up.
5.	Rampur Dumra-Tal-Rajendrapul-Addl bridge and doubling (14 km)	2015-16	1491	228	210	Sanctioned. Work taken up.
6.	Karota Patner-Mankatha-Surface triangle line (10 km)	2016-17	129	10	30	Sanctioned. Work taken up.
7.	Gaya-Bypass line for Manpur (2 km)	2016-17	30	05	01	Sanctioned.
8.	Sagauli-Valmikinagar (109.7 km)	2016-17	1215	01	30	Sanctioned.
9.	Muzaffarpur-Sagauli (100.6 km)	2016-17	1186	02	40	Sanctioned.
10.	Darbhanga-Bypass line connecting Shisho Halt & Kakarghati, excl Darbhanga Yard (7.64 km)	2018-19	130	00	00	Included. Final Location Survey (FLS) taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Lines						
1.	Vikramshila-Katareah (Pirpainthi-Naugachia) (18 km)	2016-17	2182	00	10	Included in Budget subject to approval of Government
2.	Wazirganj-Jethaian *via* Gehlaur (20 km)	2017-18	452	00	00	Included in Budget subject to approval of Government

[English]

Wi-Fi at Stations

307. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
DR. K. GOPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of railway stations that have been provided with wi-fi facilities in the country particularly in the State of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh so far and the reasons for not providing the same in the Damoh and Khandwa Railway Stations;

(b)   whether it is a fact that Wi-fi facilities have been extended not only to 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations but also to 'B' category stations; and

(c)   if so, the details of 'B' category railway stations in Gujarat and by when Wi-fi facilities would be provided there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 712 nos. of Railway Stations have been provided with Wi-Fi facilities over Indian Railways. 33 no. of Railway Stations in Gujarat and 34 no. of Railway Stations in Madhya Pradesh have been provided with Wi-Fi facility. List of Railway Stations provided with Wi-Fi in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh is enclosed as Statement.

Wi-Fi facility has been provided at Damoh Railway Station since 09.01.2018 and at Khandwa Railway Station since 31.03.2018.

(b)   Yes, Madam. Wi-Fi facilities have also been extended to few 'B' Category Railway Stations apart from 'A-1' and 'A' Category Railway Stations.

(c)   Wi-Fi facilities at 'B' Category Railway Stations in Gujarat has not been provided. Ministry of Railways

has planned to provide the Wi-Fi facility up to 'E' category Railway Stations under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Funds of Private Corporations and Public Sector Undertakings (PSU).

Statement

List of Stations (Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh) where Wi-Fi Internet Facility has been provided

Sl.No.	Name of Stations	State
1.	Surat	Gujarat
2.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
3.	Vadodara	Gujarat
4.	Rajkot	Gujarat
5.	Viramgam	Gujarat
6.	Gandhidham	Gujarat
7.	Palanpur	Gujarat
8.	Jamnagar	Gujarat
9.	New Bhuj	Gujarat
10.	Bhavnagar Terminus	Gujarat
11.	Veraval	Gujarat
12.	Navsari	Gujarat
13.	Udhana	Gujarat
14.	Valsad	Gujarat
15.	Vapi	Gujarat
16.	Surendranagar	Gujarat
17.	Anand	Gujarat
18.	Ankleshwar	Gujarat
19.	Bharuch	Gujarat
20.	Nadiad	Gujarat
21.	Geratpur	Gujarat
22.	Gothaj	Gujarat

Sl.No.	Name of Stations	State
23.	Kanij	Gujarat
24.	Kanjari Boriyavi	Gujarat
25.	Mahemdavad Kheda	Gujarat
26.	Utarsanda	Gujarat
27.	Vatva	Gujarat
28.	Ambli Road	Gujarat
29.	Barejadi Nandej	Gujarat
30.	Chandoliya	Gujarat
31.	Charodi	Gujarat
32.	Jakhawada	Gujarat
33.	Sanand	Gujarat
34.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
35.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh
36.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
37.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
38.	Singrauli	Madhya Pradesh
39.	Itarsi	Madhya Pradesh
40.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh
41.	Morena	Madhya Pradesh
42.	Bina	Madhya Pradesh
43.	Damoh	Madhya Pradesh
44.	Katni	Madhya Pradesh
45.	Pipariya	Madhya Pradesh
46.	Saugor	Madhya Pradesh
47.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh
48.	Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh
49.	Maihar	Madhya Pradesh
50.	Rewa	Madhya Pradesh
51.	Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh
52.	Burhanpur	Madhya Pradesh
53.	Khandwa	Madhya Pradesh
54.	Betul	Madhya Pradesh
55.	Nagda	Madhya Pradesh
56.	Gosalpur	Madhya Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of Stations	State
57.	Manidideep	Madhya Pradesh
58.	Obaidullaganj	Madhya Pradesh
59.	Sihora Road	Madhya Pradesh
60.	Barkheda	Madhya Pradesh
61.	Budhni	Madhya Pradesh
62.	Deori	Madhya Pradesh
63.	Dundi	Madhya Pradesh
64.	Misrod	Madhya Pradesh
65.	Niwar	Madhya Pradesh
66.	Powarkheda	Madhya Pradesh
67.	Sleemnabad	Madhya Pradesh

Rise in Coal Imports

308. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for rise in India's coal imports by 38.2% to Rs. 1,38,477 crore in 2017-18;

(b) the details of steps taken to address the increasing dependence on coal imports;

(c) the details of the latest coal production data by Coal India Limited (CIL); and

(d) whether the target to produce one billion tonne of coal by 2020 by CIL will be achieved and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The value of India's coal imports have risen by 38.2% to Rs. 1,38,477 crore in 2017-18. However, the quantity of coal imports has increased only by 9.1% from 190.95 MT to 208.27 MT during this period.

The increase in value of coal imports is primarily due to:

(i) Increase in international coal price leading to greater value increase as compared to absolute quantity increase in 2017-18.

(ii) Increase in value of imported coking coal. India is deficient in coking coal and as such imports of

coking coal are inevitable. In 2017-18 the value of imported coking coal grew by 44%, from Rs. 41,230.06 crores to Rs. 59,522.63 crores.

(iii) Many thermal power station are configured to use imported coal. As such imports by these thermal power plants are inevitable. During April-October, 2018, these power plants have imported 22.27 MT of coal.

(iv) The imported quantity of 2017-18 at 208.27 MT is less than the imported quantity of 2014-15 which stood at 217.79 MT even as power generation and industrial activity grew substantially after 2014-15.

This was possible due to increased production of domestic coal, better quality management as well as improvement in availability of coal by improvement in transport infrastructure.

Thus, while there is an absolute increase in the value of the imports, the reasons are multifunctional and are not directly proportionate to domestic production alone.

(b) There has been a consistent effort to increase domestic coal production so as to reduce dependence on coal imports. The all India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 676.48 MT in 2017-18. Absolute increase in all India coal production from 2013-14 to 2017-18 (four years) is 110.71 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 33.73 MT from 2009-10 to 2013-14 (four years).

Coal India Limited (CIL) has also increased its production from 462.41 MT in 2013-14 to 567.36 MT in 2017-18 (four years), an absolute increase of 105 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 31.15 MT between 2009-10 and 2013-14 (four years).

Further, in the current year during April-November, 2018, all India coal production was 433.90 MT with a growth rate of 9.8% and coal production of CIL was 358.32 MT with a growth rate of 8.8% over the corresponding period of previous year.

However, coking coal will continue to be imported as there is limited availability of coking coal in the country. Further, power plants designed on imported coal will also continue to import coal.

(c) In 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), CIL has achieved production of 358.32 MT with a growth rate of 8.8% over the corresponding period of previous year.

(d) CIL had prepared one Billion Tonne (BT) plan of production (by 2020), which was subject to market demand for coal. However, during 2015-16 and 2016-17, there was less coal offtake due to improved coal quality and resultant enhanced efficiency of Power Plants. Coal despatch grew at the rate of 7.2% against production growth of 9.2% in 2015-16 and at the rate of 2.9% against the production growth of 2.8% in 2016-17. In view of this changed scenario, one Billion Tonne Plan by 2020 is being re-examined.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Trains

309. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains stoppage at stations provided by the Government during the last five years in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of trains and names of stations where train stoppages have been provided with special reference to Maharashtra; and

(c) the number of trains out of said trains that have been given stoppages in Jalgaon, Chalisgaon, Pachora, Dharangaon, Amalner stations of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Railways do not provide stoppages on State-wise basis. However, during April, 2014 to November, 2018, stoppage of 142 trains have been provided at 43 stations located in the State of Maharashtra. These stations are Amla, Balharshah, Bhusawal, Bodhadi, Burhanpur, Chalisgaon, Chandrapur, Chandur, Chikna, Chiplun, Dadar, Daund, Dharangaon, Gangakher, Hinganghat, Igatpuri, Kamptee, Kumtha Khurd, Lasalgaon, Lonavala, Manmad, Masoba Dongargaon, Murtizapur, Murud, Nagpur, Nandgaon, Nandurbar, Pachora, Panvel, Pimpalkutti, Pulgaon, Pune, Purna, Ratnagiri, Saundal, Sindi, Sindkheda, Solapur, Thane, Tirora, Vasai Road, Veravali and Wani. Of these, stoppages of 02 trains each at Pachora & Dharangaon and 04 trains at Chhalisgaon have been provided.

[English]

Data Protection Bill

310. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:
     SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the Government has sought suggestions and feedback from the General Public on the draft personal data protection Bill; if so, the details thereof along with the details of the bill;

(b)   whether it is also true that the draft of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018, restricts and imposes condition on the cross border transfer of personal data, and suggests setting up of Data Protection Authority of India to prevent any misuse of personal information and to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communication and infrastructure; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology published the draft at its website and solicited comments from General Public on the Draft Personal Data Protection Bill-2018, from 16th August, 2018 onwards. The last date of submission of comments was 10th October, 2018.

(b) and (c) The Draft Personal Data Protection Bill is available at *http://meity.gov.in/data-protection-framework.*

Incursions in Doklam

311. SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of incidents of incursions recorded in Doklam during 2014-2018;

(b)   the details of steps taken by the Government to prevent future incursions in Doklam and other North-Eastern areas of the country; and

(c)   whether any bilateral dialogue was held to resolve the standoff witnessed in Doklam and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) Doklam is part of the territory of Bhutan. Insofar as India-China border areas are concerned, since there is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two sides, from time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC.

Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meeting, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, as well as through diplomatic channels.

Rafale Jet

312. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government had entered into an agreement with the French Government for the procurement of Rafale Jets;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Minister of External Affairs or any other officials from the Ministry has any involvement or signed any agreement with the French Government or any other institutions/companies for the procurement of Rafale Jets; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Yes

(b)   An Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Government of French Republic has been signed on 23.09.2016 for purchase of 36 Rafale aircraft along with requisite equipments, services and weapons.

(c)   No

(d)   Not applicable.

Leadership Development of Minority Women

313. DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has launched any scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the purpose for launching the scheme;

(c)   the salient features of the scheme and its training module along with details of enrolment of organisations/ institutions for conducting training programmes for minority women;

(d)   whether there has been an increase in budgetary allocation in the year 2018-19 as compared to 2017-18 with respect to the implementation of schemes on leadership development of minority women, if so, the details thereof;

(e)   whether any initiatives are intended to be taken by the Government to increase participation of non-muslim minorities in the NaiRoshni Scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(f)   the steps being undertaken by the Government for further widespread implementation of the "NaiRoshni" Scheme?

THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) Yes Madam, Ministry of Minority Affairs implements an Scheme "NaiRoshni"-the Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tool and techniques for interacting with Government system, banks and intermediaries at all levels. It is implemented through Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) all over the country.

NaiRoshni is a short term training programme (Residential-5 days/Non-residential-6 days) for sensitization of women with special emphasis on identification of those women who are willing and can be further trained under any short duration training for Economic empowerment besides general handholding so that they could get sustainable economic livelihood opportunities through suitable wage employment or self-employment/micro-enterprises, which includes programme for Handicapped Women.

The Training modules cover issues relating to women *viz.* Leadership of Women through participation in decision making, Educational Programmes for women, Health and Hygiene, Legal rights of women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachch Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and Behavioural Change Scheme specific other detailed Information is available on *http://nairoshni-moma. gov.in.*

The Project Proposals are submitted in Prescribed Format through Online Application Management System (OAMS) of scheme to the Ministry. The Projects of the eligible organizations as per the guidelines of the scheme are placed for consideration and approval of the Sanctioning Committee in the Ministry. Financial Assistance would be given to the organizations whose project proposals are found in order and would serve the objectives of the scheme.

(d)   The budgetary allocation for the year 2018-19 is Rs. 15 crore as it was in the previous years. The supplementary Revised Budgetary allocation for the year 2018-19 is Rs. 17 crore to implement the scheme.

(e)   Yes Madam, with an objective to strengthen the mosaic of plurality in the society and bring about solidarity and unity through their own efforts to improve their lot, the scheme permits a mix of women from across communities. Efforts should be made by the Organization for having a representative mix of women from SCs/STs/OBCs, women with disabilities and other non-minority communities comprising 25% of the group.

(f)   The Scheme has been extended with Revised Guidelines for further 14th Finance Commission (2017-2020) with an objective of outreach the untouched Districts of country. Therefore the number of PIAs empanelled by the Sanctioning Committee for the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 increased in great proportion than previous years (639 against 88 PIAs during the year 2016-17). Further, in a view to encourage the organizations from Himalayan area, inaccessible terrain, northeast States/UTs, the Guidelines of the scheme envisage that in case sufficient number of application are not received from these region, Secretary (MA) may give relaxation in selection Criteria.

Cyber Physical System Mission

314. SHRI MOHAN BHAI KALYANJI BHAI KUNDARIYA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has launched/proposes to launch Cyber Physical System Mission;

(b) if so, the salient features and the objectives thereof;

(c) whether cyber security has emerged as a very important and challenging field for the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to strengthen cyber security in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Mission will have major activities *i.e.*, Technology Development, Human Resource Development (HRD) & Skill Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Start-Up Ecosystem and International Collaborations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, security to the Physical Infrastructure and Other Infrastructure is one of the activities of the Cyber Physical System Mission.

Government has taken following measures to enhance the cyber security posture and prevent cyber attacks:

(i) Information Technology Act, 2000 was enacted to deal with cyber crime. IT Act has adequate deterrent provisions for cyber threats and cyber attacks.

(ii) Government has established Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) under section 70B of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 to act as nodal centre for incidence response. The details are available on its website (*www.cert-in.org.in*).

(iii) Government has established National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of section 70A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 for protection of critical information infrastructure in the country.

(iv) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

(v) Cyber security exercises and trainings are being conducted regularly by CERT-In to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ ITes etc.

(vi) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre).

(vii) Government has set up National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats.

(viii) National Informatics Centre (NIC) has deployed state-of-the-art security solutions including firewalls, intrusion prevention systems and ante-virus solution. Additionally, periodic security audits of resources are performed followed by subsequent hardenings.

(ix) A 24*7 security monitoring centre is in place at NIC, for detecting and responding to security incidents, including NIC-CERT and Centres of Excellence for Application Security.

Defence Corridor in Tamil Nadu

315. SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has earmarked any area/sector/SMEs for providing support for the upcoming Defence corridor projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include SMEs in Erodes, Tirupur and Coimbatore for Defence production and supply of ancillaries to Defence corridor projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Government has earmarked five nodal points for setting up of the upcoming Defence Production Corridor Project in Tamil Nadu. These are Chennai,

Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchirappalli. Stakeholder consultations have already been held covering these five nodal points in Tamil Nadu. Setting up of this corridor would catalyse indigenous production of defence and aerospace related items, thereby reducing our reliance on imports and promotion of export of these items to other countries. This will lead to generation of employment opportunities and growth of private domestic manufacturers, MSMEs and start-ups.

GDP of India

316. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a)　whether it is a fact that among all countries the GDP of India is now the seventh largest and if so, the details thereof;

(b)　whether there is a roadmap to strengthen India's position further;

(c)　whether the Government plans to work towards further increasing the GDP of our country; and

(d)　if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) As per the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) World Economic Outlook Report (April-2018), India is the world's seventh-largest economy in US $ among 193 countries considered in the report. This ranking is based on projection made by International Monetary Fund (IMF), for GDP (Nominal) Ranking for the year 2018.

(b)　Reforms in the Indian Economy is a continuing process and various Ministries and Departments are implementing Government's strategic programs and policies to enhance the economic growth. NITI Aayog has specially been constituted for providing both directional and policy inputs and to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach. Its initiatives include "15 year road map", "7-year vision, strategy and action plan"etc.

(c) and (d) Promoting growth of the economy has always been the utmost priority of the Government. The Government has taken various steps to boost the GDP growth of the economy. These, *inter alia*, include fillip to manufacturing via Make in India programme and measures to improve ease of doing business, concrete measures for transport sector including measures for regional connectivity and power sector *via* schemes like Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY). Other measures include comprehensive reforms in the foreign direct investment policy and special package for textile industry. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has provided a significant opportunity to improve growth momentum by reducing barriers to trade, business and related economic activities. The Union Cabinet approved a significant increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018-19 season, in order to provide major boost to farmer's income. The Government has launched a phased program for bank recapitalization entailing infusion of capital to the public sector banks, to the tune of about Rs. 2.11 lakh crore over two financial years, which is expected to encourage banks to enhance lending. Budget 2018-19 included various measures to provide a push to the economy, which among others, include major push to infrastructure via higher allocation to rail & road sector, reduced corporate tax rate of 25 per cent for companies with turnover up to Rs. 250 crore which is expected to help 99 per cent of MSMEs, etc. The Government launched a support and outreach program for helping the growth, expansion and facilitation Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Scientist

317. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK": Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)　the laboratory-wise number of vacant posts of scientist in top scientific institutes of the country and the steps taken by the Government to fill these vacancies;

(b)　the details of the scheme formulated by the Ministry to encourage women scientists in the country and the outcome of the steps taken by the Government in this regard during the last five years;

(c)   whether the Government proposes to provide opportunity (fellowship) to the school and college students to work in premier top laboratories of the country on the lines of America and Europe; and

(d)   if so, the number of young scientists who have been invited for this purpose and the details of the laboratories which have given their participation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Launch of Satellites

318. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:
      SHRI D. K. SURESH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is true that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has planned to launch more state-of-the-art satellites to cater to the needs of emerging applications and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government has set any timeframe for the launch of the satellites and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the details of financial allocation made by the Government for the said programme; and

(d)   the details of areas identified/to be benefited with the launching of the said satellites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, ISRO is planning to launch more state-of-the-art satellites in the near future encompassing, optical remote sensing, microwave remote sensing, Infra Red remote sensing (IR). Also making scientific missions to moon and

the communication satellites to provide high throughput communication links as well as Direct To Home (DTH) applications. These satellites will address various user requirements.

(b)   These satellites will be realized and launched by the coming three years.

(c)   The details of the financial allocations are as following:–

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Programme	BE 2018-19
1.	Communication Satellites	403.10
2.	Earth Observation Systems	510.35
3.	Satellite Navigation	50.00
4.	Space Science & Planetary Exploration	214.10
	Total	1177.55

(d)   The proposed satellites will provide better Earth imaging with day and night capabilities, improved weather predictions, better handling of disaster situations, facilitate navigational applications and will also improve communication connectivity.

[Translation]

Redevelopment of Stations with Foreign Countries Help

319. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Railways proposes to redevelop the Railway Stations which are crucial from the Urban Development perspective and have become crowded over a period of time and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether some foreign countries have shown interest in the redevelopment of these stations; and

(c)   if so, the names of such countries and the cost of redevelopment of such railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Government of India has launched Schemes of 'SMART Cities' and

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for the redevelopment and rejuvenation of the cities with a population of more than 1 lakh and covering Capitals of all States and Union Territories. With a view to providing the cities covered in these schemes with a redeveloped railway station which is integratedly planned with the surrounding parts of their cities, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways (MOR) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for mutual cooperation between the two Ministries for integrated planning of redevelopment of railway stations in the cities included in these schemes. This would lead to development of integrated public transit hub around the railway stations and encourage Transit Oriented Development. Further, an MoU between Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. (NBCC-Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' representative agency) has been signed on 30.06.2017 for development of 10 stations *viz* Tirupati, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Nellore, Madgaon, Lucknow, Gomtinagar, Kota, Thane new, Ernakulam Jn. and Puducherry. At present, contracts have been awarded for Gomtinagar and Charbag (Lucknow) station and bids are under evaluation for Tirupati stations. Bids have been invited for Puducherry station.

Union Cabinet has recently approved Railways' proposal for redevelopment of railway stations by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency, through simplified procedures and for longer lease tenure. Accordingly, necessary action has been initiated for redevelopment of major railway stations all over the country in a phased manner.

(b) and (c) A large number of Foreign Railways have shown keen interest in the stations redevelopment program and an agreement has been signed with the French Railway (SNCF) for joint study on Renovation Concept Design of Ambala and Ludhiana stations. Korean railway has also expressed interest in the redevelopment of New Delhi Station.

The cost of station redevelopment project is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations.

[English]

Air Squadrons for Air Force

320. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the requirement of the Air Squadron for Indian Air Force and submarine of Indian Navy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy (IN) are equipped to cater for the threat environment that exists and are ready to meet the role assigned to them. Operational preparedness of the Armed Forces is reviewed from time to time based on the threat perception.

Shortage of Officers in Defence

321. DR. A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that there is acute shortage of officers in Army, Navy, Air Force and para-military forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total sanctioned strength as well as shortage of officers in Army, Navy and Air Force as on date; and

(d) the number of soldiers who took the extreme step of taking their own life in the last four years and the steps taken by Government to improve the morale of soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The details of strength of Officers in the three Armed Forces and para-military forces are as under:–

Service	Authorised Strength	Held Strength	Shortage
1	2	3	4
Army*	50028 (as on 31.3.2018)	42734 (as on 1.7.2018)	7294
Navy# (As on 31.10.2018)	11415	9925	1457

1	2	3	4
Air Force# (As on 1.7.2018)	12584	12392	192
Para-Military Forces (As on 30.11.2018)	18416	15449	2969

* excluding AMC, ADC & MNS

\# excluding AMC & ADC

(d)   The details of number of incidents of suicide in the defence forces during last four years, force-wise & year-wise is as under:–

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2014	84	4	24
2015	78	3	15
2016	104	6	19
2017	74	5	21

Various steps have been taken by the Armed Forces to create healthy/appropriate environment for their Officers and Other Ranks. Some of these steps are as under:–

- Provision of better quality of facilities such as clothing, food, married accommodation, travel facilities, schooling, recreation etc. and periodic welfare meeting.

- Conduct of yoga and meditation as a tool for stress management.

- Training and deployment of psychological counsellors.

- Institutionalization of projects 'MILAP' and 'SAHYOG' by Army in Northern & Eastern Command to reduce stress among troops.

- A 'Mansik Sahayata Helpline' has been established by Army & Air Force to take professional counselling.

- Mental Health Awareness is provided during pre-induction training.

- Formation of Military Psychiatry Treatment Centre at INHS Asvini and establishment of Mental Health Centres in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Port Blair, Goa and Karwar.

Providing Good Quality Coal to Thermal Power Station

322. SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has taken steps to provide adequate coal of good quality to Thermal Power Stations in the country especially in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof; and

(b)   the steps taken by the Government to provide Thermal Power Stations in Tamil Nadu with imported coal in the case of any shortage of high quality coal in India?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) In 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), Coal India Limited (CIL) has supplied 315.94 Million tonnes (MT) coal to the Power sector as compared to the supply of 291.78 MT in the corresponding period of last year, thereby achieving a growth of more than 8%. CIL has total annual linkage of 30.55 MT for the Power Houses situated in the State of Tamil Nadu. In 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018) against pro rata contract quantity of 19.45 MT, coal dispatch was 15.75 MT thereby achieving materialization of about 81%. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has supplied 3.28 Lakh Tonnes (LT) to NTECL,Vellur till 30.11.2018 against the contract of 5.00 LT coal on best effort basis. The average coal stock in the power plants of Tamil Nadu was sufficient for 9 days as on 05.12.2018 as compared to 6 days stock as on 05.12.2017.

Further, as per CEA report of October, 2018, the total energy demand of Tamil Nadu for April-October, 2018 (65775 MU) has been met with 99.90% fulfillment with no notified power cuts. It is thus evident that there has been adequate supply of coal in the power Plants of Tamil Nadu to meet its power demand.

In order to address the issue of quality of coal dispatched by coal companies to the power utilities and grade slippage, Government has decided that coal samples should be collected and analyzed by single Third Party Agencies, like Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR), Quality Control of India (QCI) & Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Indian School of Mines (ISM). Based on the Third Party Sampling analysis results furnished by

third party agency, credit/debit note are being issued by coal companies to the power plants in case of difference between declared grade of coal and analyzed grade of coal. Thus, the quality of coal being supplied to Thermal power plants in the country including Tamil Nadu is being ensured by sampling and analysis by a third party agency. Coal and coke, being under Open General License as per the import policy of the Government, are imported by various consumers and traders as per their requirements. Ministry of Power has advised on 30.05.2018 to Energy Department of State Governments to assess their requirement in respect of import of coal and plan accordingly.

Railway Projects

323. SHRI M. B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of proposals for railway projects received from the various State Governments still pending with the Railways, State-wise and project-wise;

(b)   the details and the present status of proposals which have been approved during the last three years, State-wise and project-wise;

(c)   the details of funds allocated for implementation of such approved projects, State-wise and project-wise; and

(d)   the time frame set for the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Proposals/ suggestions/representations, both formal and informal regarding Railway projects are received from State Governments, Ministries of Central Government, Elected Representatives, Organizations/rail users etc. by Railways at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Division Office etc. As receipt of such proposals/complaints/ suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained. Since Railway projects generally straddle over more than one State, these are neither surveyed nor sanctioned State-wise. Survey for new lines, gauge conversion of Meter Gauge lines to Broad Gauge and feasibility study etc. is a continuous and ongoing process of Indian Railways and is done based on demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, Other Public Representatives and Railways' own requirement.

(b) and (c) Details of Railway projects included in Pink Book during the last three years *i.e.* 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19 are enclosed as Statement. Many of these projects included in Pink Book are subject to requisite approvals. The projects which have received requisite clearances are in various stages of planning, estimation, tendering and land acquisition etc.

(d) The completion of railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, cutting of trees, shifting of services, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, NOC from State Irrigation Department and Power Corporations, law & order issues like protests against compensation to land losers, public agitation over alignment, Extremism and Naxalite problems etc., which are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways. Moreover, the funds for completion of projects are allocated on yearly basis depending on the total budget outlay, progress made in each project and relative priority. Therefore, it is not feasible to fix time lines for completion of all these projects.

Statement

Details of projects included in Pink Book during the last three years viz. 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	State	PH	Project	Year	Total length (in km)	Latest cost	Outlay 2018-19
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	CR	MAH, MP	NL	Indore-Manmad *via* Malegaon	2016-17	368	8857.98	101
2.	CR	MAH	NL	Pune-Nasik	2016-17	265	5341.68	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	CR	MAH	NL	Vaibhavwadi-Kolhapur	2016-17	107	3438.51	1
4.	ECoR	ORI	NL	Jeypore-Malkangiri	2016-17	130	2343.64	95
5.	ECoR	ORI	NL	Jeypore-Nabarangpur	2016-17	38	747.91	150
6.	ECR	BIH	NL	Vikramshila-Katareah (Pirpainthi-Naughachia)	2016-17	18	2172.67	10
7.	ER	JHA	NL	Chitra-Basukinath	2016-17	37	859	20
8.	ER	JHA	NL	Gooda-Pakur	2016-17	80	2023.76	20
9.	NER	UP	NL	Sahjanwa-Dohrighat	2016-17	70.45	743.55	2
10.	NER	UP	NL	Bahraich-Shravasti-Balrampur/Tulsipur	2016-17	210	5185.8	1
11.	NFR	WB	NL	Haldibari- International Border	2016-17	3	90	15
12.	NR	UP, Har	NL	Meerut-Panipat	2016-17	104	2200	7.6
13.	NR	PUN	NL	Rajpura-Mohali	2016-17	24	312.5	0.1
14.	SECR	CHH	NL	Dongargarh-Kharigarh-Bilaspur	2016-17	270	1250	0.1
15.	SECR	CHH	NL	Dharamjaigarh-Korba	2016-17	63	1349	0.1
16.	SR	TN	NL	Morappur-Dharmapuri	2016-17	36	360	1
17.	WCR	MP	NL	Indore-Jabalpur	2016-17	342	5440	0.2
18.	WR	GUJ	NL	Bhimnath-Dholera	2016-17	28	394.46	0.1
19.	NER	UP	GC	Indara-Dohrighat	2016-17	34	165	10
20.	NER	UP	GC	Bahraich-Mailani incl byepass at Mailani	2016-17	230	1277	5
21.	CR	MAH	DL	Daund-Manmad	2016-17	236	2081.27	210
22.	CR	MAH	DL	Manmad-Jalgaon 3rd line	2016-17	160	1035.16	52
23.	CR	MAH	DL	Wardha-Nagpur 4th line	2016-17	76	637.95	35
24.	CR	MAH	DL	Jalgaon-Bhusawal 4th line	2016-17	24	261.37	52
25.	ECR	BIH	DL	Karota Patner-Mankatha surface triangle line	2016-17	10	129.38	30
26.	ECR	BIH	DL	Sagauli-Valmikinagar	2016-17	109.7	1215.55	30
27.	ECR	BIH	DL	Gaya Byepass line for Manpur	2016-17	2	29.52	1
28.	ECR	BIH	DL	Muzaffarpur-Sagauli	2016-17	100.6	1185.74	40
29.	ECR	JHA	DL	Garwa Road Rail over rail	2016-17	10	262.71	1
30.	ECR	JHA	DL	Gomoh Flyover for down trains	2016-17	15	487.73	50
31.	NCR	UP, MP	DL	Jhansi-Khairar-Manikpur & Khairar-Bhimsen	2016-17	411	4187	100
32.	NCR	UP	DL	Yamuna Br.-Agra Fort with major Br at Yamuna River	2016-17	2	121.58	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33.	NCR	UP	DL	Iradatganj-Kunwadih-Const of flyover	2016-17	20.1	2967.91	0.1
34.	NCR	UP	DL	Karchana-Iradatganj-Const. of flyover	2016-17	2	1134.53	0.1
35.	NCR	UP	DL	Naini-Iradatganj-Const. of flyover	2016-17	12	742.1	0.1
36.	NCR	UP	DL	Jeonathpur-flyover	2016-17	13	866.12	0.1
37.	NCR	UP	DL	Mathura-Murhesi Rampur-flyover	2016-17	11.08		0.1
38.	NCR	UP	DL	Flyover at Aligarh	2016-17	25	1456.8	1
39.	NCR	UP	DL	Lalitpur-Birari with flyover at Lalitpur	2016-17	16	304.44	10
40.	NER	UP	DL	Domingarh-GKP-GKP Cantt-Kusumhi	2016-17	21.15	186.85	15
41.	NER	UP	DL	Burhwal-Gonda 3rd line	2016-17	61.72	714.34	10
42.	NER	UP	DL	Shahganj-Bhatni-Phephna-Indara, Mau-Sahaganj excl Mau-Indara	2016-17	150.28	1028.95	31
43.	NER	UP	DL	Bhatni-Aurnihar with RE excl Mau-Indara	2016-17	116.95	600	40
44.	NER	UP	DL	Aurnihar-Jaunpur	2016-17	60	366.71	38
45.	NFR	WB	DL	New Maynaguri-Gumanihat (remaining section)	2016-17	51.65	612	165
46.	NR	UP	DL	Barabanki-Akbarpur	2016-17	161	1116.08	92
47.	NR	UP	DL	Janghai-Pratapgarh-Amethi	2016-17	87	700	39
48.	NR	UP	DL	Jaunpur-Tanda	2016-17	94	676.36	21.01
49.	NR	UP, DLI	DL	Delhi-Shamli-Tapri incl SRE byepass	2016-17	175	1500	0.1
50.	SCR	AP	DL	Guntur-Guntakal	2016-17	443	3631.07	200
51.	SER	WB, ORI	DL	Narayangarh-Bhadrak 3rd line	2016-17	155	2381	55
52.	SER	WB	DL	Damodar-Mohishila	2016-17	8	76	32
53.	SER	ORI	DL	Bondamunda-Rourkela 4th line	2016-17	9.3	94	50
54.	SR	Kar	DL	Netravati-Mangalore	2016-17	1.5	28	21
55.	SWR	KAR	DL	Birur-Shimoga	2016-17	60	500	10.1
56.	WCR	MP	DL	Powerkheda-Jujharpur single line flover in UP direction	2016-17	12	247.03	10.1
57.	WCR	MP	DL	Jukehi Chord line at Katni	2016-17	0.53	12.45	5.42
58.	WR	MP	DL	Nagda-Ujjain-Doubling of Gambhir Bridge	2016-17	0.44	28.16	15
59.	WR	MP	DL	Indore-Dewas-Ujjain	2016-17	80	603.69	60
60.	CR	MAH	NL	Jeur-Ashti	2017-18	78	1560	0.1
61.	CR	MAH	NL	Phaltan to Pandharpur	2017-18	105	1149	0.1
62.	CR	MAH	NL	Hatkanangale-Ichalkarangi	2017-18	8	191.59	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
63.	ECoR	ORI	NL	Extension of Naupada-Gunupur newline upto Theruvali	2017-18	79	935.72	1
64.	ECR	BIH	NL	Wazerganj-Natesar *via* Gehlaur	2017-18	20	300	0.1
65.	NER	UP	NL	Padrauna-Kushinagar *via* Gorakhpur	2017-18	64	1345	1
66.	NER	UP	NL	Etah-Kasganj	2017-18	29	276.9	0.1
67.	NFR	NER, Assam	NL	Sibsagar-Jorhat	2017-18	62	1296	5
68.	NFR	NER, Assam	NL	Salona-khumtai	2017-18	99	5958	5
69.	NFR	NER, Assam	NL	Tezpur-Silghat	2017-18	25	2025	5
70.	NR	HP	NL	Una-Hamirpur	2017-18	50	3044.1	102
71.	NCR	UP	NL	Robertsganj to Mughalsarai *via* Madhupur, Sukrit, Ahrora	2017-18	70	1260	0.1
72.	NWR	RAJ, GUJ	NL	Taranga Hill-Abu Road *via* Ambaji	2017-18	89	1695.72	1
73.	SCR	AP, TEL	NL	Vijayawada-Guntur *via* Amravati	2017-18	106	3272	10
74.	SWR	KAR	NL	Gadag-Yalvigi	2017-18	58	640	0.5
75.	WR	MP, RAJ	NL	Nimach-Badi Sadri	2017-18	48	490.44	5
76.	NCR	UP	GC	Mathura-Vrindavan	2017-18	11	98	0.1
77.	NER	UP	GC	Pilibhit-Shahjahanpur	2017-18	83	427	40
78.	NER	UP	GC	Nanpara-Nepalganj Rd	2017-18	20	150	1
79.	NWR	RAJ	GC	Marwar-Mavli	2017-18	152	1597	0.2
80.	WR	GUJ	GC	Dabhoi-Chandod GC with extension upto Kevadiya	2017-18	50	663	50
81.	WR	GUJ	GC	Kalol-Kadi-Katosan Rd	2017-18	37	238	5
82.	WR	GUJ	GC	Katosan Rd-Chanasma	2017-18	52	313	0.1
83.	WR	GUJ	GC	Chanasma-Ranuj	2017-18	13	85	0.1
84.	WR	GUJ	GC	Adraj Moti-Vijapur	2017-18	40	229	5
85.	WR	GUJ	GC	Vijapur-Ambliyasan	2017-18	42	243	5
86.	WR	GUJ	GC	Khijadiya-Visavadar	2017-18	91	548	1
87.	WR	GUJ	GC	Junagarh-Visavadar	2017-18	42	254	1
88.	WR	GUJ	GC	Veraval-Talala-Visavadar	2017-18	72	460	1
89.	WR	GUJ	GC	Samni-Jambusar	2017-18	24	251	1
90.	WR	GUJ	GC	Jambusar-Vishvamitri	2017-18	48	434	1
91.	WR	GUJ	GC	Samlaya-Timba Rd	2017-18	54	401	1
92.	WR	GUJ	GC	Nadiad-Petlad	2017-18	37	403	1
93.	WR	GUJ	GC	Petlad-Bhadran	2017-18	23	237	1
94.	WR	GUJ	GC	Talala-Delwada	2017-18	70	525	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
95.	WR	GUJ	GC	Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma	2017-18	55	355	5
96.	WR	GUJ	GC	Prachi Rd-Kodinar	2017-18	26	193	5
97.	NCR	UP	DL	3rd Down line between Naini and Chheoki with additional Platform	2017-18	2	25.13	8
98.	NCR	UP	DL	4th line between Bhaupur-Panki connecting Dn Loop of Bhaupurto shunting neck of Panki	2017-18	11	82	2
99.	NCR	UP	DL	Allahabad Division Construction of Kanpur fly-over	2017-18	30	1790	0.1
100.	NER	UP	DL	Malhaur-Daliganj doubling with electrification	2017-18	13	110.94	5
101.	NFR	NER & Assam	DL	Saraighat Bridge DL	2017-18	7	888.32	20.1
102.	NFR	NER & Assam	DL	Kamakhya-New Guwahat Quadruppling	2017-18	10.3	3062	1
103.	NR	UP	DL	Chord line between Jaunpur Jn. & Jaunpur city	2017-18	2	86.32	2.1
104.	NR	UP	DL	Janghai-Phaphamau doubling with electrification	2017-18	47	357.48	2.1
105.	NR	PUN	DL	Ludhiana-Kila Raipur (19 Kms) with freight line at Gill station on LDH-JHL section	2017-18	19	224.7	5.1
106.	NR	PUN	DL	Ludhiana-Mullanpur	2017-18	21	82.99	5
107.	NR	UP	DL	3rd & 4th Line between Barabanki-Malhaur (16.42 km)	2017-18	33	323.85	10
108.	NR	UP	DL	Third line between Varanasi-Mughalsarai (16.72 km) with substructure of two lines on Malviya Bridge	2017-18	17	2005.15	1
109.	SER	ORI	DL	Connections of DMF-LINK "C" line with BZR Station.	2017-18	2.3	39	17
110.	SER	WB	DL	Provision of connection of line between Radhanagar siding line of Adra Division to Barachak and Y connection to Sitaram pur station of Asansol Division	2017-18	10	312	0.1
111.	SR	TN	DL	Salem-Magnesite Junction-Omalur	2017-18	11	115	5
112.	WR	GUJ	DL	Anand-Godhara	2017-18	79	683	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
113.	ECR	JHA	NL	Parasnath-Madhuban-Giridih new line	2018-19	35	729	0.1
114.	SECR	CHH	NL	Chirimiri-Nagpur Halt	2018-19	11	114	0.1
115.	SER	JHA	NL	Namkum-Kandra	2018-19	106	2120	0.1
116.	ECOR	ORI	NL	Talcher Angul Y connection	2018-19	14.48	278.96	0
117.	CR	MAH	DL	Igatpuri-Manmad 3rd line	2018-19	124	1860	0.1
118.	ECR	BIH	DL	Darbhanga bypass line connecting Shisho Halt and Kakarghati excluding Darbhanga Yard	2018-19	7.64	130.5	0.1
119.	NCR	UP, MP, RAJ	DL	Provision of 4th line between Dholpur Jhansiand Beena	2018-19	321.8	4869.95	0.1
120.	NCR	UP, RAJ	DL	Provision of 4th line between Mathura-Dholpur junciton	2018-19	107	2945.75	0.1
121.	NCR	UP, RAJ	DL	Provision of double line between Agra Fort and Bandikui	2018-19	150	1388.81	0.1
122.	NCR	UP	DL	Doubling between New Coaching Complex and Kanpur	2018-19	2.5	34.28	0.1
123.	NCR	UP	DL	Provision of 3rd line between Aligarh Jn-Daud Khan parallel to UP line and construciton of flyover at Daudkhan connecting DN loop line of Daudkhan to common loop of New Daudkhan (DFC)	2018-19	6.9	447.99	0.1
124.	NCR	UP	DL	Provision of 3rd line between Ruma Chakeri-Chandari in connection with DFC	2018-19	12.5	176.68	0.1
125.	NCR	UP	DL	Provision of 4th line between from Chipiyana Buzurg to Dadri connecting Down loop of Maripat and holding line of Dadri in connection with DFC	2018-19	12	128.68	0.1
126.	NCR	UP	DL	Provision of 4th line from Allahabad to Bumrauli flying over at Subedarganj and connecting to UP loop of Bumrauli	2018-19	10	493.11	0.1
127.	NCR	UP	DL	Provision of chord line between Dailwara-Berari	2018-19	5.2	50.24	0.1
128.	NCR	UP	DL	Provsion of flyover at Bhandai for Etawah bound down trains	2018-19	10	186.21	0.1
129.	NR	UP	DL	Phaphamau to Unnnao *via* Kunda Harnamganj	2018-19	200	1600	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
130.	NR	PUN	DL	Amristsar to Chheharta	2018-19	7	28.68	0.1
131.	NWR	RAJ	DL	Degana-Rai ka Bagh doubling	2018-19	145	762	0.1
132.	SER	WB, JHA	DL	Provision of 3rd line between Chandil-Anara-Burnpur Section along with additional loop line at Nimdih, Urma, Tamna, Charra & Bagalia Stations	2018-19	125	1646.81	0.1
133.	SER	JHA	DL	Talgaria station to Bokaro N/Cabin section in Adra Division	2018-19	38	390.39	0.1
134.	SER	WB	DL	Purulia-Kotshila doubling	2018-19	36	338	0.1
135.	SER	JHA	DL	Link line between Lodhma and Piska bypassing Hatia/Ranchi with Y connection	2018-19	17.2	428.65	0.1
136.	SR	KER	DL	Shoranur-Ernakulam 3rd line	2018-19	107	1518	0.1
137.	SWR	KAR, TN	DL	Baiyapannahalli to Hosur	2018-19	48	375.67	0.1
138.	SWR	KAR	DL	Yeshwantpur to Channasandra	2018-19	21.7	169.65	0.1
139.	SWR	AP	DL	Pennukonda to Dharmavarm excluding Dharmavaram	2018-19	41.5	294.67	0.1
140.	WR	MP	DL	Nimach-Ratlam	2018-19	133	910	0.1
141.	WR	GUJ	DL	Rajkot-Kanalus	2018-19	111.2	1011.72	0.1
142.	WR	GUJ	DL	Mehsana-Palanpur	2018-19	65.1	529.3	0.1
143.	IR		NL	New line workover Indian Railways (Umbrella Work)	2018-19		1000	

NL-New Line,	GC-Gauge Conversion,	DL-Doubling,	PH-Plan Head,
CR-Central Railway	NWR-North Western Railway	ER-Eastern Railway	SR-Southern Railway
ECR-East Central Railway	SCR-South Central Railway	EcoR-East Coast Railway	SER-South Eastern Railway
NR-Northern Railway	SECR-Southeast Central Railway	NER-North Eastern Railway	SWR-South Western Railway
NCR-North Central Railway	WR-Western Railway	NFR-Northeast Frontier Railway	WCR- West Central Railway
AP-Andhra Pradesh	MP-Madhya Pradesh	BIH-Bihar	ORI, ODI-Odisha
CHH-Chhattisgarh	PUN-Punjab	Del-Delhi	RAJ-Rajasthan
GUJ-Gujarat	TEL-Telangana	HAR-Haryana	TN-Tamil Nadu
HP-Himachal Pradesh	UP-Uttar Pradesh	JHA-Jharkhand	UTRA-Uttarakhand
KAR-Karnataka	WB-West Bengal	KER-Kerala	NER-North Eastern Region
MAH-Maharashtra			

[Translation]

Scholarship Schemes

324. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is considering to continue pre-matric, post-matric and merit-cum-means scholarship schemes till the year 2019-20 for the students belonging to minority communities;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the total amount likely to be spent by the Government on the said schemes; and

(d)   the number of students likely to be benefited under the said schemes, scholarship/category- wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. All the three scholarship Schemes namely Pre-matric, Post-

matric and Merit-cum-Means based scholarship schemes have already been approved by the competent authority for their continuation up to the year 2019-20. The details of the schemes are available on the website of the Ministry *i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in*.

(c) and (d) Scheme-wise details of number of students likely to be benefitted and estimated amount of fund likely to be spent for 2018-19 and 2019-20 are given as under:–

Scheme	No. of students likely to be benefitted		Estimated amount of fund likely to be spent (Rs. in crore)	
	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20
Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme	5686137	3000004 + Renewals	980.00	1100.00
Post-matric Scholarship Scheme	681477	499999 + Renewals	692.00	530.00
Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme	116466	60000 + Renewals	522.00	506.00

[English]

Coal Linkage Committees

325. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government is planning to abolish the Coal Linkage Committees governing the distribution of coal to the companies;

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

(c)   the details of the method being adopted by the Ministry for allocation of coal in the absence of Coal Linkage Committees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. There is no proposal with the Government to abolish the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) [SLC(LT)]. The procedure followed for allocation of coal is as below:–

(1)   A policy on 'Auction of Linkages of Non-Regulated Sector' was issued on 15.02.2016 *vide* letter No.23011/51/2015-CPD (Pt-I). The new coal linkages shall be allocated through a transparent auction process. The earlier system was essentially based on 'first come, first served', subject to fulfillment of certain criteria. Thus there was a need to make the allocation system more objective and transparent.

(2)   A new linkage policy for power sector called 'SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyla (Coal) Transparently in India)' has been formulated and issued *vide* letter No. 23011/15/2016-CPD/CLD dated 22.05.2017. The allotment of linkages to Central/State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and linkage through auction process to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are in terms of the various provisions of this policy. The linkages are based on the recommendations of Ministry of Power.

(3)   The bridge linkages are allotted to specified end use plants of Central/State PSUs which have been allotted Schedule-III coal mines under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and coal blocks allotted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957. The recommendations for the bridge linkage are made by the SLC (LT).

(4)   The consumers of small, medium and other sectors who have coal requirement up to 10,000 tonnes/year shall be eligible to obtain coal from the State Nominated Agencies (SNA), as per the provisions of New Coal Distribution Policy (NCDP), 2007.

(5)   As per the provisions of NCDP, 2007, around 10% of estimated annual production of CIL would initially be offered under e-auction. CIL offers coal through spot auction, special forward e-auction for power sector and exclusive e-auction for Non-Regulated sector to meet the requirements of different consumers of the economy.

Adequate Supply of Dry Fuel to Power Plants

326. SHRI G. HARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is considering a long term planning for mining operations and concrete steps to ensure adequate supply of dry fuel to power plants and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government is considering mine-wise detailed plan for at least 20 years of operations and if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   whether it is also a fact that the Government is considering to undertake mine-wise review regarding tier coal dispatch capability, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Planning for mining operations is an ongoing process and is market driven. The plan is oriented based on demand scenario. With this in view an elaborate planning exercise was undertaken at Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), with participation of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its Subsidiaries. Steps like operationalization of allocated blocks, Green clearances, Land and R&R, coal evacuation infrastructure and other required development activities are planned.

Some of the steps taken for ensuring adequate supplies of dry fuel to power plants are as under:–

(1)   The Power Houses in close vicinity of the coal fields are advised to move coal through road mode.

(2)   For proper utilization of Good sheds, the power Houses are advised to move coal through road cum rail mode.

(3)   The captive modes of transport like MGR, Belts, Ropes are being fully utilized to their capacity to move coal to the concerned units.

(4)   Supplies of coal to Power Houses through rail mode are being prioritized.

(5)   Regular monitoring of supplies is being done by Ministry of Coal (MoC)/CIL.

As a result of these steps taken for augmentation of supplies, stocks at Power House end have improved substantially.

(b)   CIL had engaged Consultant for assessment of demand and required supply of coal for the country till 2030-31 *i.e.* for 10 years. However, no assessment has been made for projections for 20 years of operations.

(c)   Review of mine wise coal dispatch capacity is an ongoing process and the required infrastructure like siding, CHP/Silos are accordingly planned and made functional for evacuation of coal based on demand of coal.

Profits of BSNL

327. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   total annual profits of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) from its telecommunication and broadband services for last ten years;

(b)   the steps taken by the Government to make BSNL competitive with highly expanding market of telecommunication; and

(c)   respective share of BSNL in India's telecommunication and broadband service market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Profit and Loss of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the last ten financial years are as under:–

Sl. No.	Financial Year	From Telecommunication Services (including Broadband Services)
1.	2008-2009	575
2.	2009-2010	(1,823)
3.	2010-2011	(6,384)
4.	2011-2012	(8850)
5.	2012-2013	(7884)
6.	2013-2014	(7019)
7.	2014-2015	(8234)
8.	2015-2016	(4859)
9.	2016-2017	(4793)
10.	2017-2018	(7992)

(b)   Department of Telecom (DoT) is utilising the strength and competence of BSNL to implement a number of important projects such as providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, implementation of comprehensive telecom development plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth, Optical Fibre Cable based Network for Defence Services (NFS Project), execution of BharatNet Project, comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam, implementation of transmission media plan for North Eastern Region, Submarine Optical Fibre Project for providing connectivity to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi Hotspots at Rural Telephone Exchanges of BSNL and setting up of Satellite Gateway

This improves the capacity utilisation of the organisation, enhances and diversifies the revenue generating avenues while at the same time facilitating the fulfilment of Government objectives. BSNL has also been encouraged to take measures such as;

> ➢ augmentation of GSM Radio Capacity/ upgradation of BSNL mobile network in its areas, mobile equipments are being deployed progressively in BSNL network.

> ➢ PhVIII.4 mobile expansion project is under rollout which envisages introducing 4G services in BSNL. This will also increase GSM Radio capacity, mobile coverage and provide faster data connectivity.

> ➢ To improve quality of wireline telephone network BSNL will replace Legacy Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) switches to Next Generation Network (NGN) which support different kind of services *i.e.* voice, video and data. With migration to NGN, customer will get enhanced Value Added Services on wire line like Personalized Ring Back Tone, Multi Media Video Conferencing, IP Centrex, Limited Fixed Mobile Telephony (LFMT) and Fixed Mobile Convergence (FMC), etc. This will provide better facilities to customers and at lower maintenance cost to BSNL.

> ➢ For creation of a Super Express Highway across the country and Super Express Transport Network with 200 GBPS line capacity connecting 47 State Capitals and important cities, work in 45 cities has already been completed.

> ➢ Routers have been installed and commissioned where by IP-MPLS network has increased from 106 cities to 205 cities providing connectivity for broadband, NGN 2G/3G requirements.

(c)   Share of BSNL in Telecommunication and Broadband Market is as under:–

Sl. No.	As on	Telecommunication Market (including Broadband services)
1.	31.03.2009	19
2.	31.03.2010	16
3.	31.03.2011	14
4.	31.03.2012	13
5.	31.03.2013	14
6.	31.03.2014	12
7.	31.03.2015	9
8.	31.03.2016	10
9.	31.03.2017	10
10.	31.03.2018	10

Scam in Children Hospital

328. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   the present status of complaint addressed to the Chief Vigilance Commissioner pertaining to financial irregularities/scam in Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, New Delhi;

(b)   whether the Government has taken any action to bring public money looted in the back said scam in KSCH;

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

(d)   the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to make good the losses to the exchequer due to the said irregularities/scam in KSCH?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has informed that two complaints in respect of Kalawati Saran Children Hospital (KSCH) were received and sent by the Commission to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for necessary action.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has informed that the complaints were forwarded to Lady Hardinge Medical and associated hospitals. The hospital constituted a three-member Committee to investigate the matter. The Committee submitted its report to MoHFW, which is being examined by MoHFW.

(b) to (d) The matter is under consideration in MoHFW.

Policy on Nutrition

329. SHRI D.K. SURESH:
     SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the NITI Aayog has constituted a working group on nutrition with a view to evolving a policy on nutrition in India;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the working group has given any timeframe to submit its recommendations on the said issue and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   whether the Government has taken all precautionary measures to do a background check on those involved to safeguard against vested interests hijacking public policy and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a to c) A Working Group on Nutrition was constituted by NITI Aayog *vide* notification dated 26 September, 2017. However, the said Working Group on Nutrition was dissolved *vide* O.M. no. NA/SW/1-7(1)/2017-

WCD dated 01.06.2018 after the Ministry of Women & Child Development's Notification No. ND-T-11/5/2016-ND-Tech dated 15th December, 2017 constituting, the National Technical Board on Nutrition to examine all technical issues related to Nutrition.

(d)   Yes. It has been clearly articulated in the National Nutrition Strategy 2017 "An underlying principle of action is that policy development and programme implementation must be transparent, open to public scrutiny and kept free from conflict of interest, with requisite safeguard. (This includes ensuring that representation on policy, technical advisory groups and various management committees at different levels is free from conflict of interest.)" Chapter 5, Page 28.

Tara Initiative

330. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of voluntary organisations that have been identified in the last 4 years under the Core Support Programme of the Technology Advancement for Rural Areas (TARA) initiative;

(b)   the details of some of the novel and adaptive technologies that have been developed and deployed under this initiative; and

(c)   the details of the mechanism that ensures a 'bottom-up' programme planning with full community involvement in this initiative?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) TARA Scheme aims to develop & deliver innovative technologies through adaptive research, primarily for application in rural and remote areas. In this endeavor, S&T NGOs (Core Support Groups-CSGs) supported by DST identify location-specific problems and convert these into research challenges for developing and demonstrating scalable technologies related to agriculture, energy, livelihoods security and drudgery reduction etc. in rural settings by building human capacities and skills though local institutional arrangements. Presently, 25 CSGs were supported during last four years, and four new voluntary organizations with S&T capabilities have been identified

from North-Eastern region and Central India under the Core Support Programme of the Technology Advancement for Rural Areas (TARA).

(b) Several novel and/or adaptive technologies have been developed & deployed by CSGs under TARA initiative such as development of community-owned & community-operated affordable safe water solution powered by solar energy in Bundelkhand Region by Development Alternatives, Delhi; Micro Solar Dome (Surya Jyoti) technology to provide light in dark & dingy interiors of rural and slum dwellers by NB Institute of Rural Technology, Tripura; Solar Space & Water Heating System for high altitude mountain areas by Himalayan Research Group, Shimla; Improved Watermill with varied design of turbines by Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization, Dehrdaun; Energy Efficient Cooking Devices by Technology Informatics Design Endeavour, Bangalore; Threshing cum de-husking machine by Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha, Bhopal; Food Processing Technology using Solar Dehydration Technology to produce value added fruit bars/rolls by Society for Energy Environment and Development, Hyderabad; Rice De-husking Machine & Domestic Egg Incubator by Vigyan Ashram, Pune; Livelihood related technologies suitable for Arid/Desert Regions by BAIF, Barmer, among others.

(c) Core support program of TARA initiative ensures people centric participatory approaches in technology development and deployment from conceptualization, development to implementation stage for rural application by promoting close and productive interaction between different stakeholders including community by leveraging of technologies. Process mechanisms involves need assessment exercise in identified technology gap areas and evolve scalable, appropriate and affordable technologies to address local challenges involving nearby S&T institutions/ R&D labs, academic institutions as well. It also ensures backward and forward linkages for effective deployment and adoption of technologies through field level demonstration involving community at the grass roots level.

[Translation]

Issuance of Coal Permits

331. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the price of coal per metric tonne fixed and extracted so far during this financial year;

(b) the guidelines and terms/conditions fixed by the Union Government for giving coal permit to the Government and private industries and organisations;

(c) the details of complaints/information received regarding issuance of coal permits in violation of the guidelines and terms and conditions as on date; company-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Pricing of Coal has been completely decontrolled *w.e.f.* 01.01.2000, as such Government has no role in fixing of price of coal. Coal India Limited (CIL) Board approve and notify the prices of coal based on changes in Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI), increase in input costs, capacity of the market to absorb the coal price, demd and supply scenario of coal etc. The latest coal prices notified by CIL vide notification dated 08.01.2018 is enclosed Statement-I and II.

(b) There is no system in vogue for issuing coal permits. Earlier consumers used to get coal through fuel supply agreements executed in term of New Coal Distribution Policy 2007. Coal linkages are now being granted to Government and private industries falling under the category of non-regulated sector consumer through "Linkage Auction Policy for Non-regulated sector dated 15.02.16".

Salient features of Linkage Auction Policy are given below:

(i) Proportion of coal allocation between power and non-power sectors to continue at the same level as average proportion of the last five years *i.e.* 75% Power and 25% Non power.

(ii) All allocations of linkages/LeAs for non-regulated sector shall henceforth be auction based. The tenure of new Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) may be as decided by Ministry of Coal/CIL, subject to a maximum of 15 years. There may

not be premature termination of FSAs of non-regulated sector as of now. However, there will be no renewal of existing FSAs of non-regulated sector [except FSAs of CPSEs and Fertilizer (Urea)] which are maturing in 2015-16 onwards.

(iii) The existing FSAs with Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) may continue to be renewed on expiry. However, in case CPSEs require linkages over and above the existing linkages, they may participate in auction of linkage. Currently this guideline is applicable for both State and Central PSE's.

(iv) Separate quantities shall be earmarked for sub-sectors of non-regulated sector. The sub-sectors shall compete within themselves. The sub-sectors could be Cement, Steel/Sponge Iron, Aluminum, and Others [excluding Fertilizer (Urea) sector], including their CPPs etc. The Ministry of Coal may review the sub-sectors as and when required. As of now there is separate auction for each sub-sector *viz.* Sponge Iron, Cement, CPP, Others, Steel (Coking) & Others (Coking).

(v) The methodology for auction of linkages shall be non-discriminatory Ascending Clock Auction where the system increases the price on the electronic platform till demand supply equilibrium is established. There will be an initial reserve price and auction will be conducted on this reserve price.

(vi) If total demand is less than offered quantity, then all bidders will get coal at reserve price.

(vii) If total demand is more than offered quantity, then the price will be increased by the system and the process will continue till the demand-supply equilibrium is established.

(viii) The price increment shall be determined based on a transparent computerized system without any manual interference.

(c) and (d) Coal linkages are presently being granted to Government & Private industries falling under the category of non-regulated sector consumer through Linkage Auction Policy for Non regulated sector. So far, CIL has not received any complaint/information regarding violation of guidelines/terms & conditions etc. in this regard.

Statement-I

Pit Head Rom Price of Non-Coking Coal applicable for Eastern Coalfields Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Central Coalfields Limited, Northern Coalfields Limited, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, South Eastern Coalfields Limited and North Eastern Coalfields

Grade	GCV Range	Run of mine price for Non-Coking Coal	
		Power Utilities (including IPPs), Fertilizer & Defence sector	Sectors other than Power Utilities (including IPPs), Fertilizer & Defence
	(Kcal/Kg)	(Rs./Te)	(Rs./Te)
1	2	3	4
G1	Exceeding 7000	*	*
G2	Exceeding 6700 and not exceeding 7000	3288	3288
G3	Exceeding 6400 and not exceeding 6700	3144	3144
G4	Exceeding 6100 and not exceeding 6400	3000	3000
G5	Exceeding 5800 and not Exceeding 6100	2737	2737
G6	Exceeding 5500 and not exceeding 5800	2317	2524
G7	Exceeding 5200 and not Exceeding 5500	1926	2311
G8	Exceeding 4900 and not exceeding 5200	1465	1757
G9	Exceeding 4600 and not exceeding 4900	1140	1368
G10	Exceeding 4300 and not Exceeding 4600	1024	1228

1	2	3	4
G11	Exceeding 4000 and not exceeding 4300	955	1145
G12	Exceeding 3700 and not exceeding 4000	886	1063
G13	Exceeding 3400 and not exceeding 3700	817	980
G14	Exceeding 3100 and not exceeding 3400	478	897
G15	Exceeding 2800 and not exceeding 3100	590	708
G16	Exceeding 2500 and not exceeding 2800	504	604
G17	Exceeding 2200 and not exceeding 2500	447	536

*For GCV exceeding 7000 Kcal/Kg, the price shall be increased by Rs. 100/- per tonne over and above the price applicable for GCV band exceeding 6700 but not exceeding 7000 Kcal/Kg, for increase in GCV by every 100 Kcal/Kg or part thereof.

An additional amount of Rs. 450 per tonne (as per existing practice) to be charged over and above the notified price in respect of the coal produced from Rajmahal mine of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Statement-II

Pit Head Price of Non-Coking Coal applicable for Western Coalfields Limited

Grade	GCV Range	Pithead Run of mine price for Non-Coking Coal	
		Power Utilities (including IPPs), Fertilizer & Defence sector	Sectors other than Power Utilities (including IPPs), Fertilizer & Defence
	(Kcal/Kg)	(Rs./Te)	(Rs./Te)
1	2	3	4
G1	Exceeding 7000	*	*
G2	Exceeding 6700 and not exceeding 7000	3288	3288
G3	Exceeding 6400 and not exceeding 6700	3144	3144

1	2	3	4
G4	Exceeding 6100 and not exceeding 6400	3000	3000
G5	Exceeding 5800 and not Exceeding 6100	2737	2737
G6	Exceeding 5500 and not exceeding 5800	2524	2580
G7	Exceeding 5200 and not Exceeding 5500	2311	2423
G8	Exceeding 4900 and not exceeding 5200	1757	2109
G9	Exceeding 4600 and not exceeding 4900	1368	1642
G10	Exceeding 4300 and not Exceeding 4600	1228	1474
G11	Exceeding 4000 and not exceeding 4300	1145	1374
G12	Exceeding 3700 and not exceeding 4000	1063	1275
G13	Exceeding 3400 and not exceeding 3700	980	1176
G14	Exceeding 3100 and not exceeding 3400	897	1076
G15	Exceeding 2800 and not exceeding 3100	708	580
G16	Exceeding 2500 and not exceeding 2800	604	725
G17	Exceeding 2200 and not exceeding 2500	536	643

*For GCV exceeding 7000 Kcal/Kg, the price shall be increased by Rs. 100/- per tonne over and above the price applicable for GCV band exceeding 6700 but not exceeding 7000 Kcal/Kg, for increase in GCV by every 100 Kcal/Kg or part thereof.

[English]

Development of Station under PPP Mode

332. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to invite private participation in the development works of Railway stations through Swiss Challenge Method;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the details of the Railway stations selected for development under this method; and

(d)   whether any Railway stations in Telangana are identified for development under this method and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Railways had invited bids on modified bid challenge method for 23 stations. Bids were received for two stations only, *viz.* Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode stations, which are under evaluation. No bids were received for other stations. During various interactions with developers, investors and other stakeholders, various issues including longer lease period for commercially developed assets, multiple sub leasing, simplified bid procedures etc. were repeatedly raised. Therefore, an improvised and simpler program design including these issues and under a specialized executing agency, incorporating suitable structural, process and parameters changes, has been adopted to revamp the station redevelopment program.

Union Cabinet has recently approved Railways' proposal for redevelopment of Railway stations by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency, through simplified procedures and for longer lease tenure. Accordingly, necessary action has been initiated for redevelopment of major railway stations all over the country in a phased manner. IRSDC shall be the main Project Development Agency (PDA) for redevelopment of stations. However, Ministry of Railways may also designate Zonal Railways, Rail Land Development Authority or any other Central Government Agency as PDA. The PDAs shall undertake redevelopment of stations on any of the various business models such as various mode of PPP, Modified Bid Challenge Method, Joint Venture (JV) with State Government entities, and JV with other Public Sector Undertakings etc. The cost of station redevelopment project is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations.

(d)   All major stations on Indian Railways, including those stations located in the State of Telangana, have been entrusted to IRSDC and other PDAs for undertaking the techno-economic feasibility studies.

Unused Spectrum

333. DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the percentage of spectrum with the Defence Ministry which is not being utilized;

(b)   whether Ministry has considered taking spectrum from the Defence Ministry and other Departments and using them for commercial purposes;

(c)   if so, specific steps taken by the Ministry in this regard; and

(d)   if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Certain frequency bands for Defence services have been identified and approved by Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and promulgated by Ministry of Communications on 12th March, 2015.The spectrum with Defence services is for optimal utilization of diversified platforms such as Ground platforms, Air crafts and ships. The spectrum held with Defence services provides the necessary flexibility of operations in dense electro-magnetic environment.

(b)   Yes, Madam. The spectrum in Defence band is allotted to Defence services in accordance with the need of Defence services and for meeting the requirement of their future planned networks. However, the requirement of spectrum for other wireless users in the bands identified are also coordinated by Defence services.

(c)   Following steps have been taken in this regard:

(i)   Harmonization of spectrum in International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) bands has been done.

(ii)   Spectrum not used by Defence in 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz and 2300-2400 MHz frequency bands has been harmonized after coordination with Ministry of Defence.

(d)   Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Telecommunication Facilities in Andhra Pradesh

334. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is true that there are some villages/ habitations which do not have telecommunication facilities in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b)   if so, the details of such villages and districts in which they are situated; and

(c)   efforts being made by the Ministry to cover those uncovered villages with communication facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) There are 2745 villages in Andhra Pradesh which are not covered by mobile services. The district-wise list is enclosed as Statement.

(c)   Mobile coverage in the uncovered villages is being provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Government has already approved the project for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected area, North Eastern States and Islands. As part of LWE Phase-II project, Government has approved installing of 429 mobile towers in Andhra Pradesh. Under BharatNet in Andhra Pradesh, out of 12866 Gram Panchayats (GPs), 1160 GPs have been made service ready in Phase-I and remaining GPs are to be covered in Phase-II of BharatNet.

Statement

List of uncovered villages (District-wise)

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Uncovered villages
1	2	3
1.	Anantapur	22
2.	Chittoor	25
3.	East Godavari	487
4.	Guntur	6
5.	Krishna	4
6.	Kurnool	15
7.	Prakasam	74
8.	Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore	45
9.	Srikakulam	147
10.	Visakhapatnam	1546
11.	Vizianagaram	307
12.	West Godavari	30
13.	Y.S.R.	37
	Total	2745

CCTV Cameras

335. PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government proposes to install CCTV cameras in passenger coaches and other places so as to improve safety and security of the passengers and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government has identified places/ spots prone to dacoity, loot, robbery, etc. on train routes and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government also proposes to augment security at such places and if so, the details thereof;

(d)   whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines for intense patrolling in areas vulnerable to looting; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Ministry of Railways has planned to provide CCTV based surveillance System at Stations and in passenger carrying trains to enhance safety and security of the passengers. The project of installing CCTV cameras at 8244 Railway Stations (Including halt stations) and in 58276 passenger coaches of trains has been sanctioned at the cost of Rs. 3771 crore. These include provision of CCTV cameras at 983 stations costing approximately Rs. 500 crore being funded through Nirbhaya Fund.

(b) to (e) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises

as well as on running trains and security of railway tracks and bridges are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP in providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Regular analysis is done to identify the spots, sections, stations and trains prone to crime *viz.* dacoity, robbery etc. and accordingly security arrangements including staff deployment, patrolling etc. are made for the safety and security of passengers and their belongings in close coordination with GRP/District Police.

Triple Talaq

336. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the Supreme Court's order, the practice of Triple Talaq continues;

(b) if so, the State-wise details and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the State-wise details of the number of cases filed under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2018?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) So far approximately 248 cases have been reported from various parts of the country after the judgment of the Supreme Court. However, State-wise details are not maintained Centrally. As per the media and other reports there were approximately 477 cases reported since 1st January, 2017 as on today. The State of Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of such cases as per the information received.

(c) In order to protect the rights of married Muslim women who are being divorced by triple talaq, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017,

was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 28th December, 2017 and the same was passed by that House on the same day and is pending in Rajya Sabha. As the Bill is pending consideration in Rajya Sabha and the practice of divorce by triple talaq (*i.e.*, talaq-e-biddat) is continuing, there was an urgent need to take immediate action to prevent such practice by making stringent provisions in the law. Since both Houses of Parliament were not in session and circumstances exist which render it necessary for the President to take immediate action in the matter, an Ordinance, namely the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2018 (7 of 2018) has been promulgated on the 19th September, 2018.

(d) State-wise details regarding the number of cases filed under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2018 are not maintained Centrally.

Manned Mission to Space

337. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to achieve the ambitious manned mission to space by 2021 and attempt to send an astronaut to space on board during the successful launching of GSLV-MkIII-D, a communication Satellite by ISRO; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No Madam. However, it is proposed to undertake manned mission to space before 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence. The manned mission will be accomplished using ISRO's launch vehicle GSLV MkIII.

(b) The manned mission will launch Indian astronauts from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota into an approximately 400 Km Low Earth Orbit. The maximum mission planned is of 7 days duration.

Share for Soldiers Welfare

338. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Sainik Board has been reimbursing its share for Soldiers Welfare to State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reimbursement for the year 2011-12 to 2014-15 have not yet been reimbursed to Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam. Kendriya Sainik Board has been reimbursing Central Share to States and UTs towards maintenance of their Rajya Sainik Board and Zila Sainik Boards.

(b) Central Share paid to all States/UTs for the period from 2011-12 to 2014-15 (in crores) is as under:–

2011-12	Rs. 35.40
2012-13	Rs. 37.41
2013-14	Rs. 50.12
2014-15	Rs. 135.27

(c) Central Share paid Rajasthan, for the period from 2011-12 to 2014-15 is as under:–

2011-12	Rs. 1,40,47,810
2012-13	Rs. 3,36,60,160
2013-14	Rs. 1,74,11,615
2014-15	Rs. 4,61,95,461

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Kartarpur Corridor

339. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to build Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur to the international border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) The Union Cabinet, on 22 November, 2018, passed a Resolution to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji in 2019 and *inter alia* approved building and development of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District to the International Border on the Indian side to facilitate pilgrims from India to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. On the same day, the Government of India informed the Government of Pakistan of its decision to build Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District of India to the International Border and urged Pakistan to recognise the sentiments of the Sikh community and to develop a corridor with suitable facilities in their territory from the International Border to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib.

Hon'ble Vice President of India laid the foundation stone for the construction of the corridor on the Indian side on 26 November, 2018. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the nodal Ministry to build and develop the facilities on the Indian side.

Union Minister of Food Processing Industries and Minister of State (IC) for Housing and Urban Affairs attended the ground breaking ceremony for development of Kartarpur Corridor on the Pakistan side on 28 November, 2018 as representatives of the Government of India.

Pakistan has been urged to expedite the construction of the corridor in order to ensure that Indian citizens can pay their respects at the Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib using the corridor as soon as possible.

Release of Scholarships

340. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not released even a single scholarship under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) and the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for minority students for the last two years;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and whether scholarship schemes are especially formed for providing scholarship to minority students who undertake research studies;

(c)   if so, the reasons behind for not releasing any single scholarship under this scheme; and

(d)   the steps and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Ministry of Minority Affairs has been implementing Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme with the objective to provide integrated five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance exclusively to students belonging to six notified minority communities namely Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis to pursue higher studies such as M. Phil and Ph.D. Details of Scheme is available on the website of the Ministry *i.e. www.minorityaffiars.gov.in.*

The Scheme is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC). Under the Scheme, 756 fresh students have been selected for award of fellowship each for 2016-17 and 2017-18 as per provision of scheme prevailing in these years and funds to the tune of Rs 119.92 crore and Rs. 124.85 crore have been released to UGC for disbursement of fellowship to the eligible minority students including renewals. For the current financial year *i.e.* 2018-19, UGC has started process of selection of fresh candidates for award of fellowship under MANF Scheme.

Ministry of Social and Justice and Empowerment has been implementing National Fellowship for SC students (earlier known as RGNF) and as per information received from that Ministry Rs. 196.00 cr, Rs. 225.40 crore and Rs. 145.00 crore has been released to UGC for disbursement of fellowship to students belonging to Schedule Caste during the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (as on 6.12.2018) respectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of replies given to parts (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Cases Pending in High Courts

341. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
         SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether more than ten lakh cases have been lying pending in various High Courts for more than ten years as on date;

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

(c)   the reasons for the said cases lying pending for more than ten years; and

(d)   the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Data on pendency of cases in the High Courts is maintained by the respective High Courts. As per information available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as on date, 10.29 lakh cases are pending in various High Courts for more than ten years. High Court-wise details of cases pending for more than ten years are given in a statement.

(c) and (d) Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake-holders *viz.* bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable rules of procedure. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. The Central Government is, however, fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution.

Statement

Cases pending in High Courts for more than 10 years

Sl. No.	High Court Name	Cases pending for more than 10 years
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad High Court	2,76,029
2.	High Court of Bombay	1,45,425
3.	High Court of Rajasthan	1,19,230
4.	Madras High Court	1,01,965

1	2	3
5.	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	1,00,714
6.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	64,037
7.	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	46,265
8.	Orissa High Court	34,876
9.	High Court of Uttarakhand	22,409
10.	Patna High Court	21,647
11.	High Court of Kerala	21,459
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	15,383
13.	High Court of Gujarat	13,635
14.	Calcutta High Court	11,436
15.	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	10,488
16.	High Court of Delhi	8,047
17.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	6,663
18.	High Court of Karnataka	5,908
19.	High Court of Manipur	2,639
20.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	1,359
21.	Gauhati High Court	346
22.	High Court of Tripura	1
	Total Cases Pending in High Courts for more than 10 Years	10,29,961

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

[English]

Completion of Baiyappanahalli Terminal

342. SHRI P. C. MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the status of work of Baiyappanahalli Terminal in Bengaluru and its estimated completion date;

(b)   whether the Railways has sought any land from the State Government for expansion and if so, its present status;

(c)   whether the Railways is considering for developing other stations around Bengaluru to improve connectivity; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Construction of Baiyappanahalli 3rd Coaching Terminal has been taken up in two phases and their status alongwith estimated target date for commissioning are as under:–

(i)   Phase-I- Consists of construction of 4 platform lines, 3 platforms, 3 stabling lines, 3 pit lines, shunting neck of 600m and track laying of 900m (at Bengaluru end).

(ii)   Phase-II- Consists of construction of 3 platform lines, 2 platforms and 2 stabling lines.

The phases are targeted for commissioning during 2019-20.

(b)   No additional land is required for this project.

(c) and (d) Union Cabinet has approved Railway's proposal for redevelopment of Railway stations by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency, through simplified procedures and for longer lease tenure. Accordingly, necessary action has been initiated for redevelopment of important Railway stations all over India in a phased manner, including those stations all over India in and around Bengaluru City by commercial utilization of sparable Railway land and air-space in and around stations.

Jeypore-Malkangiri Project

343. SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether land acquisition papers have been submitted to the Government of Odisha for Jeypore-Malkangiri Project for acquisition of land; and

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Land acquisition papers have been submitted to Special Land Acquisition Officer/Jeypore in October, 2018 for the required land in first 30 Km. from Jeypore for a total area of 596.966 acres of land involving 27 villages in first 30 Km. of the project. Final Location Survey (FLS) including assessment

of land requirement in remaining 100 Km. has been taken up and land acquisition papers are planned to be submitted to State Government by December, 2018. However, progress of FLS has been affected due to Maoists threats to the agencies working on it.

[Translation]

Digital India Programme

344. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:
SHRI GEORGE BAKER:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   the salient features of Digital India Programme;

(b)   the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this programme since its inception in the country, State/UT-wise including that of Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal;

(c)   the details of the target set and achievements made under this programme so far;

(d)   whether the instances of phishing sites misusing the Government's flagship schemes and debiting amounts from bank accounts have come to the knowledge of the Government;

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

(f)   whether the Government has identified these sites and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India has initiated the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments & States/UTs. Each project has its own budgetary requirement and accordingly project-plan has been charted out by the implementing departments.

The Digital India Programme is centred on three key vision areas namely Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen, Governance and Services on Demand and Digital Empowerment of Citizens. Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to nine pillars of growth areas that is (i) Broadband Highways, (ii) Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, (iii) Public Internet Access Programme, (iv) e-Governance-Reforming Government through Technology, (v) e-Kranti-Electronic delivery of Services, (vi) Information for All, (vii) Electronics Manufacturing-Target NET ZERO Imports, (viii) IT for Jobs and (ix) Early Harvest Programmes.

(c)   The present status of some of the key initiatives undertaken under Digital India Progamme is as follows:

Vision Area 1: Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen

- **BharatNet:** BharatNet is an ambitious initiative to trigger a broadband revolution in rural areas. This Project is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications. BharatNet aims to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs). 3,01,154 Kms optical fiber has been laid connecting 1,21,652 Gram Panchayats. 1,16,411 Gram Panchayats are ready for service.

- **Aadhaar:** Aadhaar provides 12 digit biometric and demographic based identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable. Further to give statutory backing to Aadhaar 'The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016' was notified on 26th March, 2016. Over 122.91+ crore residents have been enrolled.

- **Common Services Centre (CSC):** The Common Services Centres, which are kiosks for delivery of G2C Services, are being opened at each of 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GP). So far, 3.05 Lakh Common Services Centre are active and transacting for delivery of eServices; Out of this, 2.10 lakh are at GP level. Along with other services, CSCs are providing services related to Banking and Finance to rural citizens. Over

300 digital services are being offered by these CSCs and formal and informal employment for 12 lakh young men and women in rural areas have been created.

- **Meghraj and CSP:** As part of the Digital India Program, Government of India embarked upon an ambitious initiative known as Megh Raj, to utilize and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing. This will ensure accelerating the delivery of e-services in the country and optimizing ICT spending of the Government. To fast track the adoption of cloud computing MeitY, Government of India has empaneled cloud service offerings of the 13 Cloud Service Providers under different deployment models *viz.* Public Cloud, Virtual Private Cloud and Government Community Cloud.

- **Digital Locker:** Digital Locker provides an ecosystem with collection of repositories and gateways for issuers to upload the documents in the digital repositories. 2.22 crore documents have been uploaded by 1.66 crore registered user of DigiLocker. 105 Issuers and 30 Requestor organizations have been on-boarded

- **Open Govt. Data Platform:** Open Government Data (OGD) Platform is a platform for supporting Open Data initiative of Government of India. It intends to increase transparency in the functioning of Government and also open avenues for many more innovative usages of Government Data to give different perspective. Currently, 241,411 resources under 4,438 catalogs published by 142 Ministries/Departments (84 Central and 58 States/UTs Departments).

- **eSign framework-Online Electronic Signature Service:** eSign is an initiative for easy, efficient, and secure signing of electronic documents by an Aadhaar holder. Aadhaar holders (individuals, Government officials, Corporate executives, etc.) can digitally sign an electronic document without having a hardware cryptographic device. Five agencies namely eMudhra Ltd., C-DAC, (n)Code Solutions, NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure

Ltd. and Capricorn have been empanelled to offer e-Sign Services. Over 5.28 + crore eSign have been issued.

Vision Area 2: Governance & Services on Demand

- **eTaal:** eTaal is a web portal for dissemination of e-Transactions statistics of National and State level e-Governance Projects including Mission Mode Projects. It receives transaction statistics from web based applications periodically on near real time basis. More than 3143 crore transactions have been recorded for 3645 services since January, 2018.

- **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT):** 433 schemes of 56 Ministries/Departments are there on DBT platform. An amount of more than Rs. 5.37 lakh crore has been transferred through DBT and the Ministries/Departments have reported savings of Rs. 90,000 crore in last three years due to implementation of schemes in DBT mode.

- **E-Office:** It is a Digital Workplace Solution which aims to usher in efficient, effective and transparent inter-Government and intra-Government transactions and processes. NIC has implemented e-Office Portal in 149 Central Government (Ministries/Departments) and 122 State Governments (Secretariats/District Administrations).

- **Government e-Market Place (GeM):** To facilitate on line procurement of Goods & Services required by various Government Departments/ Organizations/PSUs, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has been implemented. GeM will enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. Presently, GeM is being used by various Departments/Ministries of Central Govt and States/UTs. 1,45,106 Sellers and Services providers are registered on the portal. Also others Services are registered namely Transport, Scanning/Digitization, IT Manpower, FMS etc. There are 501,144 Products and Services 4,917 + are available on the portal. 9,89,914 orders processed with value of Rs. 14,664 crore.

- **Jeevan Pramaan:** Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners Scheme known as Jeevan Pramaan envisages to digitize the whole process of securing the life certificate. It is a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners. With this initiative, the pensioner is no more required to physically present himself or herself in front of disbursing agency or the certification authority. Over 2.34 crore pensioners have registered themselves to avail of this facility for their life certificates.

- **Online Registration System (ORS)/eHospital:** Online Registration System (ORS) under eHospital includes online appointment and registration by new patients, viewing of lab reports, checking the status of blood availability and integration with payment gateway (PayGov). Till date, 20.27 lakh online appointments have been made in 190 hospitals through ORS.

- **National Scholarship Portal:** National Scholarships Portal (NSP) has been developed as a one-stop solution to implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries. The process includes student registration, application, approval and disbursement. Over 1.26 crore applications have been submitted. There are 52 registered schemes from 14 Ministries/Departments.

- **NCOG-GIS Applications:** National Centre of Geo-informatics (NCoG) Project, is a GIS platform developed for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and decision support system for Departments. So far, 85 applications across various domains are operational.

- **Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG):** UMANG has been developed as a single mobile platform to deliver major Government services with Core Platform integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, PayGov, Rapid Assessment System (RAS) etc. About 325 services from 59 Departments and 17 States are already available on UMANG and the count is increasing day by day.

- **Rapid Assessment System (RAS):** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has developed Rapid Assessment System (RAS) for continuous feedback for e-services delivered by Government of India and State Governments. This system has multiple channels for receiving feedback and is backed by analytics. These analytics will help integrated departments for continuous system improvement and better governance.

Vision Area 3: Digital Empowerment of Citizens

- **MyGov:** MyGov is a first-of-its-kind citizen engagement platform for participatory governance in India. MyGov aims to facilitate a dialogue between citizens and Government, bringing citizens closer to the Government and bringing the Government closer to the citizens it serves, via this platform. Presently, over 71 lakh users are registered with MyGov, participating in various activities hosted on MyGov platform. MyGov activities are structured under 64 groups consisting of 795 tasks, 791 discussions, 246 Polls/Surveys and 184 talks.

- **National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM)/ Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA):** Government of India has implemented two Schemes for digital literacy namely 'National Digital Literacy Mission' (NDLM) with a target of training 10 lakh persons and Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) with a target of 42.5 lakh persons covering one person per family. These schemes were implemented concurrently across the country and a total of 53.67 lakh candidates have been trained and certified.

- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA):** The Government has approved a new Scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" in February, 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household). So far, more than 1.64 crore candidates have been enrolled, out of which training has been imparted to more than 1.60 crore candidates and 85.97 lakh candidates have been certified.

- **Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project:** The Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project Phase-II was approved with an objective of capacity building in the area of Information Security, training of Government personnel and creation of mass Information Security awareness. So far, 28,069 candidates have been trained in various formal/non-formal courses and 6,341 Government officials have been trained in various short term courses in the area of Information Security.

Other Initiatives

➢ **IT for Jobs**

- 48,300 seats have been approved under India BPO Scheme and over 38,855 seats have been allocated across 20 States and 2 UTs.

- 5000 seats have been approved for BPOs in North East and 2,185 seats have been allocated across 6 States in NER.

➢ **Electronics Manufacturing**

- 268 Investment proposals under Modified Specific Incentive Programmes (MSIPs) having a proposed investment of Rs. 62,985 crore have been so far received. 188 proposals with proposed investments of Rs. 40,922 crore have been approved.

- 23 applications (20 Greenfield EMCs and 3 Common Facility Centre in Brownfield EMCs) with project worth of Rs. 3898 crore including Central Grant-in-aid of Rs.1577 crore for setting up of Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) have been accorded final approval in 15 States across the country.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In one of the reported instance, e-grarn Digital (*website-egramdigital.co.in*) was misusing the Government flagship Digital India Programme, for extorting money from citizens, across many States, for becoming State Partners and Distributors for fake Scheme "Apka Angootha, Apka Bank" and duping citizens to make payments for biometric devices.

(f) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued directives to all Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs to safeguard citizens from fraudulent activities carried out in the name of Government schemes.

Disabled Friendly Stations

345. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities being provided to various categories of disabled persons at the railway stations and in trains as well along with the details of the railway stations of various categories;

(b) whether the Railways proposes to develop 'B' category railway stations in the country as disabled friendly railway stations;

(c) if so, the zone-wise names of the railway stations identified for this purpose including the details thereof;

(d) whether escalators/lifts are being set up at railway stations throughout the country to make the foot over bridges accessible to senior citizens; and

(e) if so, the names of railway stations in the country where these facilities have been provided along with the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways is committed to make India accessible for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) as part of "Sugamya Bharat Mission" or Accessible India Campaign of Government of India. Improvement/augmentation of amenities at Railway stations, including those for differently abled passengers is a continuous process. Provisions of facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) are to be provided at all stations over Indian Railways. The categorization of station is reviewed every five years. In April, 2018, it has been decided to change the categorization of Station from 'A-1', 'A' & 'B', (C0, 'D', 'E' & 'F' category to NSG1-NSG6, SG1-SG3 & HG1-HG3 based upon passenger handled and earnings of the stations. In order to provide better accessibility to Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Short Term Facilities and Long Terms Facilities have been

planned at all stations, beginning with Non Suburban Group 'NSG 1', 'NSG 2', 'NSG 3' & 'NSG 4' (erstwhile 'A-1', 'A' & 'B') category stations. The details of Railway stations provided with Short-Term Facilities so far for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under all categories of stations over Indian Railways are as under:–

Sl. No.	Facility for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	Approximate number of stations, where facility provided
1.	Standard ramp for barrier free entry	2586
2.	Earmarking at least two parking lots	1429
3.	Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to station building	1465
4.	Signages of appropriate visibility	1474
5.	At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	1989
6.	At least one toilet (on the ground floor)	1908
7.	May I help you booth	1131

Long-Term Facilities are to be provided for Divyangjan at 'NSG-1' to 'NSG-4' categories of stations, which are as follows:–

1.	Engraving on edges of platforms	1816
2.	Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer	1288

Also regarding making trains disabled friendly, around 3,800 Disabled friendly Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches (SLRD/SRD) are available in the fleet of Indian Railways. These coaches have a suitably designed compartment & toilet adapted to the needs of the disabled/wheel chair borne passengers. In these coaches, wider entrance door, wider berths, wider compartments, larger lavatory and lavatory doors, etc. have been provided. Inside the toilets, additional grab rails on the side walls for support and wash basin and mirror at a lower height are also available. It is endeavored to have at least one such coach in each Mail/Express train having ICF type coaches. Further, LHB type coaches with facilities for the disabled on

similar lines as is available in ICF design coaches are also under manufacture at Integral Coach Factory/Chennai. For the assistance of the visually impaired travelers, Integrated Braille Signages, *i.e.* signages superimposed with Braille scripts, are being provided in the newly manufactured coaches. Further, retrofitment of the same in existing coaches has also been taken up in a phased manner.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. There were 709 'A1', 'A' & 'B' category stations (erstwhile) catering to bulk of passenger traffic on Indian Railways out of which 670 station have been provided with all Short-Term Facilities and 639 stations have been provided with all Long-Term Facilities. As per new categorization of stations there are '21 stations in NSG1 category', '77 stations in NSG2 category', '227 stations in NSG3 category' and '286 stations in NSG4 category' thus there are total 611 stations falling in 'NSG1' to 'c' categories. The details of Railway stations provided with Short-Term Facilities so far for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) at NSG4 category of stations over Indian Railways are as under:–

Sl. No.	Facility for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	Total No. of Stations	No. of stations where facilities provided
1.	Standard ramp for barrier free entry	286	279
2.	Earmarking at least two parking lots	286	276
3.	Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to station building	286	278
4.	Signages of appropriate visibility	286	281
5.	At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	286	279
6.	At least one toilet (on the ground floor)	286	273
7.	May I help you booth	286	265

Long-Term Facilities are to be provided for Divyangjan at 'NSG-4' category of stations, which are as follows:–

| 1. Engraving on edges of platforms | 286 | 263 |
| 2. Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer | 286 | 254 |

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. In order to facilitate easy movement of elderly, sick and differently abled passengers and for smooth access to platforms of major railway stations and for ease of movement, escalators/lifts are being provided as part of 'Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan'. As per the revised policy guidelines of Indian Railways, Escalators are to be provided at end platforms of railway stations having footfall of more than one lakh. Lifts are being provided depending upon the relative priority of various stations and the availability of resources and feasibility for provision of lifts.

So far, 536 escalators at 199 stations and 406 lifts at 179 stations have been provided. Lists of such stations are appended as enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Detail of Escalators installed at stations

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Escalators Installed
1.	Central	Nagpur	Maharashtra	3
		Pune		1
		Gulbarga	Karnataka	2
		Thane		8
		Dombivli		2
		Kalyan		4
		Badlapur		1
		Ulhasnagar		1
		Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus		2
		Vikroli		1
		Dadar		7
		Vidya Vihar		1
		Kanjur Marg		1
		Bhusawal		2
		Lok Tilak Terminus		1
		Lonavala		2
		Titwala	Maharashtra	1
		Solapur		2
		Nasaik Road		2
		Mulund		1
		Bhandup		1
		Kurla		3
		Chembur		2
		Karjat		1
		Shahad		1

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Escalators Installed
		Kasara		1
		Thakurli		1
		Dockyard Road		1
		Vadala Road		2
		Diva		1
		Mankhurd		1
	Total			60
2.	East Central	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	2
		Mugalsarai	Uttar Pradesh	2
		Samastipur Junction	Bihar	2
		Patna		4
		Muzaffarpur		2
	Total			12
3.	East Coast	Bhubaneswar	Odisha	4
		Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	2
	Total			6
4.	Eastern	Howrah	West Bengal	2
		Asansol		2
		Bolpur		2
		Dum Dum Junction		1
		Ballyganj		2
		New Garia		2
		Durgapur		2
	Total			13
5.	Metro	Esplanade	West Bengal	6
		Belgachia		2
		Central		4
		Chandni Chowk		2
		Dum Dum		5
		Girish Park		2
		Gitanjli		4
		Jatindas Park		4
		Kali Ghat		2
		Kavi Nazrul		4

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Escalators Installed
		Kavi Subhash		2
		Maidan		2
		Mahatma Gandhi Road		4
		Masterda Suryasen		4
		Mahanayak Uttam Kumar		2
		Netaji Bhavan		3
		Netaji		4
		Park Steet		1
		Rabindra Sarovar		2
		Rabindra Sadan		3
		Sova Bazar Sutanuti		3
		Shyam Bazar		4
		Shaheed Khudiram		4
		Noapara		2
	Total			75
6.	North Central	Agra Cantt.	Uttar Pradesh	4
		Allahabad		5
		Kanpur Central		2
		Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	2
		Chheoki	Uttar Pradesh	1
		Mathura Junction		1
		Jhansi		2
	Total			17
7.	North Western	Ajmer	Rajasthan	6
		Udaipur City		2
		Bikaner		2
		Jaipur		6
		Bhilwara		2
		Jodhpur		2
	Total			20
8.	Northeast Frontier	New Jalpaiguri	West Bengal	2
		Guwahati	Assam	2
	Total			4
9.	Northern	Anand Vihar	Delhi	2

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Escalators Installed
		New Delhi		20
		Nizamuddin		3
		Delhi		6
		Sarai Rohilla		2
		Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	4
		Meerut City		2
		Ludhiana	Punjab	2
		Jammu Tawi	Jammu and Kashmir	2
		Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	2
		Lucknow		4
		Haridwar	Uttarakhand	4
		Dehradun		2
		Amritsar	Punjab	2
		Sri Mata Vaisno Devi Katra	Jammu and Kashmir	2
		Ambala Cantt	Haryana	2
		Chandigarh	Chandigarh	8
		Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	4
	Total			73
10.	South Central	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	3
		Vijayawada		6
		Anakapalle		2
		Gudur		1
		Tenali		2
		Hyderabad		2
		Rajahmundry		2
		Ongole		1
		Aurangabad	Maharashtra	2
		Tirupati		4
		Kacheguda	Andhra Pradesh	4
		Kurnool		2
		Tadepalligudem		1
		Secunderabad		7
		Warangal	Telangana	2
		Kazipet		1

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Escalators Installed
		Manchiryal	Andhra Pradesh	2
		Parbhani	Maharashtra	1
		Nanded		3
	Total			48
11.	South Eastern	Kharagpur	West Bengal	2
		Tata Nagar	Jharkhand	2
		Raurkela		2
		Bokaro Steel City		2
		Hatia		2
		Ranchi		2
	Total			12
12.	South Western	Bangluru City	Karnataka	5
		Yashwantpur		4
		Mysore		2
		Hubli		2
	Total			13
13.	South East Central	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	2
		Durg		2
		Raipur		4
		Gondia	Maharashtra	2
	Total			10
14.	Southern	Coimbatore Main Junction	Tamil Nadu	4
		Aluva	Kerala	1
		Chennai Egmore	Tamil Nadu	3
		Tambaram		2
		Madurai Junction		6
		Kozhikode Main	Kerala	2
		Chenganur		1
		Kottayam		2
		Ernakulam North		2
		Alappey		1
		Ernakulam South		5
		Kayankulam Junction		1
		Thiruvananthapuram		6

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Escalators Installed
		Palakkad Junction		1
		Mangalore Central	Karnataka	2
		Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	2
		Katpadi		1
		Salem		2
		Nagercoil		1
		Kannur	Kerala	2
		Thrissur		2
		Tiruchchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	1
		Chindadripet		3
		Chepauk		5
		Light House		3
		Tiruvallikeni (flag)		3
		Thirumailai		3
		Mandaveli		3
		Greenways Road		3
		Kotturpuram		3
		Kasturba Nagar		3
		Indira Nagar		2
		Thiruvanmiyur		2
		Tharamani		4
		Perungudi		2
	Total			89
15.	West Central	Habibganj	Madhya Pradesh	1
		Itarsi		2
		Bhopal Junction		2
		Kota	Rajasthan	5
		Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	4
	Total			14
16.	Western	Ahemdabad	Gujarat	2
		Andheri	Maharashtra	7
		Borivali		5
		Dadar		4
		Goregaon		6

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Escalators Installed
		Surat	Gujarat	3
		Indore	Madhya Pradesh	6
		Vasai Road	Maharashtra	3
		Vadodara	Gujarat	2
		Nalla Sopara	Maharashtra	2
		Kandivali		1
		Vile Parle		1
		Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	2
		Bhayander	Maharashtra	3
	Total			47
17.	North Eastern	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh	4
		Ghazipur City		2
		Basti		2
		Chhapra	Bihar	2
		Siwan		2
		Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	2
		Izzatnagar		1
		Mau		2
		Manduadih		4
		Lucknow Charbagh		2
	Total			23
	Grand Total			536
	Total No. of Stations			199

Statement-II

Detail of Lifts installed at stations

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Lifts Provided
1.	Central	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus	Maharashtra	1
		Thane		1
		Dadar		3
		Dombivali		1
		Lonavala		2
		Sevagram		1
		Nasik Road		2
		Jalgaon		2

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Lifts Provided
		Sainagar Shirdi		2
		Kalyan		4
		Khandwa		2
		Dockyard Road		1
		Vadala Road		2
		Mankhurd		2
		Chembur		2
		Reay Road		2
		Ghatkopar		2
		Daund Station		4
		Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus		5
		Bhusawal		2
	Total			43
2.	Eastern	Howrah		4
		Kolkata Terminal	West Bengal	2
		Bimanbadar		1
		Sealdah		1
	Total			8
3.	East Central	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	2
		Hajipur Junction	Bihar	1
	Total			3
4.	East Coast	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	2
		Srikakulam		1
		Bhubaneswar	Odisha	3
		Rairakhol		1
		Cuttuck		2
	Total			9
5.	Northeast Frontier	Ghuwahati	Assam	1
		New Cooch Behar	West Bengal	1
		Tinsukia	Assam	1
	Total			3
6.	North Eastern	Gorakhpur	Utttar Pradesh	7
		Lucknow Junction		3
		Maduadih		2

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Lifts Provided
		Gonda		1
	Total			13
7.	North Central	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	1
		Agra Cantt		3
		Aligarh		1
	Total			5
8.	North Western	Ajmer	Rajasthan	2
		Jodhpur		1
		Abu Road		1
		Hisar	Haryana	2
		Bikaner	Rajasthan	2
		Udaipur City		1
		Jaipur		5
	Total			14
9.	Northern	Sri Mata Vaisno Devi Katra	Jammu and Kashmir	3
		Anand Vihar	Delhi	6
		Nizamuddin		5
		Sarai Rohilla		2
		Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	2
		Meerut City		2
		Panipat	Haryana	2
		Ludhiana	Punjab	2
		Amristsar		4
		Jammu Tawi	Jammu and Kashmir	2
		Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	2
		Lucknow		1
		Faizabad		2
		Haridwar	Uttarakhand	2
		Dehradun		2
		Chandigarh	Chandigarh	2
		Delhi	Delhi	2
		New Delhi		7
	Total			50
10.	South Central	Bhimavaram Town	Andhra Pradesh	2

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Lifts Provided
		Samalkot		2
		Guntur		1
		Kacheguda		3
		Aurangabad	Maharashtra	2
		Secundrabad	Andhra Pradesh	4
		Guntkal		3
		Tirupati		3
		Ongole		1
		Gudur		2
		Chirala		3
		Kakinada Town		2
		Nizamabad	Telengana	2
		Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	3
		Tenali		3
		Tadepalligudem		1
		Vijaywada		5
		Manchiryal		2
		Khamam		2
		Jalna	Maharashtra	2
		Nanded		2
		Rajahmundry	Andhra Pradesh	2
		Tuni		2
		Cuddapah		1
		Eluru		2
		Anantpur		1
	Total			58
11.	South East Central	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	1
		Durg		3
		Rajnandgaon		2
		Raipur		3
		Gondia	Maharashtra	3
	Total			12
12.	Southern	Palghat	Kerala	2
		Mangalore Central	Karnataka	2

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Lifts Provided
		Kozhikode	Kerala	3
		Thrisur		2
		Kannur		2
		Badagara		2
		Ernakulam Town		1
		Ernakulam Junction		3
		Chenganur		2
		Salem Junction	Tamil Nadu	2
		Kanchipuram Junction		1
		Katpadi		2
		Erode		2
		Coimbatore		1
		Dindigul		3
		Chennai Central		1
		Tiruppur		2
		Madurai		2
		Chennai Egmore		2
		Tambaram		1
		Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	3
		Tiruvallikeni	Tamil Nadu	2
		Light House		2
		Thirumailai		4
		Chepauk		2
		Chinthadripet		2
		Mandaveli		2
		Greenways Road		2
		Kotturpuram		2
		Kasturba Nagar		2
		Indra Nagar		2
		Thiruvanmiyur		2
		Velachery		3
		Perungudi		2
		Taramani		2
	Total			72

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Lifts Provided
13.	South Eastern	Tata Nagar	Jharkhand	1
		Raurkela		1
		Ranchi		2
		Bokaro Steel City		2
		Kharagpur	West Bengal	5
	Total			11
14.	South Western	Bangaluru City	Karnataka	6
		Mysore		2
		Yashwantpur		4
	Total			12
15.	West Central	Habibganj Station	Madhya Pradesh	2
		Itarsi		4
		Sougour		2
		Satna		1
		Maihar		2
		Bina		2
		Bhopal Junction	Madhya Pradesh	4
		Jabalpur Junction		4
		Kota	Rajasthan	2
	Total			23
16.	Western	Ahemdabad	Gujarat	6
		Vapi		2
		Surat		4
		Borivali	Maharashtra	6
		Bandra Terminus		1
		Dadar		2
		Goregaon		2
		Virar		2
		Anand	Gujarat	3
		Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	2
		New Bhuj	Gujarat	2
		Surender Nagar		1
		Jam Nagar		1
		Dwarka		2

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Station	State	No. of Lifts Provided
		Andheri	Maharashtra	4
		Vadodara Station	Gujarat	1
		Ujjain Station	Madhya Pradesh	4
		Rajkot Station	Gujarat	2
		Indore	Madhya Pradesh	5
		Vasai Road	Maharashtra	1
		Udhna	Gujarat	2
		Nadiad		1
	Total			56
17.	Metro	Kavi Nzarul	West Bengal	2
		Shahid Khudiram		2
		MasterDa SuryaSen		2
		Gitanjali		2
		Naopara		1
		Dum Dum		2
		Netaji		2
		Indra Nagar		1
	Total			14
	Grand Total			406
	Total No. of Stations			179

Cyber Crime

346. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are growing incidents of cyber crimes, including financial frauds, using bank cards and e-wallets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to deal with such cyber crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 9622, 11592 and 12,317 cyber crime cases were registered during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. This includes cases registered under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and related sections of Indian Penal Code and Special & Local Laws involving computer as medium/target. As per information reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total of 3, 14 and 6 financial fraud incidents affecting ATMs, Cards, Point of Sale (PoS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have been reported during the year 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto November) respectively. Further, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has registered a total of 1191, 1372, 2059 and 921 cases of frauds involving ATM/Debit Cards, Credit Cards and Internet Banking Frauds reported (amount involved Rs 1 lakh and above) during the year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (Upto 30 Sept, 2018) respectively.

(b) and (c) Government has taken following measures to enhance the cyber security of digital payment systems and prevent cyber attacks:

(i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis to ensure safe usage of digital technologies. Regarding securing digital payments, 28 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.

(ii) All authorised entities/banks issuing PPIs in the country have been advised by CERT-In through Reserve bank of India to carry out special audit by empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and to take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.

(iii) All the new Government websites and applications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the websites and applications is to be conducted on a regular basis after hosting.

(iv) Government has empanelled 76 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.

(v) Government has issued guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) regarding their key roles and responsibilities for securing applications/infrastructure and compliance.

(vi) All organizations providing digital services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.

(vii) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

(viii) Cyber Security mock drills and exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 38 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In where organisations from different sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeSetc participated. 3 exercises were conducted in coordination with Reserve bank of India in November, 2018 for senior management and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of banks.

(ix) CERT-In conducts regular training programmes for network/system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations regarding securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks. 22 trainings covering 746 participants conducted in the year 2018 (till November).

(x) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The Centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Providing Communication Facilities

347. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which irregularities have been found during extension of communication facilities during the last three years till date;

(b) the details of contractors provided with contracts during the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(c) the State-wise total amount spent for laying telephone cables during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As per the data maintained in the Vigilance Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), irregularities have been found during extension of communication facilities in the States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal and North East Region.

(b)   The list of contractors engaged during last three years by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is enclosed Statement-I.

(c)   The amount spent for laying telephone cables during last three years by BSNL, MTNL and BBNL is enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

State/Circle-wise Details of Contractors provided with contracts during the last three years till date

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor

BSNL

Andman and Nicobar Islands

1.   M/s KS Construction

2.   M/s NC Construction

3.   M/s Fantassy Electronics

Andhra Pradesh

1.   M/s G.L. Prasad, Vijayawada-7

2.   M/s Shri L. Demudunaidu

3.   M/s S.S. Enterprises, Visakhapatnam

4.   M/s Anasuya Traders Chiluvuru

5.   M/s Bharathi Prasara Constructions

6.   M/s Smt. Chikkala Naga Lakshmi

7.   M/s Shri G. Papaiah

8.   M/s A. Anil Kumar

Assam

1.   M/s D.K. Pathak, Bhaskar Nagar, Ghy-1

2.   M/s Amarnath International

3.   M/s Himadri Dey

4.   M/s Junaid Ahmed

5.   M/s Jyoti Trade Corporation

6.   M/s Rean Infracon Private Limited

7.   M/s Ashoka Enterprise

8.   M/s Sri Ranjit Kumar Dutta

9.   M/s Prafulla Loying

10.   M/s Niz-Mancotta, Khaniagaon

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor

11.   M/s Rashmi Enterprise

Bihar

1.   M/s Devendra Kumar Rai

2.   M/s Vijay Kr & Son's Gaya

3.   M/s Ravi Construction, Buxar

4.   M/s R & N Infratech

5.   M/s Ashwini Roy

6.   M/s Vijay Kumar & Son's Gaya

7.   M/s Ran Vijay Singh, Chapra

8.   M/s Ran Vijay Singh, Chapra

9.   M/s R & N Infratech

10.   M/s Jyoti Enterprises

11.   M/s Manish Enterprises

12.   M/s Umesh Chandra Pathak

13.   M/s Vijay Kumar & Sons

14.   M/s Sangita Enterprises

15.   M/s Jyoti Enterprises

16.   M/s Rajesh Srivastava

17.   M/s Rajesh Srivastava

18.   M/s Ajay Kr Singh

19.   M/s Manoj Singh

20.   M/s Rajesh Srivastava

21.   M/s Manoj Singh

22.   M/s JV Enterprises

23.   M/s Ravi Enterprises

24.   M/s Umesh Chandra Pathak

25.   M/s Vijay Kumar & Son's Gaya

26.   M/s Diamond Industries Gaya

27.   M/s Vijay Kumar & Sons

Chhattisgarh

1.   M/s Maa Karma Narayanpur

2.   M/s MAR Construction

3.   M/s Bakshi Patel

4.   M/s Chandel

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
5.	M/s Aktar Bhai
6.	M/s Sir Corporation
7.	M/s Talat Construction
8.	M/s Balaji Electricals
9.	M/s Balaji Electricals
10.	M/s Balaji Electricals
11.	M/s Nav Durga Construction
12.	M/s Balaji Electricals
13.	M/s Nav Durga Construction
14.	M/s Heera Construction
15.	M/s Heera Construction
16.	M/s Sir Corporation
17.	M/s Khushi Construction
18.	M/s Mukesh Verma
19.	M/s Mukesh Verma
20.	M/s Khushi Construction
21.	M/s Wintel Service
22.	M/s Mukesh Verma

Gujarat

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
1.	M/s Rasiklal M Patel
2.	M/s Soni Construction, VDA
3.	M/s Shanti Builders, VDA
4.	M/s Aum Enterprise, VDA
5.	M/s Priyadarshi & Co
6.	M/s KGN Enterprise, Valsad
7.	M/s Ambica Corporation
8.	M/s B. J. Patel
9.	M/s Navin N. Hadiya
10.	M/s Hariom Earth Movers
11.	M/s GVT Engcon Priva
12.	M/s D. P. Patel
13.	M/s Tirupati Construct
14.	M/s Asma Enterprises
15.	M/s Anu Trading Company

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
16.	M/s K. K. Trading Company
17.	M/s Dhawal Enterprise
18.	M/s Patel Enterprise
19.	M/s S. R. Enterprise
20.	M/s Santosh Enterprise
21.	M/s Vishnu Enterprise
22.	M/s Bhagvati Enterprise
23.	M/s Fulma Electrical
24.	M/s Aditya Enterprise
25.	M/s Rasiklal M. Patel
26.	M/s Navyug Communication
27.	M/s Gupta Construction

Haryana

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
1.	M/s Vichitra Construction Pvt. Ltd.
2.	M/s OM International Technical Services
3.	M/s Dexterity Projects (P) Ltd.
4.	M/s R. L. construction
5.	M/s OM International Technical Services
6.	M/s Shiv Electric Center
7.	M/s Teleplex Construction Co.
8.	M/s Kamal Engineers
9.	M/s Shiv Electric Center
10.	M/s R. L. Construction
11.	M/s Gayatri International
12.	M/s R.K. & Co.
13.	M/s Teleplex Construction Co. Delhi
14.	M/s Shubham Enterprises
15.	Madhu Telecom Construction
16.	M/s Gayatri International
17.	M/s Ramesh Kumar Mittal
18.	M/s Balaji Traders
19.	M/s Vaishnavi Construction
20.	M/s J.C. Enterprises
21.	M/s Teleplex Construction Co. Delhi

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
22.	M/s OM International Technical Services
23.	M/s Shubham Enterprises
24.	M/s Vaishali Construction Company
25.	M/s Vaishali Construction Company

Jammu and Kashmir

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
1.	M/s Indrees Kuchay
2.	M/s Falcon Engg
3.	M/s Indrees Kuchay
4.	M/s Steel Metal Industries
5.	M/s Brahma Engineering
6.	M/s Javaid Wani
7.	M/s Falcon Engg
8.	M/s Tanveer Wangoo
9.	M/s V.A. Contractor
10.	M/s Abdul Rashid Mir

Karnataka

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
1.	M/s N. Subramanya
2.	M/s B.T. Ningappa
3.	M/s S. Usha
4.	M/s K. Nagaraj
5.	M/s SeeradiInc
6.	M/s G.P. & Co.
7.	M/s Raja Rao
8.	M/s K.T. Jayaramu
9.	M/s Hanumanthaiah
10.	M/s K.N. Harish

Kerala

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
1.	M/s Sri. E.K. Moideenkoya
2.	M/s Sri Baburajan
3.	M/s HRL Enterprises
4.	M/s Roopam Constructions
5.	M/s John George, Nikhitha Constructions
6.	M/s Biju
7.	M/s Ashok Kumar

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
8.	M/s Mohammed Saleem
9.	M/s Chakrapani D
10.	M/s Suresh G
11.	M/s Biju U
12.	M/s Macanus Engineering LLP
13.	M/s K. Raveendran Nair
14.	M/s. E.K. Moideenkoya
15.	M/s K.A. Jaleel
16.	M/s Baburajan
17.	M/s HRL Enterprises
18.	M/s M.A. Joseph
19.	M/s A.N. Jayanandan
20.	M/s K.M. Binoy
21.	M/s P.J. Benny
22.	M/s K.M. Noushad
23.	M/s Prakash Kurian
24.	M/s Joy P.C
25.	M/s Mohammed Saleem & Devendiran
26.	M/s Telus Networks LLP
27.	M/s BMT Constructions
28.	M/s BMT Constructions & Mohammed Saleem

North East-I

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
1.	M/s JBSS Enterprises
2.	M/s JBSS Enterprises
3.	M/s JBSS Enterprises
4.	M/s LZ 7 Bros
5.	M/s LR Computer

North East-II

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
1.	M/s. Advance Electronic System
2.	M/s. N. Bhagyachandra
3.	M/s. N. Priyobrata Singh
4.	M/s. Jamkhopao Lhungdim
5.	M/s. Karam Gunil Singh

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor

Odisha

1. M/s Biswajit Mohanty
2. M/s Rajat Kumar Mohanty
3. M/s Tapas Kumar Nayak
4. M/s Nabaghana Pani
5. M/s Biswajit Mohanty
6. M/s Sanjay Kumar Kamila
7. M/s Bhagaban Panigrahi
8. M/s Nayan Kumar Panigrahi
9. M/s Janrdana Panigrahi
10. M/s Sai Enterprises
11. M/s Bibhudendra Pratap Das
12. M/s Sudhir Kumar Panda
13. M/s Rajani Kanta Jena
14. M/s Bandhusen Barik
15. M/s Mohan Charan Sahu
16. M/s Pradipta Kumar Sahu
17. M/s Kailash Chandra Sahu
18. M/s Minati Munda
19. M/s Dilip Kumar Hota
20. M/s Sesadeb Gouda
21. M/s Surya Prasad Rath
22. M/s Bhagaban Panigrahi
23. M/s Janardana Panigrahi
24. M/s Bibhudendra Pratap Das
25. M/s J.S. Enterprises
26. M/s Dilip Kumar Panigrahi
27. M/s Kailash Chandra Sahu
28. M/s Prabir Kumar Swain
29. M/s Akash Panigrahi
30. M/s Prafulla Kumar Panigrahi
31. M/s Narendra Kumar Bal
32. M/s Prahallad Kumar Swain
33. M/s B. N. Tripathy

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor

34. M/s B. R. Routray
35. M/s R. N. Binod
36. M/s Ajitkumar Panigrahi
37. M/s Asit Kumar Panigrahi
38. M/s Dinesh Panigrahi
39. M/s Surya Prasad Rath
40. M/s S. R. Nayak
41. M/s Kosal Build Con
42. M/s Debaraj Mishra
43. M/s K. C. Mohapatra
44. M/s P. K. Jain
45. M/s G. C. Dwibedi
46. M/s Debjyoti Dutta
47. M/s B. C. Prusty
48. M/s Priya Ranjan Das
49. M/s Rajat Kumar Mohanty
50. M/s S. P. Acharya
51. M/s Smruti Ranjan Nayak
52. M/s Krushna Chandra Mahapatra
53. M/s Madhusudan Jena
54. M/s Biswadarshi Das
55. M/s Pramod Kumar Swain
56. M/s Kailash Chandra Sahu
57. M/s Biren Prasad Mohanty
58. M/s Bibhudendra Pratap Das
59. M/s Dillip Kumar Das
60. M/s Surya Prasad Rath
61. M/s Samir Ranjan Pattanaik
62. M/s Biswajit Pattanaik
63. M/s Gyanajit Pattanaik
64. M/s Bijaya Kumar Samal

Punjab

1. M/s Skylark Telecom Services Pvt. Ltd

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
2.	M/s Skylark Telecom Services Pvt. Ltd
3.	M/s Balaji Traders
4.	M/s Skylark Telecom Services Pvt. Ltd
5.	M/s Ramesh Kr. Mittal
6.	M/s Balaji Traders
7.	M/s Vikas Duggal
8.	M/s Vikas Duggal
9.	M/s Vikas Duggal

Rajasthan

1.	M/s Ranu Kaitan & Co. (UG Cable)
2.	M/S Anukreeti Telecom & Electricals
3.	M/s Chandra Nirman
4.	M/s M.L. Constructions
5.	M/s Monika Const. (UG)
6.	M/s Ramjibhai & Co.
7.	M/s Bhagat Ji Enterprises
8.	M/s Rajat Enterprises
9.	M/s Saurabh Enterprises
10.	M/s S R Enterprises
11.	M/s Shyam Kripa Pvt. Ltd,
12.	M/s Kanishka Enterprises
13.	M/s Shee Balaji Constru. Co.

Telangana

1.	M/s ARBL, HBL. EXIDE, NED and Microtex
2.	M/s Enersys
3.	M/s Precision Electronics and ITI
4.	M/s LS cables
5.	M/s Ascent e Digit
6.	M/s Microcare
7.	M/s APAR, Polycab
8.	M/s Finolex Sudarsan
9.	M/s Ilscetic. Kieth, INNO, INVAS, Pelorus, Aiswarya
10.	M/s ITECO

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor

Uttar Pradesh (East)

1.	M/s Priya Construction
2.	M/s Vinay Enterprises
3.	M/s Ganga Enterprises
4.	M/s Vinay Enterprises
5.	M/s Om Communication
6.	M/s Vipin Associates
7.	M/s Bhawana Enterprises
8.	M/s Anand Enterprises
9.	M/s Prashant Kumar & Brothers
10.	M/s Priya Construction
11.	M/s Gangotri Ent
12.	M/s Priya Construction
13.	M/s MAK Ent.
14.	M/s Amrendra & Company
15.	M/s UK Traders
16.	M/s Anil Construction & Supplier
17.	M/s Sanjay Kumar Singh
18.	M/s Shashi Construction
19.	M/s B. P. Construction
20.	M/s Gyandutt Ent.
21.	M/s Sarc Construction
22.	M/s Triveni Enterprises
23.	M/s Yogendra Singh
24.	M/s Shakshi Enterprises
25.	M/s Shakshi Enterprises

Uttar Pradesh (West)

1.	M/s Ramchandra And Co.
2.	M/s Arvind Kumar
3.	M/s Babita Yadva
4.	M/s Creative Enterpreneurs
5.	M/s Mishra Enterprises
6.	M/s Neha Construction
7.	M/s Prashant Rao Chaturvedi

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor	Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
8.	M/s Sanjai Pratap Singh	42.	M/s Vichitra Constructions Pvt. Ltd
9.	M/s Shakti Traders (I)	43.	M/s Satyapal Singh Contractor
10.	M/s A. P. Associtae	44.	M/s J. A. Govt Contractor
11.	M/s Braj Mohan Sharma	45.	M/s G. S. Enterprises
12.	M/s Jaipal Singh & Company	46.	M/s S. R. Construction Co.
13.	M/s Bhawana Enterprises	47.	M/s H. K. Enterprises
14.	M/s G.S.	48.	M/s D.K. Associates
15.	M/s Kamal Engineers	49.	M/s J.P. Enterprises
16.	M/s Mahesh Chandra Sharma	50.	M/s Allied Constructions
17.	M/s Teleplex Construction Company	51.	M/s S Chandra Construction & Co.
18.	M/s Agrotech Enterprises	52.	M/s Samad Saqlaini Contractor
19.	M/s Baliyan Contsructions Co.	53.	M/s M. K. Construction
20.	M/s Bhagat Ji Enterprises	54.	M/s Shivam Enterprises
21.	M/s Zahid Hussain	55.	M/s Om Sai Construction
22.	M/s Super Plateck Pvt. Ltd.		**Uttarakhand**
23.	M/s Eagle Construction Co.	1.	M/s Shiv Shakti Contractor
24.	M/s Deepak Goel	2.	M/s Mahesh Chandra Sharma
25.	M/s Globe Construction P. Ltd.	3.	M/s Phonika Enterprises
26.	M/s Chaudhary Construction Co.	4.	M/s Nau Bagar Singh
27.	M/s Sudhir Associates	5.	M/s K. K. Electronics
28.	M/s A P Associate	6.	M/s Shiv Engineering Construction Company
29.	M/s Bisht Contractors	7.	M/s Jasoda Construction
30.	M/s Friends Telecom & Civil Contractors	8.	M/s Zahid Hussain
31.	M/s Shiv Engineering Construction Comp	9.	M/s Shree Contractor & General Order Supplier
32.	M/s Shiv Shakti Contractors	10.	M/s Yoso Engineering & Suppliers
33.	M/s Singh Enterprises	11.	M/s M. S. Enterprises
34.	M/s Phonika Enterprises	12.	M/s Tepelex Construction
35.	M/s Braj Mohan Sharma	13.	M/s Sonu Enterprise
36.	M/s Rajhans Enterprises	14.	M/s Bhagatji Enterprises
37.	M/s Bhawana Enterprises	15.	M/s A. K. Enterprenuers
38.	M/s A. P. Associates	16.	M/s Teleplex
39.	M/s Shreshth Contractor & Engineers	17.	M/s V. K. Construction Company
40.	M/s Isha Techno Builders Pvt Ltd	18.	M/s Gurcharan Singh & Brothers
41.	M/s Syed Shahzada Saleem Contractor	19.	M/s Soban Singh Jayara

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor
20.	M/s D.S. Negi
21.	M/s Bajrang Contractors
22.	M/s Rehmat Khan Govt. Contractor
23.	M/s Zhid Hussain Cable Contractor
24.	M/s Manvi Traders

West Bengal

1.	M/s Sudarshan Telecom
2.	M/s Singla Cable Ltd.
3.	M/s Golkunda E.E.L
4.	M/s Vindhya Telelinks Limited
5.	M/s Birla Cable Ltd.
6.	M/s Paramount Wires & Cables Ltd.
7.	M/s SPM Power and Telecom Pvt. Ltd.

Chennai TD

1.	M/s Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd.
2.	M/s VNN Construction
3.	M/s Power Links
4.	M/s. Millenium Engg. Contractors
5.	M/s. SPS Builders Pvt. Ltd
6.	M/s. Ashok Kumar Enterprises
7.	M/s. Arivunithi Engg. Contractors
8.	M/s. Pearl Engg. Contractors
9.	M/s. GPS Engineers & Contractors
10.	M/s. Ganesh Constructions
11.	M/s GSA Engg Contractors
12.	M/s. SRN Constructions
13.	M/s. SRN Engg contractors

MTNL

Delhi

1.	M/s Gorki Constructions & Engineers
2.	M/s Carrycon India Ltd.
3.	M/s KGIR Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
4.	M/s Shiv Shakti Construction

Sl.No.	Name of Contractor

Mumbai

1.	M/s A.A. Auctioneers & Contractors Pvt. Ltd.
2.	M/s Garib Nawab Corporation
3.	M/s D.M. Enterprises
4.	M/s D.P. Tele Systems
5.	M/s Saroj Enterprises
6.	M/s Anand Enterprises

Details of Contractors provided with contracts during the last three years by BBNL

Sl.No.	State	
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	BSNL
2.	Assam	BSNL
3.	Bihar	BSNL
4.	Chhattisgarh	BSNL
5.	Haryana	BSNL
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	BSNL
7.	Karnataka	BSNL
8.	Kerala	BSNL
9.	Maharastra	BSNL
10.	Madhya Pradesh	BSNL
11.	Punjab	BSNL
12.	Rajasthan	BSNL
13.	UP (East)	BSNL
14.	UP (West)	BSNL
15.	Uttarakhand	BSNL
16.	West Bengal	BSNL
17.	Sikkim	BSNL
18.	Pudducherry	Railtel
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	Railtel
20.	Manipur	Railtel
21.	Meghalaya	Railtel
22.	Mizoram	Railtel
23.	Nagaland	Railtel
24.	Tripura	Railtel

Sl.No.	State	
25.	Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar, Daman and Diu	Railtel
26.	Telengana	PGCIL
27.	Odisha	PGCIL
28.	Jharkhand	PGCIL
29.	Himachal Pradesh	PGCIL
30.	Andhra Pradesh	PGCIL
31.	Tamil Nadu	Not in Phase-I

Statement-II

State/Circle-wise details of total amount spent by BSNL, MTNL and BBNL on telephone cable laying during last three years

(in Rs. crores)

Sl.No.	State/Circle	Amount Spent
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.02
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24.86
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	36.39
4.	Assam	124.81
5.	Bihar	325.11
6.	Chhattisgarh	462.34
7.	Gujarat	286.95
8.	Haryana	287.57
9.	Himachal Pradesh	55.12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	55.27
11.	Jharkhand	143.31
12.	Karnataka	516.59
13.	Kerala	76.26
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1030.59
15.	Maharashtra	1124.57
16.	Manipur	40.63
17.	Meghalaya	52.19
18.	Mizoram	29.45
19.	Nagaland	54.83
20.	Odisha	307.41

Sl.No.	State/Circle	Amount Spent
21.	Punjab	258.99
22.	Puducherry	4.35
23.	Rajasthan	565.87
24.	Sikkim	43.64
25.	Tamil Nadu	13.18
26.	Telangana	149.34
27.	Tripura	45.59
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1235.77
29.	Uttarakhand	144.30
30.	West Bengal	292.81
31.	Delhi	85.19
32.	Mumbai	45.56

Investigation Agencies under RTI

348. SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Central Information Commission has suggested that the Intelligence and Investigation agencies should be brought under the ambit of the Right to Information law;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has taken any decision to implemented the said suggestion;

(d)   if so, the decision thereof; and

(e)   if not, the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No Madam.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Visit of Former Nepali PM

349. SHRI P. K. KUNHALIKUTTY:
        SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the former Prime Minister of Nepal and Chairperson of the recently merged Communist Party of Nepal had paid a visit to New Delhi in the month of September this year and discussed various issues with the Minister of External Affairs and Prime Minister of India;

(b)   if so, the details in this regard;

(c)   whether the various activities of China have increased in Nepal and whether the steps taken by the Government of India to counter such Chinese activities are adequate; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof and the details of fresh efforts made by the Government to reduce influence of China in Nepal and build a strategic relationship with Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) At the invitation of the Indian Council of World Affairs, former Prime Minister of Nepal and Co-Chairman of Nepal Communist Party, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', visited India from 06-09 September, 2018 to address the 31st Sapru House Lecture on "Recent Development in Nepal and Advancing India-Nepal Partnership for Shared Prosperity". During his visit to India, former Prime Minister of Nepal called on the Prime Minister of India and held a meeting with the External Affairs Minister of India. In the bilateral meetings, the leaders discussed issues of mutual interest including ways to advance cooperative ties between the two countries.

(c) and (d) Government of India has age-old, multifaceted partnership with Nepal, which is under-pinned by close people-to-people relations. India's close ties with Nepal stand firmly on their own. Government closely follows all developments having a bearing on India's national interests and takes all necessary measures to pursue and safeguard these. Government has expanded its partnership with Nepal across diverse sectors, including through expediting implementation of various connectivity, development and economic projects. Government remains fully committed to strengthening and deepening its multifaceted bilateral partnership with the Government and people of Nepal for the mutual benefit and progress of both countries.

**Explosion at Central Ammunition
Depot at Wardha**

350. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
        SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
        PROF. SAUGATA ROY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether some people were killed and many injured in a massive explosion at Pulgaon-based Central Ammunition Depot at Wardha in Maharashtra recently;

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

(c)   whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard so far and if so, the details thereof;

(d)   the details of aids provided to families of victims; and

(e)   whether proper procedures are being adopted in the disposal of various unused ammunitions and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes Madam, 6 persons (one Ordnance Factory Khamaria employee and five contract workers) died and 19 persons got injured in the incident.

(b)   A team of officials from Ordnance Factory Khamaria (OFK) was deputed to Central Ammunition Depot (CAD), Pulgaon from 19.11.2018 to 08.12.2018 for demolition of old/unserviceable/obsolete/rejected ammunition under technical supervision of CAD, Pulgaon. On 20.11.2018, Ammunition boxes containing unserviceable ammunition were being unloaded and shifted from the vehicle to the demolition pit. During this shifting, one of the boxes fell down and exploded.

(c)   Board of Enquiry (BOE) headed by Controller, Controllerate of Quality Assurance (Military Explosives)

[CQA (ME)], Pune as Chairman and Members drawn from CQA (ME), OFK and Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), New Delhi has already been constituted on 24.11.2018.

(d) (i) Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 25,000/- has been paid and as per the Workmen's Compensation Act 1923, an amount of Rs. 8,54,280/- (Rupees eight lakh fifty four thousand two hundred eighty only) has been sanctioned for the family of deceased OFK employee.

(ii) In addition, Rs. 15,000/- each to the deceased contract workers, Rs. 10,000/- each to contract workers with major injury and Rs. 5,000/- each to contract workers with minor injury has been paid by OFK.

(iii) Besides, a total compensation of Rs. 37.63 lakhs has been given to the Labour Court, Wardha, Maharashtra by OFK for five deceased contract workers.

(e) Only rejected/unserviceable ammunition are taken for disposal by safety section employees following the laid-down procedures/methods under technical supervision of CAD, Pulgaon to ensure safety of personnel and equipment.

[Translation]

Creamy Layer

351. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether before the issuance of original office order of creamy layer dated 8.9.1993, the Government had discussed the matter in Parliament and also consulted the then Law Ministry, Welfare Ministry and Prime Minister Office (PMO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the then Government had issued a wrong clarification of the original office order dated 8.9.1993 regarding creamy layer in an illegal manner on 14th October, 2004 to deprive the wards of category II 'C' employees belonging to creamy layer from the reserved benefit of OBC category;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken into cognizance the wrong clarification of dated 14th October, 2004; and

(f) if so, the date-wise details of the action taken in this regard and if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of a Committee set up by the Government in pursuance of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 1992 in the Indra Sawhney's case to recommend the criteria for exclusion of socially advanced persons/sections from the benefits of reservations for the Other Backward Classes, the Department of Personnel and Training issued an Office Memorandum on 08.09.1993, which was preceded by consultations between the then Ministry of Welfare and the Department of Legal Affairs and was approved by the then Hon'ble Prime Minister.

(c) and (d) The letter dated 14.10.2004 was issued with a view to bring clarity regarding determination of creamy layer on ten specific questions which were then being raised from time to time.

(e) and (f) The earlier unsigned typed copy of the English version of the letter dated 14.10.2004, uploaded on the website of the Department of Personnel & Training had certain discrepancies *vis-a-vis* its Hindi version. When the discrepancy was noticed, the correct copy was uploaded on the website. A corrigendum was also issued on 05.12.2016 when a discrepancy with respect to the explanation under Category VI(b) in the Hindi version of the Office Memorandum dated 08.09.1993 was noticed.

LHB Coaches

352. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the salient features of LHB coaches being manufactured by using new technique;

(b)   the manner in which they are different from old and conventional coaches;

(c)   whether the Railways is contemplating to attach LHB coaches in all the express trains keeping in view the safety of passengers;

(d)   if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   the various steps being taken by the Railways to check the accidents and to ensure passenger safety and whether any scheme is being worked out for this purpose and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) design coaches are lighter in weight, have higher carrying capacity, higher speed potential, increased codal life and better safety features as compared to Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches.

(c) and (d) The passenger coaches plying over Indian Railways (IR) have been designed with the necessary safety features considering the operating conditions over IR. However, with a view to providing safer and more comfortable journey to passengers, it has been decided to run more trains with LHB coaches and replacing trains operating with conventional ICF coaches by LHB coaches, in a phased manner. Accordingly, as on 30.11.18, 308 pairs of trains are being operated with LHB coaches.

It has also been decided that only LHB coaches would be manufactured by Production Units of IR from April, 2018 onwards.

(e)   Safety is accorded the highest priority by IR and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and safety inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Preventive and predictive maintenance of the Railway assets is undertaken to ensure safe train operation. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include Electronic Interlocking, track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters, Colour Light LED Signals, Train Protection and Warning System, Vigilance Control Device, Fog Pass Device, usage of 52 kg/60 kg, 90 or higher UTS rails and pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, use of Ultrasonic Flaw Detection of rails and welds at predefined periodicity to detect internal flaws in rails/welds. Electronic monitoring of track geometry is carried out to detect defects and plan maintenance. Steel Channel Sleepers on girder bridges are being used while carrying out primary track renewals. Further, it has been decided to lay Thick webs switches, Weldable Cast Maganese Steel crossings on identified routes. Progressive use of LHB Coaches, use of Centre Buffer Couplers with ICF Coaches, etc. Railway tracks are replaced on age-cum-condition basis through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examination etc. Besides, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels, etc. are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of IR.

Ban on Criminals Contesting Elections

353. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government proposes to take any step to check criminals from contesting election;

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

(c)   whether the Government has received proposals in this regard from various political parties; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a person convicted of offences specified therein shall be disqualified for membership of the legislatures from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release.

(c) and (d) The issue of electoral reform in its entirety was referred to the Law Commission of India in the year 2013. After consultation with various stake-holders, the Law Commission submitted its 244th report containing recommendation that a person shall be disqualified for membership of legislatures upon framing of charges against him for specified offences, subject to certain other conditions. The recommendations of the Law Commission are under examination of the Government.

[English]

Physiotherapists in Armed Forces

354. DR. TAPAS MANDAL:
    SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   the number of physiotherapists employed in the Ministry including in Armed Forces, allied offices and autonomous organisations;

(b)   the details of recruitment rules for physiotherapists in the said organisations;

(c)   whether a uniform recruitment rule and procedure is being adopted for the said recruitments;

(d)   if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   the details of the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission with respect to physiotherapists and the pay scale given by the Ministry at the entry level presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Security Criterion in Railways

355. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of effective steps taken to upgrade various security criterion of Railways during the last three years and the current year;

(b)   whether the Government has set up a mechanism/taken any steps for safety of passengers and

to check recurrence of accidents by taking cognizance of the accidents during the last three years; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by the Railways for strengthening and up-gradation. Measures initiated for strengthening of security over Railways in recent past include provision of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras at important railway stations, operationalisation and up-gradation of Security Helpline 182, installation of security equipment like baggage scanners etc. In addition, escorting of 2500 trains (on an average daily), is done by Railway Protection Force (RPF) besides escorting of 2200 trains by Government Railway Police (GRP). Special measures have been initiated for women security over Railways like formation of special ladies squads, prosecution of offenders under the provisions of the Railways Act etc. Prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order in Railway station premises as well as in running trains are the statutory responsibility of State Governments, which they discharge through the GRP. Railways, through the RPF, are supplementing efforts of respective States to strengthen security across Indian Railways. For regular monitoring and review of security arrangements for the Railways, State Level Security Committee for Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories (UTs) under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories.

(b) and (c) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and safety inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Preventive and predictive maintenance of the Railway assets is undertaken to ensure safe train operation. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include Electronic Interlocking, track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters, Colour Light LED Signals,

Train Protection and Warning System, Vigilance Control Device, Fog Pass Device, usage of 52 kg/60 kg, 90 or higher UTS rails and pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, use of Ultrasonic Flaw Detection of rails and welds at predefined periodicity to detect internal flaws in rails/welds. Electronic monitoring of track geometry is carried out to detect defects and plan maintenance. Steel Channel Sleepers on girder bridges are being used while carrying out primary track renewals. Further, it has been decided to lay Thick webs switches, Weldable Cast Manganese Steel crossings on identified routes. Progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch Coaches, use of Centre Buffer Couplers with Integral Coach Factory Coaches, etc. Railway tracks are replaced on age-cum-condition basis through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examination etc. Besides, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels, etc. are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Indian Railways.

[English]

AFSPA in Arunachal Pradesh

356. SHRI NINONG ERING: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government proposes to discontinue AFSPA in the area of Tirap, Changlang and Longding in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has taken note of 18th November incident in Longding area and the action taken on the matter; and

(d)   if so, the action taken on the recommendation of Jeevan Reddy Commission on AFSPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) No, Madam. At present there is no proposal under consideration to discontinue The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the area of Tirap, Changlang and Longding area of Arunachal Pradesh.

(c)   Yes, Madam. On 17th November, 2018, during an operation conducted in general area Laptang, Khonsa Circle, an insurgent was apprehended who gave inputs about presence of war like stores in three houses in village Longkjon.

As a follow up of the inputs obtained from the apprehended insurgent, on 18/19 November, 2018, an Army column searched the three suspected houses in the village Longkjon, Longding District. The search operation was conducted in accordance with the laid down procedures, causing no undue harassment of the locals. Post the search operation, a 'No objection certificate' was obtained from the village elders.

Based on certain allegations regarding misbehavior and harassment, the incident was inquired into and the villagers have confirmed that there are no complaints against the Army.

(d)   No decision has been taken on the recommendation of Justice Jeevan Reddy on AFSPA.

Law/Rules Regarding Appointment and Reservation

357. DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) is responsible for enforcing and monitoring law/rules regarding appointments and reservation to SCs/STs and OBCs and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the status of current reservation and the backlog posts in different Ministries as provided in the Constitution of India; and

(c)   the time frame to complete the current reservation and also for filling up the backlog posts as per the roster system evolved by the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) to (c) Instructions provide for appointment of Liaison Officers in each Ministry/Department to ensure effective implementation of the reservation policy for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) and for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Instructions also provide to set up a Special Reservation Cell within the Ministry/ Department to assist the Liaison Officer in discharging his duties effectively. However, the Department of Personnel and Training collects data from the Ministries/Departments on representation and appointment of SCs, STs and OBCs in the posts and services of the Central Government.

There is reservation of 15% for the members of the SC, 7.5% for members of ST and 27% for the members of OBC in the posts and services of the Central Government. As per data received from 78 Ministries/ Departments including their attached/subordinate offices, the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the posts and services of the Central Government as on 01.01.2016 is 17.49%, 8.47% and 21.57%, respectively.

Representation of OBCs in the Central Government services is less as compared to the percentage of reservation for them because reservation of OBCs started in September, 1993. Representation of OBCs as on 01.01.2012 was 16.55% which has now increased to 21.57% as on 01.01.2016 showing an increasing trend in the representation of OBCs.

Ten Ministries/Departments having more than 90% of the employees in Central Government including their Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions, Central Public Sector Undertakings etc., reported that out of 92,589 backlog vacancies for SCs, STs and OBCs, 63,876 vacancies were filled up during the period from 01.04.2012 to 31.12.2016 and 28,713 backlog vacancies of SCs, STs and OBCs remained unfilled as on 01.01.2017.

Department of Personnel & Training issued instructions to all Ministries/Departments to constitute an in-house Committee to identify backlog reserved vacancies, study of the root cause of backlog reserved vacancies, initiation of measures to remove such factors and to fill up such vacancies through Special Recruitment Drive.

Starting of New Trains

358. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of new trains introduced in the gauge conversion completed railway lines during the last two years;

(b)   the details of action taken for maximum utilization of newly constructed Kollam-Schenkottah railway line;

(c)   the details of new trains introduced and the action taken for restoring the old trains stopped during the time of starting the gauge conversion work in Kollam-Schenkottah railway line; and

(d)   the action taken by the Government to introduce more trains in Kollam-Schenkottah railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) During the last two years *i.e.* 2017-18 & 2018-19 (till November, 2018), Indian Railways have introduced 31 pairs of new train services and extended 14 pairs of existing train services on the newly Gauge-converted non-suburban sections.

(b) to (d) Before closure of Kollam-Punalur-Sengottai section for gauge conversion, 1 pair of Express train and 5 pairs of Passenger trains were serving the section. However, consequent upon the completion of gauge conversion of the section, 1 pair of Express train and 7 pairs of Passenger trains are being operated on Kollam-Punalur section of which 1 pair of Express train and 1 pair of Passenger train also serves Kollam-Punalur-Sengottai section. Owing to various restrictions of speed & load on the Kollam-Sengottai section introduction of more services is not feasible, at present. However, introduction of new trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to operational constraints, availability of resources, commercial justification etc.

Defence Contracts to Private Agencies

359. DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has awarded any defence manufacturing contract to some private agencies in the last three years;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d)   the details of the current status of such projects, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. During the last three years (since 2016-17 including current year), 38 contracts have been awarded to the Indian private vendors and the same are being progressed as per the contractual terms and conditions and the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP).

Rail Connectivity

360. SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether any study has been conducted on the demand for more rail connectivity between Calicut and Bengaluru and Calicut and Kolkata;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the measures proposed to be taken to meet the heavy demand of more trains between these cities;

(d)   whether the Government proposes to run the existing weekly trains on daily basis on these routes; and

(e)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Analysis of passenger traffic on Indian Railways is done on regular basis. The demand pattern on different sectors varies during peak and lean periods. During the Financial Year 2018-19 (upto November, 2018) about 1.07 lakh passengers travelled on Calicut-Bengaluru-Calicut Sector and 0.46 lakh passengers travelled on Calicut-Kolkata-Calicut Sector.

(c) to (e) At present, two pair of trains serve Kozhikode-Bengaluru Sector while one pair of train serves Kozhikode-Kolkata Sector. Besides, to clear the extra rush of passengers during peak seasons like festivals, vacations etc., Indian Railways also operate special trains keeping in view operational feasibility, traffic demand and availability of resources. Increase in frequencies of 16565/16566 Yesvantpur-Mangaluru Central Express and 22851/22852 Santragachi-Mangaluru Central Express from weekly to daily is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Atomic Energy Production

361. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has set any target for atomic energy production in the next 20 years; and

(b)   if so, the details thereof along with the way in which the Government is likely to achieve the said target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR.JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b)The targets for nuclear power generation are set on an annual basis, as a part of annual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and DAE.

However, the Government has planned to increase the installed capacity base of nuclear power in the country for increased electricity production from nuclear power. The present installed nuclear power capacity of 6780 MW would reach 13480 MW by the year 2024-25 with the completion of projects under construction (including 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), being implemented by Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidhyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI). The Government has also accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for 12 nuclear power reactors aggregating a total capacity of 9000 MW, which are scheduled to be completed progressively by the year 2031. On their completion, the total nuclear power capacity would reach 22480 MW.

More reactors, based on both indigenous technologies and with foreign cooperation are planned in the future. With the increase in the nuclear installed capacity base, the electricity generation from nuclear power would also increase.

[English]

BSNL Towers in Villages

362. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the norms laid down by the Government for installation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) towers in villages located in remote/inaccessible areas especially in hilly regions;

(b)   whether population of villages is the basis for the said norms and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c)   whether the Government proposes to implement any scheme to address the problems being faced by the residents of naxal affected and farflung villages who do not have access to phone facilities;

(d)   if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(e)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), based on technical feasibility and commercial viability sets up Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs). While installing BTS, BSNL gives priority to villages having population of more than 5000.

(c) to (e) Schemes funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for building telecom connectivity in naxal affected and remote villages, are as follows:

(i)   **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:** Cabinet on 23.05.2018 has approved a project proposal for providing the mobile services in inhabited and uncovered villages of the LWE areas in 4072 tower locations under LWE Phase-II Project with timeline of 18 months from the date of signing the agreement with the implementing agency. Implementation of the project has been initiated.

(ii)   **Uncovered Villages:** Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is in the process of identification of uncovered villages in the country to provide mobile coverage in inhabited and uncovered villages in a phased manner subject to availability of funds/resources.

(iii)   **Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** Project for provisioning of mobile services (2G and 4G) to uncovered villages and seamless coverage on NH223 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been formulated. The project will be rolled out within 12 months from the date of signing the agreement.

(iv)   **North Eastern Region (NER):** Following measures have been taken for expansion of mobile coverage in NER:

> ➤   Under Comprehensive Telecom Development for NER, USOF has signed an agreement with BSNL to install 2817 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 4119 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam.

> ➤   USOF signed agreement with M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited to install 2004 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 2128 villages and National Highways in NER (except Meghalaya).

> ➤   On 23.05.2018, Cabinet has approved revised proposal for provision of mobile services on 2G+4G technology for installation of 2173 mobile towers in 2374 uncovered villages and along National Highways in Meghalaya.

(v)   **BharatNet:** BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayat by laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) or any other suitable media. This network is a national asset to be provided to service providers on non-discriminatory basis.

Scholarship to Minorities

363. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the amount of scholarships and aid granted to minorities under all schemes State-wise including Andhra Pradesh for the past four years;

(b)   whether there has been an increase in the number of minority students in the premier institutions of the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements thirteen schemes throughout the country (including the rural areas), for educational empowerment and skill development of six notified minority communities namely Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi (Zoroastrians). The Schemes are as under:

(i)   Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme (for Class I to X);

(ii) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (for Class XI to Ph.D.);

(iii) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme (For Professional and Technical courses at under graduate and post graduate level);

(iv) Naya Savera: Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the Candidates/Students Belonging to Minority Communities;

(v) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) (for M.Phil & Ph.D);

(vi) Nai Udaan-Support for Students clearing Prelims Conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, State Public Service Commission (PSC), etc;

(vii) Padho Pardesh-Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for the Students Belonging to the Minority Communities;

(viii) Nai Manzil: Promote a holistic development of the Minority community through an integrated education and livelihood initiative.

(ix) Seekho aur Kamao: The Scheme for skill development of minorities;

(x) USTTAD-Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development;

(xi) Nai Roshni-The Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women;

(xii) Begam Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to Minorities-Implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) (for minority girls studying in Class IX to XII); and

(xiii) Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for Minorities by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)-Short term job oriented skill development courses to minorities' youth in order to enable them skill based employment.

The details of first eleven schemes are available on the website of this Ministry of Minority Affairs *i.e. wwwminorityaffairs.gov.in* and the Schemes of MAEF are available at *www.maef.nic.in*.

As per the information collated in the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Scheme-wise and State-wise details of Grant-in-Aid released under the above Schemes during the last four years are enclosed as Statement-I to IX.

(b) and (c) This Ministry does not maintain the data of minority students getting admission to premier institutions of the country. However, this Ministry implements the Merit-cum-Mean Scholarship Scheme (MCM) under which the scholarship is awarded to the eligible minority students pursuing professional and technical courses at under graduate and post graduate level. Under the Scheme, 85 Premier Institutions of the country are listed for full reimbursement of course fee as well as maintenance allowance @ Rs. 10,000/- per annum for hosteller and Rs. 5,000/- per annum for day scholar. The details of eligible minority students awarded scholarships from such listed institutions during the last two years are as under:–

Year	No. of Minority Students applied for MCM Scholarship (Fresh + Renewals)
2016-17	2,304
2017-18	2,235

Statement-I

State/UT-wise and year-wise status of fund released under the three Scholarship
Schemes during the last four years

Fund released (Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
Pre-matric Schlorship					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28.15	35.40	25.80	29.99
2.	Telangana	48.03	40.63	45.97	50.51
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Assam	40.98	22.82	33.34	88.95
5.	Bihar	0.00	6.35	12.46	28.92
6.	Chhattisgarh	6.61	3.95	1.60	2.06
7.	Goa	0.23	0.22	0.16	0.00
8.	Gujarat	52.94	34.49	25.65	31.80
9.	Haryana		0.19	0.62	1.79
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.78	0.36	0.28	0.29
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	43.36	0.00	12.28	25.82
12.	Jharkhand	9.46	7.94	8.94	26.61
13.	Karnataka	63.85	69.83	71.53	60.65
14.	Kerala	85.39	65.45	56.80	61.75
15.	Madhya Pradesh	13.36	11.25	18.60	25.79
16.	Maharashtra	75.16	52.42	47.24	64.37
17.	Manipur	6.66	0.79	1.92	3.46
18.	Meghalaya	4.67	0.49	1.90	1.24
19.	Mizoram	43.57	12.55	8.93	7.01
20.	Nagaland	13.75	8.61	4.76	8.31
21.	Odisha	3.12	0.40	2.11	1.83
22.	Punjab	72.42	46.43	56.50	64.66
23.	Rajasthan	44.98	30.91	30.00	37.27
24.	Sikkim	1.11	0.53	0.23	0.23
25.	Tamil Nadu	74.76	46.01	60.39	60.61
26.	Tripura	2.27	0.99	0.00	0.99
27.	Uttar Pradesh	155.10	123.26	135.99	165.40
28.	Uttarakhand	9.25	2.66	3.69	6.42
29.	West Bengal	225.31	280.78	81.10	125.43

Sl.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.38	0.18	0.25	0.22
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01
33.	Daman and Diu	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Delhi	2.35	0.02	0.00	0.92
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Puducherry	0.42	0.29	0.37	0.56
	Total	1128.81	906.22	749.43	983.85

Post-Matric Scholarship

Sl.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.52	9.05	10.06	10.69
2.	Telangana	6.98	11.94	12.08	10.64
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Assam	21.70	20.49	18.65	20.07
5.	Bihar	19.49	22.34	25.30	31.22
6.	Chhattisgarh	1.49	1.19	1.08	1.17
7.	Goa	0.05	0.11	0.17	0.00
8.	Gujarat	21.13	12.91	10.60	11.17
9.	Haryana	0.52	1.84	2.37	3.64
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.18	0.26	0.26	0.30
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	10.00	11.42	14.46	14.15
12.	Jharkhand	6.81	6.78	8.27	9.78
13.	Karnataka	53.77	32.68	26.68	20.12
14.	Kerala	32.80	21.04	24.97	26.68
15.	Madhya Pradesh	6.68	8.50	9.61	10.65
16.	Maharashtra	35.24	23.98	20.24	22.65
17.	Manipur	5.38	2.07	2.21	2.54
18.	Meghalaya	0.26	3.27	3.33	3.90
19.	Mizoram	0.33	0.44	0.93	0.97
20.	Nagaland	0.20	0.66	2.71	3.63
21.	Odisha	2.59	2.19	2.09	2.24
22.	Punjab	46.88	31.84	24.89	22.39
23.	Rajasthan	26.91	19.41	17.52	14.49
24.	Sikkim	0.14	0.24	0.10	0.06
25.	Tamil Nadu	39.81	24.78	21.31	18.12

Sl.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
26.	Tripura	0.36	0.51	0.44	0.66
27.	Uttar Pradesh	65.03	66.69	54.41	56.68
28.	Uttarakhand	0.70	1.42	2.11	3.08
29.	West Bengal	91.63	46.63	43.90	44.45
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.08
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
34.	Delhi	0.34	0.79	0.34	1.94
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Puducherry	0.08	0.15	0.18	0.22
	Total	501.11	385.72	361.42	369.01

Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship

Sl.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.52	3.20	5.27	7.12
2.	Telangana	3.39	5.24	6.41	8.07
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Assam	11.59	13.60	11.16	13.77
5.	Bihar	38.02	31.22	32.23	31.68
6.	Chhattisgarh	1.69	1.52	1.50	1.30
7.	Goa	0.41	0.42	0.30	0.00
8.	Gujarat	11.66	10.60	9.34	9.87
9.	Haryana	2.94	3.30	3.37	3.03
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.37	0.29	0.20	0.18
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.23	16.30	14.23	17.01
12.	Jharkhand	4.38	6.23	6.43	7.20
13.	Karnataka	50.26	36.56	32.91	25.12
14.	Kerala	73.30	62.57	57.11	53.63
15.	Madhya Pradesh	8.22	7.78	7.88	6.37
16.	Maharashtra	13.93	17.29	13.61	17.95
17.	Manipur	1.60	1.12	1.01	0.70
18.	Meghalaya	2.66	2.80	2.95	3.20
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0.24	0.57	1.10
20.	Nagaland	3.74	3.47	3.28	3.18
21.	Odisha	1.49	1.56	1.62	2.20

Sl.No.	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
22.	Punjab	29.50	24.15	18.35	14.51
23.	Rajasthan	7.35	11.30	10.76	10.49
24.	Sikkim	0.30	0.22	0.16	0.04
25.	Tamil Nadu	16.01	14.06	13.86	15.59
26.	Tripura	0.39	0.60	0.47	0.45
27.	Uttar Pradesh	45.34	45.53	33.65	28.16
28.	Uttarakhand	1.58	1.85	1.92	1.67
29.	West Bengal	29.38	32.23	31.34	31.63
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.11	0.09	0.06	0.07
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
33.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00
34.	Delhi	1.81	2.46	1.23	1.17
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36.	Puducherry	0.10	0.14	0.12	0.12
	Total	381.27	357.98	323.34	316.57

* Provisional data (as on 30.11.2018). Disbursement of Scholarships for the year 2017-18 is still going on in 2018-19.

Statement-II

State-wise Grant-in-Aid released to PIAs under Free Coaching and Allied Scheme

Amount released (in Rs.)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	109554000	26093000	34481000	15701814
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	6511000	375000	375000	0
5.	Bihar	773000	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	749000	4472000	7088000	3427000
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	11114500	27769581	15284100	17499500
11.	Goa	0	0	0	0
12.	Gujarat	1300000	7814000	0	14725066
13.	Haryana	1344000	1960500	2035500	2964000

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	13451500	1845000	3015000	10564161
16.	Jharkhand	0	5875000	0	5220000
17.	Karnataka	28221125	84542000	61051130	107455832
18.	Kerala	8666875	17900000	2860000	25593330
19.	Madhya Pradesh	4197750	8110000	1437000	9844000
20.	Maharashtra	11963750	58964000	47007912	38415654
21.	Manipur	9587723	1715000	2305000	4034000
22.	Meghalaya	1339000	1595000	1339000	3097000
23.	Mizoram	5745000	0	0	0
24.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
25.	Odisha	0	0	0	0
26.	Punjab	0	0	0	15600000
27.	Rajasthan	7963000	11754000	6772000	7153800
28.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
29.	Tamil Nadu	782000	0	0	11700000
30.	Telangana	17995000	76546000	59717000	75972266
31.	Tripura	0	0	43332400	0
32.	Uttar Pradesh	43960777	55993848	56110000	48776910
33.	Uttarakhand	764000	462000	1223000	0
34.	West Bengal	28900000	54904750	54566958	38186667
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
	Total	314883000	448690679	400000000	455931000

Statement-III

Financial achievement under MANF, Nai Udaan and Padho Pardesh Scheme during last four years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Scheme	Year	Financial Achievement
1	2	3	4
1.	Maulana Azad National Fellowship	2014-15	0.12
		2015-16	55.52
		2016-17	119.92
		2017-18	124.85
2.	Nai Udaan	2014-15	2.96
		2015-16	3.97
		2016-17	4.00
		2017-18	6.21
3.	Padho Pardesh	2014-15	3.50
		2015-16	4.15
		2016-17	4.00
		2017-18	17.00

Note: No State-wise fund allocation and achievement under these schemes

Statement-IV

State-wise year-wise grant-in-aid sanctioned to PIAs under Nai Manzil Scheme

Sl. No.	State	FY 15-16	Beneficiaries	FY 16-17	Beneficiaries	FY 17-18	Beneficiaries	FY 18-19	Beneficiaries	Total
		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	West Bengal	0	0	65766000	3880	41403200	1239	34702300	1239	141870261
2.	Uttarakhand	0	0	16441500	970	13701250	0	0	0	30142750
3.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	115090500	6790	96214521	2478	55403900	1652	266707269
4.	Tripura	0	0	16441500	970	0	0	0	0	16441500
5.	Telangana	0	0	63732000	3880	35655058	413	55403900	1652	154789306
6.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	49324500	2910	26809921	0	0	0	76134421
7.	Rajasthan	0	0	32883000	1940	20701600	0	20701600	0	74286200
8.	Punjab	0	0	65766000	3880	89507907	2891	7000350	413	162273844
9.	Odisha	0	0	0	0	21001050	1239	0	0	21001050
10.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	7000350	413	7000350	413	14000287
11.	Meghalaya	0	0	32883000	1940	20451676	413	7000350	413	60334613
12.	Manipur	0	0	16441500	970	20451676	413	0	0	36893176
13.	Maharshtra	0	0	16441500	970	20701600	413	34702300	1239	71844161
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	49324500	2910	41403200	826	0	0	90727700
15.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	14000700	826	21001050	1239	35000511
16.	Karnataka	0	0	32883000	1940	27402500	413	0	0	60285500
17.	Jharkhand	0	0	82207500	4850	68284178	1652	7814598	413	158305863
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	131532000	7760	94647728	0	0	0	226179728
19.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	16441500	970	13701250	0	0	0	30142750
20.	Haryana	0	0	49324500	2910	40147693	0	0	413	89471780
21.	Gujarat	0	0	47290500	2910	42169583	0	0	0	89460083
22.	Goa	0	0	0	0	7000350	413	0	0	7000350

23.	Delhi	0	65766000	3880	27152576	0	0	92918576
24.	Chhattisgarh	0	32883000	1940	27402500	0	0	60285500
25.	Bihar	0	164415000	9700	40884433	0	13701250	219000683
26.	Assam	0	16441500	970	35001750	3717	0	51443250
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	14000700	826	0	14000700
28.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	14000700	826	0	14000700
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	7000350	413	0	7000350
30.	Total	0	1179720000	69840	927800000	19824	264431948	2371942862

Statement-V

Amount released to the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) for Implementation of "Seekho Aur Kamao (Learn and Earn) in the States during last four years

(Amount in Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	States	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
		Amount released	Amount released	Amount released	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.97	5.16	1.04	5.38
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.28	0.74	0.15	0.25
3.	Assam	2.47	4.37	3.84	13.08
4.	Bihar	3.25	4.37	4.56	10.02
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.42	L27	1.43	0.28
6.	Chandigarh				0.04
7.	Delhi	1.85	1.99	1.19	8.30
8.	Goa	-	-	0	0.00
9.	Gujarat	1.69	3.42	1.31	4.37
10.	Haryana	1.51	4.37	3.08	2.93
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0.56	2.54	1.12	0.62
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.72	9	8.4	12.47
13.	Jharkhand	1.38	4.09	4.22	9.67
14.	Karnataka	1.63	2.54	0.88	5.25
15.	Kerala	1.48	0.78	0	1.54
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2.04	7.25	5.35	24.33
17.	Maharashtra	0.28	2.33	1.8	5.42
18.	Manipur	0.14	1.72	1.57	1.58
19.	Meghalaya	0.85	1.13	1.05	1.04
20.	Mizoram	0.28	1.32	0.79	0.84
21.	Nagaland	0.28	0.73	0.61	0.84
22.	Odisha	0.96	3.09	1.31	0.70
23.	Puducherry	0.28	0	0	1.49
24.	Punjab	2.28	4.41	4.18	10.05
25.	Rajasthan	2.19	4.78	0.59	4.68
26.	Sikkim	0.56	1.16	0.62	0.84
27.	Tamil Nadu	1.06	3.42	0	0.79
28.	Telengana	0.71	5.64	2.36	2.35

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Tripura	0.85	1.23	0.81	0.84
30.	Uttar Pradesh	5.77	14.34	11.43	44.41
31.	Uttarakhand	1.18	2.45	2.62	1.66
32.	West Bengal	3.1	9.78	9.48	20.36
33.	Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills (All over the country Focus on Madarsas)	-	82.56	0	0.00
33.	Maulana Azad Education Foundation	-	-	129.01	3.36
	Sub-Total	46.02	191.96	204.8	199.80
	Professional Services	0.19	0	0.17	
	Grand Total	46.21	191.96	204.9	199.80

Statement-VI

Amount released to the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs for implementation of USTTAD Scheme in the States during 2016-17

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Amount released
1.	Assam	167.00
2.	Himachal Pradesh	33.40
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	300.60

Sl.No.	State	Amount released
4.	Madhya Pradesh	167.00
5.	Maharashtra	33.40
6.	Manipur	66.80
7.	Mizoram	33.40
8.	Punjab	66.80
9.	Rajasthan	66.80
10.	Uttar Pradesh	768.20
11.	West Bengal	100.20

Statement-VII

Nai Roshni

State-wise funds released to the PIAs for Implementation of the Scheme-Leadership Development of Minority Women (Nai Roshni) in during the year 2015-16 to 2018-19 (till October) including Andhra Pradesh

(in Rs. crores)

Sl. No.	States	2015-16 Fund Released	2016-17 Fund Released	2017-18 Fund Released	2018-19 Fund Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.13	0.20	0.28	0.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00
3.	Assam	1.15	1.28	0.73	0.36
4.	Bihar	0.53	0.18	0.45	0.03

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.08
6.	Delhi	0.06	0.12	0.30	0.13
7.	Gujarat	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.03
8.	Haryana	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.18
9.	Himanchal Pradesh	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.0032	0.00	0.12	0.24
11.	Jharkhand	0.27	0.08	0.28	0.05
12.	Karnataka	0.38	0.39	0.40	0.01
13.	Kerala	0.37	0.11	0.30	0.10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1.36	1.25	1.59	1.47
15.	Maharashtra	0.15	0.04	0.12	0.25
16.	Manipur	0.35	0.06	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya			0.03	0.00
18.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
19.	Odisha	0.37	0.17	0.34	0.17
20.	Punjab	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.18
21.	Rajasthan	0.55	0.24	0.32	0.48
22.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
23.	Telangana	0.03	0.04	0.09	0.00
24.	Tripura	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.15	0.14	0.17	0.16
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7.81	9.32	9.09	4.96
27.	Uttarakhand	0.38	0.42	0.25	0.17
28.	West Bengal	0.49	0.51	0.11	0.34
	Total	14.81	14.68	15.26	9.61

Statement-VIII

Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for meritorious girls belonging to minorities State-wise/Amount-wise Sanction/Release of Scholarship during the last four years.

Sl. No.	Name of State/Uts	2014-15 Amount Sanctioned	2015-16 Amount Sanctioned	2016-17 (Provisional Data) Amount Sanctioned	2017-18 Amount (Provisional Data) Sanctioned	Total Four Years (Amount in Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.96	0.24	1.08	0.00	2.88
2.	Andhra Pradesh	287.28	166.56	72.12	129.71	655.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.24	1.80	0.06	2.10
4.	Assam	294.84	279.84	136.32	106.22	817.22
5.	Bihar	547.56	541.68	133.08	467.26	1689.58
6.	Chandigarh	1.32	1.08	0.12	0.05	2.57
7.	Chhattisgarh	2.04	2.16	1.20	0.65	6.05
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.12
9.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Delhi	65.52	66.24	52.08	10.56	194.40
11.	Goa	0.60	1.20	0.36	0.06	2.22
12.	Gujarat	182.04	188.40	38.16	167.44	576.04
13.	Haryana	10.20	3.84	1.92	2.36	18.32
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0.84	0.24	0.36	0.46	1.90
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	12.36	55.92	111.72	44.88	224.88
16.	Jharkhand	157.44	133.08	61.68	70.86	423.06
17.	Karnataka	321.72	327.48	524.04	1374.62	2547.86
18.	Kerala	707.88	819.24	713.28	1185.71	3426.11
19.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.12
20.	Madhya Pradesh	151.92	127.44	44.64	203.56	527.56
21.	Maharashtra	498.12	480.12	490.80	467.48	1936.52
22.	Manipur	23.88	7.44	12.00	13.89	57.21
23.	Meghalaya	1.92	20.40	0.96	0.00	23.28
24.	Mizoram	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.12
25.	Nagaland	2.52	0.24	3.12	0.11	5.99
26.	Odisha	30.36	36.12	20.52	38.33	125.33
27.	Puduchery	3.12	1.92	4.68	0.29	10.01
28.	Punjab	30.36	30.00	15.48	2.48	78.32
29.	Rajasthan	130.68	161.16	95.28	0.87	387.99
30.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Tamil Nadu	384.00	489.24	115.32	179.40	1167.96
32.	Telangana	0	106.92	286.20	326.93	720.05
33.	Tripura	0.00	0.12	0.36	1.05	1.53
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1252.08	1341.72	957.48	1459.36	5010.64
35.	Uttarakhand	33.84	51.96	38.28	30.20	154.28
36.	West Bengal	315.72	317.64	83.16	118.62	835.14
	Total	5451.12	5760.00	4017.84	6403.47	21632.43

Statement-IX

Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme

State-wise details of financial achievement under
Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme
for 2017-18 & 2018-19

(In Rs. crore)

State	No. of Trainees	Total Training Cost
FY 2017-18		
Andhra Pradesh	3,200	5.61
Assam	2,000	3.98
Bihar	4,800	12.83
Chhattisgarh	3,500	14.08
Delhi	4,300	9.76
Goa	1,000	1.88
Gujarat	2,000	4.12
Haryana	2,100	8.99
Himanchal Pradesh	900	1.72
Jammu and Kashmir	7,300	27.56
Jharkhand	4,700	11.86
Karnataka	1,500	4.00
Kerala	500	0.94
Madhya Pradesh	2,100	8.95
Maharashtra	3,200	8.26
Manipur	600	2.66
Mizoram	600	2.60
Nagaland	600	2.65
Odisha	2,000	6.91
Puducherry	600	0.87
Punjab	3,000	13.74
Rajasthan	4,200	14.92
Sikkim	1,000	3.49
Telangana	3,600	6.71
Tripura	1,200	3.02
Uttar Pradesh	10,600	27.88

State	No. of Trainees	Total Training Cost
Uttarakhand	2,300	6.64
West Bengal	3,800	9.13
Total	77,200	225.79
FY 2018-19		
Andhra Pradesh	75	0.1
Arunachal Pradesh	500	2.4
Assam	500	2.4
Bihar	2,500	10.1
Delhi	1,000	1.0
Gujarat	2,300	8.1
Haryana	1,100	4.9
Jharkhand	500	1.0
Karnataka	500	0.6
Maharashtra	1,100	4.3
Manipur	600	2.2
Meghalaya	1,200	5.1
Punjab	600	2.5
Telangana	500	0.6
Uttar Pradesh	1,200	5.3
West Bengal	1,425	6.1
Total	15,600	56.8

Meteorological Analysis

364. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted a meteorological analysis of the recent rains and floods in Kerala; and

(b) if so, whether any report has been prepared on the analysis and its findings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF

ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. A detailed scientific report has been prepared and is being finalized for publication, towards the end of December, 2018.

(c)   The rainfall characteristics which led to the unprecedent floods in Kerala during August, 2018 has been analysed in detail, in the report referred to above. The following are the major conclusions.

- Kerala experienced exceptionally heavy rainfall during 8-16 August, 2018 in two consecutive spells leading to devastating floods in many parts of the State.

- The main causative factors for the occurrence of heavy rainfall over Kerala were the stronger southwesterly winds over the Arabian Sea along and off Kerala coast associated with the Active phase of the Southwest Monsoon.

- The exceptionally heavy rainfall in August (170% above normalrainfall over Kerala during 1-17 August, 2018) can be attributed to consecutive formation (within seven days) of low pressure systems, one on 6th and the second on 13th August The stronger winds associated with the active phase of the monsoon, interacted with the Western Ghats leading to orographic uplifting of moist air and hence heavy rainfall.

- Based on past 143 years of data (1875-2017), it has been found that during the month of August, Kerala received 1132 mm of rain in the year 1931, 877 mm in the year 1923, 851 mm in the year 1907 and 821 mm in 2018. Thus August, 2018 rainfall of Kerala is the fourth highest rainfall since the beginning of the record in 1875.

- The quantum of rainfall received over Kerala remained above normal during June (+15%), July (+18%) and also during 1st-19th August (+164%).

- The above normal rainfall occurred during June & July had brought the Reservoir levels to their near full capacity and the first peak spell of rainfall in August, centred around 8th, caused them to fill up to the maximum capacity.

However, the second peak spell of rainfall in August (around 14-17 August) has led to devastating floods in many parts of the State.

- IMD utilised all its resources including satellite, Radar and ground based observational systems and the numerical models to forecast the heavy rainfall events. Regular warnings were issued to concerned central and state disaster management agencies, print & electronic media and general public through National Weather Forecasting Centre (NWFC), Regional Weather Forecasting Centre (RWFC), Chennai and Meteorological Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

- Government is committed to improve the accuracy, resolution and lead time or weather predictions, by adopting state-of-art technologies in the field and enhancing the observational and computational capabilities. Also, for better co-ordination with the stake holders, a Cyclone Warning Centre (CWC) has been established at the Meteorological Centre functioning at the State Head Quarters, Thiruvananthapuram with effect from 1st October, 2018.

Websites Releasing Film Content Illegally

365. DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is aware that new film contents are being released online illegally in the country;

(b)   if so, the number of complaints received from film producers regarding release of film contents illegally during the last three years; and

(c)   the action taken on the websites releasing content of films illegally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has received representations from various associations of the Film Industry on the issue relating to film piracy from time to time. One such complaint was also brought to the notice of Committee constituted as

per section 69A rules of Information Technology Act, 2000 for blocking of access of information on Internet.

(c)   Government does not control content hosted on the websites. Government has blocked illegal websites from time to time as and when directed by various courts.

Defence Expenditure

366. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of defence expenditure from 2015-18 till date;

(b)   whether 'Make in India' initiative in defence sector has helped to increase indigenous manufacturing of weapons and if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   whether any efforts have been taken to extend quality research and development in army, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Details of Defence Expenditure (Gross) from 2015-18 till date including Defence Service Estimates, Ministry of Defence (Misc.) and Defence Pensions is as under:–

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Defence Expenditure (Gross)
1.	2015-16	327095.65
2.	2016-17	389614.05
3.	2017-18	417241.91
4.	2018-19 (till 30.11.2018)	317336.39

(b) and (c) Since the launch of 'Make in India' in September, 2014, several measures have been taken by the Government to promote indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence & aerospace equipment in the country under 'Make in India' by harnessing the capabilities of the public and private sector.

During the last three years and current year (upto October, 2018) out of total 188 contracts, 121 contracts have been signed with Indian vendors for procurement of defence equipment for Armed Forces such as Helicopters, Survey Vessel, Radar, Ballistic Helmets, Artillery Guns, Simulators, Missiles, Bullet Proof Jackets, Electronic Fuzzes, and Ammunition.

Government has also promulgated the policy of Strategic Partnership in the Defence Sector which encourages participation of the private sector in manufacture of major defence platforms and equipment in four selected segments *viz.* Submarines, Fighter Aircraft, Helicopters and Armoured Fighting Vehicles/Tanks.

Modernization of Armed Forces, is a continuous process based on threat perception, operational challenges and technological changes to keep the Armed Forces in a State of readiness to meet various security challenges. This is achieved through induction of new equipment and technological upgradation of capabilities. Research and Development for defence equipment is spearheaded by the Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO). It is primarily mandated for indigenization and modernization of Weapons/Technologies for defence and accordingly, is involved in design and development of strategic, critical, complex and security sensitive systems in the fields of missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, radars, electronic warfare systems, sonar combat vehicles, combat aircraft, sensors, etc for the Armed Forces as per their specific qualitative requirements for enhancing national security. Value of systems/products/technologies developed/ upgraded by DRDO and inducted into the services or in the process of induction stands over Rs. 2.72 lakh crore. This figure does not include strategic systems. All efforts are made to provide best quality products to tri-services including Indian Army.

Allocation of Coal Reserves

367. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   whether only approximately 16% of the total allocated coal reserves have been auctioned this year;

(b)   if so, the details thereof along with the other channels of allocation of coal reserves in the country;

(c)   whether the fourth and fifth round of auctions were cancelled owing to lack of bidders and if so, the details thereof;

(d)   the details of coal mines auctioned over the years, State-wise; and

(e)   the steps taken by the Government to ensure precise policies, transparent transactions and transformative outcomes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The allocation of coal mines are made under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 [CM(SP) Act, 2015] and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MM(DR) Act, 1957]. Allocation is made through auction to public and private sector companies and through allotment to public sector companies. No coal mine has been auctioned this year.

(c)   In the 4th tranche of auction, 9 coal mines were put for auction for the Non-regulated Sector *i.e.* Iron & Steel, Cement and Captive Power Plants. Due to low response, online bids were not opened and the 4th tranche of auction was annulled. In the 5th tranche, 6 coal mines were put for auction for the specified end use "production of Iron & Steel". As there were less than 3 bidders/technically qualified bidders, the 5th tranche of auction was also annulled.

(d)   So far, 31 coal mines have been auctioned under the CM(SP) Act, 2015. Out of the originally auctioned 31 Coal Mines, Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements have been terminated in respect of 6 Coal Mines. State-wise details of these 25 auctioned Coal Mines are at given in enclosed Statement. No coal block has been allocated through auction route under MM(DR) Act, 1957.

(e)   To keep the process transparent, the first ever auction of coal mines were conducted in December, 2014 through e-auction mode on an electronic platform. No physical bids were accepted or considered. Applications were required to be submitted online for allotment of coal mines to Government companies also. Further, to ensure the fool proof security of the E-platform of M/s MSTC, Security Audit had also been conducted prior to auction of coal mines. It was one of the most transparent auctions where bids were placed on an electronic platform accessible to everyone with an internet connection. In fact, everyone had the option of tracking the progress of the auction on their mobile phones. The Ministry had to augment the server capacity as lakhs of people were viewing the auctions live. The number and names of the companies which had applied were publicly disclosed in open forums where hundreds of bidders were present along with members of the media too. The entire proceedings were videotaped. There were also press releases and names were disclosed on the auction website. Technical and financial parameters for the qualification of bidders were clearly laid down in the tender document, which is even today available in the public domain on the website. Grounds for disqualification were also clearly mentioned in the tender document. Specific reasons were given to such bidders. The initial bid price (applicable floor price) and subsequent bids were also visible to the public. The parameters for determining the floor price and subsequent bids were part of the methodology and on public display on the website. Thus, each and every data point was actually available in the public domain.

Statement

State-wise details of 25 auctioned coal mines

Sl.No.	Name of Coal Mine	State	Successful Bidder	Schedule
1.	Chotia	Chhattisgarh	Bharat Aluminum Co. Ltd (BALCO)	II
2.	Gare Palma IV-4	Chhattisgarh	HINDALCO (HIL)	II
3.	Gare Palma IV-5	Chhattisgarh	HINDALCO (HIL)	II
4.	Gare-Palma Sector-IV/8	Chhattisgarh	Ambuja Cements Ltd	III
5.	Kathautia	Jharkhand	HINDALCO (HIL)	II
6.	Tokisud North	Jharkhand	Essar power MP Ltd	II
7-8.	Brinda and Sasai	Jharkhand	Usha Martin Ltd	III

Sl.No.	Name of Coal Mine	State	Successful Bidder	Schedule
9.	Dumri	Jharkhand	HINDALCO (HIL)	III
10.	Lohari	Jharkhand	Aranya Mines Pvt Ltd	III
11.	Meral	Jharkhand	Trimula Industries Limited	III
12.	Moitra	Jharkhand	JSW Steel Ltd	III
13.	Ganeshpur	Jharkhand	GMR Chhattisgarh Energy Limited (GMR)	III
14.	Jitpur	Jharkhand	Adani Power Limited	III
15.	Bicharpur	Madhya Pradesh	Ultra Tech Cement Limited	II
16.	Sial Ghoghri	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Cement Co Pvt Ltd (RCCPL)	II
17.	Amelia North	Madhya Pradesh	Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd. (JPVL)	II
18.	Belgaon	Maharashtra	Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Limited (SIL)	II
19.	Marki Mangli III	Maharashtra	B.S. Ispat Limited	II
20.	Nerad Malegaon	Maharashtra	Indrajit Power Pvt Ltd	III
21.	Marki Mangli-I	Maharashtra	Topworth Urja and Metals Ltd (TUML)	
22.	Talabira-I	Odisha	GMR Chhattisgarh Energy Limited (GMR)	II
23.	Ardhagram	West Bengal	OCL Iron & Steel Ltd.	II
24.	Sarisatolli	West Bengal	CESC Limited (CESC)	II
25.	Trans Damodar	West Bengal	The Durgapur Projects Limited	II

Irregularities in Sahayak System

368. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether certain irregularities or misuse of the 'Sahayak' system in the defence mechanism of the country have come to light in recent years;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether any steps are being taken by the Government to make this system more transparent and consonant with the genuine need for such a system in the defence forces; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Exhaustive instructions have been issued from time to time stressing upon the need to ensure that under no circumstances, Sahayaks, being combatant soldiers, are misused. Besides, all grievances brought to the notice of superior military authorities are redressed appropriately. A 'Suggestion/Grievance Box' has been placed at all Headquarters down to the level of Division Headquarters where all ranks can forward their complaints directly to the Chief of Army Staff. A new grievance redressal mechanism has also been started wherein soldiers can air their grievances directly to Chief of Army Staff through 'Whatsapp message', after having exhausted all laid down procedures.

Swasth North East Initiative

369. SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a)   the status of implementation of the Swasth North East initiative of the Government;

(b)   whether the improvement in public health facilities achieved has been tangible in the North East;

(c)   if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) In addition to the efforts of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for improvement of health care facilities, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has taken up a total of 56 projects in the medical & health sector under its Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme, out of which 37 are already completed and 19 are ongoing. NLCPR Scheme has been restructured as North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS), which is fully funded by the Central Government. One of the objectives of NESIDS is creation of infrastructure in the areas of primary and secondary sectors of education and health.

Further, as per the revised guidelines of North Eastern Council (NEC), NEC is mandated to take up/sanction projects/schemes related to Tertiary Healthcare (including Health Education) only in the NER. At present, there are 17 ongoing projects under various stages of implementation. Nine projects have been closed/completed during 2018-19. A project for Strengthening Human Resources and System Capacity for Public Health in North Eastern Region has also been sanctioned, which is ongoing.

This Ministry has also supported strengthening of capacities of officers in North Eastern States in providing better healthcare facilities.

[Translation]

Solapur-Tuljapur-Usmanabad Rail Line

370. PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether any proposal has been approved and funds have been allocated for laying new track for Solapur-Tuljapur-Usmanabad railway line;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the time by which the construction of this railway line is likely to start and the time limit fixed for the completion of construction work of this new railway line;

(c)   if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d)   the total expenditure likely to be incurred in the construction of this new railway line and the action plan being prepared by the Government for the completion of this project at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) New line between Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad (80 km) has been included in Pink Book 2018-19 under Umbrella work of new lines at a cost of Rs. 953 crore subject to requisite Government approvals. Expenditure can be incurred on this project and timeline can be fixed after required approvals are received.

Completion of Critical Military Projects

371. KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is taking necessary steps to expedite timely completion of critical military projects; and

(b)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) All necessary steps are taken as per prescribed procedure, rules and manuals etc. to complete all critical military projects pertaining to infrastructure, procurement, Research & Development, Defence Production and Defence Works. Steps include delegation of more financial and administrative powers to the Service HQrs, periodic review, monitoring of progress and suitable remedial measures to address the identified gaps.

[Translation]

Deputing Employees

372. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the zone-wise details of employees in Railways who have been deputed at one place on different posts for many years along with the reasons therefor;

(b)   the time for which a Government employee is deputed at a place along with the details of the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(c)   whether corruption is not being encouraged by deputing an employee at a place for a long time and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Employees in Railways working on sensitive posts are transferred periodically. In order to avoid large scale dislocation, periodical transfer can be made without involving change of residence. For categories who cannot be transferred to another place for reasons like the seniority unit being different or the office being at one location only, a change in seat is done to meet the requirements of periodical transfer. Details of employees in Railways deputed at one place on different posts for many years are being collected.

(b) and (c) As per extant policy, every Railway employee who holds sensitive post and who frequently comes into contact with public/contractors/suppliers is required to be transferred every four years. This is strictly followed by Indian Railways.

[English]

Coal Sold by Public Sector Coal Companies

373. SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM:
    SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
    SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   the total quantum of coal sold by the Public Sector coal companies during the last three years and the current year and quantum of revenue earned therefrom;

(b)   whether the income of these companies has not increased as compared to the target set;

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

(d)   whether the Public Sector Coal companies have any proposal to take over coal mines from the private companies, if so, the details thereof along with revenue earned from selling of coal mined from those mines; and

(e)   the steps taken by the Government to augment the revenues of Public Sector Coal companies?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Details of Coal offtake (in Million Tonnes) and sales (in Rs. crore) from Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are given below:–

Particulars	2018-19*		2017-18		2016-17		2015-16	
	CIL	SCCL	CIL	SCCL	CIL	SCCL	CIL	SCCL
Offtake	290.81	31.056	580.28	64.62	543.32	60.82	534.50	58.66
Sales	43310.51	7213.71	83106.13	13923.16	81046.63	12805.77	81071.68	13438.46
Less: Excise duty	-	-	1376.67	218.31	5443.77	854.49	5429.90	864.18
Net sales	43310.51	7213.71	81729.46	13704.85	75602.86	11951.28	75641.78	58.66

*Till September, 2018

(b) and (c) The Revenue from Operations (Net) *vis-à-vis* MOU Excellent target depicting increase/decrease of actuals over target for last three years of CIL are given below:–

(Rs. crores)

Year	Revenue From Operations (Net)		
	MoU Target (Excellent)	Actual	Increase/Decrease
1	2	3	4
2017-18	82000	85862	3862
2016-17	84860	78221	-6639
2015-16	76354	78010	1656

There is a decrease in Revenue from Operations (Net) in the year 2016-17 mainly because:

1.   The Coal Controller Organization (CCO) reassessed the grades of various mines/seams

across all subsidiaries of CIL and corrected the grades of coal in case of 21 mines.

2. There was a change in grade mix with lower grade coal production on a higher side.

3. E-Auction prices decreased to Rs 1,536 per tonne from Rs. 1,858 per tonne resulting in decline of overall SPT of coal.

The Revenue from Operations (Net) for the last three years of SCCL are given below:–

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Revenue from Operation (Net) Actual
2017-18	13704.85
2016-17	11951.28
2015-16	12574.28

(d) No, Madam.

(e) The following steps are taken by CIL to augment the revenues of CIL:

1. Increased coal production every year to enhance the revenue.

2. Implement on-going project in time bound manner to achieve target production as per schedule which in turn will reduce the operating cost. Further the implementation of ongoing project is also expedited through regular meeting at highest levels so that the projects can start production.

3. High capacity mines are being planned with deployment of high capacity/high productivity equipment in mines of CIL. Increase in the production from existing mines is being achieved through capacity expansion and modernization wherever feasible thus increasing the revenue in coming years.

4. Efforts are being made by all subsidiaries for obtaining Environment Clearance (EC) & Forest Clearance (FC) and possession of required forest land within the scheduled time frame so that project may start production as per schedule.

5. Completion of Rail Projects during FY 2018-19 will help augmenting despatch & revenue of coal producing companies.

[Translation]

Vacancy in Lower Courts

374. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the vacant posts of judges in lower courts of the country;

(b) whether the process of filling the vacant posts of judges is going on;

(c) if so, the time by which this process is expected to be completed; and

(d) whether the Government is likely to take any measure to fill the vacant posts of the judges at the earliest keeping in mind the large number of pending cases across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) State-wise details of the vacant posts of Judges in District and Subordinate Courts, as received from High Courts and State Governments, are given in the Statement. As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, in certain States recruitment is done by the High Courts, whereas in other States, the recruitment is done by High Courts in consultation with State Public Service Commission

In Malik Mazhar case, the Supreme Court has devised a process and time frame to be followed for filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary. This order of January, 2007 by the Supreme Court stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments/High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions. Central Government has no role in filling vacant posts of judges in subordinate judiciary.

Statement

Vacant Posts of Judges in District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.09.2018.

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Vacant Posts
1.	Uttar Pradesh	1,188
2.	Bihar	622
3.	Madhya Pradesh	511
4.	Gujarat	356
5.	Delhi	258
6.	Tamil Nadu	238
7.	Karnataka	231
8.	Rajasthan	229
9.	Jharkhand	216
10.	Maharashtra	167
11.	Haryana	162
12.	Odisha	156
13.	Punjab	144
14.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	97
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	86
16.	West Bengal	75
17.	Kerala	63
18.	Uttarakhand	59
19.	Meghalaya	58
20.	Chhattisgarh	55
21.	Assam	47
22.	Tripura	40
23.	Mizoram	21
24.	Manipur	15
25.	Himachal Pradesh	10
26.	Goa	8
27.	Nagaland	7
28.	Puducherry	7
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
30.	Sikkim	4
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
32.	Chandigarh	0

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Vacant Posts
33.	Daman and Diu	0
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0
	Total	5,135

Decline in Profit of CIL

375. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
     SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
     SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the net profit of coal India Limited during the last five years and the current financial year;

(b)   whether there has been a decline in the net profit of Coal India Limited at present;

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

(d)   whether Coal India Limited has sent any suggestion on proposal to the Government for increasing its net profit; and

(e)   if so, the details of the decision taken by the Government on the said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The details of the net profit of Coal India Limited during the last five years and the current financial year are as under:–

(Rs. in crore)

Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (till 30.09. 2018)
Net profit	15111.67	13726.70	14266.78	9279.77	7020.22	6871.14

At present, the profit of Coal India Limited in the current year (FY 2018-19) is showing upward trend. During the 1st half of current fiscal (up to 30.09.2018), the profit has been Rs. 6871.14 crore compared to Rs. 2721.21 crore during the same period of financial year 2017-18, registering an increase of 152.5%.

However, there was wage settlement during FY 2017-18 (National Coal Wage Agreement-X) which had an

incremental impact of about Rs. 2700 crore over previous year and there was upward revision in ceiling of gratuity from Rs. 10 lac to 20 lac per employee, which had an incremental impact of Rs. 7384 crore towards past period services. The above two reasons largely accounted for decline in profits during FY 2017-18 compared to previous year.

(d)   No, Madam.

(e)   Does not arise.

Broadband/Internet Facility

376. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the total number of gram panchayats in Rajasthan where broadband connectivity has not reached so far;

(b)   the details thereof, district-wise;

(c)   the names of cities in Rajasthan where 4G facility is being provided by BSNL;

(d)   the details threreof; and

(e)   the work plan chalked out by the Government to extend internet facilities in tribal areas of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) BharatNet Project, to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by broadband, including Rajasthan, is being implemented in a phased manner. Under this project, 1859 Gram Panchayats (GPs) are yet to be provided with Broadband connectivity District-wise details in Rajasthan is enclosed in Statement.

(c) and (d) BSNL has not provided 4G facility in the State of Rajasthan.

(e)   BharatNet Project also covers tribal areas of Rajasthan. This project is under implementation and the infrastructure created is national asset, accessible on non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers. In Rajasthan, as on 02.12.2018, OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 8,447 GPs (including BHQ), which are Service Ready. The connectivity to the remaining Gram Panchayats is under implementation.

As part of BharatNet Project, the Last Mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology

to access broadband/internet services, is being provided at all the GPs in the country. Every GP is being provided with an average 5 Access Points (APs), *i.e.* 2 APs at Public places & 3 APs at Government Institutions such as school, hospital, post offices, police station, etc.

Wi-Fi hotspots at the Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan are being provided through Government of Rajasthan/RISL (a PSU of State Government), with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 6,500 GPs and services are being provided at 2,802 GPs in the State.

Statement

Status of District-wise GPs where broadband connectivity is yet to be provided in Rajasthan

Sl.No	Name of district	Number of GPs
1.	Ajmer	6
2.	Alwar	48
3.	Banswara	241
4.	Baran	37
5.	Barmer	329
6.	Bharatpur	31
7.	Bhilwara	0
8.	Bikaner	37
9.	Bundi	10
10.	Chittorgarh	25
11.	Churu	6
12.	Dausa	27
13.	Dholpur	78
14.	Dungarpur	215
15.	Hanumangarh	3
16.	Jaipur	27
17.	Jaisalmer	67
18.	Jalore	10
19.	Jhalawar	1
20.	Jhunjhunu	0
21.	Jodhpur	210
22.	Karauli	75

Sl.No	Name of district	Number of GPs
23.	Kota	2
24.	Nagaur	14
25.	Pali	18
26.	Pratapgarh	58
27.	Rajsamand	11
28.	Sikar	6
29.	Sirohi	15
30.	Sriganganagar	96
31.	Swaimadhopur	9
32.	Tonk	4
33.	Udaipur	143
	Total	1859

Pantry Car Facility in Trains

377. SHRI KIRTI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is true that pantry car facility is not available in long distance trains connecting two distant cities;

(b)   if so, whether the Government proposes to provide pantry car facility in long distance trains;

(c)   if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, there are about 235 pairs of long distance trains having more than 24 hours travel time in which pantry cars have been provided.

(b) to (d) Since there is paucity of pantry cars, attachment of pantry car to any train depends upon order of priority with respect to category of trains *viz.* (i) Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto/Other such Premium trains, (ii) Long distance Premium, Superfast trains, (iii) Mail/Express trains with more than 24 hours journey time, (iv) Remaining trains, with preference to trains with vestibules. However, passengers of the trains without pantry cars can order food of their choice through e-catering which is available at all major stations en-route and through static units available at all stations en-route.

[English]

Redevelopment of Railway Stations under PPP Mode

378. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has redeveloped various railway stations across the country in a phased manner under the PPP mode;

(b)   if so, the details thereof, including the names of railway stations redeveloped during each of the last two years;

(c)   the response received from private players in this regard, so far; and

(d)   the timeline finalized for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Railways have planned for redevelopment of major railway stations by making Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency, through simplified procedures and with longer lease tenures. Most of the stations are planned for redevelopment under PPP mode in a phased manner.

At present, work has commenced at Gandhinagar and Habibganj stations. Agencies have been finalized for Gomtinagar and Charbagh (Lucknow) stations. Bids for Jammu Tawi, Kozhikode, Tirupati, Anand Vihar, Bijwasan and Chandigarh have been received, which are presently under evaluation. Bids have been invited for Surat and Puducherry stations.

(c) and (d) Bids were invited by Zonal Railways for redevelopment of 23 stations. However, the response was not so encouraging. During various interactions with developers, investors and other stakeholders, various issues including longer lease period for commercially developed assets, multiple sub leasing, no restrictions on usage, guaranteed time bound approval by Railways' functionaries and simplified bid procedures were repeatedly raised.

Based on the feedback received, Ministry of Railways has formulated revised schemes for station redevelopment on fast track.

Union Cabinet has approved Railways' proposal for redevelopment of railway stations by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) as Nodal Agency, through simplified procedures and for longer lease tenure. Accordingly, necessary action has been initiated for redevelopment of important railway stations all over India, by commercial utilization of sparable railway land and air-space in and around stations.

Station redevelopment projects are first of its kind and complex in nature and require detailed techno-financial feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local bodies etc. Therefore, no time-frame can be indicated at this stage.

Judiciary under Pressure

379. SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the judicial system in the country is working under pressure;

(b)   if so, the reasons therefor;

(c)   if not, the reasons for recent controversy with Hon'ble Supreme Court Judge; and

(d)   the measures being taken by the Government to resolve this unrest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Judiciary is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution and is fully empowered and capable of handling all its matters. The Government is committed to the independence of Judiciary and does not intervene in its functioning.

E-District Programme

380. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is considering to cover all districts under e-district programme in the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the total amount of funds allocated for the said project; and

(c)   the State-wise and district-wise details of the proposed district to be included under the said scheme during the year 2017-18 along with the budget allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, approved National Rollout of e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP) in the year 2011 to be implemented across the country.

The Scheme for the National Rollout of the e-District MMP has been approved with a financial outlay of Rs 1663.08 crore, in April, 2011, for covering all districts in all the 36 States/UTs. The project has progressed well and almost achieved its objectives as 687 districts have been covered out of 721 districts in all States/UTs. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*State/UT-wise number of districts where
e-district services were launched*

Sl. No.	State/UT Name	Total Number of Districts in State/UT	Total Number of Districts where e-District Services were Launched
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	13	13
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	23	22
4.	Assam	33	33
5.	Bihar	38	38
6.	Chandigarh	1	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	27	27
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1

1	2	3	4
9.	Daman and Diu	2	2
10.	Delhi	11	11
11.	Goa	2	2
12.	Gujarat	33	33
13.	Haryana	22	22
14.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	22	0
16.	Jharkhand	24	24
17.	Karnataka	30	30
18.	Kerala	14	14
19.	Lakshadweep	1	0
20.	Maharashtra	36	35
21.	Manipur	16	16
22.	Meghalaya	11	11
23.	Mizoram	8	8
24.	Madhya Pradesh	52	51
25.	Nagaland	11	11
26.	Odisha	30	30
27.	Puducherry	4	4
28.	Punjab	22	22
29.	Rajasthan	33	33
30.	Sikkim	4	4
31.	Tamil Nadu	32	32
32.	Telangana	31	31
33.	Tripura	8	8
34.	Uttar Pradesh	75	75
35.	Uttarakhand	13	13
36.	West Bengal	23	18
	Total	721	687

Review of Flexi Fare Scheme

381. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI:
SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether after the introduction of the flexi fare scheme, the premium trains were running with a large number of vacant seats and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government has recently reviewed the flexi fare system with a view to rationalise the fares and make them more passenger friendly;

(c)   if so, the outcome of the review; and

(d)   the further steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The number of passengers booked in trains having Flexi Fare has registered an increase of 1.37% for the period September, 2016 to June, 2018 (Flexi period) as compared to the corresponding period of previous years (Non-Flexi period).

(b) to (d) Yes, Madam. Flexi Fare Scheme in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains has been rationalized as under:-

(i)   Discontinuation of Flexi Fare Scheme from 15 trains for full year and from 32 trains during pre defined lean period of 3 months (February, March & August)

(ii)   Maximum cap of Flexi Fare scheme has been reduced to 1.4 times in all Flexi Fare applicable classes.

(iii)   Graded discount has been introduced in Flexi Fare trains and Humsafar trains, where class-wise occupancy is less than 60%, 4 days prior to scheduled departure of the train as under:–

Occupancy	Discount
Up to 70%	20% on last fare
70 to 80%	10% on last fare
Above 80%	Nil

The above changes have been implemented *w.e.f.* 15.03.2019 on an experimental basis for 6 months for which booking has already been started.

[Translation]

Decline in Agriculture and Manufacturing Sector

382. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is true that in the second quarter of the year 2018-19, the rate of Gross Domestic Product has declined;

(b)   if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c)   the comparative decline in production in agriculture and manufacturing sector;

(d)   whether it is possible to assess the permanent negative impact on the country's economy due to decline in these production sectors; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Rate of GDP has not declined but the rate of growth of GDP has moderated/declined from 8.2% in Quarter 1 to 7.1% in Quarter 2 in Financial Year 2018-19.

(b)   Not applicable.

(c)   There is a deceleration in growth but not a decline in agricultural production and manufacturing. In Quarter 2, agriculture production is estimated to increase by 3.8% and manufacturing is estimated to increase by 7.4%.

(d)   Not Applicable, as production in both agriculture and manufacturing sectors have not declined only the growth has moderated.

(e)   Does not arise.

[English]

Death of Workers

383. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:
        SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether an alarming number of Indian workers die in Gulf countries and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government is maintaining a publically available data of such deaths and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c)   the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent workers' death in Gulf countries and address such incidents with authorities in those countries; and

(d)   whether the Government is planning to do an investigation/study to find the causes of such unusual deaths of Indian workers and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian nationals who died in the Gulf countries of United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia between 2014 and 2018 is 28523. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b)   Indian Missions abroad maintain information in respect of death of Indian nationals in their jurisdiction, but not specifically of workers.

(c) and (d) In order to prevent workers' death such as suicides, road accidents etc in Gulf countries, awareness campaigns are conducted by the Missions/Posts through labour camps organized by Pravasi Bharatiya Seva Kendra in collaboration with the Indian Missions/Posts. Indian officials work proactively to alleviate and resolve the difficulties being faced by Indian workers such as excessive working hours, inadequacy of medical facilities, excessive exposure to heat & sun-stroke etc. Anyone having any difficulty can approach Community Welfare Wing in getting his problems addressed promptly.

Consular Officers posted in Indian Missions/Posts abroad are tasked with addressing the difficulties of distressed Indians, including Indian workers, in various countries abroad. In Gulf countries where there are large numbers of Indian workers, our Missions and Posts have specialized Community Welfare Wings and Labour Wings. In addition, the Government has launched an online portal called 'MADAD' for addressing the grievances of Indian nationals abroad. The MADAD Portal is regularly monitored in our Missions/Posts at various levels, thus giving high priority to grievances of Indian workers.

Statement

Number of Indian workers died in Gulf countries during 2014 to 2018

Sl. No.	Mission/Post	The number of Indian workers died in Gulf Countries in year					
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
1.	United Arab Emirates	1429	1540	1657	1637	1614	7877
2.	Bahrain	175	223	186	237	200	1021
3.	Kuwait	559	611	576	591	595	2932
4.	Oman	519	520	547	495	483	2564
5.	Qatar	279	198	281	282	261	1301
6.	Saudi Arabia	2427	2694	2766	2664	2277	12828
						Grand Total	28523

Use of Aadhaar for Verification

384. DR. K. GOPAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Government has ordered telecom companies to stop using Aadhaar for electronic verification of existing mobile phone customers as well as for issuing new connections to comply with the Supreme Court order;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the order permitted the use of physical Aadhaar card for giving new connections, provided the customer voluntarily offers it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes. In pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 26.09.2018 the Department of Telecommunications, *vide* its order dated 26.10.2018, has directed all Licensed Service Providers to discontinue the use of "Aadhaar" e-KYC service of Unique Identity Authority of India (UIDAI) both for re-verification of existing mobile subscribers as well as for issuing new mobile connections to subscribers.

(c) and (d) Yes. the Licensed Service Providers have been directed to accept the copy of physical Aadhaar or e-Aadhaar letter having masked or unmasked Aadhaar number (as downloaded from UIDAI website) as Proof of Identity/Proof of Address (PoI/PoA) document, if offered voluntarily by the subscriber, as per the procedure(s) prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for issuance of new mobile connections.

Attack on Advocates

385. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attacks on properties and lives of practicing advocates have increased in the country during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, State/UT and year-wise;

(b) the number of such cases filed in courts during said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether delay in investigation such cases have been reported on part of the police of the respective States during the said period, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide safety to practicing advocates in the country

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Bar Council of India has informed that no such data is maintained by them.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Government Websites

386. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that most of the Central Government Department Websites lack transparency and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the remedies being taken to rectify them; and

(c)   whether the Government is considering to create any single agency for maintaining all Government Department Websites and to make them public friendly and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) National Informatics Centre (NIC) an attached office of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, provides ICT services to Government Offices across the country.

While NIC hosts the Government Websites, however respective Ministries/Departments are responsible for their Websites along-with the Content.

There are Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW, URL: *http://guidelines.gov.in*) which have been adopted by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and made a part of Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure. The Guidelines deal with entire life cycle of a Government website and also guide on the types of web information which a Government website should provide. It is the responsibility of the respective Ministries/Departments to ensure the citizen centric information as prescribed in the GIGW is available on the website and is kept up-to-date for the consumption of the citizen.

GIGW also mandates that all Ministries and Departments must nominate a Web Information Manager (WIM) at the level of Joint Secretary or above. It is the responsibility of WIM to ensure that the content provided on the website is up-to-date.

(c)   Does not comes under the purview of NIC.

Registration for ECR Passport Holders

387. SHRI JAGADAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the State-wise data of the number of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders that have travelled to any of the six Gulf Cooperation Council nations for taking up jobs there in the past three years;

(b)   whether there has been a decrease in the number of ECR passport holders travelling to the Gulf Cooperation Council nations since the introduction of the e-migrate website in 2015; and

(c)   if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD): (a) A Statement showing the State-wise number of ECR passport holder emigrants granted emigration clearance for overseas employment in the six GCC countries during the past three years is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, as per the data captured in e-Migrate system, the number of emigration clearances granted to Indian Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holding workers going to Gulf countries for employment has come down compared to the corresponding numbers in the year 2015.

However, a large number of Indian nationals holding ECR passports reportedly travel to the Gulf countries on tourist visa and get their visas converted to employment visa, thereby bypassing the e-Migrate system. These numbers as well as the number of Non ECR passport holders going to the ECR countries for employment are not reflected in the e-Migrate emigration clearance data. As per the information received from the Indian Missions in these countries, the number of Indian workers in the Gulf countries has gone up in the year 2017 compared to the corresponding numbers in 2015 except Kuwait, where the number has come down. A comparative statement showing the number of Indian workers in the Gulf countries in the years 2015 and 2017 is given below:–

Name of Countries	Number of Indian workers in Gulf	
	2015	2017
1	2	3
Kuwait	70765	38871
Bahrain	210081	227239

1	2	3
KSA	293000	305000
Qatar	650000	691539
UAE	206000	303000
Oman	669882	688226

Statement

State-wise, Country-wise Emigration Clearances (ECs) obtained by RAs and Direct Recruitment by FEs for Year (2015)

Sl.No.	State	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	Total
1.	Chandigarh	171	104	50	54	45	19	443
2.	Chhattisgarh	63	103	17	17	28	0	228
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	3	1	0	2	0	10
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10	8	4	3	2	1	28
5.	Andhra Pradesh	12034	8935	15893	2615	4150	1017	44914
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	4	1	2	1	1	14
7.	Assam	493	2936	622	99	110	21	4281
8.	Bihar	32578	43189	3960	10370	15307	1315	106719
9.	Daman and Diu	4	2	2	5	0	0	13
10.	Delhi	636	1192	180	172	244	44	2468
11.	Goa	279	195	544	47	87	30	1182
12.	Gujarat	2000	1382	538	905	1864	106	6795
13.	Haryana	852	684	236	245	168	48	2233
14.	Himachal Pradesh	393	276	122	236	120	15	1162
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	317	3283	800	186	84	36	4706
16.	Jharkhand	2058	3443	421	608	764	98	7392
17.	Karnataka	3339	4702	1011	956	1633	226	11867
18.	Kerala	13800	12388	2859	4380	7710	1618	42755
19.	Lakshadweep	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
20.	Madhya Pradesh	318	1094	400	48	149	14	2023
21.	Maharashtra	4198	5510	1452	2301	1476	280	15217
22.	Manipur	7	16	1	1	0	2	27
23.	Meghalaya	4	4	0	3	0	0	11
24.	Mizoram	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
25.	Nagaland	1	11	1	0	0	0	13
26.	Odisha	6747	2280	1381	1546	2815	300	15069

Sl.No.	State	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	Total
27.	Puducherry	137	83	98	23	45	12	398
28.	Punjab	25518	4242	4221	5420	3477	1503	44381
29.	Rajasthan	15003	16264	4456	4267	4720	1215	45925
30.	Sikkim	9	0	0	2	1	0	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	23284	14443	7573	4899	8704	1552	60455
32.	Telangana	13298	10779	1658	1772	6578	2011	36096
33.	Tripura	160	1139	759	23	28	4	2113
34.	Uttar Pradesh	55312	128925	12383	13810	21111	3417	234958
35.	Uttarakhand	910	3081	171	155	359	75	4751
36.	West Bengal	11773	37678	4764	4213	3272	643	62343
	Total	225718	308380	66579	59384	85054	15623	760738

State-wise, Country-wise Emigration Clearances (ECs) obtained by RAs and
Direct Recruitment by FEs for Year (2016)

Sl.No.	State	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	Total
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	7	2	1	3	0	17
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5771	3571	13232	612	2827	561	26574
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
4.	Assam	575	2284	853	61	76	6	3855
5.	Bihar	25571	24005	7827	6371	10589	1117	75480
6.	Chandigarh	57	38	62	18	27	12	214
7.	Chhattisgarh	57	59	21	15	26	7	185
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	2	0	1	2	1	8
9.	Daman and Diu	19	3	3	4	2	1	32
10.	Delhi	413	862	199	83	155	32	1744
11.	Goa	173	101	393	36	120	10	833
12.	Gujarat	1153	710	587	523	1405	118	4496
13.	Haryana	642	532	279	120	153	52	1778
14.	Himachal Pradesh	277	153	133	101	84	19	767
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	231	3032	890	113	48	18	4332
16.	Jharkhand	1430	1703	556	297	595	51	4632
17.	Karnataka	1737	1761	902	522	1384	117	6423
18.	Kerala	6314	8561	2331	892	6309	555	24962
19.	Lakshadweep	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
20.	Madhya Pradesh	222	587	371	27	107	7	1321

Sl.No.	State	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	Total
21.	Maharashtra	2990	2739	1527	1431	1448	228	10363
22.	Manipur	2	10	2	0	1	1	16
23.	Meghalaya	4	4	0	0	0	1	9
24.	Mizoram	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
25.	Nagaland	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
26.	Odisha	5374	1761	2205	1053	1424	213	12030
27.	Puducherry	92	41	89	6	24	4	256
28.	Punjab	17142	3000	4095	3255	2268	1002	30762
29.	Rajasthan	14254	7455	5295	1742	4903	1380	35029
30.	Sikkim	1	4	2	1	1	3	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	16831	5700	5765	2190	6642	624	37752
32.	Telangana	10776	4933	1828	768	4006	2343	24654
33.	Tripura	450	1341	923	12	26	4	2756
34.	Uttar Pradesh	41210	59801	15480	6603	15654	2734	141482
35.	Uttarakhand	545	1929	241	101	395	33	3244
36.	West Bengal	9393	28664	6291	3658	2531	710	51247
	Total	163716	165355	72384	30619	63236	11964	507274

State-wise, Country-wise Emigration Clearances (ECs) obtained by RAs and
Direct Recruitment by FEs for Year (2017)

Sl.No.	State	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	Total
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	1	4	1	0	0	12
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3575	1303	9513	620	1643	484	17138
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	364	1240	788	29	101	11	2533
5.	Bihar	32096	14832	5895	5132	8749	1618	68322
6.	Chandigarh	63	13	31	8	6	6	127
7.	Chhattisgarh	50	34	12	7	11	6	120
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	1	0	0	3	0	8
9.	Daman and Diu	14	1	1	4	4	1	25
10.	Delhi	377	414	184	64	122	27	1188
11.	Goa	131	62	369	32	60	9	663
12.	Gujarat	916	424	572	417	1717	148	4194
13.	Haryana	625	254	263	80	127	48	1397
14.	Himachal Pradesh	302	103	123	41	46	32	647

Sl.No.	State	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	Total
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	252	1075	589	86	57	7	2066
16.	Jharkhand	1129	912	538	290	473	143	3485
17.	Karnataka	1617	1064	901	561	856	145	5144
18.	Kerala	3342	4942	1888	1000	4612	553	16337
19.	Lakshadweep	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
20.	Madhya Pradesh	149	335	372	20	90	15	981
21.	Maharashtra	2116	1417	1272	1461	1180	241	7687
22.	Manipur	6	10	0	1	1	0	18
23.	Meghalaya	5	2	0	0	0	1	8
24.	Mizoram	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
25.	Nagaland	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
26.	Odisha	4716	890	1690	1009	1842	683	10830
27.	Puducherry	97	24	98	5	33	12	269
28.	Punjab	16530	1579	3219	2007	1811	1303	26449
29.	Rajasthan	14326	5133	4332	1582	5641	900	31914
30.	Sikkim	4	0	0	1	0	1	6
31.	Tamil Nadu	15397	3003	5876	1242	5931	634	32083
32.	Telangana	8137	1855	1217	711	3742	1578	17240
33.	Tripura	287	335	502	16	41	2	1183
34.	Uttar Pradesh	32609	23300	11696	5329	10986	2253	86173
35.	Uttarakhand	425	965	244	82	370	29	2115
36.	West Bengal	10110	13032	4191	2921	3075	626	33955
	Total	149780	78557	56380	24759	53332	11516	374324

Role of ASEAN in Indian Ocean

388. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Ocean region is strategically important for India and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the role of ASEAN countries in India's Strategic Vision on Indian Ocean; and

(c) the extent to which the partnership with ASEAN has helped the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Indian Ocean is an important trade and energy waterway, carrying half the world's container shipment, one-third of its bulk cargo traffic and two thirds of oil shipments. More than 90% of India's trade goes through the Indian Ocean. Relations with countries in the Indian Ocean Region and nurturing a climate of peace and stability are an important priority of India's foreign policy. The acronym 'SAGAR'-Security And Growth for All in the Region espoused by our Prime Minister succinctly outlines our vision for the region with collaboration as its backbone. India is an active development partner of the countries in the Indian Ocean Region and is involved in various projects in these countries.

(b) In his keynote Address at Shangri La Dialogue on June 01, 2018, the Prime Minister had underlined that the ten countries of South East Asia connect the two great oceans *viz.* the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean in both the geographical and civilizational sense and are Central to India's Act East Policy. In fact, ASEAN's centrality and unity lies at the heart of our concept of Indo-Pacific Region.

(c) Since 1992, India-ASEAN partnership has evolved from sectoral dialogue to strategic partnership in 2012. Today, India has thirty sectoral dialogue mechanisms and seven Ministerial-level interactions, in addition to the annual Summit meeting. We have made excellent progress in implementing the objectives of the India-ASEAN Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity, through five year plans of action. India's trade with ASEAN has grown 25 times over 25 years. In 2017-18, India's total trade with ASEAN was US$ 81.33 billion which is 10.57% of India's overall trade. Investment flows are also substantial both ways. FDI inflows into India from ASEAN between April, 2000 to March, 2018 was about US$ 68.91 billion which is approximately 18.28% of investment flow into India since 2000.

[Translation]

Charges in Kumbh Mela Trains

389. SHRI NAGENDRA PRATAP SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional surcharge is being charged on rail tickets from poor devotees coming for Kumbh mela;

(b) if so, whether it will cause problems to devotees and incur financial burden on them and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not condoning additional surcharge while the Government is spending crores of rupees in the name of Kumbh; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways to facilitate devotees coming for Kumbh mela?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) During major melas where railways have to provide certain facilities like opening of additional booking counters, erection of pilgrim sheds, running of mela specials etc. Mela surcharge was levied in view of the additional expenditure incurred by the railways in providing these facilities. However, this system of levy Mela Surcharge has been discontinued. Further, no pending amount shall be collected for the tickets already booked in advance.

The additional facilities being provided for Kumbh Mela Stations are as under:

1. Establishing extra infrastructure like direction-wise enclosures with additional UTS/PRS counters, also at Sangam area.

2. Additional staff from other divisions of Indian Railways for guidance and facilitating safe departure of devotees.

3. Running of special train-route wise.

4. Signages and enquiry counters at all mela locations including Sangam areas.

5. Announcement through mega mike for right direction, train timings and other important information.

6. Visual display system at all important locations for passenger guidance and convenience.

7. Additional deployment of security staff *i.e.* RPF, RPSF, GRP and Commercial Staff.

8. Special facilities for drinking water, toilet, catering etc.

9. CCTV arrangement for close monitoring of passenger movement, security etc.

10. Provision of 24x7 Control tower jointly manned by Railways and Civil authorities with hot line facilities at the stations and other strategic locations.

Theft of Coal

390. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:
 SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of roads by which coal is transported round the clock in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether theft of coal is being carried out by truck drivers in the mid-way; and

(c) if so, whether Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard along with the number of persons found guilty and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) State-wise and Coal Company-wise details of roads by which coal is transported is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Law & Order is a State subject, hence primarily it is the responsibility of the State/District Administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/ curb theft/pilferage of coal. Coal is being dispatched to its customers by trucks and once the weighed coal is out of the colliery premises, it is between consumers and the transport contractors for safe delivery of coal to the consumer premises. However security escorts is provided up to premises of subsidiaries of Coal India Limited.

CIL subsidiaries have taken following steps to prevent theft/pilferage of coal:

- RFID based Boom Barriers and CCTV camera at weighbridges, GPRS based vehicle tracking system with geofencing, CCTV camera at strategic locations of all mines have been installed.

- Regular FIRs are lodged by the Colliery Management and CISF with local Thana. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being kept by CISF.

- Interaction and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meeting with Officials of the State Administration.

- Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage.

- Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.

- Escorting of coal rakes in coordination with RPF upto weighbridge, is arranged in pilferage prone areas.

- Surprise re-weighment of coal loaded trucks is done at weighbridges.

- Surprise checks/raids are conducted by flying squads of CISF/security department.

- Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including OB dumps.

- Joint patrolling with local police is also being carried out in pilferage prone areas.

- Check posts have been established at entry/ exit points where all coal laden vehicles are physically checked.

- Security at coal dumps has been strengthened by fencing, proper illumination and round the clock guarding.

The Government of India has launched one mobile app namely "Khanan Prahari" and one web app Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS) for reporting unauthorized coal mining activities so that monitoring and taking suitable action on it can be done by Law & Order Authority.

Statement

The details of roads by which coal is transported round the clock in the country, State-wise

Coal Company	State	Name of Road
Eastern Coal Fields Limited	West Bengal	Madhusudanpur Coal Depot Near Incline to Madhusudanpur Rly. Siding
		Khas Kajora Road Dispatch Point/5 & 6 Pit Railway siding to Madhusudanpur Rly. Siding
		Khas Kajora 10 & 11 Pit Tippler to Khas Kajora Road Dispatch Point

Coal Company	State	Name of Road
		Jambad OCP Crusher Point to MDP-NKC Rly. Siding (State Government Road)
		Gourangdih-Begunia Depot to Bonjemehari SDG (NH)
		Gourangdia (A) to Bonjemehari SDG (NH)
		Mohanpur Depot to Bonjemehari SDG (NH)
		Barmondia(A) Depot to Bonjemehari SDG (NH)
		Bonjemehari Depot to Bonjemehari SDG (NH)
		Dabor Depot to Bonjemehari SDG (NH)
		J.K. Nagar Colliery to Ms SDG (NH)
		Pure Searsole to Ms SDG (NH)
		Satgram Project to Ms SDG (NH)
		Satgram Incline to Ms SDG (NH)
		Chapui Khas Colliery to Ms SDG (NH)
		Nimcha Colliery to Nimcha RLY SDG.
		Parasea Colliery to Parasea RLY SDG.
		North Searsole to Kunustoria More
		NH 60 (Kunustoria No. 3 Pit Road and NH 60 Junction to Kunustoria More)
		Siduli, CL Jambad Colliery & Shankarpur OC to Bahula Crusher (NH 60)
		Chora Block Incline, Chora 10 Pit to Bahula Crusher (NH 60)
		Newkenda Colliery to Bahula Crusher (NH 60)
		Lowkenda Colliery to Bahula Crusher
		Chora 7 & 9 Pit to Bahula Crusher
		NKJ to Bankola No-1 Siding (State Government Road)
		VK to Bankola No-1 Siding (State Government Road)
		No-1 Incinle to Bankola No-1 Siding
		No-2 Incinle to Bankola No-1 Siding
		No-8 Pit to Bankola No-1 Siding
		Shankalpa Khani to Bankola No-1 Siding
		CHP Tobankola No-2 Siding (State Government Road)
		Old SSP Unit to No-1 Siding (State Government Road)
		TLB Unit to Bankola No-1 Siding (State Government Road)
		3 & 4 Pit to Bankola No-1 Siding (State Government Road)
		C & E Pit to POCP Siding No-2 (State Government Road)

Coal Company	State	Name of Road
		Millenium Incline to Bankola No-1 Siding
		3 & 4 Unit to Bankola No-1 Siding (State Government Road)
		No 8 Pit to POCP Siding No-2 (State Government Road)
		S.B. Project CHP to Sitalpur RLY. Siding (State Government Road)
		S.B. Project Coal Depot to Dalurbandh RLY. Siding (State Government Road, NH)
	Jharkhand	Rajmahal Coal Face to RJ Wharf Wall
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	Jharkhand	Murradih Dump-Colliery Haul Road-District Board Road-KKC Link Siding
		Phularitand Dump-Colliery Haul Road-Feeder Breaker-Siding
		Jamunia Dump-Colliery Haul Road-Feeder Breaker-Colliery Haul Road KKC Main
		NKSSY Dump-Frrder Breaker-Colliery Haul Road-Siding
		BENIDIH Dump-Frrder Breaker-Colliery Haulroad-Siding
		Block II Ocp Dump-Frrder Breaker-Colliery Haul Road-Siding
		NAKC Dump-Colliery Haul Road-District Boardroad-Siding
		Maheshpur Dump-Colliery Haul Road-Siding
		Jogidih Dump-Colliery Haul Road-Disrict Board Road-Siding
		Kharkhari Dump-Colliery Haul Road-Disrict Board Road (Hirak)-Siding
		AKWMC Dump-Colliery Haul Road-Disrict Board Road-Chp-Siding
		AKWMC C.P.-District Board Road-Chp-Colliery Road-District Board Road-Siding
		SB Dump-Bansjora CHP-Colliery Road-Siding
		Tetulmari Dump-Colliery Haul Road-Disrict Board Road-Siding
		Nichitpur Dump-Colliery Road-Siding
		Godhur Dump-Colliery Road-Nh-32-Colliery Road-KDS K Siding
		Godhur Dump-Colliery Road-NH-32-Colliery Road-Fb-Colliery Road-Db Road (Dhanbad-Sindri)-DB Road (Jharaia Katras)-Colliery Road-BNR Siding
		Dhansar Dump-Colliery Road-CHP-Colliery Road-Nh-32-DB Road (Dhanbad-Sindri)-Siding
		ENA Dump-Colliery Road-FB-DB Road (Dhanbad-Sindri)-Colliery Road-BNR Siding

Coal Company	State	Name of Road
		ENA Dump-Colliery Road-FB-DB Road-Colliery Road-Burragarh Siding
		ROCP Dump-Colliery Road-DB Road (Dhanbad-Sindri)-DB Road (Jharaia Katras)-Colliery Road-FB-Siding
		KOCP Dump-Colliery Road-DB Road (Jhariabaliapur)-Colliery Road-Fb-CKW Siding
		Bastacolla Dump-Colliery Road-DB Road (Jhariabaliapur)-Colliery Road-FB- Siding
		Kuya Dump-Colliery Road-Db Road (Dhanbad-Sindri)-DB Road (Jharaia Katras)-Colliery Road-FB-BNR Siding
		Ghanudih Dump-Colliery Road-DB Road (Jhariabaliapur)-Colliery Road-FB- Siding
		Dobari Dump-Colliery Road-DB Road (Jhariabaliapur)-Colliery Road-Fb-CKW Siding
		Dobari Dump-Colliery Road-DB Road (Dhanbad-Sindri)-Db Road (Jharaia Katras)-Colliery Road-FB-BNR Siding
		Jeenagora Dump-Colliery Road-Fb-Siding
		Bhaora Sough Dump-Colliery Road-DB Road (Putki Jamadoba-Sindri)-FB- Siding
		Basantimata Dahibari Dump-Colliery Road-Fb-Siding
		Kusunda North Siding/Bhaga/Dugdha Goodshed (RCR Mode)
		Bokaro Thermal Power and Chandrapura thermal Power of DVC
		Chasnalla Through Jharia Sindhri Road
		Jamadoba Through Jharia Sindhri Road
		Jamshedpur *via* Chandan Kyari Purulia
	West Bengal	Damagoria Dump-Colliery Road-FB-Siding
		Raghunathpur TPS of DVC (West Bengal) *via* Chandan Kyari Maithan GT Road (NH-2)
Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	Giddi-A to Saunda Siding
		Gidi-C to Gidi Washery
		Gidi-C to New Kuju Siding
		Balkudra OC to Gidi Washery
		Urimari OC to Saunda Siding
		Balkudra OC to Saunda Siding
		Bhurkunda UG to Saunda Siding

Coal Company	State	Name of Road
		New Birsa OC to Saunda Siding
		Birsa OC to Central Saunda Siding
		Topa OC to Kedla Washery
		Pindra OC to Kedla Washery
		Karma OC to NR Siding
		Pundi OC to Kuju New Siding
		Topa OC to Kuju New Siding
		Karma OC to Kuju New Siding
		Pindra OC to Kuju New Siding
		Tapin (N) OC to Kedla Washery
		Jharkhand OC to Kedla Washery
		Taqpin OC to Kedla Washery
		Kedla UG to Kedla Washery
		Tapin (N) OC to NR Siding
		Parej OC to NR Siding
		Jharkhand OC to NR Siding
		Tapin OC to Charhi Siding
		Jharkhand OC to Charhi Siding
		Parej East OC to Charhi Siding
		Tapin (N) OC to Charhi Siding
		Kedla Washery to Chainpur Siding
		CPP/CHP PPR to Bachra Siding
		Piparwar OC to Bachra Siding
		Ashok OC to Bachra Siding
		Ashok OC to RCM Siding
		Ashok OC to Rajdhar Siding
		Ashok OC to KD Old Siding
		Piparwar OC to KD Old Siding
		Rohini OC to KDH Siding
		KDH to KDH Siding
		Purnadih to KDH Siding
		Rohini OC to KDH Siding
		Dakra to Dakra Siding
		Purnadih to Dakra Siding

Coal Company	State	Name of Road
		Rohini to Dakra Siding
		Churi to Dakra Siding
		Selected Dhori to Tarmi Siding
		Tarmi Stock to Tarmi Siding
		AMLO OC to Dhori Siding
		SDOCM (Karipani) to Dhori Siding
		Dhori OC to Dhori Siding
		Tarmi to Dhori Siding
		Khasmahal to Dhori Siding
		Dhori Khas UG to Swang Washery
		KMP to Jarangdih PF I Siding
		Karo OC to Jarangdih PF I Siding
		Bokaro to Jarangdih PF I Siding
		Konar OC to Jarangdih PF II Siding
		Karo Stock to Jarangdih PF II Siding
		AKK OC to KW PF II
		Karo OC to KW PF II
		KMP to Kargali Washery
		KMP (AKK-KONAR) to Amlo Siding
		Giridih to Giridih Siding
		Kathara(W) to Jarangdih PF II Siding
		Jarandih OC to Jarangdih PF II Siding
		Kathara OC to Jarangdih PF II Siding
		Kathara OC to Swang Washery
		Govindpur U/G to Swang Washery
		Jarandih OC to Swang Washery
		Kathara OC to Kathara Washery
		Magadh to Rajdhar Siding
		Magadh to Bukru Siding
		Magadh to Phulbasiya Siding
Northern Coalfields Limited	Madhya Pradesh	Block B to SPUR II Sidings (I.E. Morwa)
		Jayant to SPUR I Siding (I.E. Morwa)
Western Coalfields Limited	Madhya Pradesh	Sarni-Betul Highway
		Chhindwara-Betul Highway

Coal Company	State	Name of Road
	Maharashtra	Junnardeo-Sarni-Betul Highway
		Junnardeo-Parasia-Chhindwara-Narsinghpur Highway
		Nagpur-Jabalpur Highway
		Nagpur-Kalmeshwar Highway
		Nagpur-Saoner, Bhopal Highway
		UMRER-Nagpur Highway
		UMRER-Butibori-Wardha Road
		Umrer-Murpal-Warora Road
		Majri-Wani-Yavatmal Road
		Wani-Chandrapur
		Chandrapur-Nagpur Highway
		Chandrapur-Ballarpur-Sirpur Road
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	Chhattisgarh	WBM
		BT/CC
	Madhya Pradesh	WBM
		BT/CC
Mahanadi coalfields Limited	Odisha	Roads Leading from Mines to Railway Siding, Coal Transportation Road and State Highway of Basundhara, Lakhanpur, IB Valley, Orient, Jagannath, Bharatpur, Hingula, Lingaraj, Kaniha, Talcher Area.
North Eastern coalfields	Assam	Coal Face to Coal Siding within Mine Premises
Singareni Collieries Company Limited	Telangana	State Highways including SCCL Maintained Road

[English]

Removal of Women Coaches

391. SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Railways has decided to stop the unreserved coaches exclusively for women in long-distance trains and set-aside a few seats for women as practised in buses;

(b)   if so, the reasons therefor;

(c)   whether the Railways has decided to remove such coaches from LHB coaches and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d)   the manner in which the railway plans to ensure safety of women in the general coaches; and

(e)   whether the Government is ready to continue the status quo in all trains including those using LHB coaches and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) and (e) In the LHB rakes, under slung power car with sitting on top has been manufactured in which there is a provision for providing accommodation for persons with disability, guard and 30 passengers. Accommodation for female passengers will be earmarked after these coaches are put in regular service.

(d)   Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains and security of railway tracks, tunnels and bridges are the statutory responsibility of

the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP in providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Besides, the following steps have been taken by the Railways to ensure security of rail passengers including security of women in general coaches:

i. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, Railway Protection Force escorts are provided in 2500 trains (on an average) daily, in addition to 2200 trains wherein escorts are provided by Government Railway Police of different States daily.

ii. To provide round the clock security related assistance to passengers, All India Security Helpline No. 182 is operational through Divisional Security Control Rooms of Railway Protection Force across Indian Railways.

iii. Through various social media platforms *viz.* twitter, facebook etc., Railways are in regular touch with passengers including women passengers to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concern.

iv. Drives are conducted against entry of male passengers for entering into compartments reserved for women passengers and persons apprehended are prosecuted as per law.

v. Ladies Special trains running in Metropolitan Cities are being escorted by lady RPF personnel. In other trains, where escorts are provided, the train escorting parties have been briefed to keep extra vigil on the lady passengers travelling alone, ladies coaches en-route and at halting stations.

vi. Railways has planned to provide CCTV system in all running passengers trains.

vii. Liaison is made by RPF with the State Police/ GRP Authorities at all levels for prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.

Cancellation of Trains in South India

392. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the train services in South India and especially in Kerala are very frequently cancelled;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to regularize the train services in the South India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Train services are not cancelled frequently in South India. However, occasionally few train services were cancelled including in Kerala on account of natural calamities (like flood, cyclone etc) agitations, untoward incidents etc and for permitting blocks to facilitate upgradation, maintenance of infrastructure and safety related works.

(d) All efforts are made to minimize the adverse impact on train services by proper planning and execution of the upgradation works and expeditiously restoring the services.

Optical Fibre Network

393. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and UT-wise details regarding the Optical Fibre Network (OFN) laid by different companies in the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government has estimated the disruptions/damage to the OFN caused due to digging or constructive activities by various agencies like Public Works Department (PWD), NHAI, Railways, Municipal Bodies, water works department, State electricity boards, irrigation department etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof State-wise and the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details regarding the total length of OFN along with the number of stations, cities and towns that have been connected through the OFN, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) State/UT-wise details of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) laid along with number of Gram Panchayats for which OFC laid under the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), now called as BharatNet, are enclosed as Statement. For BharatNet Project, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with the State Governments for providing free Right of Way (RoW) permission for implementation of the project. RoW permission from Public Works Department (PWD), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Railways etc. is taken on a case to case basis.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) laid under the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet and number of Gram Panchayats for which OFC has been laid

Sl. No.	States	upto 31.03.2015 (in Km)	2015-2016 (in Km)	2016-2017 (in Km)	2017-2018 (in Km)	2018-2019 (upto 02.12.2018) (in Km)	Total of Claid as on 02.12.2018 (in Km)	Number of Gram Panchayats for which OFC laid (as on 02.12.2018)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	0	4	1329	2916	4268	1264
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	97	242	979	183	1501	564
3.	Assam	567	1192	2249	335	296	4639	1595
4.	Bihar	2132	4274	5766	1970	2045	16187	5874
5.	Chhattisgarh	1549	2961	1146	6975	386	13017	4092
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	681	3830	3758	4785	1211	14265	5875
8.	Haryana	1308	3494	4974	1463	774	12013	6187
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	88	288	283	8	667	226
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	136	215	175	139	665	339
11.	Jharkhand	312	2044	1511	1987	1278	7132	2526
12.	Karnataka	4755	5360	1230	1807	560	13712	6202
13.	Kerala	661	149	16	4	0	830	1129
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4736	9781	15799	7643	2417	40376	12768
15.	Maharashtra	1930	8678	13529	7688	1505	33330	15126
16.	Manipur	0	73	13	465	45	596	338
17.	Meghalaya	0	229	139	260	248	876	323
18.	Mizoram	0	4	279	304	90	677	118
19.	Nagaland	0	660	507	730	77	1974	637
20.	Odisha	784	2817	2878	3373	1877	11729	3805
21.	Punjab	654	3662	3960	3409	710	12395	7903
22.	Rajasthan	2400	9148	6346	5865	3557	27316	8467

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23.	Sikkim		0	0	92	206	298	36
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Telangana	264	3087	895	243	880	5369	2047
26.	Tripura	219	842	470	150	2	1683	817
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2818	15488	22975	15373	7635	64289	29449
28.	Uttarakhand	331	658	1592	542	407	3530	1534
29.	West Bengal	531	1465	2175	1552	1879	7602	2248
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	13	13	13
31.	Chandigarh	14	5	0	0	0	19	13
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	30	38	68	21
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	24	2	26	18
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	NCT of Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	67	25	0	0	0	92	98
	Total	26732	80247	92956	69835	31384	301154	121652

[Translation]

Extradition of Criminals

394. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:
SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is facing trouble in bringing those criminals back in the country who have escaped to other countries;

(b) if so, the details of the troubles being faced by the Government; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government at international level to remove these problems during the last three years with the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) The Government of India has been making every effort to bring back fugitive criminals who have fled after committing crime in the country.

(c) It is the policy of the Government of India to conclude Extradition treaties with as many countries as possible so as to ensure that fugitive criminals do not escape justice. As of now, India has signed extradition treaties with a total of 50 countries and entered into extradition arrangements with 10 more countries to facilitate extradition. Out of these, 4 extradition treaties were signed in the last 3 years. In the last three years, 11 fugitive criminals from various foreign countries, including the recent extradition of Christian Michel from UAE, were successfully brought back to India.

[English]

Annual Plan Outlay for Bihar

395. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual plan outlay for Bihar for the last three years;

(b) the details of proposals under which the money was spent, project-wise; and

(c) the mechanism of monitoring of the same by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Annual Plan Outlay for the State was finalized by the Planning Commission and the State Government up to 2014-15. The mandate of the NITI Aayog does not include finalization of the Annual Plan Outlay from 1st January, 2015.

However the desired information as available on Bihar Government website is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Budget Estimate (BE) 2018-2019 related to services at a glance

(Rs. in crore)

Subject	2016-2017 (Actual)		2017-2018 (BE)		2017-2018 (RE)		2018-2019 (BE)	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A. Head of Receipts								
1. State's Share in Central Taxes	58880.59	46.30	65326.34	40.57	65083.19	42.22	76172.37	42.02
2. Tax Revenue of State	23742.26	18.67	32001.12	19.87	32001.12	20.76	31002.03	17.10
3. Non Tax Revenue of State	2403.11	1.89	2874.96	1.79	2855.40	1.85	4445.89	2.45
4. Grants in Aid from Centre	20559.02	16.16	36956.00	22.95	33170.85	21.52	46431.12	25.62
5. Public Debt								
a. Internal Debt of the State Government	20065.17	15.78	21702.61	13.48	18878.21	12.25	20520.43	11.32
b. Loans an Advances from the Central Government	1511.59	1.19	2160.07	1.34	2160.07	1.40	2275.00	1.26
6(a)-Recoveries of Loan & Advances	23.31	0.02	18.00	0.01	18.00	0.01	408.50	0.23
6(b)-Inter State Settlement								
6(c)-Transfer to Contingency Fund								
Total	127185.06	100.00	161039.09	100.00	154166.83	100.00	181255.34	100.00
B. Head of Expenditure								
a. General Services (Add 1 to 3)	32697.35	25.89	44969.55	28.09	46352.58	26.81	43529.04	24.59
1. Legislative, Fiscal and Administrative Services	11415.80	9.04	14836.55	9.27	16189.48	9.36	16161.56	9.13
2. Interest Payment and Debt Repayment	8773.56	6.95	10255.36	6.41	10285.41	5.95	11538.67	6.52
3. Pension and Other General Services	12507.99	9.90	19877.64	12.42	19877.69	11.50	15828.81	8.94
b. Social Services (Add 1 to 4)	44329.13	35.10	58492.31	36.54	65878.72	38.11	72101.05	40.74
1. Education, Sports, Arts and Culture	20226.37	16.01	26394.37	16.49	26796.31	15.50	33411.43	18.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2. Health and Family Welfare	5492.90	4.35	6534.82	4.08	7078.16	4.09	7564.43	4.27
3. Water Supply, Sanitation, Housing and Urban Development	8785.93	6.96	13147.86	8.21	14180.43	8.20	18763.15	10.60
4. Social Security and Welfare and others	9823.93	7.78	12415.26	7.76	17823.83	10.31	12362.04	6.98
c. Economic Services (Add 1 to 5)	44942.80	35.58	51331.82	32.07	55405.15	32.05	53520.42	30.24
1. Agriculture, Co-operative, Forestry and Allied Services	2414.45	1.91	4376.37	2.73	5724.14	3.31	5176.50	2.92
2. Rural Development	16244.03	12.86	21019.06	13.13	22249.48	12.87	24074.94	13.60
3. Irrigation, Flood Control and Energy	16280.79	12.89	14962.81	9.35	16296.79	9.43	13858.35	7.83
4. Industries and Mines	1115.67	0.88	1126.08	0.70	1368.62	0.79	936.01	0.53
5. Transport and General Economic Services	8887.86	7.04	9847.49	6.15	9766.12	5.65	9474.63	5.35
d. Grants in Aid and Contribution	4.30	0.00	4.99	0.00	4.99	0.00	6.04	0.00
e. Public Debt (Add 1 to 2)	4214.57	3.34	4797.28	3.00	4797.28	2.77	7326.41	4.14
1. Internal Debt of the State	3460.49	2.74	3846.25	2.40	3846.25	2.22	6302.49	3.56
2. Loans and Advances from the Central Government	754.08	0.60	951.03	0.59	951.03	0.55	1023.93	0.58
(f) Loans and Advances	113.87	0.09	489.75	0.31	445.56	0.26	507.32	0.29
(g) Inter State Settlement								
(h) Transfer to Contingency Fund								
Total	126302.02	100.00	160085.69	100.00	172884.28	100.00	176990.28	100.00
Net Surplus (+)/deficit (-) in Consolidated	883.04		953.39		-18717.45		4265.06	
Public Account Receipts	454371.21		29927.48		29927.48		28688.15	
Public Account Payment	455263.91		32027.48		32027.48		29589.15	
Net Surplus (+)/deficit (-) in Public Account	-892.70		-2100.00		-2100.00		-901.00	
Net Surplus (+)/deficit (-) in Consolidated fund + Contingency fund + Public Account	-9.66		-1146.61		-20817.45		3364.06	
Opening Cash Balance	124.56		1000.00		114.90		50.00	
Closing Cash Balance	114.90		-146.61		-20702.55		3414.06	

Source: http://finance.bih.nic.in/Budget/Budget-Summary.pdf

Role of ICG in Cyclone

396. SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
    SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
    SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
    SHRI S. R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
    SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
    KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has initiated pre-emptive and proactive measures to prevent loss of fishermen lives and to reduce impact from Cyclone Gaja and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of ICG ships and Dornier aircraft that were pressed into action during pre and post Gaja cyclone;

(c) the number of community interaction programmes conducted by ICG to sensitise fishermen and coastal population for taking safety measures for the Gaja cyclone;

(d) the number of fishermen rescued and the number of fishermen missing along with the action taken by the Government to find out the missing fishermen;

(e) the mechanism followed by the defence department in co-operation with the State Government to speed up the disaster management; and

(f) further steps taken/being taken by the Ministry to introduce a better mechanism for permanent disaster management system with the co-ordination of all the concerned departments of Central/State-Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam. Indian Coast Guard has initiated the following pre-emptive and proactive measures to prevent loss of fishermen lives and to reduce impact from Cyclone Gaja:–

(i) ICG formations were put on high alert and high state of preparedness. Fisheries Authorities, State Authorities and Local Administration were warned for precautionary measures. Constant liaison had been made with the State Administration, various Departments and Indian Meteorological Department to ensure wide spread precautionary measures in the affected areas.

(ii) Indian Coast Guard Remote Operating Stations located in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and L&M Islands passed Security/Safety messages in local languages on VHF (very high frequency) to all fishing boats to return to harbour or take shelter in nearest port.

(iii) Indian Coast Guard Ships and Aircraft were deployed along the East and West Coast in advance for issuance of advisories and warnings in vernacular languages to fishermen at sea for safe return to ports.

(iv) International Safety Net (ISN) was activated one week in advance of approach of Cyclone Gaja in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea by Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (Chennai/Mumbai) requesting transiting Merchant vessels to advise and warn fishermen to return to harbour/take shelter at nearest fishing harbour and render assistance, if required.

(b) 10 ICG Ships and 10 Dornier Aircraft were pressed into action during pre Gaja Cyclone. 13-15 ICG ships and 6 Dornier Aircraft and 01 Helicopter was tasked off Karaikal/Nagapatnam for assessment post Gaja Cyclone.

(c) Special Community Interaction programmes were conducted at 11 places at Milamanakudi (Kanyakumari), Mandapam, Ramesvaram, Mudasalodai (Cuddalore), Kasimedu (Chennai), Arketpalem, Gummalladibba (Nellore), Nizampatnam, Dhumalpeta, Uppada and Vishakhapatnam for fishermen and coastal populace for undertaking safety measures.

(d) 946 fishing boats were reported to return due to warnings by ICG ships/aircrafts and Remote Operating Stations. Indian Coast Guard assisted in shifting about 1500 fishing boats South of Pamban bridge. No information has been received regarding missing fishing boats/missing fishermen.

(e) and (f) As per the Disaster Management Act, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) are mandated to deal with all types of disasters; natural or manmade. The Armed Forces are called upon to assist the Civil Administration when the situation is beyond their coping

capability. ICG form an important part of the Government's response capacity and are immediate responders in all serious Coastal disaster situations. ICG has prepared Standard Operating Procedures for Disaster Management and the SOPs have been percolated to all formations and has made efforts for capacity building and training of ICG personnel. ICG units maintain close liaison and coordination with all State and District Authorities.

Station Cleanliness Survey

397. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
     SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
     SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
     SHRI S. R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
     SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
     KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Quality Council of India (QCI) has conducted a station cleanliness survey for the Railways recently;

(b)   if so, the details thereof along with the outcome of the survey;

(c)   the number of stations included along with the expenditure incurred in the survey, State/UT-wise;

(d)   the criteria fixed by QCI to evaluate the stations for their cleanliness; and

(e)   whether the Government has taken any action against the officials who are responsible for lack of cleanliness at the stations and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. QCI has conducted a station cleanliness survey for the Railways covering 407 stations and total expenditure of Rs. 1.21 crore was incurred on the survey. Detailed Cleanliness Survey Report-2018 is available on Indian Railways website.

(d)   The criteria fixed were Process evaluation, direct observation and citizen feedback each carrying equal marks.

(e)   The Survey is meant to invite healthy competition so as to motivate concerned for improving cleanliness of

stations. It ranks the stations according to scores achieved. This does not imply that a station ranked low is dirty. The survey also helps in identifying weak spots requiring more attention.

Use of Bangladeshi Sim Card

398. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
     SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
     SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
     SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
     SHRI S. R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
     KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that BSF personnel were forced to use Bangladeshi SIM cards in the North-east due to connectivity problem;

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

(c)   whether his Ministry has taken any steps to improve the mobile connectivity in border areas of North-Eastern region and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the mobile connectivity in border areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No such incident of forcing any Border Security Force (BSF) personnel to use Bangladeshi SIM Cards has been reported to the Government. In case of locations where Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) mobile network signal is weak, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) seek prior approval of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to go-ahead with change of the mobile service provider. Accordingly, approval of the competent authority was conveyed to BSF in view of their proposal. Consequently, BSF's proposal for availing mobile phone connections at 263 such locations through alternative mobile service provider(s) having valid license granted by Department of Telecommunications, Government of India stands approved.

(c) and (d) The Government is making sincere efforts to provide affordable tele-connectivity to all the inhabited areas of North Eastern Region (NER) including border areas of the country, and working on a "Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North East Region" through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF).

Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North Eastern Region, M/s Bharti Airtel & M/s Bharti Hexacom have been entrusted to set up over 2004 mobile towers to connect about 2128 villages in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, parts of Assam and National Highways in North-Eastern States. Besides, M/s BSNL is also installing 2,817 mobile towers to provide coverage in 4,119 uncovered villages in other parts of North East. Further, on 23rd May, 2018, the Cabinet has approved the provisioning of 2G & 4G Mobile Services in 2173 uncovered villages and along the National Highways in Meghalaya at an estimated cost of Rupees 3911/- crores.

Strengthening of Academics and Industry Interface in Science

399. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
     SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
     SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
     SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
     SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM:
     DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
     DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government to strengthen the academics and industry interface in science and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b)   whether several large scale science projects are being undertaken at various national institutes by the Government and private sector;

(c)   if so, the details thereof;

(d)   whether the Government is considering to augment investment in this field and if so, the details of estimated investment likely to be made during this year and the coming years; and

(e)   the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the academics and industry interface in science?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Government has undertaken several programmes/schemes under various departments to strengthen the academics and industry interface in science. The programmes of some of the key Government departments/institutions which engage Universities/IITs, R&D institutions and industry are listed below:

Sl.No.	Department /Organisation	Scheme/Programme
1.	Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (autonomous body of DSIR)	• DSIR's Patent Acquisition and Collaborative Research and Technology Development (PACE) Programme under which collaborative proposals of industry and academia/research institutions for technology development and demonstration are supported • CSIR's New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) under which support in the form of grant-in-aid to publicly funded institutions and soft loan to industry is provided to carry out well focused R&D Projects in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode. CSIR-NMITLI has been able to network around 110 industry partners and 320 R&D Groups in public institutions since its inception.
2.	Niti Aayog	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) promotes a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. The Atal Innovation Mission has two core functions, *viz.* 'Entrepreneurship Promotion' through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization, wherein innovators are supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs and 'Innovation promotion' wherein innovative ideas are generated through support to Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centers and scaling up of Established Incubators.

Sl.No.	Department /Organisation	Scheme/Programme
3.	Ministry of Human Resource Development	Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) promotes industry sponsored, outcome-oriented research projects. The objectives of UAY Scheme are to promote innovation in IITs addressing issues of manufacturing industries to spur innovative mindset and to co-ordinate action between academia & industry to strengthen research facilities.
4.	Department of Science & Technology	• Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Research Programme-industry institution program for drug development • SERB has a 'Scheme for Industry Relevant R&D'. This Scheme provides an opportunity for collaborative research between academic institutions and industry with an aim to bridge the gap between public funded research and industrial R&D. • IMP acting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) is an initiative to address major engineering challenges to enable, empower and embolden the nation for inclusive growth and self-reliance. Department of Science and Technology is partnering with Ministry of Human Resource Development in implementing this program.
5.	Department of Biotechnology	• Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP) • Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) • PACE (Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise) to encourage/support academia to develop technology/product (up to PoC stage) of societal/national importance and its subsequent validation by an industrial partner.
6.	Indian Space Research Organisation	RESPOND (Sponsored Research and Development Programme in the area of space technology)-RESPOND Programme is mutually beneficial to ISRO and Academia, wherein the rich talent of Academia/ faculty is being harnessed to support the Nation's Space Programme.
7.	Ministry of Finance	• Under section 35(2AA) of IT Act, corporate industries are eligible to claim 175% tax deduction for sponsored scientific research projects in national laboratories, universities and IITs

(b) and (c) Several Large Scale Science Projects are being undertaken at several national institutes and R&D organizations with the support of Government Departments. These include:

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), autonomous body of DSIR has launched several Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) for concerted and sustained efforts in an identified area by synergizing the best competencies available in various CSIR Laboratories. These include Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA) Mission, Catalysis for Sustainable Development (CSD) Mission, INPROTICS-Pharma & Agro, Aroma Mission and Phytopharmaceuticals Mission.

Department of Science and Technology

• India is participating in the construction of Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) in USA. In this project, India's in-kind contributions include Hardware (Segment Support Assemblies, Actuators, Edge Sensors, Segment Polishing and Segment Coating), Instrumentation (First Light Instruments) and Software (Observatory Software and Telescope Control Systems).

• JNCASR, Bengaluru is working in the area of-Application of Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering (SERS) for non-PCR based RNA/DNA detection of HIV, Development of diagnostic probe/ agents for Alzheimer's disease (in-cellulo studies), Materials and devices for 'Waste heat to electrical energy' conversion, Diagnostics for Candida species detection in clinical samples, Solution

processed solar cell-development, performance monitoring and prototypes, Renewable energy, Organic phosphorescent materials, and Organic porous materials for hydrogen storage and catalytic hydrogen generation and adsorptive based separations (separation of C8 isomers, and C_2H_2 from C_2H_4).

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Programme on Advanced Materials at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore;

- Transdisciplinary shock wave research and applications programme at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; and

- DRDO has also established Centres of Excellence at Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata for Cryptology, University of Hyderabad for High Energy Materials, Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune for Nanotechnology and Indian Institute of Technology Madras for Research & Innovation to undertake large scale science projects.

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)

- Indus Synchrotons at Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore;

- Variable Energy Cyclotron, Super Conducting Cyclotron and Radioactive Ion Beam at Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata;

- Low Energy High Intensity Proton Accelerator and Electron Beam Centre at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai.

(d) Yes, the Government is considering to augment investment to strengthen the academics and industry interface in science during this year and in the coming years. For example, a budget of Rs. 3552.27 crore has been estimated for continuation of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) which includes Rs. 2088.22 crore till 2019-20 and the balance of Rs. 1464.05 crore as committed spillover/liabilities during 2020-2024; a budget of Rs. 3600 crore has been estimated for launching the National Mission on

Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems during the next five years; and a budget of Rs. 347.73 crore has been allocated for the five CSIR Missions as stated above.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to further strengthen the academics and industry interface in science include:

The Union Cabinet on 7th December, 2018 has approved the launching of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems to be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology. The NM-ICPS is a comprehensive mission which would address technology development, application development, human resource development, skill enhancement, entrepreneurship and start-up development in CPS and associated technologies. The Mission aims at establishment of 15 numbers of Technology Innovation Hubs, six numbers of Application Innovation Hubs and four numbers of Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP). These hubs and TTRPs will connect to academics, industry, central ministries and State Government in developing solutions at reputed academic, R&D and other organisations across the country in a hub and spoke model; and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has established 'MHRD's Innovation Cell (MIC)' to systematically foster the culture of Innovation amongst all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). MIC has envisioned creation of 'Institution's Innovation Council (IICs)' across selected HEIs. Function of Institution's Innovation Council is to promote innovation in the Institution through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-system in the campus, including networking with peers and national entrepreneurship development organizations and organizing Hackathons, idea competition, mini-challenges etc. with the involvement of industries.

Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme

400. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
   SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
   SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
   SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
   SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM:
   DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
   DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the aims and objectives of Prime Minister's 15-point programme being implemented for the welfare of minorities along with its implementation status in the minority concentrated districts in the country especially in the State of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year;

(b)   whether the Government has evaluated the physical and financial performance of the programme since its inception;

(c)   if so, the details thereof along with the achievements made under various schemes included in the programme during the above period;

(d)   whether the Government proposes to remodel the said programme for its effective implementation, if so, the details thereof and the changes likely to be made in the said programme and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e)   whether the Government has taken any step under 15-point programme so that the unemployed persons of the minority community could register themselves to get employment and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (e) Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities (PM's New 15-PP) is an overarching programme, covering various Page 1 of 2 schemes/initiatives of the participating Ministries/Departments; and is implemented throughout the country, including the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. All the schemes/initiatives included in the programme are implemented by the participating Ministries /Departments, either exclusively for or by earmarking of 15% of overall physical/financial targets for minorities or by monitoring the flow of funds in the minority concentration areas for the welfare of minorities in the country.

The programame aims to promote opportunities for education as well as social welfare by ensuring equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs. As per information received from the participating Ministries/Departments, the details of targets and achievements as available, under various schemes/ initiatives covered under the programme; including funds sanctioned, released and utilized during the last three years as well as the current year in various States/UTs, including Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, are available on the Ministry's official website *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.*

The objectives of the PM's New 15-PP are as under:

(i)   Enhancing opportunities for education;

(ii)   Ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment, and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs;

(iii) Improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes; and

(iv)   Prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence.

The performance of schemes/initiatives of other Ministries and Departments included in the PM's New 15-PP is evaluated by the concerned Ministries and is a continuous process. The schemes of this Ministry meant exclusively for minority communities are also evaluated continuously; and as and when it is warranted.

Lignite Coal Production

401. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
     SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
     SHANKARRAO:
     SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM:
     SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
     SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
     SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   the grade, quantity and value of lignite coal produced from various operational mines in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited during the current year, and its value in international market;

(b)   the total income earned during the above period;

(c)   the measures taken by the Government to produce more quantity of high grade lignite coal from Neyveli coal mines;

(d)   the total quantity and quality of coal supplied to the thermal power stations during the current year together with its performance in generation of power; and

(e)   the other steps taken by the Government to provide adequate infrastructural logistic and technological facilities to NLC Limited?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The grade, quantity, value of lignite coal produced and income earned from various operational mines in NLC India Limited (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited) during the current year (2018-19 up to November, 2018) are furnished below:

Name of Mines & State	Grade	Quantity (Lakh Tonnes)	Value (Domestic) Rupees Crores (Prov.)	Income Earned Rupees Crores
Mine-I, Tamil Nadu	G-16	39.70	734.98	1,029.62
Mine-II, Tamil Nadu	G-16	69.23	1283.29	1,566.87
Mine-IA, Tamil Nadu	G-15	19.19	355.03	388.48
Barsinghsar, Rajasthan	G-16	07.14	63.36	76.12
Total				3,061.09

Since the total lignite produced is being used domestically by NLCIL's own pit head power stations and some quantity is sold in the domestic market for paper & cement industries, value of production in international market is not ascertainable.

(c)   The grade of lignite produced by NLCIL ranges between G-15 to G-17. It is not possible to separate the high grade lignite exclusively from among these grades, mainly due to the inconsistent quality range within the lignite seam.

(d)   The quantity of G 15 and G 16 grade lignite supplied to thermal power stations of NLCIL in Neyveli, Tamil Nadu and Barsingsar, Rajasthan is 143.16 LT and to TAQA-IPP (Independent Power Producer) is 7.92 LT during 2018-19 (up to November, 2018).

(e)   NLCIL is making investments in provision of logistical and technological infrastructure. The mining is carried out with mechanized Specialized Mining Equipments (SME) and Conventional Mining Equipments (CME). SME include continuous mining systems *viz.* Bucket Wheel Excavators for excavation, Conveyors for transportation and Spreader for dumping & stacking. CME consist of Shovels & Dumpers. Lignite mined out from NLCIL mines is being transported to the pit head power stations through mechanized system of high speed conveyors.

National Digital Communication Policy

402. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
        SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
        SHRI B.VINOD KUMAR:
        SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
        DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
        SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether regulatory barriers and regulatory burdens hampered the investment, innovation and consumer interest in telecom sector;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Union Government has notified the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 for improvement in the regulatory framework for attracting investment and ensuring fair competition, if so, the details thereof;

(d)   whether the aforesaid policy proposes to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and related acts including restructuring of the legal, licensing and regulatory framework;

(e)   if so, the details thereof and the time by when the aforesaid amendment is likely to be made;

(f)   the other major features of the policy; and

(g)   the time by which new policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to

(g) After approval of the Union Cabinet, the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP 2018) was notified on 22 October, 2018 with a vision to support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society. Regulatory reform is not a one-off effort, but a dynamic, long-term and multidisciplinary process. The Policy accordingly, recognises the importance of continued improvement in the regulatory framework for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve the needs of Indian citizens and aims at:

- Attracting long-term, high quality and sustainable investments

- Pursuing regulatory reforms to ensure that the regulatory structures and processes remain relevant, transparent, accountable and forward-looking.

Amending the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and other relevant Acts for the purpose of convergence and restructuring of legal, licensing and regulatory frameworks for reaping the benefits of convergence have been envisaged in the Policy for enabling Infrastructure Convergence of IT (Information Technology), telecom and broadcasting.

The key objectives of the NDCP, 2018 are:

1. Provisioning of Broadband for all.

2. Creating 4 Million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector.

3. Enhancing the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from ~ 6% in 2017.

4. Propelling India to the Top 50 Nations in the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Development Index of ITU (International Telecommunication Union) from 134 in 2017.

5. Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains.

6. Ensuring Digital Sovereignty.

7. The NDCP, 2018 objectives and goals are to be achieved by year 2022.

Over-The-Top Service

403. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
    SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
    DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
    KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:
    SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
    SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Over-the-top (OTT) communication service in the country;

(b) whether lawful interception of Over-The-Top (OTT) communication service is required in the interest of national security, if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there are no statistics available in the public domain about the effectiveness of mechanism adopted by communication service providers to deal with the cases of multiple complaints against same number, if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether telcos have sought regulatory framework for OTT players;

(e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued another consultation paper as issued three years back to seek views on regulatory framework for OTT players;

(g) if so, the response of OTT players thereon; and

(h) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As per the Consultation Paper on 'Regulatory Framework for OTT Services' released by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in 2015, Over-The-Top (OTT) provider is a service provider which offers Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services, but neither operates a network nor leases network capacity from a network operator. There are basically three types of OTT services:

- Messaging and voice services (communication services);

- Application ecosystems (mainly non-real time), linked to social networks, e-commerce;

- Video/audio content.

OTT communication services provide real time telecommunication services using the network infrastructure of the Telecom Service Provider (TSP).

(b)   The lawful interception of message (including OTT messages) passing through the network of TSPs is required in the interest of national security as guided by Section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

(c)   There are no such statistics available in the public domain. There is no such category available in Centralized Public Grievance Redress And Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal of Government of India.

(d) and (e) In 2014, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) had raised the issue of regulatory imbalance between TSPs and OTT players who are providing same or similar services as that of TSPs. The reasons for their concern were that the TSPs are being subjected to several regulatory and licensing conditions, including payment of Licence fee, revenue share etc. and that the OTT players by providing the same or similar services using their network without any regulatory obligations and at the same time this is impacting their revenue.

(f)   TRAI has issued the Consultation Paper on 'Regulatory Framework for Over-The-Top (OTT) Communication Service' on 12th November, 2018. It is not the same as the Consultation Paper issued on 27th March, 2015. The present consultation discusses only the issue of imbalance between TSPs and OTT players providing services that can be regarded as same or similar to services offered by TSPs and issues relating to economic aspects of such OTT services. On the other hand, the Consultation Paper of 2015 focused on possible regulatory and licensing framework for OTT services along with related safety, security and privacy concerns in addition to net neutrality issues.

(g)   The last date for submitting the comments and counter comments of stakeholders is 10th December, 2018 and 24th December, 2018 respectively. Comments and counter comments will be published on TRAI website *www. trai.gov.in.*

(h)   No time limit has been fixed by TRAI so far for finalizing its recommendations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on the above.

[Translation]

Affordable Cancer Care

404. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether cancer is a global epidemic that requires radically new approaches through inter-disciplinary and multi-national efforts, if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government had signed any MoU for the partnership between Department of Biotechnology and Cancer Research, UK for the India-UK Cancer Research Initiative for Affordable treatment of Cancer;

(c)   if so, the details thereof;

(d)   whether India-UK Cancer Research Initiative will provide a cataloging platform for scientists and researchers in UK and India to co-create solutions for affordable cancer care that improve cancer treatment outcomes around the globe;

(e)   if so, whether India-UK Cancer Research Initiative provides an opportunity to tackle the global epidemic of cancer by opening new pathways for international knowledge exchange and research base;

(f)   if so, the details thereof; and

(g)   the amount of investment proposed by both the countries in this initiative?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes, Madam. Cancer is a global epidemic with approximately seven lakhs cancer patients being registered every year in India alone and it is estimated that worldwide cancer incidence will rise by 63% by 2040. It requires new approaches to solving complex

challenges through inter-disciplinary and multi-national efforts. Many efforts both globally and nationally are being undertaken by various agencies across the world and in India to tackle the global epidemic of cancer.

(b)   Yes, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has signed an MoU with Cancer Research UK under the wide-ranging theme of "affordable approaches to cancer".

(c)   Under this agreement the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) have agreed to work together to design, deliver and fund a 5-year, bilateral cancer research initiative under the wide-ranging theme of "affordable approaches to cancer". The broad aim of this initiative is to support high quality research and deliver innovative and translatable outputs that accelerate progress against cancer outcomes in both countries, and which also have the potential to have major global impact.

The India-UK Cancer Research Initiative will provide a catalysing platform for scientists and researchers in the India and UK to co-create solutions for affordable cancer care that improve cancer outcomes around the globe.

(d) to (f) Yes, this Initiative will build on the respective strengths of India and the UK in biomedical research and innovation. In order to establish new bilateral research partnerships to address agreed cancer research priorities, DBT and CRUK will provide collaborative awards to Indian and UK researchers on the priorities identified. The partnership hopes to bring together interdisciplinary approach for developing affordable solutions to cancer treatment.

The broad aim is to support high quality research and deliver innovative and translatable outputs that accelerate progress against cancer outcomes in both countries, and which also have the potential to have major global impact. The initiative will leverage scientific opportunity in the UK and India including: clinical research, population research and the engineering and physical science.

(g)   Over 5 years, the total research funding for the Initiative shall be ten million pounds (approximately Rs. 90 crores). Both CRUK and DBT will match funding with an equal contribution of five million pounds (approximately Rs. 45 crores) each.

[English]

Universal Service Obligation Fund

405. SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:
     SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:
     KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the amount collected by way of charging Universal Access Levy (UAL) on telecom operators, since 2014, year-wise, to date;

(b)   the details of the figures of balance amount in the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) starting from FY 2013-14 till FY 2017-18;

(c)   the year-wise list of projects introduced that are being funded through the USOF since 2014 and disbursement of funds project-wise for each year;

(d)   whether Telecom Companies currently pay 5% of the AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) towards maintaining USOF;

(e)   whether the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to fund projects to boost connectivity in rural and remote areas and the details of the main functions of USOF; and

(f)   the measures being taken to promote progressive technologies to enhance rural infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Year-wise details of Universal Access Levy (UAL) from 2013-14 to date are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b)   Balance of Universal Access Levy (UAL) from 2013-14 to 2017-18 is enclosed Statement-II.

(c)   Subsidy disbursed under various USOF Schemes from 2013-14 to 2017-18 and current financial year is enclosed Statement-III.

(d)   Yes.

(e)   The main functions of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) include:

- Providing access to telecom services to people in the rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices.

- Provide subsidy support for enabling access to all types of telecom services including mobile services, broadband connectivity and creation of infrastructure like OFC in rural and remote areas.

- Formulation of benchmark cost and finalizing of bidding procedure/process including relevant terms and conditions for this purpose.

- Monitor the performance of the schemes through Designated Agencies.

(f)   The details of measures being taken to promote progressive technologies to enhance rural infrastructure is enclosed as Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Year-wise collection of Universal Access Levy (UAL)

Year	Rs. in crore
2014-15	7537.88
2015-16	9835.70
2016-17	9763.87
2017-18	7019.22
2018-19	2182.16

Statement-II

Balance of Universal Access Levy (UAL) from 2013-14 to 2017-18

Year	Rs. in crore
2014-15	39133.76
2015-16	45869.46
2016-17	48406.29
2017-18	48426.75

Statement-III

Year-wise Subsidy Disbursed under various us of Schemes introduced since 2013-14

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (upto 31.10.2018)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra					6.91	
2.	BharatNet	514.00	1351.86	2415.10	5600.00	6000.00	1500.00
3.	Mobile Connectivity in Left Wing Extremism areas (LWE)		596.51	617.05	280.68	710.90	253.90
4.	Augmentation, Creation and Management of Optical Fiber Network in Assam (OFC Assam)		31.40				0.77
5.	Augmentation, Creation and Management of Optical Fiber Network in NE-I (OFC-NE-I)			3.95	14.48		
6.	Augmentation, Creation and Management of Optical Fiber Network in NE-II (OFC NE-II)				13.04		
7.	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Andaman and Nicobar Islands			8.10			56.00
8.	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Lakshadweep				4.65		
9.	Submarine OFC connectivity in A&N Islands						93.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Uncovered Villages under A&N					0.03	
11.	Wi-Fi hotspots at 200 Gram Panchayats by BSNL using BharatNet backhaul, as a pilot project					2.81	
12.	Setting up of Wi-Fi Choupals at 5,000 Gram Panchayats by Common Service Centre				35.70	68.16	
13.	Setting up of 25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots using the infrastructure of BSNL's telephone exchanges in rural areas					187.50	
14.	Wi-Fi delivery model at 200 rural Railway Stations by M/s RailTel using their own backhaul, as a pilot project					7.39	0.50

Statement-IV

The details of measures being taken to promote progressive technologies to enhance rural infrastructure

1. A Scheme to support pilot projects on innovative technology, business model or any other aspect relating to provisions of broadband services in rural areas with USOF support.

2. A pilot project for setting up Wi-Fi hotspots at 200 rural railway stations by Railtel at an approx. capital cost of Rs. 16.74 crore and annual operating cost of Rs. 11.03 crore has been implemented.

3. A project to set up Wi-Fi Network in all the Gram Panchayats with 5 Access Points, out of which 3 APs to be placed at Government institutions.

[Translation]

Coal Linkage

406. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government at present to rationalise coal linkage;

(b) whether CIL has streamlined the coal linkage sources of public sector power plants at present;

(c) if so, the benefit derived by the Government due to it; and

(d) the cost incurred in washing coal in public sector power plants at present including the details thereof State-wise, plant-wise for the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Rationalization of Coal Linkage: An Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) was constituted in June, 2014 to undertake a comprehensive review of existing sources of coal with a view to optimize transportation cost and materialization under the given technical constraints. The linkage rationalization for State/ Central PSUs was implemented initially, based on IMTF recommendation and carried forward by Coal India Limited (CIL)/Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) based on coal availability and requests of public sector Power Plants. Policy for Linkage rationalization for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) has been issued on 15.05.2018.

(b) and (c) CIL has rationalized sources (subsidiary company-wise) based on the request of public sector power plants with a view to optimize the transportation cost and materialization taking into account coal availability and logistics. Overall movement rationalization of 61.08 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal has taken place with annual potential savings of Rs. 3,651 crore.

(d) The average processing cost incurred in washing coal by CIL for public sector power plants at present including the details thereof State-wise, plant-wise for the past three years is as under:

CIL:

Cost of washing (in Rs per tonne)

Subsidiary - State	Non-Coking Coal washeries	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Jharkhand	CCL	307.15	175.62	157.21
Uttar Pradesh	NCL, Bina Deshaling Plant	76.88	24.63	43.98

SCCL:

Cost of washing (in Rs per tonne)

Company - State	Coal washeries	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
SCCL-Telangana	MNG	280.40	333.43	258.63
	RG II	290.70	270.19	-
	RKP	186.98	150.93	163.51

Defence Cooperation with Foreign Countries

407. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
     SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
     SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
     SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
     SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   the countries with which discussions were held on defence co-operation during the last three years and the current year along with the details thereof;

(b)   the countries with which agreement for exchange of defence equipment and technology has been signed during the last three years along with the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has signed a defence equipment and technology agreement with any country for the jawans posted at Siachen; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Details of countries are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) and (d) All efforts are made to ensure availability of necessary equipment and technology for our Armed Forces. Specific details are not being placed in the public domain for operational reasons.

Statement-I

Names of countries with which discussions held on defence cooperation during the last three years and the current year

Sl.No.	Country
1.	Afghanistan
2.	Armenia
3.	Australia
4.	Belarus
5.	Bangladesh
6.	Bhutan
7.	Botswana
8.	Brazil
9.	Brunei
10.	Cambodia
11.	Canada
12.	Czech Republic
13.	China
14.	Egypt
15.	France
16.	Fiji
17.	Germany
18.	Greece
19.	Indonesia
20.	Israel
21.	Italy
22.	Japan
23.	Jordan
24.	Kazakhstan
25.	Kenya
26.	Kyrgyz
27.	Lao PDR

Sl.No.	Country
28.	Lesotho
29.	Madagascar
30.	Malaysia
31.	Maldives
32.	Mauritius
33.	Mozambique
34	Mongolia
35.	Morocco
36.	Myanmar
37.	Namibia
38.	Nepal
39.	New Zealand
40.	Nigeria
41.	Oman
42.	Philippines
43.	Poland
44.	Portugal
45.	Rawanda
46.	Republic of Korea
47.	Russia
48.	Saudi Arabia
49.	Serbia
50.	Seychelles
51.	Singapore
52.	South Africa
53.	Spain
54.	Sri Lanka
55.	Sweden
56.	Switzerland
57.	Tajikistan
58.	Tanzania
59.	Thailand
60.	Turkmenistan
61.	Uganda

Sl.No.	Country
62.	United Arab Emirates
63.	United Kingdom
64.	Ukraine
65.	USA
66.	Uzbekistan
67.	Vietnam
68.	Zambia
69.	Zimbabwe

Statement-II

Names of countries with which agreement of exchange of defence equipment and technology signed during 2016 to 2018:

1. Afghanistan

2. Canada

3. France

4. Japan

5. Kyrgyzstan

6. Philippines

7. Russia

8. Seychelles

9. UAE

10. USA

11. Vietnam.

[Translation]

Crime in Trains

408. SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:
     SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
     SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
     SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in the number of cases of burglary, looting and other crimes against passengers in various long distance trains;

(b)   if so, the number of such instances reported during the last three years, zone-wise and the details of relief given to the affected families/passengers by the Government; and

(c)   the action taken and efforts made by the Railways to check such incidents and ensure fear-free journey of passengers in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The cases of dacoity, robbery and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways are in decreasing trend during the last three years except the cases of theft of passengers' belongings. No incident of burglary has been reported in long distance trains during the last three years. The number of cases of burglary, dacoity, robbery, theft of passengers' belongings and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 is enclosed as Statement.

The amount of compensation paid to the affected families/passengers in cases of burglary, dacoity, robbery, theft of passengers belongings and drugging during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 over Indian Railways is as under:–

Year	Amount of compensation/Relief provided to the victims (in Rs.)
2015	1,40,500/-
2016	2,23,550/-
2017	48,222/-

(c)   Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However,

Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area & passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Besides, the following steps are also being taken by the Railways to ensure fear-free journey of passengers:–

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.

2. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 453 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.

3. Security Help Line Number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.

4. An Integrated Security System (ISS) consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.

5. Railways has planned to provide CCTV system in all running passengers trains.

6. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.

7. Regular coordination is made with the State Police/GRP Authorities at all levels for prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.

Statement

Number of cases of burglary, dacoity, robbery, theft of passengers' belongings and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017

Zonal Railway	Year	Burglary	Dacoity	Robbery	Theft of Passengers' Belongings	Drugging
Central	2015	0	6	153	1814	37
	2016	0	10	83	2354	40
	2017	0	6	54	3907	18

Zonal Railway	Year	Burglary	Dacoity	Robbery	Theft of Passengers' Belongings	Drugging
Eastern	2015	0	1	2	215	42
	2016	0	1	3	196	16
	2017	0	2	1	214	9
East Central	2015	0	6	6	643	22
	2016	0	2	1	1094	20
	2017	0	1	10	675	14
East Coast	2015	0	6	6	390	8
	2016	0	1	2	489	2
	2017	0	1	9	466	4
Northern	2015	0	5	103	2571	38
	2016	0	7	93	2746	19
	2017	0	4	81	2480	20
North Central	2015	0	4	30	746	15
	2016	0	2	42	802	10
	2017	0	0	37	1076	18
North Eastern	2015	0	1	15	354	18
	2016	0	5	39	398	23
	2017	0	0	16	367	13
Northeast Frontier	2015	0	1	0	122	4
	2016	0	0	1	191	10
	2017	0	1	2	185	12
North Western	2015	0	0	1	475	15
	2016	0	1	4	419	6
	2017	0	0	0	410	10
Southern	2015	0	0	8	152	2
	2016	0	0	11	154	10
	2017	0	0	26	277	1
South Central	2015	0	0	31	1403	22
	2016	0	0	47	1521	10
	2017	0	1	35	2093	5
South Eastern	2015	0	1	2	236	9
	2016	0	0	1	362	8
	2017	0	0	2	358	2
South East Central	2015	0	0	8	350	10

Zonal Railway	Year	Burglary	Dacoity	Robbery	Theft of Passengers' Belongings	Drugging
	2016	0	0	4	362	7
	2017	0	1	6	516	3
South Western	2015	0	1	1	116	6
	2016	0	1	8	149	2
	2017	0	0	13	363	3
Western	2015	0	6	10	1028	20
	2016	0	2	24	937	9
	2017	0	5	20	1706	14
West Central	2015	0	2	83	2169	26
	2016	0	3	50	2760	27
	2017	0	5	68	2844	8

[English]

Establishment of New Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh

409. SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN:
SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS:
SHRI KONAKALLA NARAYANA RAO:
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the railway zone to be established in Andhra Pradesh (AP);

(b) the reasons for the long delay that has been caused and steps the Government is taking to expedite the process; and

(c) whether the Government has set any deadline for the establishment of new railway zone and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, Ministry of Railways was required to examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway Zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh. To, *inter alia*, examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway Zone; a Committee of senior Railway officers had been constituted. The Committee was asked to consult various stake holders, including the Members of Parliament, State Governments, etc. before a final decision is taken. The Committee has already submitted its report. In view of the complexities involved in the exercise, no time frame can be fixed in this regard as the matter is under further detailed examination in the Ministry of Railways.

Call Drop Situation

410. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of concerns over the worsening call drop situation in the Country, the Union Government has recently decided to have a meeting with telecom operators to discuss the situation and explore avenues to counter it;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with the telecom operators and strategies formulated to counter call drop situation; and

(c) the number of complaints in regard to call drops received from consumers during the current year and steps taken to check call drops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has been interacting with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and

reviewing the progress of their action-plans for addressing call drops in their mobile networks on a continuous basis.

(b) DoT has recently interacted with concerned TSPs in October, 2018 to lay emphasis on developing technological solutions by TSPs to monitor & address call drops in their mobile networks. TSPs have informed DoT that they have been continuously augmenting the mobile networks across the country to keep-up with increasing usage of mobile networks both for voice & data services. Further, they have started implementing latest technical solutions & tool-sets such as Geo-location Analysis, Self Organising Networks (S.O.N.), Remote Electrical Antenna Tilt (RET) etc. for monitoring and addressing the identified issues in near real-time.

(c) About 1570 complaints relating to call drop/ improper network coverage have been received through Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) in DoT during the period, 1st January, 2018 to 5th December, 2018.

In order to address call-drops, following steps have been taken by the Government/TSPs:

(i) DoT has taken several policy initiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth for delivery of quality services. These include permitting trading/sharing/liberalisation of spectrum already granted, permitting passive & active infrastructure-sharing, Notification of Right of Way Rules-2016, making available government land/buildings for installations of towers etc.

(ii) About 9.74 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by TSPs since July, 2015 across the country. The number of BTS installed have been significantly increased from about 7.94 lakh in March, 2014 to about 20.07 lakh in November, 2018. Moreover, about 9.59 lakh 2G/3G Cells have been rectified/optimised by TSPs during July'16 to October'18.

(iii) In order to obtain direct feedback from subscribers, DoT has launched an Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) wherein, around 2.15 crore subscribers have been individually contacted since December, 2016, out of which 30.1 lakh subscribers have participated in the survey. The feedback is shared with the TSPs every week for taking corrective actions.

As a result of continuous efforts, significant improvement has been observed in terms of TSPs' compliance to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Quality of Service benchmark(s) on call-drop rate in spite of rapid increase in traffic volume and more stringent TRAI benchmark(s) effective from 1st October, 2017.

Awareness about Welfare Schemes

411. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
        SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
        SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated the performance of its awareness campaign initiated to create awareness among the minority communities of the schemes/ programmes meant for their welfare in the country, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether there is an increase in beneficiaries of the said schemes/programmes after such awareness campaign, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and Scheme/Programme-wise during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) The awareness campaign is carried out under the Scheme of Research/ Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Schemes including Publicity of this Ministry to create awareness among the six Centrally notified minority communities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains, about the schemes/programmes implemented by this Ministry for their welfare in the country. An evaluation study of this scheme of awareness has been conducted in 2014 and a copy of this Study Report is available on the website of the Ministry at *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.* Based on the recommendations of this Study, the scheme

has been revised and approved for implementation during 2017-18 to 2019-20. A copy of the Guidelines of this scheme is also available on the website of the Ministry at *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.*

Awareness campaigns carried out by this Ministry have created positive impact on the targeted beneficiaries which has resulted in increase in the number of applications received in case of the three scholarship schemes, namely, Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes, of this Ministry. Similarly, other schemes of the Ministry have also been benefitted through positive impact on the targeted groups through the nationwide awareness campaigns. The State/UT-wise details of applications received and number of beneficiaries under the said three scholarship schemes are available on the website of the Ministry at *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.*

The Government has taken up multi-media campaign to spread awareness of welfare schemes meant for minorities through print and electronic media, All India Radio Network including FM Channels, and websites all over the country. Pocket booklets and pamphlets on various schemes/programmes of the Ministry are published in Hindi, English, Urdu and other regional languages. In order to directly reach out to the public especially minority communities and spread awareness among them, 'Progress Panchayats' are organized in various places. Regional Coordination & Review Conferences are also held with State Governments from time to time where, *inter alia*, information about the Ministry's schemes is provided. In addition, outdoor publicity is also being done by organizing 'Hunar Haat'. Recently, Hunar Haats have been organized at (i) India International Trade Fair 2016, 2017 & 2018, (ii) Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi in February, 2017 & 2018, (iii) Puducherry in September, 2017, & October, 2018, (iv) Mumbai in January, 2018, and (v) Allahabad in September, 2018, to further promote traditional crafts/arts, generate employment and strengthen their market linkages.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Female Personnels

412.   SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the policy for recruitment of female personnels in each of the three services of armed forces the Navy, the Army and the Air Force;

(b)   the service-wise and year-wise number of females recruited in these services during the last three years;

(c)   the service-wise percentage of female personnels as compared to male personnels in the three services as on date;

(d)   whether the Government is running any special scheme to increase female participation in defence forces; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Presently, women are inducted in Indian Army through Short Service Commission (Technical) and Short Service Commission (Non-Technical) entries. The induction is governed by SAI I/93 and AI 3/98.

Women are inducted in all the branches and streams of IAF service. Terms and conditions for women officers are issued from time to time.

In Indian Navy, women officers are inducted through Short Service Commission, in Logistics, Law, Observers, Medical, Dental, Air Traffic Control (ATC), Pilots (Maritime Reconnaissance Stream), Naval Armament Inspectorate Cadre (NAIC), Naval Architecture and Education Branch.

(b)   Women are recruited in the Army, Navy and Air Force in the officer cadre only. The number of women officers in the Indian Army (excluding Medical, Dental & Nursing Branch), in the Indian Air Force (excluding Medical and Dental Branch) and in the Indian Navy (including Medical and Dental) recruited during the last three years, Service-wise, are as under:–

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2015	72	35	223
2016	69	44	108
2017	66	42	59

(c)   The percentage of women officers in the three services of armed forces are as under:–

Percentage of women officers

Army	Navy	Air Force
3.80%	6%	13.09%
(as on 1.7.2018)	(as on 5.12.2018)	(as on 1.12.2018)

(d) and (e) In 2011, the Government approved consideration of women Short Service Commission Officers (SSCOs) for grant of permanent commission along with men SSCOs in specific branches in the three services *viz.* Judge Advocate General (JAG), and Army Education Corps (AEC) of the Army and their corresponding branches in Navy and Air Force, Naval Constructor in Navy and Accounts Branch in Air Force.

In March, 2016, approval has been accorded for induction of women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers as Pilots in Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) stream and in the Naval Armament Inspectorate (NAI) cadre.

In the Indian Air Force since 1993, women officers have been inducted in all branches and stream as Short Service Commissioned Officers except in the fighter stream. However, IAF has revised Short Service Commission Scheme to induct women into the fighter stream on experimental basis for five years. The first batch of three women officers was commissioned in the fighter stream on June 18, 2016.

In addition, steps like increasing tenure of women officers and improving promotional prospects in Army have been taken to increase participation of women in the Army.

[English]

Launch of Satellites By ISRO

413. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether ISRO has launched several satellites in the last few months;

(b)   if so, the details along with the features of each of them;

(c)   whether the launch of Chandrayaan 2 has been postponed by ISRO again and whether it proposes to work on smaller launch vehicles;

(d)   if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the salient features of the mission; and

(e)   the time by which the said mission is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINIATER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Madam.

(b)   The details are:

CARTO-2F, IRNSS-1I, Nova-SAR, S1-4, GSAT-29, HysIS, GSAT-11 and 59 international co-passenger satellites

●   CARTO-2F is a high resolution satellite with 0.65 M resolution-PSLV-C38.

●   29 Co-passenger Nano-satellites (14 countries-Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, UK, USA)-PSLV-C38

●   IRNSS-1I is a navigation satellite which is part of the NaVIC constellation-PSLV-C41

●   Nova SAR and S1-4 (from UK for earth observation) are two foreign satellites-PSLV-C42

●   GSAT-29 is a high throughput communication satellite-GSLV-Mk III-D2

●   HysIS is a hyper spectral imaging satellite which provides multiple features of the image-PSLV-C43

●   30 Co-passenger satellites (Australia-1, Canada-1, Columbia-1, Finland-1, Malasia-1, Netherlands-1, Spain-1, USA-23)-PSLV-C43

●   GSAT-11 is India's biggest communication satellite to be part of the digital India Program providing communication in Ku/Ka band (Arian 5 VA-246)

(c) to (e) Chandrayan-2 is planned to be launched by first quarter of 2019 by GSLV MK-III. Chandrayaan-2

is the second lunar mission of India and will carry Orbiter, Lander and Rover. ISRO is working on small satellite launchers also.

Internet and Broadband Facility in Rural Areas

414. DR. KULMANI SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unsatisfactory usage of internet and broadband penetration, especially in rural areas has received attention of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, operator-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether there is reluctance in investment thereof in the rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise including the position in Odisha; and

(e) the measures taken up by the Government to ensure better internet and broadband penetration network, State-wise especially in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) As per "The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators" reports published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Licensed Service Area-wise details of penetration of internet and broadband users (subscribers) in rural areas of the country as on 30th June, 2018 is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) to (e) BharatNet Project, to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakh) by broadband in the country including Odisha, is being implemented in a phased manner. As on 02.12.2018, a total of 1,21,652 GPs have been connected by laying 3,01,154 Km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 1,16,411 GPs, which are Service Ready. The State/UT-wise details of the BharatNet Project, are enclosed as Statement-II.

As part of BharatNet Project, the last mile connectivity is being provided at all the GPs in the country, including Odisha through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology to access broadband/internet services. Every

GP is being provided with 5 Access Points (APs) on an average *i.e.* 2 APs at Public places & 3 APs at Government Institutions such as school, hospital, post offices, police station, etc. For around 1.05 lakh GPs, the agencies for setting up of Wi-Fi hotspots have been selected. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,359 GPs and out of them, services are being provided at 10,775 GPs, catering to more than 11 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 50 Tera Byte per month.

In Odisha, a total of 3805 GPs have been connected under BharatNet Project by laying 11729 Km OFC as on 02.12.2018. OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 3,470 GPs, which are Service Ready.

In addition, the following initiatives have also been taken towards provision of broadband/internet service:

(a) Setting up of Wi-Fi Choupals at 5,000 Gram Panchayats, including Odisha, using BharatNet infrastructure.

(b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) Scheme for setting up of 25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots using the infrastructure of BSNL's telephone exchanges in rural areas, including Odisha.

Further, the Cabinet has approved a proposal for providing mobile connectivity in inhabited and uncovered villages at 4072 tower locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas in 10 States in Phase-II. This includes 483 tower locations in Odisha using 2G + 4G technology.

In addition to above, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October, 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services in the country including Odisha. In this auction, the spectrum as detailed below has been allocated in Odisha:

Spectrum Band	Quantum of Spectrum Allocated
2100 MHz	5 MHz (Paired)
2300 MHz	20 MHz
2500 MHz	20 MHz

In order to provide high speed internet services, 3G/4G networks are being rolled out progressively by the telecom service providers in rural as well as urban areas.

Statement-I

Licensed service area-wise penetration of internet and broadband users (subscribers) in rural areas (internet subscribers per 100 population) in the country as on as on 30th June, 2018

License Service Area	number of users (subscribers) of internet and broadband per 100 population
Andhra Pradesh	24.71
Assam	16.58
Bihar	13.62
Delhi	87.97
Gujarat	24.92
Haryana	24.63
Himachal Pradesh	40.05
Jammu and Kashmir	25.16
Karnataka	25.61
Kerala	31.02
Madhya Pradesh	11.47
Maharashtra	25.40
Mumbai	
North East	20.65
Odisha	19.81
Punjab	35.14
Rajasthan	20.73
Tamil Nadu	36.33
Uttar Pradesh (East)	13.94
Uttar Pradesh (West)	
Kolkata	16.61
West Bengal	
Total	19.48

Notes: Data/information for Andhra Pradesh includes Telangana, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhattisgarh, Bihar includes Jharkhand, Maharashtra includes Goa, Uttar Pradesh (West) includes Uttarakhand, West Bengal includes Sikkim and North-East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura States.

Statement-II

Status of BharatNet Project (as on 02.12.2018)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1160
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	43
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
4.	Assam	1589
5.	Bihar	5865
6.	Chandigarh	13
7.	Chhattisgarh	4052
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	21
9.	Daman and Diu	17
10.	Gujarat	5113
11.	Haryana	6186
12.	Himachal Pradesh	226
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	257
14.	Jharkhand	2302
15.	Karnataka	6110
16.	Kerala	1129
17.	Madhya Pradesh	12689
18.	Maharashtra	15126
19.	Manipur	248
20.	Meghalaya	122
21.	Mizoram	19
22.	Nagaland	86
23.	Odisha	3470
24.	Puducherry	101
25.	Punjab	7903
26.	Rajasthan	8447
27.	Sikkim	14
28.	Telangana	2047
29.	Tripura	527
30.	Uttar Pradesh	27940
31.	Uttarakhand	1508
32.	West Bengal	2081
	Total	116411

Signals of Indian Service Providers at Border

415. SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the Government has taken steps to jam signals from neighbouring countries as also to provide signals of Indian Service providers going across the border;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is also true that the department has taken steps to locate towers on the India side in a manner that their signals are not available across the border; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No Madam. The Department of Telecommunications has not taken steps to jam signals from neighbouring countries as also to provide signals of Indian Service providers going across the border.

(c) and (d) The Department of Telecommunications have directed the Telecom Service Providers in their respective license agreement(s) to ensure that while providing mobile telephone services near International Border of India, the Base Stations, Cell Sites or Radio Transmitters, wherever located and established, shall be as far away from such border as feasible and such Base Stations, Cell Sites or Radio Transmitters shall work in such a fashion that radio signal(s), emanating there from, fade out when nearing or about to cross international border and become unusable within a reasonable distance across such border.

[Translation]

Import of Arms

416. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:
      PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether India is ranked number one in import of weapons from other countries;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the expenditure made on import of weapons during the last three years;

(c)   whether the Government has reviewed or proposes to review the implications of such imports on national security and if so, the details thereof;

(d)   if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the defence preparedness to meet the challenges in this regard; and

(e)   the role played by make-in-India and digital movement in indigenous manufacturing of weapons so far and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) No authoritative and official information on India being the largest importer of defence equipment is available as no country officially reveals information on import of defence equipment. However, in the report published in February, 2017 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India has been shown as the largest importer of defence equipment for the year 2012-2016.

Capital procurement of defence equipment is undertaken from various domestic as well as foreign vendors, based on threat perception, operational challenges and technological changes and to keep the Armed Forces in a state of readiness to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges.

Government is pursuing initiatives to achieve higher levels of indigenisation and self-reliance in the defence sector by harnessing the capabilities of the public and private sector industries in the country. These measures include according priority and preference to procurement from Indian vendors and liberalization of the licensing regime.

During the last three years and in the current year, 121 contracts have been signed with Indian vendors and 67 contracts have been signed with foreign vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment for Armed Forces.

[English]

Aim of New Telecom Policy

417. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:
      DR. K. GOPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the new telecom policy aims to provide broadband access to all by 2022 and create at least 40 lakh new jobs in the sector in the next four years;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is also true that the policy has called for a review of levies and fees, including licence fee, universal service obligation fund levy and spectrum usage charges on the other and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   whether it is also true that this is expected to help the debt laden telecom sector and proposes to attract 100 billion US dollar investment, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The objectives of the National Digital Communications Policy includes provisioning of Broadband for all and creating 4 Million additional jobs in the Digital Communications Sector by year 2022.

(c) and (d) The policy recognizes the importance of continued improvement in the regulatory framework for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve the needs of Indian citizens. One of the goals of the policy is to attract investments of US dollar 100 billion in the Digital Communications Sector. For catalyzing investments in the digital communications sector, reviewing of levies and fees including licence fee, spectrum usages charge and universal service levy has been envisaged in the policy.

Conference of Heads of Missions

418. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:
     SHRI J. J. T. NATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has recently conducted a Conference of Heads of Missions in Delhi and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the total number of Indian Ambassadors and High Commissioners who attended the said conference;

(c)   the agenda discussed in the said meeting and the purpose and motive to conduct such conference;

(d)   whether the conference comes at the time when India is monitoring several important global developments including sanctions imposed by the United States on Russia and Iran and China's new assertiveness in Indo-Pacific region; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) and (b) Yes. The Annual Heads of Missions Conference was organized from June 30-July 2, 2018. 115 Indian Heads of Missions attended the Conference.

(c) to (e) Heads of Missions Conferences offer an opportunity to discuss the Government's Foreign Policy priorities with Ambassadors and High Commissioners, to take stock of the situation on the ground, and to discuss the contours of our external engagement as well as mechanisms for more coordination with other arms of the Government, including State Governments. The discussions are wide-ranging and include issues such as bilateral relations, regional and global developments and issues involving major countries, potential opportunities, consular and Diaspora issues, emerging technologies and development issues, soft power diplomacy, multilateral and global issues, etc.

Special Courts

419. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
     SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has any scheme to set up special courts to settle the cases of crimes against women and children in a speedy manner;

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

(c)   whether the Government has taken any measures to increase the number of courts in the country with a view to settle backlog of such pending cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Setting up of Subordinate Courts, including Special Courts lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

The Union Government had submitted a Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission for strengthening of the judicial system in States for an estimated expenditure of Rs. 9749.00 crore, which, *inter alia*, included establishment of 1800 Fast Track Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases of heinous crimes involving women, children, senior citizens etc. at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4144.00 crore. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution (from 32% to 42%) to meet funding requirements for setting up of such courts. The State-wise breakup of number of Fast Track Courts to be established and financial implication involved are given in enclosed Statement.

Recently, the Government of India has enacted the 'The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 which has, *inter alia*, effected amendments in the IPC, Cr.PC, The Indian Evidence Act and the POCSO Act, and has brought in stringent provisions for expeditious trial and disposal of cases exclusively pertaining to sexual offences against women and children.

Statement

State-wise breakup of requirement of funds for establishment of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for a period of five years (2015-2020) as endorsed by the 14th Finance Commission

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds (Rs. in crore)	Number of FTCs to be established
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	108.21	47
2.	Telangana	85.18	37
3.	Assam	82.88	36
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0
5.	Mizoram	16.12	7
6.	Nagaland	6.91	3
7.	Bihar	338.43	147
8.	Chhattisgarh	64.46	28
9.	Gujarat	400.59	174
10.	Himachal Pradesh	29.93	13
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	48.35	21
12.	Jharkhand	115.11	50
13.	Karnataka	218.72	95
14.	Kerala, Lakshadweep	94.39	41
15.	Madhya Pradesh	306.20	133
16.	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar, Daman and Diu	469.67	204
17.	Goa	11.51	5
18.	Manipur	6.91	3
19.	Meghalaya	9.21	4
20.	Odisha	145.04	63
21.	Punjab	115.11	50
22.	Chandigarh	4.61	2
	Haryana	110.51	48
23.	Rajasthan	214.11	93
24.	Sikkim	2.3	1
25.	Tamil Nadu, Puducherry	204.91	89
26.	Tripura	20.72	9
27.	Uttar Pradesh	488.08	212
28.	Uttarakhand	64.46	28
29.	West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	216.42	94
30.	Delhi	145.05	63
	Total	4144.11	1800

[Translation]

One Rank One Pension

420. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether One Rank One Pension (OROP) has been implemented by the Government for the personnel of Armed Forces;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether there is any resentment among the personnels of Armed Forces in this regard;

(d)   if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(e)   the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The Government has implemented One Rank One Pension (OROP) for Defence Forces Personnel with effect from 01.07.2014. As on 30.09.2017 (compiled till 01.05.2018), a sum of Rs. 10,795.40 crores has been released to 20,60,220 Defence Forces Pensioners/Family Pensioners in four instalments towards the arrears.

(c) to (e) Some Ex-Servicemen Associations have been demanding changes in methodology for fixation of pension, periodicity of its revision, coverage of future Premature Retirees (PMR) cases etc. The Government appointed One Member Judicial Committee (OMJC) on OROP to look into anomalies, if any, arising out of implementation of OROP on 14.12.2015. The Committee submitted its report on 26.10.2016. An Internal Committee has been constituted by the Government on 19.07.2017 to examine the recommendations of OMJC with respect to feasibility and financial aspects.

Climate Change

421. SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has done any scientific study on climate change due to global warming;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether mining activities in habitat is one of the main reasons for climate change and if so,the details thereof;

(d)   whether the Government considers establishing a national institute with regard to climate change and if so, the details thereof;

(e)   whether the Government has done any study regarding impact of climate change on monsoon due to climate change; and

(f)   if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes Madam. There are several studies which have focused on climate change due to global warming, particularly focusing on the effects of such changes on the Indian Summer Monsoon.

(b)   Studies have shown an increase in extreme rainfall events during the monsoon season and severe heat wave events over many parts of India.

(c)   This Ministry has not done any research studies on the effect of mining activities on climate change. However, it is expected that large mining activities can influence regional (local) climate due to release odust particles into the atmosphere.

(d)   Yes Madam, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India has already established the Centre for Climate Change Research (CCCR) at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, since January, 2009 to study the impact of climate change in the country. The Centre is dedicated to carry out research on global and regional climate change with particular focus on the Indian climate and the monsoons. CCCR has started coupled climate modeling and based on the efforts in the last 5 years, an Indian climate-specific Earth System Model (ESM) has been developed which will contribute to the IPCC 6th Assessment Report (IPCC ARG). Currently, efforts are ongoing to generate the climate change scenarios. Also to better understand regional climate change issues, CCCR has also undertaken the Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX)-South Asia program. It is generating and collating from various partners, downscaled (regionalizing at high resolution) and latest climate projections from multiple models.

(e)   Yes Madam, several studies have reported slight weakening trend in All-India averaged summer rainfall, at the same time significant rising trends in the frequency and the magnitude of extreme rainfall over different regions of India against a backdrop of global warming.

(f)   These observed changes can be attributed to natural variability as well as due to human activities.

Measures are being taken by the Government to mitigate the effects of climate change under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). States/Union Territories have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change consistent with the objectives of NAPCC. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is conducting both observational and modeling studies in order to understand and provide accurate predictions of the extreme weather events over India.

[English]

Infrastructure in Courts

422. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has issued some guidelines with regard to improving the infrastructure of Courts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has initiated any action in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In All India Judges Association case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 02.08.2018, has, *inter alia*, observed that it is essential to provide basic infrastructural facilities, amenities, utilities and access oriented features in all Court complexes around the country as it is axiomatic that infrastructure forms the core for efficient and efficacious dispensation of speedy and qualitative justice. *Vide* the aforesaid order, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has, *inter alia*, issued certain directions to provide at the earliest, the most fundamental and vital features in all court complexes. As the primary responsibility for providing Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary rests with the State Governments, the above-mentioned Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been sent to all the State Governments for necessary action.

The Union Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in order to augment the resources of State Governments in this regard in association with the States/UT Governments. The Scheme has been implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court halls, court complexes and residential accommodation of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. As on date, Rs. 6,622 crore has been released since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs. 3,178 crore (48%) has been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. 18,731 Court halls and 16,539 residential accommodation have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on date. In addition, 2,906 Court halls and 1,754 residential units are under construction.

Commercial Coal Mining

423. SHRI KONAKALLA NARAYANA RAO:
      SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to develop commercial coal mining in the country by involving the States and the private mining companies;

(b) whether any State Government have come forward to commence this commercial coal mining, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has identified coal mines which are to be used for commercial mining, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The methodology for allotment of coal mines under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 [CM(SP) Act, 2015] to Central/State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for sale of coal was approved by the Government and order in this regard was issued on 08.01.2016. The methodology for auction of coal mines/blocks for sale of coal under the provisions of the CM(SP) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MM(DR) Act, 1957] has been approved by the Government and Order in this regard has been issued on 27.02.2018.

(b) and (c) So far, 16 coal mines have been allotted under the provisions of the CM(SP) Act, 2015 and 2 coal blocks have been allocated under the provisions of the MM(DR) Act, 1957 to Central/State PSUs for sale of Coal. Details of these mines/blocks are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Coal mines allotted under the provisions of the CM(SP) Act, 2015

Sl.No.	Name of Coal Mine	State	Successful Allottee
1.	Patal East	Jharkhand	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Limited
2.	Baitarni West	Odisha	Odisha Mining Corporation Limited
3.	Penagaddppa	Telangana	The Singareni Collieries Company Limited
4.	Gourangdih ABC	West Bengal	West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited
5.	Madanpur South	Chhattisgarh	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation
6.	Suliyari	Madhya Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation
7.	Kotre-Basantpur, Pachmo	Jharkhand	Coal India Ltd.
8.	Amarkonda Murgadangal	Jharkhand	Coal India Ltd.
9.	Brahmini	Jharkhand	Coal India Ltd.
10.	Chichro Patsimal	Jharkhand	Coal India Ltd.
11.	Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia	Odisha	Coal India Ltd.
12.	East of Damagoria (Kalyaneshwari)	West Bengal	Coal India Ltd.
13.	Utkal-A	Odisha	Coal India Ltd.
14.	Bijahan	Odisha	Coal India Ltd.

Coal blocks allotted under the provisions of the MM(DR) Act, 1957

Sl.No.	Name of Coal Block	State	Allocatee
1.	Brahmani	Odisha	Orissa Minerals Development Company
2.	Kerwa	Chhattisgarh	Kerwa Coal Limited (JV of Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation and M.P. State Mining Corporation Ltd.)

[Translation]

Agreement Signed Between Railways and SBI

424. SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:
       SHRI BHARAT SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether any agreement has been signed between the Railways and the State Bank of India regarding collection of cash received from sale of railway tickets at the station itself;

(b)   if so, the names of zones which have signed this agreement;

(c)   the benefits likely to be accrued to the Railways from this agreement; and

(d)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. At present, the following nine Zonal Railways have entered into an agreement with State Bank of India regarding collection of cash from Railway stations:

(i)   Eastern Railway

(ii)   East Central Railway

(iii)   Northern Railway

(iv) North Central Railway

(v) North Eastern Railway

(vi) South Eastern Railway

(vii) South East Central Railway

(viii) South Western Railway

(ix) West Central Railway

(c)   The scheme has helped in faster remittance of station earnings in Government's bank account.

(d)   Does not arise.

Overseas Manpower Agencies

425. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Indian workers are being sent to foreign countries through overseas manpower agencies recognized by the Government;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the number of workers imprisoned in foreign jails along with the number of workers who died during the current year so far; and

(d)   the steps taken by the Government for the general amnesty of illegally detained Indians in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Yes, There are about 1300 Government recognized overseas manpower recruiting agencies in the country, which are authorized to recruit Indians for overseas employment.

(c)   A Statement showing the number of workers imprisoned in foreign jails along with the number of workers who have died, as informed by the Missions, is enclosed Statement.

(d)   Governments in the Gulf countries, where a large number of blue collared overseas workers are employed declare amnesty from time to time for those detained in jails for violation of local laws. Indian Embassy/Mission extends full support to all those stranded/jailed Indian nationals who are eligible to avail of the Amnesty offers. All possible assistance including through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) and community volunteers, are provided to them. In addition, our Missions, whenever informed about any Indian national detained in local jail, immediately take up the matter with the concerned local authorities for his/her release. Wherever necessary, legal assistance is arranged for the Indian nationals and, on case to case basis, fines are also paid by the Indian Mission from the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to secure their release from jails. In cases where the released Indian emigrant is not in a position to arrange return ticket to India, the same is also arranged by the Indian Missions from ICWF. The safety, security and well-being of Indians abroad is among the top priorities for the Government of India.

Statement

Mission/Post-wise number of workers inprisoned in foreign jails (the number of workers who have died)

Mission/Post	The number of workers imprisoned in foreign jails (the number of workers who died)
1	2
EoI, Kabul	00 (3)
EoI, Luanda	00 (3)
EoI, Abu Dhabi	356 (306)
CGI, Dubai	1250 (1308)
Bangladesh	00 (07)
EoI, Bahrain	121 (210)
HCI, Brunei Darussalam	02 (00)
EoI, Thimphu	56 (12).
HCI, Ottawa	25 (00)
EoI, Beijing	10 (03)
EoI, Addis Ababa	00 (09)
EoI, Budapest	02(00)
CGI, Medan	03 (00).
EoI, Tehran	24(06)
EoI, Baghdad	01 (06)
EoI, Tel Aviv	19 (03)

1	2
EoI, Amman	26 (00)
EoI, Tokyo	06 (00)
HCI, Nairobi	00 (01)
EoI, Phnom Penh	03 (00)
EoI, Kuwait	483 (595)
EoI, Beirut	05 (26)
EoI, Tripoli	00 (01)
HCI, Colombo, Sri Lanka	12 (07)
HCI, Male	12(12)
EoI, Mexico City	02(00)
HCI, Maputo	02 (03)
HCI, Abuja	01 (04)
O/HCI, Lagos	00 (21)
EoI, Kathmandu	886 (69)
EoI, Muscat	59 (1)
EoI, Riyadh	1617 (1271)
CGI, Jeddah	607 (1006)
EoI, Juba	00 (01)
HCI, Singapore	117 (14)
HCI, Victoria (Mahe)	00 (04)
EoI, Bangkok	43 (01)
Turkmenistan	00 (01)
EoI, Ankara	00 (01)
HCI, Pretoria	03 (00)
CGI, Erbil	01 (03)

EoI-Embassy of India

HCI-High Commission of India

CGI-Consulate General of India

[English]

Pending Rail Projects

426. SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the present status of ongoing and pending rail projects in the country, State-wise and zone-wise;

(b)   whether many ongoing rail projects are getting delayed causing huge escalation in cost;

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

(d)   the project-wise and State/zone-wise details of funds expected for completion of such projects and the amount spent till date on these projects; and

(e)   the steps taken by the Railways to complete these projects at the earliest in order to avoid further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, 183 New Lines, 57 Gauge Conversion and 263 Doubling Projects are in different stage of execution. State-wise details of projects are as under:–

State	No. of projects*		
	New Line	Gauge Conversion	Doubling
1	2	3	4
Assam and North Eastern Region	15	-	6
Andhra Pradesh	18	-	15
Bihar	34	5	14
Chhattisgarh	8	-	9
Delhi	1	-	5
Gujarat	4	25	13
Haryana	7	1	3
Himachal Pradesh	4	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	1	-	2
Jharkhand	17	-	18
Karnataka	17	-	15
Kerala	2	-	8
Madhya Pradesh	8	5	26
Maharashtra	12	4	18
Odisha	11	-	25
Punjab	6	-	8
Rajasthan	10	6	15
Telangana	9	-	5
Tamil Nadu	8	5	9

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	15	8	61
Uttarakhand	3	-	1
West Bengal	17	4	36

* Some of the projects fall in more than one State.

(b) and (c) The completion of Railway projects requires coordination with various departments for acquisition of land, statutory clearances, shifting of utilities etc. leading to cost overrun.

(d) The details of all works in progress and new works including, funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in* and are also available in Pink Books presented before the House along with Budget every year.

(e) For timely completion of the projects, Railway is holding regular meetings with stakeholder on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, statutory clearances, law and order issues, shifting of utilities etc.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc, institutional financing has been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for 1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Judgement on Writ Petition

427. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon. Madras High Court ruled that employees retiring on 30 June are entitled for increment on 1st July of that year for pensionary benefit as they retire after completion of that year's full service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hon. Supreme Court has dismissed the petition filed against the Madras High Court's above judgement;

(d) if so, whether the Government has issued orders regarding granting annual increment to those employees who are retiring on 30th June after completion of one year of service;

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

(f) the time by which such orders are likely to be issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINIATER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE , MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. High Court of Madras in Writ Petition No. 15732/2017 has granted relief personal to the petitioner.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) to (f) As the judgment is in personam and contrary to the personnel policy of Government of India, the question of issuing a general order does not arise.

Coal Reserves

428. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is using latest techniques to explore the fresh coal reserves;

(b) if so, the details of fresh coal reserves in the country State-wise since 2014;

(c) whether Government has slowed down the exploration of fresh coal reserves in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for Government not taking initiative to avail technical knowhow from the specialised agencies of other countries having proven record for coal exploration?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) is the nodal agency for exploration of coal in India. It is using latest techniques to explore the fresh coal reserves like Hi-Tech Hydrostatic drills for drilling; 2D & 3D seismic survey with Vibrosis & interpretation with Paradigm software; satellite imagery for

identification of forest and probable coal bearing areas & modern software such as AutoCAD, ArcGIS and Minex for preparation of Geological reports which is equivalent to industry best practices worldwide. The State-wise resources as on 01.04.2018 are enclosed as Statement-I and the upgradation and addition of resources are enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) and (d) No Madam. Government has not slowed down the exploration of fresh coal reserves in the country. Exploration of coal resources in the country is a continuous process. Every year about 3 to 5 billion tonnes of proved (measured) resources are being added through fresh

exploration to the coal inventory of India. The drilling/ exploration done by CMPDI/GSI/MECL/State Government (DGMs) in last 3 years & current year to estimate the fresh resources through promotional (regional) exploration in coal are given in below table:

Item	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Apr.'18-Nov.'18)
Promotional (Regional) drilling in Coal & Lignite (in Lakh Meter)	1.12	1.05	1.35	0.82

(e) CMPDI on behalf of MoC has taken initiative to avail technical knowhow and initiated to introduce Air borne survey for Regional Exploration.

Statement-I

State-wise Geological Resources of Coal in India as on 01.04.2018

State	Category-wise Coal Resources (in Million Tonnes)				
	Measured (Proved)	Indicated	Inferred (Exploration)	Inferred (Mapping)	Total
West Bengal	14155.57	12868.81	4642.86	0.00	31667.24
Bihar	161.11	813.49	392.15	0.00	1366.75
Jharkhand	45563.36	31438.52	6149.80	0.00	83151.68
Madhya Pradesh	11958.28	12153.95	3874.67	0.00	27986.90
Chhattisgarh	20427.71	34576.26	2201.90	0.00	57205.87
Uttar Pradesh	884.04	177.76	0.00	0.00	1061.80
Maharashtra	7177.55	3073.55	2048.14	0.00	12299.24
Odisha	37391.10	34164.54	7739.16	0.00	79294.80
Andhra Pradesh	0	1149.05	431.65	0.00	1580.70
Telangana	10474.9	8576.13	2650.92	0.00	21701.95
Sikkim	0.00	58.25	42.98	0	101.23
Assam	464.78	57.21	0.50	2.52	525.01
Arunachal Pradesh	31.23	40.11	12.89	6.00	90.23
Meghalya	89.04	16.51	27.58	443.35	576.48
Nagaland	8.76	0.00	103.64	298.05	410.45
Grand Total	148787.43	139164.14	30318.84	749.92	319020.33

Source: Geological Survey of India's Inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal as on 1.4.18. The inventory did not take into account the mined out reserves.

Statement-II

Year-wise Upgradation/Addition of Geological Resources of Indian Coal (As Per GSI Report on Coal Inventory)

Sl. No.	Coal Resources As on	Proved (Million Tonne)	Indicated (Million Tonne)	Inferred (Million Tonne)	Total (Million Tonne)
1.	1.4.2013	123182	142632	33101	298915
2.	1.4.2014				301564
	Resources Added	125909	142506	33149	2649
3.	1.4.2015				306595
	Resources Added	131614	143241	31740	5031
4.	1.4.2016				308802
	Resources Added	138087	139151	31564	2207
5.	1.4.2017				315149
	Resources Added	143058	139311	32780	6347
6.	1.4.2018				319020
	Resources Added	148787	139164	31069	3871

[Translation]

New Rail Lines

429. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total rail lines in kilometres replaced by new rail lines along with the details of rail lines yet to be replaced, zone-wise; and

(b) the time by which the target of renovation of all the rail lines is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The details of track renewal planned in 2018-19 zone-wise are as under:

Zonal Railway	All figures in kilometres of Complete Track Renewal (CTR) units		
	Sanctioned for renewal as on 01.04.2018	2018-19	
		Target of track renewal	Progress of track renewal (up to 31.10.2018)
1	2	3	4
Central	468	300	165
Eastern	584	288	147
East Central	537	266	142
East Coast	705	382	155
Northern	1283	627	325
North Central	569	290	114
North Eastern	154	92	30
Northeast Frontier	186	93	60
North Western	381	266	136
Southern	772	426	261
South Central	509	212	121
South Eastern	550	248	154
South East Central	374	181	102
South Western	415	257	143
Western	441	284	196
West Central	337	188	110
Total	8265	4400	2361

Track renewals is an ongoing process and annual accruals as per laid down norms are sanctioned on yearly basis. Out of total sanctioned 8265 Track Kilometer (Tkm) as on 01.04.2018, 4400 Tkm of renewal is planned to be completed in 2018-19. Balance 3800 Tkm as well as fresh accruals will be sanctioned/executed to ensure safety of trains.

[English]

Kartarpur Corridor

430. SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for the construction and manning of the Kartarpur Corridor and the future costs associated with the project;

(b) the authority which will have legal jurisdiction over the corridor;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that pilgrims are under no security threat;

(d)   the details of cooperation mediums that have been established between local authorities in the concerned areas to ensure a seamless visit to the Gurudwara in Pakistan; and

(e)   the reciprocal steps taken by India for Pakistani situations to ensure goodwill and brotherhood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) to (e) The Union Cabinet, on 22 November, 2018, passed a Resolution to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji in 2019 and *inter alia* approved building and development of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District to the International Border on the Indian side to facilitate pilgrims from India to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. On the same day, the Government of India informed the Government of Pakistan of its decision to build Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District of India to the International Border and urged Pakistan to recognise the sentiments of the Sikh community and to develop a corridor with suitable facilities in their territory from the International Border to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib.

The Kartarpur corridor on the Indian side is envisaged to be an integrated development project with Government of India funding, for smooth and easy passage of Indian pilgrims, with modern amenities. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the nodal Ministry for building and development of the corridor on the Indian side.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for coordinating with the concerned authorities, including the local Government.

A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister has been constituted to review, monitor and oversee the activities as approved by the Union Cabinet for implementation of the decisions of the Cabinet.

The Government has urged Pakistan to expedite the construction of the corridor on their side to ensure that Indian citizens can pay their respects at the Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib using the corridor as soon as possible.

Elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings

431. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD:
     SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MADAM:
SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:
SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is true that the Railways has managed to either man or remove all level crossings in major routes across the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether it is also true that as on April this year there were 3470 unmanned level crossings across the Indian Railways network and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Railways has stepped into more effective action to eliminate unmanned railway crossings in the country after the incident of 13 school children were killed in April when a train rammed into a school van at an unmanned railway crossing near Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government has planned to remove or man all Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge (BG). As on 01.04.2018, there were 5792 Unmanned Level Crossings out of which 3479 were on Broad Gauge, 1135 on Meter Gauge and 1178 on Narrow Gauge.

(c) and (d) Elimination of UMLCs has been a top priority for Railways as level crossings are a safety hazard for both rail and road users more so for road users. As on 01.04.2014, there were 8948 UMLCs on BG. It is submitted that all UMLCs on BG have now been eliminated except 28 UMLCs which have also been planned to be eliminated by closure, merger, subway and manning.

Agartala-Akhaura Broad Gauge Line

432. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether any steps have been taken for the Imphal railway station and Agartala-Akhaura broad gauge line;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has fixed any deadline for the completion of these projects; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) New Railway station at Imphal is a part of the Jiribam-Imphal new line (111 km) project. Jiribam-Vangaichungpao-Dholakhal (11.80 km) section has been commissioned. Works are taken up in the remaining length.

Work of Agartala-Akhaura new line (15.06 km) 5.05 km Indian portion and 10.01 km Bangladesh portion has been taken up. In Indian portion, Earth work while in Bangladesh portion, earthwork and bridge work have been taken up.

(c) and (d) Target date for completion for India side is March, 2020 and Bangladesh side is January, 2020.

Coal Production

433. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
      DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
      SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   whether there is shortage of coal at Power Plants being run in the Public Sector as well as in the Private Sector;

(b)   if so, the details of shortage during the last three years, State-wise especially Tamil Nadu;

(c)   whether the Government is considering to import coal from other countries to meet the shortage of coal at power plants;

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

(e)   the steps being taken by the Government to augment the production and productivity of coal to meet the requirement of the power sector; and

(f)   the further steps taken by the Government to encourage private investments for coal development particularly for acquiring new technologies?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) In 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), Coal India Limited (CIL) supplied 315.94

Million Tonnes (MT) of coal achieving a growth of more than 8% in coal supply to the power sector over the supply of 291.78 MT in the corresponding period of last year. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has supplied 35.04 MT of coal to power plants (up to 30.11.2018). The coal based Power generation during the period of April-November, 2018, registered a growth of 5.5 % over the generation in the corresponding period of last year. The coal supplied from CIL to the linked plants in the State of Tamil Nadu for the year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018) has been 19.68 MT, 18.68 MT, 22.32 MT and 15.79 MT respectively.

As on 09.12.2018, the total coal stock available at 124 power plants, which are monitored in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on daily basis, was 14.4 MT which is sufficient to run the power plants for an average of 9 days. As per CEA report, coal based power generation has been 99.16 % of the programme during April-Nov, 2018.

(c) and (d) Coal and Coke, being under Open General License as per the import policy of the Government, are imported by various consumers and traders as per their requirements. However, Ministry of Power has on 30.05.2018, advised to Energy Department of State Governments to assess their requirement in respect of import of coal and plan accordingly.

(e) and (f) With the multiple synchronistic efforts including enabling legislation, clear and transparent policy and greater autonomy for constituent units with an emphasis on quality, safety and environment protection, all India raw coal production was increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 676.48 MT in 2017-18 (4 years), an absolute increase of 110.71 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 33.73 MT between 2009-10 and 2013-14 (4 years).

In 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), Coal India Limited (CIL) supplied 315.94 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal achieving a growth of more than 8% in coal supply to the power sector over the supply of 291.78 MT in the corresponding period of last year. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has supplied 35.04 MT of coal to power plants (up to 30.11.2018). The increased dispatch during this period has helped coal based power generation to achieve positive growth of 5.50 % as compared to last year and coal based generation has been 99.16% of the programme.

In order to ensure the quality of despatched coal, system of independent 3rd party sampling of coal supplied to power sector was started. A total quantity of 548 MT of coal from CIL and 53 MT of coal from SCCL is covered under 3rd Party Sampling.

Specific coal consumption, a measure of coal required to produce a unit of electricity, has been on the decline leading to progressively lesser fuel requirement for production of a unit of energy. The specific coal consumption in Thermal Power Plants has reduced from 0.714 Kg/Kwh in 2010-11 to 0.642 Kg/Kwh in 2017-18.

Further, under the provision of coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015, so far 85 coal Mines have been allocated out of which 48 coal mines have been allocated for specified end-use Power. Out of these 48 coal mines, 42 have been allocated to Public Sector Companies & 6 to the private sector.

In case of production from CIL, high capacity mines are being planned with deployment of high capacity/high productivity equipment in Open Cast (OC) and Under Ground (UG) mines. Such methods include mining with Continuous Miners and Powered Support Long Wall (PSLW) in UG mining and for OC mining, state of the art HEMMs like 42 cum shovel with 240 T Rear dumper, Surface Miners, draglines, Operator Independent Truck Dispatch System (OITDS), In-pit crushing and conveying are being introduced.

Defence Contracts under Make in India

434. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   the total number of manufacturing/production contracts signed by the defence ministry under "Make in India" programme;

(b)   the details of project and companies awarded contracts therein;

(c)   whether it is also a fact that the defence manufacturing units in the country have the potential to fulfil the Government target under the above programme; and

(d)   if so, the sector-wise details under which Indian Armed Forces is working towards PM's vision and the details of the project under implementation therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Government is pursuing initiative to achieve higher level of indigenisation and self-reliance in the Defence Sector by harnessing the capabilities of public and private sector industries in the country. These measures include according priority to procurements from Indian vendors. DPP accords highest priority to 'Buy (Indian-IDDM)' category of capital procurements.

During the last 03 years (since April, 2015) and current year, 118 contracts have been signed with Indian vendors.

Government has also promulgated policy on Strategic Partnership in defence sector to encourage broader participation of the private sector in manufacture of major defence platforms and equipment. The segments identified for acquisition under the SP route are: (i) Fighter Aircraft; (ii) Helicopters; (iii) Submarines; and (iv) Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs)/Main Battle Tanks (MBTs). The Policy will serve to enhance competition, increase efficiencies, facilitate faster and more significant absorption of technology, create a tiered industrial ecosystem, ensure development of a wider skill base and trigger innovation, leading to reduction in dependence on imports and greater self-reliance in meeting national security objectives.

Strategy against China and Pakistan

435. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether her Ministry has taken any special project in defence strategy for combating the aggressive activities of China and Pakistan; and

(b)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Government is fully cognizant of activities/developments impinging on our national security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it. Divulging specific information in this regard is not in the interest of national security.

Artillery Gun System

436. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:
      SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Indian Army propose to induct 3 artillery gun systems recently after the Bofors artillery gun system procured from Sweden in early 1980s;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether these new systems are fully imported or developed indigenously;

(d)   if so, the details thereof in each gun system; and

(e)   whether the Government has any plan to couple this with 'Make in India' initiative and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The Indian Army has recently inducted two gun systems (i)155mm/39 Calibre M777 A2 Ultra Light Howitzer and (ii)155mm/52 Calibre Tracked Self Propelled (K-9 Vajra-T).

(c) to (e) 145 number of 155mm/39 Calibre M777 A2 Ultra Light Howitzer are to be imported from US Government, out of which, 25 are being fully imported and balance 120 guns are to be assembled, integrated and tested in India under the Make in India initiative.

The 155mm/52 Calibre Tracked Self Propelled guns is to have 50% indigenous content in cost terms. Indigenisation process entails amalgamation of private Indian industries in manufacture of various sub assemblies.

[Translation]

Services Provided by Telephone/Mobile Operators

437. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has reviewed the services being provided to the customers by the telephone/mobile operators of private and public sectors and the

capacity expansion made in mobile/telephone sectors by each of the said companies in the country;

(b)   whether the Government has collected the details of funds allocated and spent for the expansion of telephone/mobile and internet connection in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has been interacting with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and reviewing the progress of their action-plans for addressing call drops in their mobile networks on continuous basis.

DoT has taken several policy initiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth for delivery of quality services. These include permitting trading/sharing/liberalisation of spectrum already granted, permitting passive & active infrastructure-sharing, Notification of Right of Way Rules-2016, making available Government land/buildings for installations of towers etc.

About 9.74 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) since July, 2015 across the country. The number of BTS installed has been significantly increased from about 7.94 lakh in March, 2014 to about 20.07 lakh in November, 2018.

(b) and (c) The details of subsidy disbursed from Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of telephone/mobile and internet connection in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and Union Territory-wise are mentioned in enclosed Statement-I.

Statement

State-wise subsidy disbursed during last three years and current year

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of States/CCAs	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (up to October)
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8.11			
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1.33	0.66	6.85	3.84

Sl.No.	Name of States/CCAs	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (up to October)
3.	Assam	0.55	0.71	0.50	0.99
4.	Bihar	2.58	0.88	53.35	18.05
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.37		118.64	22.90
6.	Delhi			0.04	
7.	DoT Headquaters*	3032.15	7171.03	6516.45	1674.83
8.	Gujarat			0.54	
9.	Haryana	1.82	2.56	0.21	0.42
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.30	0.16	0.02	0.02
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.52	1.97	0.12	0.02
12.	Jharkhand	0.16	0.64	168.32	53.56
13.	Karnataka	4.17	0.67	9.10	0.01
14.	Kerala	1.32	6.22	0.76	0.02
15.	Maharashtra	14.10		12.20	2.46
16.	Madhya Pradesh	12.58	1.88	4.40	1.89
17.	North-East-I **	6.74	15.00	0.33	
18.	North-East-II ***	2.04	14.26	0.05	0.01
19.	Odisha	1.58	4.03	40.64	16.87
20.	Punjab	6.56	2.44	0.66	
21.	Rajasthan		1.65	0.45	3.52
22.	Telangana			15.49	8.07
23.	Tamil Nadu	0.01			91.98
24.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0.77	1.09	26.93	3.44
25.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0.29	0.27	0.33	0.06
26.	Uttaranchal	0.19		0.21	0
27.	West Bengal	1.76	0.92	22.16	7.38

*Centralised payment by DoT Headquarters.

**North East-I – Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram

***North-East – II – Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland

[English]

Agreement with Roscosmos

438. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia's federal space agency Roscosmos have agreed to work together for first manned space mission 'Gaganyaan';

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether under the agreement Roscosmos has offered ride to Indian astronauts short visit to International Space Station (ISS) onboard Soyuz spacecraft for short training mission in 2022; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION,

MINIATER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Madam.

(b)   ISRO and ROSCOSMOS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 5th October, 2018 on 'Joint Activities in the field of Human Spaceflight Programme'.

(c)   No, specific missions to International Space Station on Soyuz have not been included in the MoU.

(d)   Not applicable.

LED Lights at Stations

439. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

(a)   whether the Railways has decided to provide 100 per cent LED lighting at all its stations and service buildings by the end of this financial year; and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether it is true that 100 per cent LED lighting across railway stations will improve the energy scenario and will reduce energy consumption by about 10 per cent of its non-traction energy consumption; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. All electrified Railway stations other than those in gauge conversion have already been provided with 100% LED luminaries by 30.03.2018.

Also, 99% of service buildings have been provided with 100% LED lights over Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Use of 100% LED lights will reduce energy consumption for non-traction purpose by about 10%. This will be equivalent to about 240 million units of electricity per annum.

Aadhaar Enrolment Centres

440. SHRI R. P. MARUTHARAJAA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of Aadhaar enrolment and updation facility at post offices available in the country, State-wise;

(b)   the facility available at Aadhaar enrolment centres in Tamil Nadu;

(c)   the list of sub-Post office, head post offices and general post offices across India where enrolment facility is available, location wise; and

(d)   the details of total Aadhaar enrolment/updation done in year 2017-2018; State-wise including those in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Department of Posts as UIDAI Registrar has opened 13,352 Aadhaar Enrolment and Update Centres in designated Post Offices across country including 1,436 in Tamil Nadu. The State-wise (Postal Circle-wise) number of Centres opened by Department of Posts are given in enclosed-I. In these centres, Aadhaar Enrolment and Update facilities are available.

(c)   The State-wise list of active Centres in Sub Post Offices, Head Post Offices and General Post Offices, where Aadhaar Enrolment and update facilities are available, is available on UIDAI website *www.uidai.gov.in* at link 'Locate Enrolment Centres in Bank and Post Offices'.

(d)   Total Aadhaar Generation done during the year 2017-18 is over 7.41 crore which includes 0.33 crore in Tamil Nadu. State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-II. The total Aadhaar updates done during the year 2017-18 is over 9.11 crore. State-wise bifurcation of update are not available.

Statement-I

State-wise number of centres opened by Department of Posts

Sl.No.	Registrar	Enrolment Centres
1.	CPMG Tamil Nadu	1436
2.	CPMG Uttar Pradesh	1424
3.	CPMG Maharashtra	1293
4.	CPMG West Bengal	1116

Sl.No.	Registrar	Enrolment Centres
5.	CPMG Kerala	1050
6.	CPMG Gujarat	878
7.	CPMG Karnataka	869
8.	CPMG Rajasthan	600
9.	CPMG Bihar	582
10.	CPMG Andhra Pradesh	578
11.	CPMG Punjab	503
12.	CPMG Madhya Pradesh	473
13.	CPMG Odisha	473
14.	CPMG Haryana	289
15.	CPMG Telangana	266
16.	CPMG Delhi	261
17.	CPMG HP	254
18.	CPMG Assam	216
19.	CPMG Uttarakhand	214
20.	CPMG Jharkhand	207
21.	CPMG Chhattisgarh	161
22.	CPMG North East	122
23.	CPMG Jammu and Kashmir	87
	Total	13352

Statement-II

State-wise details of Aadhar generation done during the year 2017-18

State Code	State Name	Aadhaar Generated from 1st April, 17 to 31st March, 18
1	2	3
01.	Jammu and Kashmir	1098204
02.	Himachal Pradesh	240332
03.	Punjab	787125
04.	Chandigarh	45507
05.	Uttarakhand	537670
06.	Haryana	901635
07.	Delhi	736545
08.	Rajasthan	3719917
09.	Uttar Pradesh	23452234
10.	Bihar	12276098
11.	Sikkim	13983
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	234990
13.	Nagaland	95675
14.	Manipur	466155
15.	Mizoram	283352
16.	Tripura	84071
17.	Meghalaya	431301
18.	Assam	605841
19.	West Bengal	5500723
20.	Jharkhand	1246787
21.	Odisha	3751641
22.	Chhattisgarh	557427
23.	Madhya Pradesh	2806678
24.	Gujarat	3915207
25.	Daman and Diu	9306
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15744
27.	Maharashtra	2427282
28.	Andhra Pradesh	694314
29.	Karnataka	1811994
30.	Goa	66189
31.	Lakshadweep	2002
32.	Kerala	1482158
33.	Tamil Nadu	3294111
34.	Puducherry	39099
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13095
36.	Telangana	540717
	Grand Total	74185109

[Translation]

Cleanliness Standards in Trains

441. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the train passengers can lodge complaints regarding cleanliness standards in trains through ratings;

(b)   if so, the trains in which passengers will be able to lodge complaints regarding cleanliness levels through ratings;

(c)   the measures taken by the Railways to ensure proper monitoring of the above services;

(d)   whether any initiative is being taken to spread awareness about cleanliness among railway passengers so that they do not litter in trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Rating is used only as feedback and not for lodging complaints.

Train passengers can lodge complaints regarding cleanliness standards by the following means:–

(i)   Through Complaint/Suggestion Book with Train Superintendent and Guards of Mail/Express/ Passenger Trains.

(ii)   Through Web, SMS and App in IR Web portal COMS, Twitter account, CPGRAMS Web portal and Help Line Number 138.

(iii)   For immediate assistance of on-board passengers "Coach Mitra"/"Clean My Coach" facility has been provided in more than 1050 pairs of trains having On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS).

(c)   Regular inspections are conducted by various officials on trains to monitor cleanliness.

Suitable action is taken against the contractors who are found wanting in the performance of their duties for maintaining proper cleanliness in trains.

Cleanliness and Awareness Drives are launched from time to time to have wider participation and monitoring.

Passenger feedback is being included in performance evaluation and monitoring of housekeeping contracts.

(d) and (e) Following efforts are made by the Railways to spread awareness about cleanliness among railway passengers:–

(i)   Publicity/awareness campaigns through display of posters, banners, distribution of leaflets, Printing of slogans in tickets, reservation slips, tender notices etc.

(ii)   Announcements over the Public Announcement System.

(iii)   Display of notices in trains requesting passengers not to train toilets while the train is stationary at station.

(iv)   Improving awareness on proper use and Do's/ Don'ts of bio-toilets through stickers/posters, announcements, displaying of models etc.

(v)   Involvement of scouts and guides, Social/ Charitable Organisations and other NGOs in cleanliness campaigns.

(vi)   Arranging 'Nukkad Nataks' (street plays) on cleanliness theme in station vicinity.

(vii)   "Swachhta-Hi-Sewa" campaign had a major component of involving passengers.

[English]

Track Renewal

442. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is planning to carry out a track renewal exercise;

(b)   if so, the criteria being used to identify stretches of tracks that have completed their lifespan or carry heavy traffic;

(c)   the total kilometres of track expected to be covered under the track renewal exercise, State/UT-wise; and

(d)   the total cost expected to be associated with the track renewal exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Track renewal works are planned for sanction and execution in advance every year to ensure safety of running of trains. The criteria for identifying and sanction of track renewal

works is laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual which is age/condition basis *viz.* traffic carried in terms of gross million tonnes, incidence of rail fracture/failure, wear of rails, corrosion of rails, maintainability of track as per standards etc.

(c) and (d) Details of track renewal are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise. A target of 4400 km over Indian Railways in Complete Track Renewal (CTR) units for track renewal with budget outlay of Rs. 11450 cr. has been kept for year 2018-19.

Ramping Up Job Creation

443. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MADAAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Union Government's Economic Advisory Council has recently spelt out a 'clear roadmap' to ramp up job creation and infrastructure financing avenues;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the sectors in which job creation and infrastructure financing avenues have been identified; and

(c)   the timeline for implementation of roadmap and the expected job creation in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has set up Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister *vide* Notification dated September 26, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog. The Council has from time to time deliberated on wide ranging issues such as review of macro-economy, agriculture and rural development, skill upgradation, enhancing investments in health, logistics development, beekeeping development, etc. Based on deliberations, the Council has been providing advisory inputs to the Government from time to time. However, there is no specific policy paper submitted by the Council on the roadmap for job creation and infrastructure financing avenues.

Dead Bodies of Workers

444.   SHRI K. R. P. PRABAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether complaints have been received by the Government regarding missing bodies of Indian workers who died abroad;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has taken up this matter with the countries concerned; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof and the response of such countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Yes. As per information available with the Ministry, families of two Inian nationals approached the High Commission of India in Kenya regarding two Indian nationals who have died on ship off the coast of Somalia, as a result of which their mortal remains have not yet been located.

(c) and (d) Yes. The matter was taken up with the concerned authorities of the Government of Somalia who have conveyed that the mortal remains cannot be recovered as their death took place on ship off the coast of Somalia.

[Translation]

Rounding-Off Charges

445. SHRI BHARAT SINGH:
      SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Competition Commission of India has ordered investigation of the practice of the Railways to charge higher prices allegedly through 'rounding off' in multiple of Rs. 5 for rail ticket booking; and

(b)   if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b)   The Competition Commission of India was apprised on 23.10.2018 regarding the policy of rounding off rail ticket booking. Subsequent to which, the Competition Commission of India has passed an order on 09.11.2018 to its Director General (DG) to investigate the matter.

[English]

National Supercomputing Mission

446. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Supercomputing Mission including its roadmap, nodal bodies responsible for implementation, application groups of the Mission and the amount of funds sanctioned since the inception, year-wise;

(b) the composition and terms of reference of various committees that have been constituted for implementing the Mission; and

(c) whether supercomputers have been installed under the aegis of the Mission since its inception, yearwise and if so, the details thereof, year-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN) (a) The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) is approved for implementation with total estimated cost of Rs. 4,500 crore over a period of seven years. The Mission is to be jointly implemented by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru as the implementing agencies. The contribution of Meity would be Rs. 1,760 crore and contribution of DST would be Rs. 2740 crore.

Key Deliverables of the Mission include setting up of NSM facilities and infrastructure at 60 to 70 locations across the country; one Million core cloud with 25-30 Petabytes of storage; and a National Super Computing Grid by interconnecting various HPC systems over National Knowledge Network (NKN); R&D leading to next generation Exascale computing readiness; and HPC based applications in atleast 5 major areas; Human Resource Development (~20,000 trained professionals to handle and spearhead HPC activities).

The project was initiated in 2015-16 and total funds of Rs. 334.27 crore have been released for Mission to Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and Centre for Development of me Computing (C-DAC), Pune, the two implementing agencies, by DST and Meity.

(b) The composition alongwith its Terms of Reference of various committees namely the NSME Board, NSM-Technical Advisory Committee. NSM-Expert Groups in infrastructure. R&D, HRC and Applications are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) There are two approaches that were planned; "Build" & "Buy". Under "Build" approach in Phase-1 purchase order for the following three systems has been issued:–

IIT, Kharagpur: 1.3 PF

IIT, Varanasi: 650 TF

IISER, Pune: 650 TF

Currently techudai evaluatira is underway for the "Buy" systems.

Statement

No. Deity/R&D/LPC/ 2(1) 2014 Government of India Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Department of Electronics and Information Technology High Performance Computing Division (R&D in IT Group)

Dated: 4th June, 2015

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Constitution of the National Supercomputing Mission Executive Board (NSM-EB) in respect of the project entitled "National Supercomputing Mission (NSM): Building Capacity and Capability" being implemented jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity).

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Administrative Approval of even number dated 09.04.2015 for the implementation of the above said project at the total estimated cost of Rs. 4500.00 crore (Rupees Four Thousand Five Hundred crore only) over a period of seven years jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity); contribution of Department of Electronics & Information Technology would be Rs. 1760.00 crore (Rupees One Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty crore only) and contribution of Department of Science and Technology would be Rs. 2740.00 crore (Rupees Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty crore only).

2.   The undersigned is now directed to convey the approval of the Competent Authority for the constitution of the National Supercomputing Mission Executive Board (NSM-EB) as per the following composition and terms of reference:

A. Composition of the NSM- Executive Board

(1)	Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST)	: Co-Chair
(2)	Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Deity	: Co-Chair
(3)	JS&FA, Department of Science and Technology (DST)	: Member
(4)	JS&FA, Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity)	: Member
(5)	Prof. Dewang V Khakhar, Director, IIT Mumbai	: Member*
(6)	Shri Kiran Karnik, Ex-President, NASSCOM	: Member*
(7)	Prof. U.B. Desai, Director, IIT Hyderabad	: Member*
(8)	Representative, SERC, IISc, Bangalore	: Member
(9)	Director General, C-DAC, Pune	: Member
(10)	Nominee of Secretary, Department of Expenditure (DoE)	: Member
(11)	Nominee of Secretary, DSIR/DG (CSIR)	: Member
(12)	Nominee of Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	: Member
(13)	Nominee of Secretary, DARE/DG (ICAR)	: Member
(14)	Nominee of Secretary, Department of Health Research	: Member
(15)	Nominee of Secretary, Department of Higher Education (MHRD)	: Member
(16)	Nominee of Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)	: Member
(17)	Nominee of Secretary, Department of Space (DoS)	: Member
(18)	Nominee of Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)	: Member
(19)	Nominee of Secretary, DRDO	: Member
(20)	Nominee of CEO, NITI Aayog	: Member
(21)	DG, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (ICERT)	: Member
(22)	Director General, National Informatics Centre (NIC)	: Member
(23)	Head, National Supercomputing Mission Directorate	: Convener

* Scientists of Eminence nominated by the Co-Chairs.

B.   Terms of Reference of the NSM-Executive Board: The NSM Executive Board shall be the apex executive body for NSM implememtation. Its broad Terms of Reference (ToR) would would be as follows:

(i)   Assign responsibilities to implementing agencies.

(ii)   Decide upon various projects in the mission based on inputs from Think Tank.

(iii) Monitor and review, periodically, the administrative and financial activities of the mission and suggest suitable measures, as deemed fit, to meet the aims and objectives of the mission.

(iv)   Authorize re-appropriation to augment provision under the various budget heads.

(v)   Considering the latest trends and relevance, propose from time-to-time alterations and modifications to the deliverables to meet the aims and objectives of the mission for approval of the Governing Board.

(vi)   Consider and submit for the approval of the Governing Board the proposals for alterations, addition, and modifications to the deliverables of the mission.

(vii) Appoint sub-Committees from time-to-time and assign and/or delegate them the tasks that fall within the scope of such Committees set-up for efficient implementation of NSM.

(viii) Take-up and execute any other matter that the Governing Board may specifically assign.

(ix)   The NSM-EB would meet as often as required and at least thrice in a year.

(R. K. JUNEJA)
Deputy Director

To

1.   Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Office, New Delhi

2.   Director, Cabinet Sccretariat, New Delhi

3.   Secretary, Mo Finance, North Block, New Delhi

4.   Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

5.   Secretary, DST, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi.

6.   JS&FA, Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

7.   JS&FA, DST, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi.

8.   Secretary, Department of Expenditure (DoE), New Delhi.   }

9.   Secretary, DSIR/ DG (CSIR), New Delhi.   }

10.   Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi.   } **With a request to kindly**

11.   Secretary, DARE/ DG (ICAR), New Delhi.   } **nominate an official on the**

12.   Secretary, Department of Health Research.   } **Executive Board.**

13.   Secretary, Department of Higher Education (MHRD).   }

14.   Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), N.Delhi.   }

15. Secretary, Department Space (DoS), New Delhi.   }

16. Secretary, D/o Atomic Energy (DAE), New Delhi.   }

17. Secretary, DRDO, New Delhi.   }

18. CEO, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.   }

19. Director General, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune.

20. Director, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore.

21. Director General, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (ICERT), Deity.

22. Director General, National Informatics Centre (NIC), Deity.

23. GC (R&D in IT), Deity.

24. HOD (HPC Division), Deity.

25. Shri Milind Kulkarni, Scientist F, Department of Science & Technology.

26. Professor Dewang V Khakhar, IIT Mumbai.

27. Shri Kiran Karnik, Ex-President, NASSCOM.

28. Prof. U.B. Desai, Director, IIT Hyderabad.

29. NSM Directorate

30. D&D Section (2 Copies), Deity.)

31. Sanction File

Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and
Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003
Website: www.meity.gov.in

No. DeitY/R&D/HPC/2(1)/2014   28th November, 2016

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Extension of the term of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) constituted in respect of the project entitled
"National Supercomputing Mission (NSM): Building Capacity and Capability" being implemented jointly by the
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology
(DST).

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Administrative Approval of even number dated 9 April, 2015 for the
implementation of the above said project at the total estimated cost of Rs. 4500.00 crore (Rupees Four Thousand Five
Hundred crore only) over a period of seven years jointly by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
and the Department of Science and Technology (DST): contribution of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
would be Rs. 1760.00 crore (Rupees One Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty crore only) and contribution of the Department
of Science and Technology would be Rs. 2740.00 crore (Rupees Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Crore only) and
this Ministry's Office Memorandum dated 26th November, 2015 regarding Constitution of the Technical Advisory Committee
(TAC) in respect of the project entitled "National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) : Building Capacity & Capability".

2.   The undersigned is now directed to convey the approval of the Competent Authority for the extension of the term of the Technical Advisory committee for a period of two years *i.e.* upto 26" November, 2018.

3.   There is no change in the Composition of the Technical Advisory Committee as communicated *vide* this Ministry's Office Memorandum of even number dated 26th November, 2015.

4.   The Terms of Reference of the Technical Advisory Committee have been modified to the extent above.

5.   The Composition of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Terms of Reference of the. TAC as communicated earlier vide O.M. dated 26th November, 2015 are placed at Annexure-I.

(R. K. JUNEJA)

Joint Director

Tele: 24366022

To

1.   Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Office, New Delhi,

2.   Director, Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi.

3.   Secretary, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.

4.   Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi.

5.   Secretary, DST, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Raod, New Delhi.

6.   AS&FA, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi.

7.   IS&FA, DST, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Raod, New Delhi.

8.   Secretary, Department of Expenditure (DoE), New Delhi

9.   Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

10. Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar, Chairman, Governing Council, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

11. Prof. N. Balakrishnan, Honorary Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

12. Dr. K. D. Nayak, Chief Controller (Research and Development), Defence Research and Development Organization, Delhi.

13. Prof Rajat Moona, Director General, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune.

14. Prof. R. Govindarajan, Chairman, Supercomputer and Research Centre, Bagalore.

15. Shri. B. S. Jagadeesh, Outstanding Scientist, Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai.

16. Prof. Alok Bhattacharya, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

17. Shri. N. Mohan Ram, Advisor (High Performance Computing), Tata Consultancy Services, Bangalore.

18. Group Coordinator (R&D in IT), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Delhi.

19. Head, High Performance Computing Group, Department of Science and Technology, Delhi.

20. Head, High Performance Computing Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Delhi.

21. D&D Section, (2 Copies), Meity.

22. Sanction File.

A. Composition of the Technical Advisory Committee:

1. Dr. V.K. Saraswat Member, NITI Aayog, New Delhi — Chairman

2. Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar, Chairman, Governing Council. Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. — Member

3. Prol: N. Balakrishnan, Honorary Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. — Member

4. Dr. K. D. Nayak, Chief Controller (Research & Development) Defence Research and Development Organization, Delhi. — Member

5. Prof. Rajat Moona, Director General, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune. — Member

6. Prof. R. Govindarajan, Chairman, Supercomputer Education and Research Centre, Bangalore. — Member

7. Shri B. S. Jagadeesh, Outstanding Scientist, Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Mumbai. — Member

8. Prof. Alok Bhattacharya, Dean, Department of Life Sciences awaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. — Member

9. Shri N. Mohan Ram, Advisor (High Performance Computing) Tata Consultancy Services, Bangalore. — Member

10. Group Coordinator (R&D in IT), Department of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi. — Member

11. Head, High Performance Computing Group/Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi. — Member

12. Head, High Performance Computing Division, Department` of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi. — Convenor

B. Terms of Reference of the Technical Advisory Committee:

i. To workout the implementation strategy of the mission.

ii. To provide evidence based inputs to NSM-EB on positioning of technologies from time-to time *vis-a-vis* the international technological developments.

iii. To define the overall deliverables of the mission and would make key recommendations on technologies to be adopted, number of systems to be developed/deployed, applications to be developed etc.

iv. To conceptualise and recommend the R&D projects to be implemented under the mission taking into consideration the technology forecasts towards exascale computing,

v. To provide overall direction to implementing agencies in executing the mission and monitor the progress of implementation to ensure smooth progress of the mission.

vi. It would be responsible to ensure that the objectives of the mission in terms of attaining leadership in supercomputing and a roadmap towards self reliance.

vii Chairman could co-opt/invite any other experts on need basis.

viii. The initial term of the Technical Advisory Committee is one year.

ix. TADA for non-official members would be borne by Deity as per Government of India norms.

Government of India
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Department of Electronics and Information Technology
Website: www.deity.gov.in

No. DeiiY/R&D/UPC/2(1)/2011/P1.2   29 April, 2016*

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Constitution of four Expert Groups under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) *viz.* (i) Expert Group on Infrastructure; (ii) Expert Group on Research and Development (R&D); (iii) Expert Group on Application Development; and (iv) Expert Group on Human Resources Development.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Administrative Approval of even number dated oh April, 2015 conveying the approval of the Competent Authority for the implementation of the project entitled "National Supercomputing Mission (NSM): Building Capacity & Capability" jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity) at the total estimated cost of Rs. 4500.00 crore (Rupees Four Thousand Five Hundred crore only) over a period of seven years with contribution of Rs. 1760.00 crore (Rupees One Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty crore only) by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology and contribution of Rs. 2740.00 crore (Rupees Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Crore only) by the Department of Science and Technology.

2. The undersigned is now directed to convey the approval of the Competent Authority to the constitution of four Expert Groups under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) to provide expertise and direction in the respective areas of implementation *viz.* (i) Expert Group on Infrastructure; (ii) Expert Group on Research and Development (R&D); (iii) Expert Group on Application Development; and (iv) Expert Group on Human Resources Development. The composition(s) of the Expert Groups and their respective Terms of Reference are as under:

1. Expert Group on Infrastructure

Shri B S Jagadeesh, Outstanding Scientist, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai	Chairman
Prof. Miliod Rane, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Mumbai	Member
Shri H Krishnamurthy, Chief Research Scientist, Indian Institute of Science (LISc), Bengaluru	Member
Shri RS Mani, STD, NIC and Project Director, NKN, New Delhi	Member
Shri R P Thángavelu, Centre for Mathematical Modelling and Computer Simulation (CMMACS), Bengaluru	Member

Dr Subrato Chatopadhyaya, Associate Director, C-DAC, Bengaluru	Member
Shri Ignesius Emest Thambyraj, Member. Cloud Computing Innovation Council of India	Member (Industry Representative)
Representative of Department of Electronics & Information Technology/Department of Science and Technology	Member
Shri Sanjay Wandhekar, Associate Director, C-DAC Pune	Convener

ELECTRONICS NIKETAN
6, C.G.O. COMPLEX
NEW DELHI-110003

Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Infrastructure:

- To draw the technical specifications of NSM infrastructure including specilicator architecture, connectivity, data centre etc.

- To work closely with the application development expert group to understand the specific architectural need while drawing specifications.

- To give update of the important developments in systems and data centre technologies.

- To identify user agencies based on their compute, space and power requirement etc. for deploying the systems and provide recommendations to TAC

- Chairman can co-ope additional experts as and when required.

- TA/DA in respect of non official members would be borne from the NSM Sund.

2.   Expert Group on Research & Development (R&D):

Prof. R Govindarajan, Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru	Chairman
Prof. Mainak Chaudhuri, Indian Institute of Technology (IT), Kanpur	Member
Prof. Ashwin Gumaste, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay	Member
Prof. Anshul Kumar, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi	Member
Shri Anupam Mondal, Advanced Numerical Research & Analysis Group (ANURAG), Defence Research and Development Oganization (DRDO)	Member
Mrs. Geetha Manjunath, Xerox Reserch Centre India (XRCI)	Member (Industry Representative)
Representative of Department of Electronics & Information Technology/ Department of Science and Technology	Member
Ms N. Mangla, Joint Director, C-DAC, Bengaluru	Convener

Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Research & Development (R&D):

- To define frameworks and key components for building exa-scale supercomputing systems.

- To give update of the important developments in system architecture, infrastructure management, scalable algorithms, futuristic applications, power optimization techniques, cooling technologies etc.

- To identify NSM R&D programs to be taken up for these technologies.

- Evaluate the R&D proposals and provide recommendations to TAC.

- Review and Monitor the R&D projects/programs taken up under the mission.

- Chairman can co-opt additional experts as and when required.

- TADA in respect of non-official members would be bome from the NSM fund.

3.   Expert Group on Application Development:

Prof. Alok Bhattacharya, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi	Chairman
Prof. S Balasubramanian, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru	Member
Prof. Yashwant Gupta, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), Tata Institute of Fundamnental Research (TIFR), Pune	Member
Prof. Sanjay Mittal, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur	Member
Prof. Ravi Nanjundiah, Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru	Member
Dr. Sunil D. Sherlekar, Sankhya Sutra Labs Pvt Ltd., Bengaluru	Member (Industry Representative)
Dr Debashish Bhattacharya, Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad	Member
Representative of Department of Electronics & Information Technology/Department of Science and Technology	Member
Dr. Rajendra Joshi, Associate Director, C-DAC, Pune	Convener

Terms of Reference of the Eupert Group on Application Development:

- Identification of applications keeping in mind requirements of end users in extramural application domains, investigating on key application breakthroughs, quantifying their societal, environmental and economical impacts and performing a gap analysis between current situation and required targets.

- Identification of her scalable algorithms, libraries targeted towards selected hardware platforms that can be used in idenufied applications and proposes for development of these.

- Interact closely with expert group on infrastructure to address the architectural needs of specific applications

- Identify and recommend bringing on board, local and global domain experts who can contribute towards selected applications.

- Evaluate the application development proposals and provide recommendations to TAC.

- Review and Monitor the application development/deployment taken up under the mission.

- Chairman can co-opt additional experts as and when required.

- TADA in respect of non-official members would be borne from the NSM fund.

4.   Experi Group on Human Resources Development:

Dr Jaya Panvalkar, Chairinan Governing Council, SVNIT, Surat	Chairman (Industry Representative)
Prof. Kalpesh Kapoor, Indian Institute of Technology (IT), Guwahati	Member

Prof. Sanjoy Bandyopadhyay, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur	Member
Prof. S Krishnaswamy, Madurai Kamraj University	Member
Prof. Sathish Vadhiyar, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru	Member
Prof. P.S.V. Nataraj. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay	Member
Representative of Department of Electronics and Information Technology/Department of Science and Technology	Member
Shri Ashish Kuvelkar, Associate Director, C-DAC, Pune	Convener

Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Human Resource Development:

- To investigate and describe state-of-the-art, trends, and future needs in HPC training and education.

- Design the education and training programs, to meet objectives of NSM to develop HPC aware manpower, and formulate the delivery mechanisms of these programs across the country.

- Adapt the courses to include newer programming paradigms.

- Plan and define Higher education at UG, PG and PG diploma level education in HPC.

- Provide recommendations to TAC on all above.

- Chairman can co-opt additional experts as and when required.

- TADA in respect of non-official members would be borne from the NSM fund.

(R. K. Juneja)
Joint Director
Tele : 24301303

To

1. The Chairmen and Meinbers of all the four Expert Groups.

2. Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology,

3. Secretary. DST', Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi.

4. Diretor-Gencral, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune.

5. D&D Section. Deity.

6. GC(DD)/HOD(SAK)/JD(RKJ)

Upliftment of Kannur Railway Station

447. SHRIMATI P. K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed, sanctioned and ongoing projects for the upliftment of Kannur railway station; and

(b) whether there is any delay in the implementation of these projects and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The following works are recently completed:–

(i) Subway connecting Platform No.1 and Platform No.2/3.

(ii) Separate entry and exit for the station.

The proposed work is provision of Escalators.

The following projects sanctioned but yet to commence:–

(i)   Extension of Platform no. 1A by 161 metres towards Kozhikode end.

(ii)   Additional Food Over Bridge connecting all Platforms

(iii)   One Lift.

(iv)   IRS type Platform Shelters 2 bays.

(v)   Improvements to water supply arrangements.

(vi)   Augmentation of water supply-pipeline from Kannur South.

(vii)   Provision of additional platform.

The following of Projects are on Going:–

Provision and Improvements to Passenger Amenities which is nearing completion.

(b)   There is delay in commencing the work for provision of additional platform at Kannur as the prerequisite is shifting the existing installations of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). M/s. BPCL has already advised to shift the existing oil decanting facility to the last line on the Eastern side of the Station.

CCTV Cameras

448. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Railways has decided to install CCTV cameras at all manned railway crossings and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Railways has identified vulnerable spots across the railway network where security deployment and CCTV coverage need to be provided; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways has planned to provide CCTV based surveillance System at Stations and in passenger carrying trains to enhance safety and security of the passengers. The project of installing CCTV cameras

at 8244 Railway Stations (Including halt stations) and in 58276 passenger coaches of trains has been sanctioned at the cost of Rs. 3771 crore. These include provision of CCTV cameras at 983 stations costing approximately Rs. 500 crore being funded through Nirbhaya Fund.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Udaipur-Ahmedabad Rail Line

449. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government proposes to construct new railway stations after the gauge conversion of Udaipur-Ahmedabad *via* Himmatnagar railway line;

(b)   if so, the names of new railway stations under construction on this railway line;

(c)   whether the Government proposes to construct a new railway station on Salumbar route (near Rishabhdev);

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

(e)   the total number of over-bridges and under-bridges constructed on this gauge converted line along with the details of locations; and

(f)   the total amount spent for the construction of these under and over bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) There is no such proposal to construct new railway station on Salumber route (near Rishabhdev) or anywhere in between Ahmedabad and Udaipur section during Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion project. However, station buildings and platforms are being constructed as per the requirement of gauge conversion.

(e) and (f) Total 155 numbers of Road over bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs) are being constructed on Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion project. An expenditure of Rs. 171 crore (approx.) has been incurred on these bridges so far. The location-wise details of these over bridges and under bridges are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Location-wise details of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and
Road Under Bridges (RUBs) being constructed
on Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur
gauge conversion project

Sl. No.	Exist L.C. No./ Bridge No.	Connecting Villages	
1	2	3	4
1.	12	Ranasan	Ranasan
2.	13	Narmada Canal Service Road	Narmada Canal Service Road
3.	14	Medra	Limbadiya
4.	15	Viratalavadi	Valad
5.	16	Vajapura-Fields	
6.	17	Dabhoda-Field	
7.	18	Dabhoda	Raipur
8.	19	Dabhoda	Vadodara
9.	20	Vadodara-Field	
10.	22	Vadodara	Nandol Dahegam
11.	24	Nandol Dahegam	Vadodara Lat
12.	25	Nandol Dahegan	Vododara Lat
13.	27	Nandol Dahegam	Chiloda SH 141
14.	30	SH 68-Chapalpur	Chapalpur
15.	31	SH68	Ahmedpura
16.	32	SH68	Babalpura
17.	33	SH68	Jaliyamath
18.	35	SH-68-Field	JN Vidhyalay
19.	36	SH68	Amar Gupteshwar Temple
20.	37	Rakhiyal	Sagdalpur
21.	40	Bhadroda	Nashripura
22.	41	Shashari Muwadi	Bhadroda
23.	42	Shashari Muwadi	Shashari Muwadi
24.	44	Kherol	Valiyampura
25.	45	Kherol	Kherol
26.	46	Kherol	Kherol
27.	47	Kherol	Kherol
28.	48	Vaktapur	Talod
29.	52	Talod	Talod
30.	54	Talod	Talod
31.	55	Talod	Gora
32.	56	Varlad	Rupal
33.	58	Rupal	Rupal
34.	59	Rupal	Amrapur
35.	61	Raslad	Raslad
36.	62	Raslad	Raslad
37.	64	Nawa Vaktapur	Juna Vaktapur
38.	65	Prantij	Prantij
39.	66	Prantij	Prantij
40.	68	Prantij	Highway
41.	69	Puladra	Highway
42.	70	Puladra	Puladra Highway
43.	71	Rasulpur	Rasulpur
44.	72	Rasulpur	Rasulpur
45.	74	Salal	Salal
46.	75	Mavid	Sevipur
47.	76	Sejipur	Katvad
48.	77	Govindpura	Rup Pura
49.	78	Hajipur	Pathapur
50.	79	Boria	Sabaderi
51.	80	Piplodi	Highway
52.	215	Himmatnagar Yard	
53.	79	Udaipur	Umra
54.	80	Udaipur	Umra
55.	81	Udaipur	Umra
56.	82	Udaipur	Umra
57.	83	Udaipur	Umra
58.	84	Udaipur	Umra
59.	85	Umra	Kharwa Chand

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
60.	86	Umra	Kharwa Chand	95.	128	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur
61.	87	Umra	Kharwa Chand	96.	130	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur
62.	88	Kharwa Chand	Zawar	97.	131	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur
63.	89	Kharwa Chand	Zawar	98.	133	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur
64.	90	Kharwa Chand	Zawar	99.	136	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur
65.	91	Kharwa Chand	Zawar	100.	137	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur
66.	92	Kharwa Chand	Zawar	101.	138	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur
67.	94	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	102.	140	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur
68.	95	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	103.	142	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
69.	96	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	104.	143	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
70.	97	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	105.	144	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
71.	98	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	106.	145	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
72.	100	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	107.	146	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
73.	101	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	108.	148	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
74.	102	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	109.	150	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
75.	103	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	110.	151	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
76.	104	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	111.	155	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
77.	105	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	112.	157	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
78.	107	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	113.	158	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
79.	108	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	114.	160	Dungarpur	Bechhiwara
80.	109	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	115.	161	Bechhiwara	Lusadiya
81.	110	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	116.	162	Bechhiwara	Lusadiya
82.	111	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	117.	163	Bechhiwara	Lusadiya
83.	113	Zawar	Jaisamand Road	118.	165	Bechhiwara	Lusadiya
84.	114	Jaisamand Road	Ses	119.	166	Bechhiwara	Lusadiya
85.	115	Jaisamand Road	Ses	120.	167	Bechhiwara	Lusadiya
86.	117	Jaisamand Road	Ses	121.	169	Bechhiwara	Lusadiya
87.	119	Jaisamand Road	Ses	122.	170	Bechhiwara	Lusadiya
88.	120	Jaisamand Road	Ses	123.	171	Lusadiya	Shamlaji Road
89.	121	Jaisamand Road	Ses	124.	172	Lusadiya	Shamlaji Road
90.	122	Jaisamand Road	Ses	125.	178	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
91.	123	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur	126.	179	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
92.	124	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur	127.	180	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
93.	126	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur	128.	181	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
94.	127	Rikhab Dev Road	Dungarpur	129.	182	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road

1	2	3	4
130.	183	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
131.	185	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
132.	186	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
133.	187	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
134.	188	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
135.	190	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
136.	191	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
137.	192	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
138.	193	Shamlaji Road	Raigadh Road
139.	194	Raigadh Road	Virawada
140.	196	Raigadh Road	Virawada
141.	197	Raigadh Road	Virawada
142.	198	Raigadh Road	Virawada
143.	199	Raigadh Road	Virawada
144.	200	Raigadh Road	Virawada
145.	201	Raigadh Road	Virawada
146.	202	Raigadh Road	Virawada
147.	203	Virawada	Himmatnagar
148.	204	Virawada	Himmatnagar
149.	205	Virawada	Himmatnagar
150.	206	Virawada	Himmatnagar
151.	207	Virawada	Himmatnagar
152.	208	Virawada	Himmatnagar
153.	210	Virawada	Himmatnagar
154.	211	Virawada	Himmatnagar
155.	213	Virawada	Himmatnagar

[English]

Survey of Railway Projects in Karnataka

450. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
   SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Railways has carried out any survey in Karnataka for laying of new railway lines, gauge conversion of old lines, electrification and construction of ROBs and RUBs since 2014 and if so, the details thereof; and

(b)   the Government's plan for the current year for laying of new lines, gauge conversion, electrification and construction of ROBs and RUBs in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No meter gauge line for gauge conversion exists in Karnataka. Details of surveys for New lines, electrification and Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges are as under:–

A.   Details of surveys for laying of new railway lines falling fully/partly in Karnataka included in Budget by Railways during last three years (2014-15 to 2017-18) & current year (2018-19) and surveys taken up and projects included in the Budget during this period are as under:-

I.   Surveys included in the Budget and taken up for New Lines

Sl. No.	Year	Name of survey	Length (in Km)
1	2	3	4
1.	2014-15	Bellary-Lingasugur *via* Sindhanur	145
2.	2014-15	Belgaum-Hubli *via* Kitturu	110
3.	2014-15	Miraj-Kavatheahankal-Bijapur	122
4.	2014-15	Tiptur-Dudda	37
5.	2014-15	Talguppa-Siddapur	17
6.	2015-16	Nadikoor-Karkal-Ujre-Charmady-Mudigere	136
7.	2015-16	Gadag-Harpanahalli	94
8.	2016-17	Gulbarga-Latur	148
9.	2016-17	Thalassery-Mysore	300
10.	2016-17	Badami-Yelburga *via* Gjendragarh	53
11.	2016-17	Dharwad-Belgaum	91
12.	2016-17	Lokapur-Dharwar *via* Ramdurg, Sirsangi	95
13.	2016-17	Bidar-Nanded	154
14.	2017-18	Almatti-Koppal	125
15.	2017-18	Challakere-Hiriyur-Huliyar-Chikkanayakanahalli-Turuvekere-Channarayapattna	200

1	2	3	4
16.	2017-18	Hassan-Belur-Chikmagalur-Sringeri-Shimoga	150
17.	2017-18	Hindupur-Chitradurga	132
18.	2017-18	Swamihalli-Rayadurga	45
19.	2017-18	Dharmavaram-Bellari	120
20.	2018-19	Gadag-Krishnar *via* Kotumachagi, Naregal & Hanumsagar	216
21.	2018-19	Chitradurga-Almatti	264

ii.   New line projects included in the Budget during 2014-15 to 2017-18 and 2018-19 are as under:–

Sl. No.	Year	Name of Project	Length (in Km)	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in crore)
1.	2017-18	Gadag-Yalvigi	58	640
2.	2018-19	Shimoga - Shikaripura - Ranebennur	89	956

B. Railway Electrification

Survey for electrification of railway routes is a continuous ongoing process. Based on Surveys following electrification projects falling fully/partly in the State of Karnataka have been sanctioned since 2014:–

Sl. No.	Year	Name of electrification project	Route Kilometer
1	2	3	4
1.	2015-16	Hospet-Hubli-Vasco da Gama	346
2.	2016-17	Miraj-Londa	189
3.	2017-18	Chikjajur-Bellary	184
4.	2017-18	Gadag-Hotgi	284
5.	2017-18	Chikbanavar-Hubli	456
6.	2018-19	Parli Vajinath-Vikarabad	62
7.	2018-19	Hospet-Swamihalli	59
8.	2018-19	Birur-Talguppa	161
9.	2018-19	Mysuru-Hassan-Mangalore including Arsikere-Hassan	347
10.	2018-19	Mysuru-Chamarajanagar	61

1	2	3	4
11.	2018-19	Kadur-Chikmaglur	46
12.	2018-19	Chikbanavar-Hassan	166
13.	2018-19	Bangarpet-Yelahanka	149

C. Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs)

26 ROBs and 41 RUBs have been sanctioned from 2014-15 to 2018-19 in Karnataka.

(b)   Details of projects/part projects planned for commissioning of new lines, electrification and construction of ROBs/RUBs during current year are as under:-

A.   Completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries for acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities etc. However, works on Chikkabenakal-Gangavathi section (13 Km) are being expedited for completion during current year.

B.   During current year *i.e.* 2018-19, following rail routes falling fully/partly in the State of Karnataka have been planned for electrification:

Sl.No.	Name of section	Route Kilometer
1.	Tornagallu-Virapur	55
2.	Bellary-Rayadurg	50
3.	Hospet-Gadag	85
4.	Hubli-Navalpur	30
5.	Bengaluru-Hosur	50

C.   Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges 7 ROBs and 30 RUBs are targeted for construction during 2018-19.

EL-Nino Weather Patterns

451. SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that India is likely to emerge unscathed from the EI-Nino weather patterns as it is expected to set in only during the latter part of the four month monsoon season;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the country would have timely arrival of rains; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) Climate Models at present suggest that weak El-Nino conditions may develop during December, 2018-February, 2019.

(c) and (d) It is a bit early to confirm this aspect as we need to closely monitor other global parameters, which may be evolving in the next few months. India Meteorological Department issues the first long-range monsoon forecast by Aprilevery year.

Ayurvedic and Unani System in Army Hospital

452. DR. UDIT RAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the medical facility for personnel of Armed Forces including ex-servicemen and their dependents under Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicines have been introduced in Army hospitals (R&R) Delhi Cantonment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) It has been decided to open an Ayurveda Out Patient Department (OPD) at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantonment in collaboration with the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) for the families of Service personnel and ex-servicemen on a voluntary basis.

Fishermen in Neighbouring Countries Jails

453. SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:
        SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   the total number of Indian fishermen and their boats in the custody of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at present;

(b)   the total number of fishermen released during the current year from these countries;

(c)   the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to secure release of all the fishermen; and

(d)   steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rehabilitate fishermen and their families whose boats have been confiscated by these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) The details of Indian fishermen and their boats in the custody of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and the number of Indian fishermen released from these countries are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Government attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. Our Missions and Posts regularly seek consular access to Indian fishermen detained in foreign countries, ensure their welfare and also pursue their early release and repatriation, along with their boats. Given the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of this issue, the Government has put in place several bilateral mechanisms to ensure cooperation and understanding between India and the countries concerned, to promote the safety and security of Indian fishermen.

Statement

Details of Indian Fisherman and their boats in the custody of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and fisherman released from these countries

Sl. No.	Mission/Post	The number of Indian Fishermen in custody	The number of boats in custody	The number of Indian Fisherman released during current year
1.	Pakistan	482*	1050$	174
2.	Sri Lanka	18	10	214
3.	Bangladesh	NIL	NIL	NIL
	Total	500	1060	388

* Pakistan has acknowledged custody of only 391 Indian fishermen.

$ Pakistan does not acknowledge the number of Indian Fishing Boats (IFBs) in their custody.

[Translation]

Popularising Hindi

454. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has formulated any scheme to make Hindi popular in other countries;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the amount of the fund allocated in this regard for the current financial year along with the details of the programmes being implemented for the said purpose;

(d)   whether people from other countries are taking special interest in learning Hindi and if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   the details of the countries at present where Hindi is being taught as a subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Yes, Government has a well organized programme for promotion and propagation of our Rajbhasha Hindi abroad, which is implemented through our Missions & Posts abroad.

The Government has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on a pilot project with the United Nations to increase the volume and frequency of content on United Nations activities produced by the United Nations Secretariat in Hindi for an initial period of 2 years. As part of this project, the United Nations Secretariat has increased the audio, video and text content in Hindi and started social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for disseminating information in Hindi. It is also planning to begin a multi-media website in Hindi in 2019.

(c)   Under Ministry's budget an amount of Rs. 5 crore has been allocated in the current financial year 2018-19 for propagation of Hindi abroad.

The Ministry regularly organizes World Hindi Conference and Regional Hindi Conferences in different parts of the world in cooperation with the local Governments, universities and organizations. The 11th World Hindi Conference was successfully organized in Mauritius from 18-20 August, 2018 in association with the Government of Mauritius.

The Ministry regularly organizes programmes for popularizing Hindi abroad with the involvement of its Missions & Posts, universities, cultural organizations and associations, including the World Hindi Day on 10th January. Hindi teaching materials, including Hindi text books and children books etc. are supplied free of cost to educational institutions abroad. The Ministry also extends financial support to educational institutions abroad through its Missions & Posts, for teaching Hindi.

The permanent building of the World Hindi Secretariat was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India in March, 2018. It was set up in Mauritius to promote Hindi worldwide, under a bilateral agreement between the Governments of India and Mauritius based on equal sharing of budget for its operation.

ICCR has established 26 Hindi Chairs in different countries. It has deployed India based Hindi teachers at its six Indian Cultural Centres and Hindi teaching facilities are also provided by local teachers in its five centres. ICCR publishes a bi-monthly Hindi magazine "Gagananchal", which is circulated to 122 Indian Missions & Posts and 37 Indian Cultural Centres abroad. ICCR spends an amount of Rs. 990 lakhs on Chairs, Rs. 360 lakhs on India based Hindi teachers at Indian Cultural Centres and Rs. 18 lakhs on the publication of Hindi magazine annually.

(d)   Hindi language is getting popularity in many foreign countries and people are taking interest in learning Hindi. Students from various countries are studying Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra and its Delhi Centre.

(e)   With the continuous efforts of the Ministry through its Missions & Posts abroad and in association with the local organizations & institutions, Hindi is now taught in the territorial jurisdiction of 68 Missions & Posts at school and university level.

[English]

Ongoing Railway Projects

455. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the sanctioned and ongoing railway projects pertaining to new lines, gauge conversion, electrification and route doubling during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(b)   the details of the funds allocated and spent therefrom, zone- wise/State-wise;

(c)   the total number of projects running behind schedule along with those pending due to financial constrains, zone-wise;

(d)   whether any committee has been set up to monitor the implementation of the aforesaid projects and find out the reasons for the delay therein and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e)   the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to generate extra budgetary support for the purpose and expedite completion of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Zone-wise details of sanctioned/included in budget, projects of New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification are as under:–

Zonal Railway	New Line	Gauge Conversion	Doubling	Electrification
1	2	3	4	5
Central Railway	12	0	14	11
Eastern Railway	13	1	24	5
East Central Railway	27	4	21	15
East Coast Railway	8	0	16	7
Northern Railway	19	0	31	38
North Central Railway	1	3	28	10
North Eastern Railway	11	7	12	16
Northeast Frontier Railway	22	2	8	16
North Western Railway	7	3	11	21
Southern Railway	10	4	17	13
South Central Railway	17	0	14	13

1	2	3	4	5
South Eastern Railway	6	2	22	5
South East Central Railway	9	4	9	8
South Western Railway	16	1	11	14
Western Railway	4	26	14	21
West Central Railway	3	0	12	5

(b)   The details of all works in progress and new works including, funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in* and are also available in Pink Books presented before the House along with Budget every year.

(c) to (e) The completion of Railway projects requires coordination with various departments for acquisition of land, statutory clearances, shifting of utilities etc. leading to time overrun. For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc, institutional financing has been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for 1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Foreign Aid to Kerala

456. SHRI C. N. JAYADEVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Union Government has refused to accept the help from various countries and organizations for revival of devastated Kerala State by the torrential rain and flood in the month of August, 2018; and

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the countries and organizations offered financial as well as technological help for reconstruction of Kerala and reasons for not accepting such help from friendly countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) In the wake of the tragic Kerala floods, several countries expressed their sympathies and their

willingness to assist in the relief and rehabilitation efforts. In response, Government expressed deep appreciation for such offers and conveyed that, in line with existing policy, it is committed to meeting requirements for relief and rehabilitation through domestic efforts. It was further conveyed that contributions to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund from NRIs, PIOs and International entities such as Foundations would, however, be welcome.

Regional Cooperation

457. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether India's efforts to promote regional cooperation will continue to focus on the Bay of Bengal and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether initiatives were taken for Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in the recently concluded summit in Kathmandu and if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   the steps taken by the Government to increase community and revive Bay of Bengal in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIAJY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Yes. BIMSTEC is being given due attention in furtherance of our priorities of 'Neighbourhood first' and 'Act East'.

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation for the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu on 30-31 August, 2018. This gave a significant push to regional cooperation. The Kathmandu Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit seeks to intensify regional cooperation in various sectors including connectivity and trade, energy, security and counter terrorism, environment and disaster management, agriculture, ICT and people-to-people contacts, among others. To strengthen institutional mechanism of BIMSTEC, at the Summit it was decided to initiate the drafting of the BIMSTEC Charter, and to strengthen the BIMSTEC Secretariat. An MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection was also signed at the Summit.

(c)   During the 4th BIMSTEC Summit, Prime Minister announced a number of initiatives to be undertaken by India

to advance BIMSTEC cooperation and capacity in diverse areas such as security, disaster management, economy and trade, agriculture, health and digital connectivity as well as activities to promote cultural and youth linkages. Steps are being taken to implement these in consultation with other BIMSTEC Member States.

National Telecom Service Policy

458. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has put in place or proposes to put in place the National Telecommunication Security Policy in the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof including salient features of the said policy;

(c)   whether all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are following the instructions issued by the Government regarding security audit of telecom equipments, if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   if not, the action taken/being taken by the Government against erring TSPs, TSP-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The "National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018", which was notified on 22nd October, 2018, under the Chapter, "Secure India: Ensuring Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications" has provisions which cover National Telecommunications Security and related aspects. The salient features stipulated in the goals under this chapter are as below:

i.   Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals and facilitates India's effective participation in the global digital economy.

ii.   Ensure that net neutrality principles are upheld and aligned with service requirements, bandwidth availability and network capabilities including next generation access technologies.

iii.   Develop and deploy robust digital communication network security frameworks.

iv. Build capacity for security testing and establish appropriate security standards.

v. Address security issues relating to encryption and security clearances.

vi. Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

(c) and (d) Yes, all the TSPs are following the instructions issued by DoT regarding security audit of telecom equipments. The details of the instructions on audit to be carried out by TSPs are stipulated in para 39.6 of the License Agreement of Unified License which reads as below:

"In furtherance of organizational security policy, the LICENSEE shall audit its network or get the network audited from security point of view once in a financial year from a network audit and certification agency. The first audit may be carried out in the financial year succeeding the financial year of the signing of the LICENSE/Service authorization. The LICENSEE is free to engage the service of any agency for this purpose, which is certified to carry out the audit as per relevant ISO standards. Presently ISO 15408 and ISO 27001 standards are applicable."

Passport Offices in Kerala

459. DR. P. K. BIJU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government would set up passport offices in all divisional headquarters of Kerala especially in Thrissur and Palakkadu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) There are 17 Passport Kendras functioning in Kerala as on 6th December, 2018. These are at Alapuzha, Chengannur, Cochin, Ernakulam (Rural), Idukki (Kattappana), Kannur, Kasargod, Kollam, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Pathanamthitta, Payyanur (Kannur), Vadakara (Kozhikode), Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvananthapuram (Rural) and Thrissur.

The Ministry has decided to open two more Passport Kendras in Kerala at Attingal and Palakkad, taking the total number of Passport Kendras to 19.

Cyclone Forecasting and Management System

460. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cyclone Titli and Gaja have wrecked havoc across various states resulting in loss of lives and properties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any new initiatives to bring in technological advancement in cyclone forecasting system;

(d) if so, the details thereof including international cooperation/agreement signed in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to develop cyclone forecasting and management system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Detailed loss assessment on agriculture, houses and livelihoods are compiled by Government of India and the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for seeking Central Assistance.

(c) to (e) IMD has one of the best systems for monitoring and forecasting the tropical cyclones using a suite of quality observations from Satellites and Radars and high resolution advanced weather prediction models. IMD has a very effective Decision Support System for forecasting and early warning of tropical cyclones. IMD has defined Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for monitoring & forecasting the cyclones and issue of warning services.IMD has one of the best forecasting capabilities in forecasting tropical cyclones.

Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has a strong international collaboration with National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA and UK Met Office for developing weather prediction models.

MoES currently uses the Global Forecasting System {GFS} with a horizontal resolution resolution of 12 km. In addition, a Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS) for short and medium range prediction at 12 km using 21 members of the model has been developed and is operational since 01 June, 2018.The resolution (12 km) of the GEFS is the highest among all the operational global operational weather forecast centres in the world. The Ensemble forecasts enhance the weather information being provided by the current models by quantifying the uncertainties in the weather forecasts and generate probabilistic forecasts. The ensemble forecast also provides the probabilistic guidance for track and intensity of cyclones and depressions. Regional models like Hurricane Weather Research Forecast (HWRF) have also been implemented to generate forecasts at very high resolution of 2 km.

IMD has always used contemporary technology and continuously expands its infrastructure for meteorological observations, dta exchange, monitoring & analysis, State of art forecasting and early warning services.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.00 noon.

11.17 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the clock

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12.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock

(HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

12.0 ½ hrs

At this stage Shri Rajeev Satav, Shrimati V. Sathyabama, Shri Anandrao Adsul and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please listen to me for a minute.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.01hrs

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that Shri Conrad Kongkal Sangma, an elected Member from the Tura Parliamentary Constituency of Meghalaya has resigned from the membership of Lok Sabha. I have accepted his resignation with effect from 4 Spetmeber, 2018.

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...(*Interruptions*)

12.02 hrs

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

Successful launch of satellites by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
and
Winning medals by Indian boxers in World Boxing Championship held in New Delhi

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Atleast congratulate them.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, with great pleasure I have to inform the House that Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched GSAT-11 satellite into space from the French Guiana Space Port of Kourou in South America on 5.12.2018. GSAT-11 with a weight of approx. 5854 kg is the heaviest satellite built by ISRO. This satellite will play an important role in providing broadband services across the country. Apart from that, it will also provide satellite based internet services in remote areas where cable based internet services are inaccessible.

Hon. Members, ISRO has also successfully launched GSAT-29 satellite and Hyper Spectal Imaging Satellite into the space on 14th and 29th November, 2018.

Hon. Members, It is a matter of great pride for all of us that our colleague in Rajya Sabha, Shrimati M.C. Mary Kom has won a historic sixth gold medal in the 48 kg. category in World Boxing Championship held in New Delhi on 24th November, 2018. Sushree Sonia Chahal has also won a silver medal in the 57 kg. category.

I congratulate both of them on behalf of the House. I also congratulate the ISRO team on the behalf of the House and extend my greetings to them.

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...(*Interruptions*)

12.04 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council and the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9821/16/18]

…(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Madam, I beg to lay following Papers on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Information Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018 under subsection (4) of Section 25 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9822/16/18]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Gadanki, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Gadanki, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9823/16/18]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2017-2018

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 9824/16/18]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2017-2018

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9825/16/18]

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9826/16/18]

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution:–

(1) The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2018 (No. 7 of 2018) promulgated by the President on 19th September, 2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9827/16/18]

(2) The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 (No. 8 of 2018) promulgated by the President on 26th September, 2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9828/16/18]

(3) The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 (No. 9 of 2018) promulgated by the President on 2nd November, 2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9829/16/18]

...(*Interruptions*)

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12.07 hrs

ASSENT TO BILLS*

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table the following eight Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of Sixteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 10th August, 2018:–

(i)   The Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, 2018;

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT 9830/16/18.

(ii) The National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Bill, 2018;

(iii) The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2018;

(iv) The Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2018;

(v)   The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018;

(vi) The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018;

(vii) The Union Territory Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018; and

(viii) The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2018.

I also lay on the Table one copy each, duly authenticated by the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, of following ten Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:–

(i)   The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018;

(ii) The Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2018;

(iii) The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2018;

(iv) The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Bill, 2018;

(v)   The criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018;

(vi) The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018;

(vii) The National Sports University Bill, 2018;

(viii) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2018;

(ix) The Scheduled Castes and The Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018; and

(x)   The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

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…(*Interruptions*)

12.07 ½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS
214th and 215th Reports

[English]

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (Barasat): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:–

    (1)   214th Report of the Committee on 'Working Conditions in Border Guarding Forces (Assam Rifles, Sashastra Seema Bal, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Border Security Force).

    (2)   215th Report of the Committee on 'Working Conditions in Non-Border Guarding Central Armed Police Forces (Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force and National Security Guard).

…(*Interruptions*)

12.08 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

    (i)   Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 309th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 309th Report of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology.

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…(*Interruptions*)

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*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9831/16/18.

12.08 ½ hrs

[English]

    (ii) (a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 312th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2018-2019) pertaining to Department of Space*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Madam, with your permission, I beg to lay the following statements regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 312th Report of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2018-2019) pertaining to Department of Space.

        (b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 307th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 299th Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Madam, with your permission, I beg to lay the following

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*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9832/16/18.

**Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9833/16/18.

statements regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 307th Report of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 299th Report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy.

(c) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 314th Report of the Standing Committee on Science andTechnology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Madam, with your permission, I beg to lay the following statements regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 314th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy.

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…(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Honorable Members, Notices of adjournment motion have been received from some members on different subjects. Although the matters are important, however, it is not necessary to interrupt today's proceedings. These matters can be raised on other occasions, so I have not allowed any notice of adjournment motion.

...(*Interruptions*)

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*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9834/16/18.

12.09 hrs

DAM SAFETY BILL, 2018*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Nitin Gadkari, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

…(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam, I stand here to oppose the introduction of this Bill because it does not come under the purview of this House or the Parliament. The Union Government does not have legislative competence to legislate on this Bill as the subject comes under the purview of State Governments as per List II (2017) of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

I would also like to mention that another Bill was introduced in 2010 where the basic purpose of the Bill was mentioned in the introduction-'To provide for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all dams of certain parameters in India to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.'

This line is missing in this Bill of 2018. Once you have that line of 2010, that actually gives scope for the Parliament to implement a regulation. …(*Interruptions*) But

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.2018.

in this present Bill of 2018, that is not there. ...(*Interruptions*) Further, I would also like to mention that the preamble of the Dam Safety Bill of 2010 does not find place in the present Bill of 2018 and it is a State Subject. ...(*Interruptions*)

Lastly, I would also mention that the Committee, which was formed subsequently takes note that the regulation of safety of dams has not yet been declared by the Parliament to be expedient in public interest. …(*Interruptions*) However, they are not inclined to accept the view that the Parliament has no power to make laws on this subject as stated in the preamble of the Bill of 2010. …(*Interruptions*) That does not find place in the Bill of 2018. …(*Interruptions*) Therefore, I stand here and would like to state that our Party opposes the introduction of this Bill. …(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Madam Speaker, my very learned colleague has raised some objections. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to inform the House, through you, that this Bill was introduced in the 15th Lok Sabha. ...(*Interruptions*) Then it was referred to the Standing Committee. ...(*Interruptions*) The Standing Committee gave some observations. After that the 15th Lok Sabha lapsed, so it has been brough again in the 16th Lok Sabha. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to tell that he has raised a question about competency. ...(*Interruptions*) If he goes through Article 252, it clearly States that if two States agree and pass resolution. ...(*Interruptions*) Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal Legislative Assemblies has passed the resolution. ...(*Interruptions*) So it is within the legislative competency of the Central Government. ...(*Interruptions*) If Bhartruhari Mahtab Saheb go through the Article 252 with Articles 246 and Entry 56 and 97 of the Seventh Schedule, then he will understand that this is within our legislative competency, so I introduce this Bill.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe

functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Madam, I introduce* the Bill.

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12.13 hrs

MATTER UNDER RULE 377**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 will be Laid on the Table of the House. Those members who have been allowed today to raise matters under Rule 377 and who are willing to lay them on the Table may send the text of the matter individually to the Table immediately. Only those matters will be Laid on the Table and the rest will be treated as lapsed.

...(*Interruptions*)

(i) Need to run a Toy Train between Mussoorie and Dehradun in Uttarakhand

SHRIMATI MALA RAJYALAXMI SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Mussoorie is a major tourist destination of the country, along with Uttarakhand, Millions of tourists from all over the country and abroad visit here throughout the year. Mussoorie is also called the Queen of the Hills. Local residents and traders are demanding to run a toy train between Dehradun and Mussoorie for many years. Toy trains are being run in five major tourist destinations of the country. Toy train is being run specially between Shimla-Kalka, a major tourist destination of Himachal Pradesh, neighboring Uttarakhand. Running a toy train between Mussoorie-Dehradun will benefit local people and traders. More tourists from India and abroad will visit Mussoorie.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to formulate action plan to run a toy train between Mussoorie-Dehradun and to promote the tourist destinations of Uttarakhand.

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.
**Treated as laid on the Table.

(ii) Need to enact a law to regulate functioning of sports federations in the country

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Damoh): The Supreme Court has intervened in the country's sports world and tried to address the allegations of opaqueness, corruption and exploitation in the election of BCCI or other sports federations such as Kabaddi, Volleyball, Basketball and other athletic federations. But this is not a permanent solution. The future of the players is being affected owing to it. For a national player, his selection, dress, food, coach, sports physio, doctor and field are important things. The Government helps in this but could not strengthened and make just the same due to arbitrariness of the federations.

Therefore, I would like to demand that these irregularities should be done away with by enacting a new legislation in the Parliament to give protection to these youths who bring laurels to the country. The responsibility of maintenance of the playgrounds should be on these sports associations.

(iii) Need to expedite launch of ropeway service at Jalore Fort in Rajasthan

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL (Jalore): In my Lok Sabha Constituency, Jalore, Swarnagiri fort enjoys a thousand years of historical glory. This Fort is known for beauty of its architecture. Swarnagiri Fort of Jalore is an example of bravery and patriotism. An amount of Rs. 8.82 crores has been approved for constructions of ropeway on 28th June, 2017. Out of which Rs. 7 crore has to be spent on ropeway. The remaning amount has to be spent on Tourism Facility Centre, Surface Parking, Railing for stairs, drinking water, bench for sitting and cleanliness etc. This work was to be completed in the next 18 months from the date of release of funds. But even after such a long period, this work has not been started.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that the construction work of ropeway at Jalore fort should be started at the earliest.

(iv) Need to provide drinking water in Darbhanga Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar and also to compensate farmers who lost their crops due to inadequate irrigation facilities.

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (Darbhanga): People of Darbhanga Parliamentary Constituency are facing water crisis due to the considerable decline in the water level in several blocks of the area. There is very serious water crisis in rural area.

This water crisis caused shortage of drinking water and severaly damaged agriculture in the area due to which farmers of Darbhanga and adjoining areas are suffering financial losses.

I urge upon the Government that adequate compensation should be provided to farmers immediately for the damage suffered by them and a package should be provided to restore the supply of drinking water in the area. The Government should provide required resources to avoid such situation in future so that farmers will not have to face such problem.

(v) Need to set up new thermal power plants at Chandrapura and Bokaro in Jharkhand

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Six units of chandrapura Thermal Power Station were set up phase wise by Damodar Valley Corporation (D.V.C.) in Chandrapura industrial district of Bokaro in Jharkhand, acquiring 1883 acres of land in the 1960s. Out of which Unit No. 4, 5, 6 have been closed for decades because of technical reasons and Unit No. 1, 2, 3 of 130X3 MW capacity continued production though officially retired in the last few years. Currently newly installed Unit No. 7 and 8 with 250X2 MW capacity continuing commercial generation from the year 2010-11. But due to the closure of the six old units, a serious problem of earning livelihood has arisen before the contract workers working for years in them and the social and economic development of that area has been hampered indirectly because of thousands of people being rendered jobless. Therefore, I have been continuously demanding from competent authorities at all levels to set up two super critical units of 630X2 MW capacity. Chandrapura Thermal Power Station is located in the heart of the Koyalanchal, therefore 70 per cent of basic amenities like better connectivity of rail, road, water etc. necessary for setting up new units here, along with land, permanent labour force, coal handling plant, water supply system, heavy machinery, maintenance building, store shed, railway yard, switch yard, compressor house, ash point for auxillary units and housing, hospital, school, guest house,

club, canteen etc. are already available there. Similarly, out of three units of 210X3 MW capacity of Bokaro Thermal Plant of D.V.C. established in the 1980s, Unit No. 1 and 2 have officially been retired and the above infrastructure is already available there.

Hence, I urge that due to availability of above all infrastructure in Chadrapura and Bokaro thermal stations, new thermal units of 630X2 MW capacity should be established in both places. Due to the availabiltiy of nearly 70 per cent of basic infrastructure, two new units 630X2 MW capacity can be set up at minimum cost. With setting up of new units at both the locations, the crisis of 64 livelihood faced by thousands of contract workers will be overcome. It will meet the requirement of 24x7 power in the country and social and economic development of the area as well as serve the purpose of setting up of D.V.C.

(vi) Need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Debua Posi in Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.

SHRI LAXMAN GILUVA (Singhbhum): A proposal for establishing a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Debua Posi in my Parliamentary Constituency is pending with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. Railway land has been provided by the Railways for this proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya. Debua Posi is a mineral rich place, where there are a number of industries related to mineral production, offices of Central Government are also there, Tisco Mineral Company is also there. A large number of Railway officials and Railway workers live there. Children of Central Government employees have to face difficulties due to transfer of their parents from one place to other place, because there is no school adopting the curriculum of Kendriya Vidayalya in my Parliamentay Constituency.

It is requested to the Government that approval for setting up the proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya in Debua Posi in my Parliamentary Constituency Singhbhum may be given at the earliest.

(vii) Need to provide stoppage to various trains at railway stations under Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad): I have been requesting the Hon. Minister of Railways and concerned officers through letters and personal meetings for providing stoppage of many mail/express and Passenger trains in my Parliamentary Constituency and at Paraiya, Guraru, Rafiganj. Fesar, Badhoi Kusha Halt, Anugraha Narayan Road stations under East-Central Railway, basic facilities at railway stations, and augumentation of passenger amenities but no action has been taken so far.

It is mentioned in the letter that Bhabhua Road station is a 'C' category station whereas Aungrah Narayan Road station is a 'A' category station. But there is stoppage of 8 pair of trains at Bhabhua station, whereas no stoppage of even these trains have been given at the 'A' category station.

Most of the stations in my constituency are insurgency affected. If stoppage of trains is provided, passenger can go to their home from the station without waiting at any station and without changing the train.

I urge the Government and General Manager and other officials of East-Central Railway to reconider my demand and issue necessary instructions to the concerned officers to provide stoppage of the trains at all the proposed railway stations and basic facilities at stations, and to augument passenger amenities.

(viii) Need to stop the move to close down schools having fewer number of students in Jharkhand and also regularise the services of eligible para teachers in the State

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): The level of literacy in my home State, Jharkhand, is much lower than other States, especially women literacy is very low. Most of the teaching work in Jharkhand is being done through para teachers. In the absence of students, schools in tribal, scheduled tribe and backward class dominated hilly areas are getting closed from some time. With the closure of the schools, the students studying in those schools will be deprived of the education facility, as the children would not want to go to schools located far away, nor the parents would send their children to those schools for many reasons. Students do not even attend the school due to shortage of teachers. On one hand, Government of India is implementing the Right to Education and striving to achieve cent percent literacy in the country. Even during the regime of Honorable Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, the schools were being shut down due to the shortage of students, but Atal

ji and the then Minister of Human Resource Development. Hon. Shri Murli Manohar Joshi did not allow the closure of even a single school and opened many more schools. All the States are moving ahead in the field of education and giving various facilities to their students. I do not know as to why schools are being shut down on the ground of low number of students in Jharkhand. Children especially belonging to SC, ST, and OBC community of Jharkhand study in these schools. At the same time, services of eligible para teachers should be regularised and their honorarium should be enhanced.

I urge upon the Government that no school should be closed down in the name of fewer number of students and services of para teachers who fulfill all the norms should be regularised.

(ix) Need to include Udaipur city in Rajasthan under B-2 category cities

SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA (Udaipur): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency, Udaipur. Earlier population of Udaipur city's municipal area was about four lakh fifty one thousand two hundred. As per Government records, the growth rate of the population of Udaipur city was 23 per cent as on 2001. If this growth is considered the base, then the population of Udaipur has crossed 5 lakhs by the year 2016 and 34 Revenue Villages in the periphery of Udaipur city are considered under UIT area. If the growth of population of these villages till 2016 is added then the population of Udaipur should be more than 7.50 lakh and if growth of population from 2001 to 2018 is considered as the base, then Udaipur city should be included under B-2 category cities.

Therefore, I demand from the Government of India that keeping in view the growth of population of Udaipur city from 2001 to 2018, it should be given B-2 status as soon as possible, so that the Government employees and the public should get all the benefits of B-2 category cities.

(x) Need to ban plastic for packaging food items and take adequate measures for recycling of plastic garbage

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (Kheri): Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has stated in its report that 70% of the plastic consumption is dumped as garbage.

As per CPCB reports and a study conducted by IIT and CISR, Lucknow, it has been stated that the said plastic packaging material, which is dumped, exerts adverse effects on soil and water by leaking the toxic gases, as well as leaching of dangerous cancerous substances.

Plastic packaging of foods is adversely affecting health because of leaching of lead, antimony, cadmium and phthalate into foods, which has been confirmed by A.I.H.H.H. laboratory testing also. Various national and international studies, research and laboratory tests have confirmed leaching of cancerous compounds from plastic packaged food, pharma and dump plastic into water and soil.

I urge upon the Government to impose a complete ban on the use of plastic for food packaging and to take action for recycling of dump plastic waste and other harmless provisions.

(xi) Need to introduce All India Judicial Services

[English]

DR. UDIT RAJ (North West Delhi): Nowhere in the world, Judges appoint Judges, except in India. The worst is happening where there are no defined parameters of merit to select the judges and appointments are made through nepotism, on caste basis and teacher disciple relation. A common man, cannot afford to knock the doors of High Courts and Supreme Court to seek justice as remuneration of effective and senior advocates runs into lakhs and crores. The PIL has caused more harm than good. Elite and favoured lawyers join hands with few private citizens to file PIL and get the law made for whole society without their opinion which is undemocratic. How can a few petitioners, lawyers and judges know the opinion of millions of people? What 545 Members of Lok Sabha cannot do, judges do in minutes. To strike balance between the legislature, executive and judiciary either NJAC be restored or All India Judicial Services be introduced.

(xii) Need to provide special package to Kerala affected by floods

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Vadakara): The flood that hit Kerala in July, 2018 were one of the worst disasters the world has seen this year. The calamity was of unprecedented severity and 493 people lost their

lives, more than 16000 houses were destroyed or damaged and around 4 lakh people were affected. 60,000 hectares of agriculture land were severely affected and 15,400 kms of roads damaged. The State's infrastructure and economy was battered and it will take a long time for recovery. Studies have estimated the total loss incurred by the State stood at Rs. 31000 crore. Government of Kerala has submitted a memorandum to the Central Government requesting for an assistance of Rs. 5616 crore. The State is struggling for reconstruction and relief activities. This should be treated as a calamity of rare severity and a special package may be provided to Kerala.

(xiii) Need to provide financial assistance to cyclone-hit Tamil Nadu

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (Arani): Tamil Nadu faced a severe cyclonic storm 'Gaja' on the night of 15th November, 2018 and early hours on 16th November, 2018, during which 12 districts of the State were severely affected. The Gaja Cyclone left a trail of destruction, especially in Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Dindigul Districts. Many trees were uprooted. Power Transmission infrastructure, roads, rural assets, plantation crops, agriculture and horticulture crops suffered extensive damage and the normal life was out of gear. Inspite of Tamil Nadu State Government's best efforts, 45 human lives were lost due to falling of trees, wall collapse etc., and in 12 districts infrastructure *viz*., roads, power, housing etc., faced the brunt of the cyclone's fury. One person died during restoration operations in Dindigul district.

Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu met Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22 November, 2018 and sought Central Assistance of Rs. 15,633.14 crore for carrying out relief and rehabilitation work after destruction caused by Cyclone Gaja in the State. Hon'ble Chief Minister also urged the Prime Minister for an immediate release of Rs 1,500 crore towards "temporary renovation" work. Based on an interim memorandum submitted by the Tamil Nadu Government for additional assistance, the Central Government constituted an Inter-Ministerial Central Team on 20 November, 2018 and that Central Team visited areas affected by Gaja in Tamil Nadu from 23 to 27 November, 2018.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Union Government has approved the release of only Rs. 353.70 crore to Tamil Nadu as assistance for the damage caused by Cyclone Gaja. This interim relief is the second instalment of the Central share of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for the year 2018-19 in providing relief meaures to the affected people. Government of Tamil Nadu has been repeatedly giving representations for revision of norms for assistance under NDRF/SDRF. Hon'ble Chief Minister announced Rs. 10 lakhs (including SDRF and Special Assistance) to families who lost their breadwinner. As on date, the State Government has released Rs. 707.86 crores under SDRF. The State Government will need a sum of Rs. 723.14 crores for immediate relief and temporary restoration from NDRF and Rs. 14910 crore for subsequent permanent restoration as special assistance from Government of India. The total requirement sought from Central Government is Rs. 15633.14 crore.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to immediately release an amount of Rs. 15633.14 crore to cyclone hit Tamil Nadu, as demanded by Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

(xiv) Need to set up Multi-purpose cyclone Centres in Tamil Nadu

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (Krishnagiri): Of the 7.516 km long coastline of India, close to 5,700 km is prone to cyclones and tsunamis, 68 per cent of the cultivable ares is vulnerable to drought and hilly areas are at risk from landslides. The Coastal areas of Tamil Nadu are increasingly becoming vulnerable to tropical cyclones and the consequent recurrent loss of life and property. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister supervises the "National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project". To minimize vulnerability to cyclones and make people and infrastructure disaster resilient in cyclone hazard prone area in the country, Multipurpose Cyclone Centres have been established. The construction of high raised, pillared buildings to keep people safely away from flood waters, provision for first aid centre with storage of medicines and drugs, drinking water, kitchen, toilets, ambulance and storage godowns constitute the establishment of the Multipurpose Cyclone Centres

While the Government has constructed 567 such Multipurpose Cyclone Centres in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh,

Gujarat and West Bengal, none were constructed in Tamil Nadu. Out of 353 Multi-purpose Cyclone Centres to be constructed in the second phase, Tamil Nadu was again omitted. The Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu were continuously devastated by Tsunami in 2004 and cyclones Thane, Nilam, Vardah, Ockhi and now Gaja. The Union Government had not considered Tamil Nadu and it is unfortunate that not even a single Multipurpose Cyclone Centre was constructed.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to include Tamil Nadu in this scheme and take immediate action for establishment of Multipurpose Cyclone Centres in the State and take appropriate measures for prevention, mitigation, capacity-buliding and preparedness to combat cyclones.

(xv) Regarding devastation caused by cyclone "TITLI' in Sirkakulam district of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (Srikakulam): On October 11, Srikakulam which is among the most backward region in South India, was affected by a very severe cyclonic storm-Titli. It inflicted colossal damage to human lives, crops, property, and public infrastructure. Losses are estimated to be upwards of Rs. 3400 crore. More than half of these losses (Rs. 1800 crore) are accounted for by agriculture and horticulture. More than 40,000 hectares of long-term standing crops of Cashew, Mango, and Coconut have perished in Uddanam, a region in Srikakulam. The Government of Andhra Pradesh undertook massive relief efforts involving 15 of its Cabinet Ministers, many IAS Officers, and more than a hundred Deputy Collectors. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh personally supervised and the entire Secretariat moved to Palasa, the region where the cyclone made landfall, for seven days. Home Minister Rajnath Singh was present during the Cyclone period for laying foundation stone in Guntur and assured that 'whatever needs to be done for AP will be done.' And yet, he did not find it necessary to fly to Srikakulam for personally assessing the destruction caused by the cyclone.

It is imperative to declare this cyclone as a National Calamity. There has been tremendous response from civil society, companies, and Government employees

to help Srikakulam get back on its feet. The UN Secretary-General himself has expressed sadness over this disaster and assured support to the Government of India for relief efforts, but the Centre has remained unresponsive.

Central Government has failed in its responsibility to facilitate the restoration process in Srikakulam. The Centre needs to realize the enormity of the task involved in reconstruction and rehabilitation of Srikakulam.

(xvi) Need to include Tulu language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Tulu base is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in the South West part of the Indian State of Karnataka and also in the Kasaragod district of Kerala. The Tulu speaking region is often referred to as Tulu Nadu. The native speakers of Tulu are referred to as Tuluva or Tulu people.

The Indian Census Report of 2011 reported a total of 1,846,427 native Tulu speakers in India. The 2001 Census had reported a total of 1,722,768 native speakers. According to one estimate reported in 2009, Tulu is currently spoken by 3 to 5 million speakers in the world. So I kindly request the Government to include Tulu language in the VIII Schedule to the Constitution.

(xvii) Regarding fixation of Minimum Support Price

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (Baramati): The MSP approved by the Centre is way lower than those recommended by the Maharashtra State Government in 2017-18 and 2018-19. For example, MSP for long staple cotton approved by the Centre for 2018-19 is Rs. 5450 per quintal compared to the State recommended price of Rs. 7272 per quintal. Procurement for this low cotton MSP has been delayed in Maharashtra. In case of green gram and Urad, procurement in September & October, 2018 at MSP through APMCs was yet to begin, because of which the farmers made distress sales at spot price. In these two months alone, moong dal farmers in Maharashtra suffered loss of Rs. 6.9 crore, and urad farmers Rs. 6.2 crore. Hence, I urge the Centre to determine MSP using mode comprehensive C2 formula and increase the procurement of foodgrains without delay, as recommended by MS Swaminathan Committee.

(xviii) Need for all-round development of Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodh Gaya in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): People from all the corners of the world visit Buddhist pilgrimage sites Bodh Gaya and Rajgir. These are international pilgrimage sites for followers of Buddhism. There is a 800 years old university in city of knowledge, Nalanda. This land of knowledge has been brought on the world map today due to tireless efforts of our leader from Nalanda, Shri Nitish Kumar. Pavapuri and Kundalpur, birthplace of Lord Mahavir ji is also located in Nalanda. Thousands of followers of Jainism and other pilgrims visit these pilgrimages. Lord Buddha had performed many Chaturmas with his disciples in Benuvan Vihar of Rajgir. This pilgrimage is like a religious Shakti Peeth for Buddhists. According to Buddhist scripture Vinay, a Pitaka, Benuvan is the most sacred place for the Buddhists, which shows a glimpse of the paths described by Lord Buddha. This place has become a centre of tup and sadhana for Buddhist followers. Today, there is a need to protect, preserve and further develop this great holy site and restore its old glory. In Rajgir, Gridhkut is situated on the Ratnagiri mountain which was favourite site of meditation for Lord Buddha and where he used to sit in meditation during the sunrise. Gridhkut mountain holds the distinction of being a place where Lord Buddha came before and after the attaining the Knowledge. While worshipping at this site, the Buddhists feel the presence of Lord Buddha. Pilgrims get mesmerized by the natural beauty and green valleys of Rajgir. In Rajgir, tourists come in large numbers to see the beauty of the delightful Ghoda Katora lake surrounded by five hills. But today Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodh Gaya have been neglected in terms of development. Proper development of these sites has not happened. A large number of tourists visit here and even the trains fall short. These sites are in accessible by road as a result passengers have to face a lot of difficulties. It takes 4 to 6 hours to reach from one place to another place.

I request the Central Government that proper development works should be undertaken in Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodh Gaya. Facilitate road access, so that tourists and locals get access to these pilgrimage sites.

At the same time, the Central Government should open international libraries and establishes airports and five star hotels in Nalanda.

(xix) Need to fill vacant posts of teachers in the country

[English]

SHRI RAJU SHETTY (Hatkanangle): Recently, it was learnt that more than 1,00,000 (one lakh) posts of teachers are lying vacant in the country. About 25,000 posts are lying vacant in Maharashtra.

With so many vacancies, who will teach children? Does State Government feel that education is non-productive, non-profitable business? Even Hon'ble Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaikwad, Vadodara and Hon'ble Rajshree Chatrapati Shahu Maharaja of Kolhapur earmarked six per cent of the total budget for education.

I, therefore, urge the Government to fill up posts of teachers immediately. Central Government should come forward to help State Governments. The financial provision should be made urgently to stop drop out of rural children.

(xx) Need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Punalur in Kollam, Kerala

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kollam): Punalur is the thickly populated area in my Constituency Kollam, Kerala. Students depend on private schools for their education under CBSE. Central Government, State Government and public sector institutions are located in and around Punalur. The children of Central Government employees also depend on private sector for the education of their children. The high fee and other charges in private sector are beyond the paying capacity of employees and common man. There is a demand for establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Punalur, Kollam, Kerala.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to initiate urgent action to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Punalur, Kollam.

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[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : Will Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra like to speak regarding Guru Tegh Bahadur ji.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Anandpur Sahib): Madam, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib laid down his life on this day. I would like to request the House to make a tribute to Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib on behalf of the Parliament of India. ...(*Interrruptions*) If Guru Tegh Bahadur had not laid down his life, our country would not have had multiple religions, languages and cultures. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam, history is witness to the fact that the one who was assassinated went to his assassin. History has recorded the instances of the murderer going over to commit murder, however in this case the one who was assassinated went to his assassin from Anandpur Sahib ...(*Interrruptions*)

I would like to request the Union Government that the day on which Guru Tegh Bahadur laid down his life may be observed as '*Balidan Divas*' throughout the country and a holiday may be given on this day. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam, Guru Gobind Singh ji had said,

"Tilak janju raakha prabh taaka, keeno bado kalu mein saaka,
Saadan het it jin kari, sheesh diya par si na uchari."

He also said:

"Theekar phod dilees sir, prabhu pur keeya payan,
Tegh bahadur si kirya, kari na kinhun aan,"

Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib has given us a message:–

"Main kahun ko det rahe, na bhaye maan taan, jiyo aur jeene do."

Madam, through you, I would like to request all my colleagues in this House that the Members of all the parties and Hon'ble Minister on behalf of the Government may speak a few words as a mark of respect on the supreme sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur and pay tribute to him. ...(*Interruptions*)

This day should be observed as *'Balidan Divas'* in India. I feel that this will be our true homage to him. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do you not want to run the House? Do you not want to say anything? I am sorry.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Thursday, the 13 December, 2018 at 11 a.m.

12.16 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 13, 2018/Agrahayana 22, 1940 (Saka)

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