

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XXXI contains Nos. 21 to 29)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 115.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

Snehlata Shrivastava

Secretary General

Lok Sabha

Anita B. Panda

Joint Secretary

Usha Jain

Director

J.B.S. Rawat

Additional Director

Kaveri Jeswal

Joint Director

R.K. Mair

Editor

© 2018 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

None of the material may be copied, reproduced, distributed, republished downloaded, displayed, posted or transmitted in any form or by any means, including but not limited to, electronic, mechanical, photocopying recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Lok Sabha Secretariat. However, the Material can be displayed, copied, distributed and downloaded for personal, non-commercial use only, provided the material is not modified and all copyright and other proprietary notices contained in the material are retained.

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.

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of Original version. English version, Hindi Version and indices thereto. DRSCs reports and other Parliamentary Publications and Souvenir items with logo of Parliament are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, (Tel. Nos. 23034726, 23034495, 23034496) New Delhi-110001. The information about all these publications and items is also available on the website mentioned above.

© 2018 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Sixteenth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Chaudhary Mudran Kendra, Delhi-110053

CONTENTS

Sixteenth Series, Vol. XXXI, Fourteenth Session, 2018/1940 (Saka)

No. 24, Wednesday, March 28, 2018/Chaitra 7, 1940 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMN
ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION	
*Starred Question No. 461	01-26
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 462 to 480	26-98
Unstarred Question Nos. 5291 to 5520	098-506
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	507-510
PUBLIC ACCOUNT COMMITTEE	
90th to 102nd Reports	511-512
STATEMENT BY MINISTERS	
(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 253rd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 247th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), Pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping	
Shri Pon Radhakrishnan	512-513
(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 252nd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 246th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway	
Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya	513
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps	513-514
OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER	
Notices of Motion of No-Confidence	515-516

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member

ANNEXURE – I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	517
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	518-526

ANNEXURE – II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	527-528
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	527-530

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 Raman Deka

Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao

Shri K.H. Muniyappa

Dr. P. Venugopal

Dr. Kalraj Mishra

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shrimati Snehlata Shrivastava

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 28, 2018/Chaitra 7, 1940 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

... (*Interruptions*)

11.0½ hrs

At this stage, Shrimati V. Sathyabama and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

... (*Interruptions*)

11.01 hrs

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 461 Shrimati Kothapalli Geetha.

... (*Interruptions*)

SPARSH Yojana

*461. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing Deen Dayal Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude and Research in Stamps as a Hobby (SPARSH) yojana for students of class sixth to ninth;

(b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof;

(c) whether the scholarship there-under will be awarded on the basis of philately quiz and philately project and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the status of implementation of the said scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh since its inception along with the funds sanctioned and spent thereon so far; and

(e) the response received to the said scheme in the State so far along with the steps being taken to include more students in each class in future?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):
(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.
(a) and (b) Yes Madam, the Department of Posts has introduced Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana with main objective of promotion of Philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and supplement the academic curriculum in addition to providing a hobby that can help them relax and de-stress. The detailed objective, description, eligibility & General conditions, Selection Procedure, scholarship disbursement procedure, Implementation Strategy of the scheme and Desired outcomes of the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana is enclosed at Annexure I.

(c) An eligible candidate (eligibility criteria for the scheme are enclosed at Annexure II) may have to go through a Selection Process which consists of two levels (Level 1-Philately Written Quiz & Level-2-Philately Project). In Level 1: a Philately Written Quiz at regional level may be conducted by the postal circles in their respective circles. In Level 2: students selected at the Regional Level Written Quiz will have to submit a Philately Project and final selection would be made based on the evaluation of Project work on Philately. The details about level 1 and level 2 of selection process are enclosed at Annexure III. The evaluation of the Philately Project may be done by the committee constituted at circle level. The committee comprising of Director of Postal Services (DPS) or other DoP officers & eminent Philatelist nominated by Chief Postmaster General (CPMG) of respective Postal Circle would evaluate the Projects & shortlist the candidates for scholarship. The committee would recommend a list of top 40 students considering 10 students maximum from each of the VI, VII, VIII & IX class. The awardees may be asked to open savings account in Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) or India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in a branch, which has core banking facility.

Each Postal Circle will select the awardees in their circle and hand over the list of beneficiaries to IPPB/POSB for payment of scholarship.

(d) (i) Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle issued a notification on 28-11-2017 inviting applications for participation in Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana. The Circle conducted Philatelic Quiz examination (Level 1) on 04-01-2018 at Regional Level. The result of Philatelic Quiz examination (Level 1) was declared on 23-01-2018. Selected candidates were informed about the Philately Project (Level 2) and its last date of submission which was 12-02-2018 in Andhra Pradesh Circle. After submission of Philatelic Project (Level 2), the evaluation committee (details of members of evaluation committee of Andhra Pradesh Circle is enclosed at Annexure IV), evaluated the Philately Project work (Level 2) on two dates i.e. 28-02-2018 and

01-03-2018 and selected final 40 candidates for award of scholarship under Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana. Maximum 10 candidates were selected from each class from 6th to 9th as per conditions. The final 40 selected candidates / awardees (List of selected candidates from AP Circle is enclosed at Annexure V) for scholarship under Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana were disbursed scholarship amount and awarded certificates in a function held at Andhra Pradesh Circle HQ at Vijayawada on 20-03-2018.

Information on implementation of Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana in all the Postal Circle across the country is enclosed at Annexure VI.

(ii) Details of funds sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh Circle and spent thereon on Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana:

S. No.	Head of account	Fund Allotted (in Rs.)	Amount Spent (in Rs.)	Remarks
1.	3201.01.001.03.01.13	2,40,000/	2,40,000/	Disbursement of scholarship to 40 candidates @ Rs. 6000/per year
2.	3201.01.001.03.01.26	1,50,000/	69,193/	Promotion and publicity of SPARSH scheme

The Funds were allotted to all the postal circles for disbursement of scholarship to the awardees of Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana and for promotion, advertisement/publicity of SPARSH yojana. The details of total funds allotted to all postal circles under the scheme 'Philately Operations' during 2017-18 (till 23rd March, 2018) including funds for carrying out Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana are enclosed at Annexure VII.

(e) A total No. of 1117 applications were received and 107 Schools participated in Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana in AP Circle. Wide publicity in the print and electronic media was given in every stage of the scheme right from the issue of notification to disbursement function so that more schools and students can be included in future. Further, wide publicity was given to the scheme by informing about the scheme to Secretary, Dept of School Education &

Literacy, M/o Human Resource Development, The Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, The Chief Executive & Secretary, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), The Director, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Chief Secretaries of States to popularise the SPARSH scheme. Members of Parliament of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha were also requested to popularise the SPARSH scheme in their constituencies.

In order to promote the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana, help of electronic media and Government Digital Programmes will be taken. Local School Authorities will be acquainted with the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana so that more students may be included in future.

(ANNEXURE I)**Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana****Objective**

Reinforcing the efforts aimed towards increasing the reach of Philately, a novel idea being proposed is to award Scholarships to children in the class category of Standard VI to IX. Under the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby or SPARSH) it is proposed to award annual scholarships to those students who have good academic record and also pursue Philately as a hobby. Considering that Philately reinforces and supplements the academic knowledge imparted through regular school curriculum it is proposed to give weightage to both, academic performance and philately, for awarding the scholarship. It is expected that such a scholarship would provide fillip not only to Philately but also project a positive image of DOP & would create ambassadors for Philately & DOP. The objective of the scholarship is to

- Promote Philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and supplement the academic curriculum in addition to providing a hobby that can help them relax and de-stress.

In addition to the above mentioned objective it is envisaged that the SPARSH scholarship, through its various provisions, would have other spin offs as follows:

- Encourage Philatelic activities in School,
- Involvement of School administration in Philately,
- Giving greater visibility to Philately across the spectrum,
- Create awareness about Philately among parents, academicians, children and public at large,
- Mainstreaming of Philately in School & educational curriculum,

- Creation of linkages between younger generation and Philatelists,

Description of the Scheme

Under the scheme, it is proposed to:

- Award 920 scholarships to students pursuing Philately as a hobby.
- Every Postal Circle has to provide a maximum total of 40 scholarships having maximum of 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII & IX.
- These scholarships will be provided quarterly to the students studying as regular students in class VI-IX in recognized schools.
- Scholarship will be provided to students who satisfy the eligibility condition and qualify in the selection procedure.
- The amount of Scholarship is to be Rs. 6000/- per annum @ Rs. 500/-.
- Selections to the scholarship would be for one year and there would be no bar on an already selected student applying for the scholarship next year provided he/she fulfils other criterion.

Eligibility condition:

Following are the eligibility conditions for SPARSH

- Candidate must be a student (class VI-IX) of a recognized School within India,
- Concerned School should have a Philately Club and the candidate should be a member of the Club,
- In case the School Philately Club hasn't been established a student having his own Philately Deposit Account may also be considered.
- A candidate must have good academic record. At the time of selection for award of scholarship the candidate must have scored at least 60% marks or equivalent grade/ grade point in the recent final examination. There will be 5% relaxation for SC/ST.

General Conditions:

- An awardee is eligible for the scholarship provided he/she maintains good conduct and continues his/her studies as a regular student.
- Scholarship may be revoked at any point of time by the competent authority (CPMG) on finding any irregularities in the eligibility criteria.
- A student must continue to have a PDA account and continue to be a member of Philatelic club during the scholarship awarding period.

Selection Procedure:

- The Selection Process will be consisting of two levels (Level 1-Philately Written Quiz & Level-2-Philately Project).
- Level 1: A Philately Written Quiz at regional level will be conducted by the circles in their respective circles.
- Level 2: Students selected at the Regional Level Written Quiz will have to submit a Philately Project and final selection would be made based on the evaluation of Project work on Philately.
- A committee constituted at the circle level would evaluate the Project work on Philately submitted by the candidate.
- Project work on Philately, copy of School ID card, copy of the result of last final examination all duly attested from Principal of School may be submitted to CPMG Office. The project should be sent in original.
- Project would be 4-5 pages work on Philately containing the original creative work performed by the candidate on the Philately subject. To know more about Philately a candidate may visit India Post website @ <http://postagestamps.gov.in/> dedicated to Philately.

Disbursement of Scholarship:

- The awardees will be asked to open savings account in Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) or India Post Payment Bank in a branch, which has core banking facility,

- Each Postal Circle will select the awardees and hand over the list of beneficiaries to IPPB/POSB for payment of scholarship;
- IPPB/POSB will ensure that the scholarship is paid to awardees on quarterly basis (Rs. 1500/each quarter) after getting the list from each Circle;

Implementation Strategy of the Scheme:

Methodology to be adopted for selection of candidates for Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

- I. Notification and Wide Coverage:
 - a. Notification for selection of scholarship would be issued by respective Circles in local Newspapers giving wide publicity to the scheme.
 - b. Draft notification template and Draft Application template format will be provided by the Directorate and Circles may make changes to suit the local information if so required.
 - c. Also, the Circles would contact/visit schools, hold workshops and seminars etc to inform about the scheme in detail to ensure maximum participation.
 - d. Circles would also write to State Government Education & School Boards & District Administration etc informing them of the scheme and seeking support for its propagation. Letter sent by MoS (I/C) to the Chief Ministers and Member of Parliaments in this regard would be shared with Circles.
- II. Selection Process:
 - A. A two level selection process is to be adopted for conducting the Quiz and Philately Project. At the 1st level, a written test will be conducted at regional level which would act as a Screening Test and students selected at first level will have to submit a Philately Project for final selection at 2nd level.

- B. There will be no weightage of the marks secured in Philately Quiz in the final evaluation and the final selection would be decided solely on the basis of the marks secured in Philately Project.
- C. For any given Circle the written test would be conducted simultaneously at all regional centres. All arrangements with regard to conduction of the test would be the responsibility of the Circles.
- D. Guidelines regarding Philately Written Quiz at regional level:
- (i) Question papers for the written quiz to be conducted at regional level will be prepared by the circle & same set of paper should be used across region.
 - (ii) Philately Quiz will comprise of 50 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ's). Each question will be of one mark with no negative marking. OMR sheet may be used for answering of these questions which would aid in evaluation.
 - (iii) The Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) format based Quiz test would contain 50 (Fifty) questions which would be chosen from following subject areas in the following proportion:
 - (iv) Same set of Question Paper will be framed for all the eligible students across classes. Therefore, the framing of Quiz question paper would be done considering the knowledge levels of participating students from class VIth to class IXth.

Subjects	Marks
General Knowledge/Awareness	5 Marks
Current Affair	5 Marks
History	5 Marks

Subjects	Marks
Geography	5 Marks
Science	5 Marks
Sports/Culture	5 Marks
Philately	
Local Philately	10 Marks
National Philately	15 Marks
Total	50 Marks

- (v) Circles would select through the written quiz approximately four times the number of scholarship to be given at circle level *i.e.* about 160 students at regional level.

E. Philately Project for final selection-

- (i) After finalizing the list of candidates selected in the Quiz, Circles would issue communication to the selected candidates detailing them of the list of Philately Project Topics & broad guidelines to be followed for writing their project. The candidates selected at Philately Written Quiz can choose one topic from the list to submit the project.
- (ii) The time given for the preparation and submission of project can be 15 days & the project can be directly submitted to the CPMG office through Registered/Speed Post.
- (iii) The Philately Project should not be of more than 4 to 5 pages. In the project, student may use not more than 16 stamps and not more than 500 words. Detailed guidelines regarding the Project & sample project template may be issued by Circles,
- (iv) The evaluation of the Project will be done by the committee constituted at circle level. A committee

comprising of DPS or other DoP officers & eminent Philatelist nominated by CPMG would evaluate the Project & shortlist the candidate for scholarship.

- (v) The committee would recommend a list of top 40 students considering 10 students maximum from each of the VI, VII, VIII & IX class.

F. Requirement of having a Philately Deposit Account/Membership of the School Philately Club would be with respect to the Date of Application and the student applying would have to mention the same in his/her application form.

Desired Outcomes

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana is envisaged to be a flagship scheme for Department of Posts for promotion of Philately. It is expected that through this scheme we would be able to achieve both tangible and intangible outcomes such as

- Increasing the popularity of Philately,
- Revitalizing the attraction of Stamps and increase their Philatelic usage,
- Increase in the number of Philately Deposit Accounts,
- Rejuvenate the linkages at field level between all the stakeholders in Philately such as Philatelists, Department of Posts, Children & Youth and the prospective Philatelists,
- Institutionalize the support structure to sustain demand for Philatelic products by creation of School/Institution level Philately Clubs
- Involve the Philatelist in Promotion of Philately and use their expertise wherever required,
- Create Brand Ambassadors for Philately through the Deen Dayal SPARSH Scholarships. It is envisaged that the School Children who will be selected for the Scholarship would motivate and inspire other colleagues and generate Interest in Philately thereby create a fertile ground for Philately,

(Annexure II)

Eligibility conditions for participation in Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana:

Following are the eligibility conditions for SPARSH:

- Candidate must be a student (class VI-IX) of a recognized School within India,
- Concerned School should have a Philately Club and the candidate should be a member of the Club,
- In case the School Philately Club hasn't been established a student having his own Philately Deposit Account may also be considered.
- A candidate must have good academic record. At the time of selection for award of scholarship the candidate must have scored at least 60% marks or equivalent grade/ grade point in the recent final examination. There will be 5% relaxation for SC/ST.

(Annexure III)

Selection Process:

- A. A two level selection process is to be adopted for conducting the Quiz and Philately Project. At the 1st level, a written test will be conducted at regional level which would act as a Screening Test and students selected at first level will have to submit a Philately Project for final selection at 2nd level.
- B. There will be no weightage of the marks secured in Philately Quiz in the final evaluation and the final selection would be decided solely on the basis of the marks secured in Philately Project.
- C. For any given Circle the written test would be conducted simultaneously at all regional centres. All arrangements with regard to conduction of the test would be the responsibility of the Circles.
- D. Guidelines regarding Philately Written Quiz at regional level:
 - (i) Question papers for the written quiz to be conducted at regional level will be

prepared by the circle & same set of paper should be used across region.

- (ii) Philately Quiz will comprise of 50 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ's). Each question will be of one mark with no negative marking. OMR sheet may be used for answering of these questions which would aid in evaluation.
- (iii) The Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) format based Quiz test would contain 50 (Fifty) questions which would be chosen from following subject areas in the following proportion:

Subjects	Marks
General Knowledge/ Awareness	
Current Affair	5 marks
History	5 marks
Geography	5 marks
Science	5 marks
Sports/Culture	5 marks
Philately	
Local Philately	10 marks
National Philately	15 marks
Total	50 marks

- (iv) Same set of Question Paper will be framed for all the eligible students across classes. Therefore, the framing of Quiz question paper would be done considering the knowledge levels of participating students from class VIth to class IXth.

- (v) Circles would select through the written quiz approximately four times the number of scholarship to be given at circle level *i.e.* about 160 students at regional level.

E. Philately Project for final selection-

- (i) After finalizing the list of candidates selected in the Quiz, Circles would issue communication to the selected candidates

detailing them of the list of Philately Project Topics & broad guidelines to be followed for writing their project. The candidates selected at Philately Written Quiz can choose one topic from the list to submit the project.

- (ii) The time given for the preparation and submission of project can be 15 days & the project can be directly submitted to the CPMG office through Registered/Speed Post.
- (iii) The Philately Project should not be of more than 4 to 5 pages. In the project, student may use not more than 16 stamps and not more than 500 words. Detailed guidelines regarding the Project & sample project template may be issued by Circles,
- (iv) The evaluation of the Project will be done by the committee constituted at circle level. A committee comprising of DPS or other DoP officers & eminent Philatelist nominated by CPMG would evaluate the Project & shortlist the candidate for scholarship.
- (v) The committee would recommend a list of top 40 students considering 10 students maximum from each of the VI, VII, VIII & IX class.

- F. Requirement of having a Philately Deposit Account/Membership of the School Philately Club would be with respect to the Date of Application and the student applying would have to mention the same in his/her application form.

(Annexure IV)

The evaluation committee members of Andhra Pradesh Circle are as follows:

1. Shri E V B Rao, Director of Postal Services, Vijayawada Region, Andhra Pradesh
2. Shri Santosh Netha K, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Vijayawada Division, Andhra Pradesh

3. Shri MD Jaffar Sadik, Assistant Postmaster
General, AP Circle Office Vijayawada

4. Shri M V S Prasad, Renowned Philatelist,
Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

(Annexure V)

DEEN DAYAL SPARSH YOJANA -40 merit students -AP circle

S. No.	Name	Class	School Name	A/c no	Name of the Post Office
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	K SPOORTHY	VI	ST JOHN'S EM SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972518375	CURRENCY NAGAR SO, VIJAYAWADA
2.	B DHANUSH SAI PAWAN	VI	RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATNARAYANAPURAM	3966964904	VIJAYAWADA HO
3.	G VENKATA JAGRUTHI	VI	ST JOHN'S EM SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3971706889	CURRENCY NAGAR SO, VIJAYAWADA
4.	D HANISH SAI	VI	RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATNARAYANAPURAM	3967017371	VIJAYAWADA HO
5.	K S SHAMIKA	VI	KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA NO -1, SATYANARAYANA PURAM	3966934792	CURRENCY NAGAR SO, VIJAYAWADA
6.	G RATNA SAMYUKTHA	VI	ST JOHN'S EM SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972489811	CURRENCY NAGAR SO, VIJAYAWADA
7.	P V SAI SUMANTH	VI	ST JOHN'S EM SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972470338	POLYTECHNIC SO, VIJAYAWADA
8.	J YUVA RAM CHARAN	VI	ST JOHN'S EM SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972937749	PATAMATA SO, VIJAYAWADA
9.	M SHANMUKHA VINAYAK	VI	RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATNARAYANAPURAM	3967029220	VIJAYAWADA HO
10.	C ROSHINI VYSHNAVI	VI	ST JOHN'S EM SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972167634	CURRENCY NAGAR SO, VIJAYAWADA
11.	B DOONDY SAI SUNITH	VII	ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972948639	PATAMATA SO
12.	N SHAMITA	VII	INFANT JESUS EM SCHOOL, TEKKALI	3967311943	TEKKALI HO
13.	B VAISHNAVI	VII	ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3971504812	CURRENCY NAGAR SO

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	D VENKATA SIRISHA	VII	BHASHYAM HIGH SCHOOL, VISAKHAPATNAM	3971952545	MVP COLONY SO
15.	S DHEER ABHISHEK	VII	NARAYANA EM SCHOOL, KAKINADA	3968222224	KAKINADA HO
16.	Y LAKSHMI VANI SREE	VII	VIDYANIKETAN HIGH SCHOOL, AVANIGADDA	3966665160	AVANIGADDA HO
17.	B SNEHA	VII	INFANT JESUS EM SCHOOL, TEKKALI	3967367605	TEKKALI HO
18.	DHANESH G	VII	ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972703931	GUNADALA SO
19.	G LOHITH KUMAR	VII	ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972699074	GUNADALA SO
20.	M NISHITA	VII	ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972691443	GUNADALA SO
21.	V SAI GANEWAR	VIII	INDIAN SPRINGS EM HIGH SCHOOL, AVANIGADDA	3966662350	AVANIGADDA HO
22.	M V PRAMODA LAKSHMI	VIII	RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATYANARAYANAPURAM	3967147665	B K PET HO
23.	T ESWAR	VIII	RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATYANARAYANAPURAM	3967416334	VIJAYAWADA HO
24.	V ASWITHA	VIII	INDIAN SPRINGS EM HIGH SCHOOL, AVANIGADDA	3966650715	AVANIGADDA HO
25.	K AKRUTHI RAJESWARI	RAJA VIII	ST JOHN'S EM HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972518641	VJ POLYTECHNIC SO
26.	P MANOJ GOPAL	VIII	INDIAN SPRINGS EM HIGH SCHOOL, AVANIGADDA	3966663739	AVANIGADDA HO
27.	K BALA RAJESH	VIII	INDIAN SPRINGS EM HIGH SCHOOL, AVANIGADDA	3966659787	AVANIGADDA HO
28.	M E RAGHAVAN	VIII	ST JOHN'S EM HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972569872	VJ POLYTECHNIC SO
29.	CH Rup Venkata SAI	VIII	ST JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, NARASARAOPET	3968894070	NARASARAOPET HO

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	B YESWANTHA HARSHA	SAI	VIII ST JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, NARASARAOPET	3968884347	NARASARAOPET HO
31.	M JASWANTHI		IX RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATYANARAYANA PURAM	3966919768	VIJAYAWADA HO
32.	K LEELA VAISHNAVI		IX RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATYANARAYANA PURAM	3966648347	SATYANARAYANAP URAM SO
33.	K VENU HARSHIT		IX RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATYANARAYANA PURAM	3967030813	VIJAYAWADA HO
34.	G MANVITHA SRI		IX ST JOHN'S EM HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972364088	CURRENCY NAGAR SO
35.	G SPANDANA		IX ST JOHN'S EM HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972467826	CURRENCY NAGAR SO
36.	S SAI VAMSI		IX ST JOHN'S EM HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972479775	VJ POLYTECHNIC SO
37.	K AKANKSHA		IX ST JOHN'S EM HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972504217	CURRENCY NAGAR SO
38.	G PRANITHA		IX ST JOHN'S EM HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972705768	GUNADALA SO
39.	V TEJASWINI		IX ST JOHN'S EM HIGH SCHOOL, GUNADALA	3972942354	PATAMATA SO
40.	M SUBHANG		IX RAVINDRA BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SATYANARAYANA PURAM	3967230879	SATYANARAYANAP URAM SO

(Annexure VI)

S. No.	Name of Circle	Notification Issue Date	Application submission last date	No. of Applications received	Philately Quiz (Level 1) date	No. of students appeared	Quiz (Level 1) Result declared on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Assam	29-11-2017	15-12-2017	117	10-01-2018	117	02-02-2018
2.	Andhra Pradesh	28.11.2017	28.12.2017	1117	04.01.2018	946	23.01.2018
3.	Bihar	15.12.2017	29.12.2017	1510	24.01.2018	1267	15.02.2018
4.	Chattisgarh	23.11.2017	29.12.2017	797	07.01.2018	526	17.01.2018
5.	Delhi	04.12.2017	20.12.2017	525	24.12.2017	330	29.12.2017

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	07.12.2017	01.01.2018	414	12.01.2018	375	19.01.2018
7.	Haryana	24.11.2017	01.01.2018	1647	12.01.2018	1565	18.01.2018
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30.11.2017	31.12.2017	306	07.01.2018	248	16.01.2018
9.	Jammu and Kashmir (*)						
10.	Jharkhand	25.11.2017	23.01.2018	1270	30.01.2018	1018	08.03.2018
11.	Karnataka	23.11.2017	07.01.2018	537	12.01.2018	487	19.01.2018
12.	Kerala	01.12.2017	29.12.2017	588	08.01.2018	500	29.01.2018
13.	Madhya Pradesh	25.11.2017	04.01.2018	443	28.01.2018	294	02.05.2018
14.	Maharashtra	06.12.2017	05.01.2018	579	07.01.2018	579	different dates at regional level
15.	North East	28.11.2017	10.01.2018	64	12.01.2018	64	30.01.2018
16.	Odisha	25.11.2017	07.01.2018	1104	12.01.2018	1023	18.01.2018
17.	Punjab	24.11.2017	01.01.2018	863	11.01.2018	787	24.01.2018
18.	Rajasthan	24.11.2017	01.01.2018	805	12.01.2018	684	31.01.2018
19.	Tamil Nadu	28.11.2018	05.01.2018	666	18.01.2018	629	30.01.2018
20.	Telangana	23.11.2017	30.12.2017	8027	07.01.2018	7440	22.01.2018
21.	Uttar Pradesh	24.11.2017	05.12.2017 further extended upto 05.01.2018	549	12.01.2018	238	17.01.2018
22.	Uttarakhand	24.11.2017	15.12.2017	103	01.01.2018	52	15.01.2018
23.	West Bengal	25.11.2017	10.01.2018	106	11.01.2018	83	16.01.2018
TOTAL				22137	19252		

(*)Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana could not be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir Circle due to winter season in Jammu and Kashmir Circle most of the schools remain closed. Schools in Srinagar, Baramulla, Laddakh and Some areas of Rajouri Division remain closed from December,2017 to February, 2018.

S. No.	Name of Circle	No. of student selected thru Quiz	Philately Project (Level 2) submission last date	Final No. of Students selected	No. of Schools participated	PDA Accts opened thru SPARSH	Total PDA accounts in the circle
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Assam	51	18-03-2018	16	9	30	326
2.	Andhra Pradesh	190	12.02.2018	40	107	548	3681

1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Bihar	174	15.03.2018	40	50	1510	8100
4.	Chattisgarh	183	07.02.2018	40	72	337	3302
5.	Delhi	168	16.01.2018	40	30	112	1405
6.	Gujarat	177	07.02.2018	40	48	385	26956
7.	Haryana	160	07.02.2018	40	156	1589	3976
8.	Himachal Pradesh	167	03.02.2018	40	17	248	2318
9.	Jammu and Kashmir (*)						
10.	Jharkhand	40	16.03.2018	40	40	519	7069
11.	Karnataka	170	10.02.2018	40	118	471	13887
12.	Kerala	175	16.02.2018	40	76	420	47546
13.	Madhya Pradesh	160	22.02.2018	40	61	187	1002
14.	Maharashtra	173	02.02.2018	40	42	579	14560
15.	North East	64	25.02.2018	29	20	56	2798
16.	Odisha	187	07.02.2018	40	45	44	7137
17.	Punjab	195	09.02.2018	40	74	324	2412
18.	Rajasthan	173	23.02.2018	40	100	611	10925
19.	Tamil Nadu	167	20.02.2018	40	54	403	11060
20.	Telangana	160	07.02.2018	40	686	7859	8903
21.	Uttar Pradesh	164	03.02.2018	40	133	549	10137
22.	Uttarakhand	52	15.02.2018	36	58	102	874
23.	West Bengal	83	07.02.2018	40	18	106	9628
TOTAL		3233		841	2014	16989	198002

(*)Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana could not be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir Circle due to winter season in Jammu and Kashmir Circle most of the schools remain closed. Schools in Srinagar, Baramulla, Laddakh and Some areas of Rajouri Division remain closed from December,2017 to February, 2018.

(Annexure VII)

Total funds allotted to all Postal Circles under the Scheme 'Philately Operations' during 2017-18 (till 23rd March,2018)including funds for carrying out Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana are given below:

S. No.	Name of Circle	Total funds allotted during 2017-18 (till 23rd March, 2018) (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.15

1	2	3
2.	Assam	29.00
3.	Bihar	15.15
4.	Chhattisgarh	21.50
5.	Delhi	15.90
6.	Gujarat	28.90
7.	Haryana	12.40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16.90
9.	Jammu and Kashmir (*)	3.55
10.	Jharkhand	13.40
11.	Karnataka	19.90
12.	Kerala	18.15
13.	Maharashtra	22.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14.10
15.	North East	34.00
16.	Odisha	18.50
17.	Punjab	12.40
18.	Rajasthan	17.90
19.	Tamil Nadu	29.90
20.	Telangana	12.40
21.	Uttar Pradesh	33.40
22.	Uttarakhand	12.50
23.	West Bengal + Sikkim	35.90
TOTAL		459.80

(*) Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana could not be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir Circle due to winter season in Jammu and Kashmir Circle most of the schools remain closed. Schools in Srinagar, Baramulla, Laddakh and Some areas of Rajouri Division remain closed from December, 2017 to February, 2018.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. Nothing can happen if this is the situation. Please go back to our

seats. Do you not want to run the House? You are not allowing the House to run. What is this?

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You are wasting the time of all members. All the members are saying to conclude this now. I have to adjourn the House Sine-die.

[English]

You do not want to run the House. What is this happening here?

... *(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Investment Centres

*462 SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up overseas investment centres in different countries to attract investment from overseas Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for setting up these centres;

(c) the names of countries where such centres have already been set up; and

(d) the details of the functions of these centres and the names of the countries where these centres are likely to be set up in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Following the merger of the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Ministry of External Affairs in February 2016, the Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) was closed down and the work related to promotion of investment in India by Overseas Indians was transferred to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP). DIPP has set up 'Invest India', a joint venture company between the Department and FICCI, as a not-for-profit, single window facilitator, for prospective overseas investors and to act as a structured mechanism to attract investment. Its experts,

specializing across different countries, Indian states and sectors, handhold investors through their investment lifecycle and they operate only from India.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad are promoting and facilitating economic engagement of overseas Indians with India by way of organizing Seminars, Trade fairs, Exhibitions, Road Shows, interactive Meets etc. and are working as Investment Centres.

In the light of the importance of foreign direct investments for economic growth and development, the Government has put in place an investor-friendly policy, wherein except for a small negative list, most sectors are open for 100% FDI under the Automatic route. The policy allows special dispensation for NRI investments & investment made by NRIs on non-repatriation basis under Schedule 4 of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) Regulation is deemed to be domestic investment at par with the investment made by residents. Further, the policy on FDI is reviewed on an ongoing basis, to ensure that India remains attractive & investor friendly destination.

These measures are expected to increase FDI, which complements and supplements domestic investment. Domestic companies are benefited through FDI, by way of enhanced access to supplementary capital and state-of-art-technologies; exposure to global managerial practices and opportunities of integration into global markets resulting into increased production, export and employment generation of the country.

[English]

Spectrum Trading

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow spectrum trading in all access bands that have been put to auction and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended that the grant of all licences and approvals issued by the Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing should be made paperless and online and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government 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) Government has allowed spectrum trading in all access spectrum bands in 700/800/900/1800/2100/2300/2500 MHz which have been put to auction. Spectrum in these bands can be traded in accordance with the spectrum trading guidelines dated 12.10.2015.

(b) and (c) The TRAI has made its Recommendations on 'Ease of Doing Telecom Business' on 30.11.2017, with a view that Promotion of "Ease of doing business" is essential for unhindered growth of the telecom sector and is amongst the priorities of the Government. The recommendations include simplification of SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation) clearance, provision of online submission of documents, time bound delivery of various licenses, permitting same block size for spectrum trading as specified in the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for the latest auction, among others. The TRAI recommendations are under consideration in Department of Telecom (DoT).

Protection of Consumer Privacy

*464. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has devised any strategy to protect consumer privacy such as access to location and other parameters during the usage of mobile applications on Android or iOS platforms;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to strengthen the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) infrastructure to avoid data leakage and data breach; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Consumer privacy in case of mobile application across Android & iOS platforms is

governed by the terms & conditions and privacy policy set forth by the application provider. These terms & conditions are agreed upon by the user to avail the services provided by the application.

Section 43A and section 72A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for privacy and security of data in digital form. Section 43A provides for compensation to be paid to the victim in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information respectively. It mandates 'body corporates' to implement 'reasonable security practices' for protecting 'sensitive personal information' of individuals. Section 72A of the Act provides for punishment for disclosure of information in breach of the lawful contract. Further, Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 require that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall publish the rules and regulations, privacy policy and user agreement for access-or usage of its computer resource by any person.

Hon'ble Supreme Court has also held that privacy is a fundamental right. To further strengthen personal data protection of user, Government has already set up a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) Shri B N Srikrishna to prepare a data protection framework and work out the Data Protection Bill. The Committee has prepared a White Paper on "Data Protection Framework for India" and sought public comments. The Committee has also conducted Stakeholders Consultation meetings in four cities. Comments have now been received from various domains including Academia, Industry fora, Government, NGOs, civil society organizations & Technology Companies from across the globe. Based on the comments received, the Committee is working on a suitable Data protection framework for India.

Electronic Charting System

*465. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been carried out regarding replacement of passenger tickets, passenger

charts and ticket checking in coaches with electronic display and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether electronic passenger charting system has since commenced operation country-wide and if so, the details thereof including the extent of electronic charting system in operation in terms of percentage along with the total expenditure incurred on maintenance of L.E.D. displays and electronic charting system, separately, by all the zones during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the total expenditure envisaged in installation of equipment, their annual maintenance, alternative measures in case of malfunctioning and extra expenditure vis-a-vis the existing system of the usage of printed paper charts;

(d) the details regarding capital expenditure that was incurred by the Railways to create a big infrastructure of printing of passenger tickets and charts, import of machinery and construction of new buildings in the railway presses till date along with estimated expenses projected by the zones on complete installation of electronic displays; and

(e) the details of mechanism put in place for disposal of the infrastructure created for printing and the amount that would be recovered out of it?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) With a view to facilitate passengers to book ticket through internet, ticketing through internet started in August, 2002 by introducing the concept of i-ticket where the ticket was booked through internet on the IRCTC website and the physical ticket was delivered through courier at the address given by the passenger. Subsequently in 2005, the concept of e-ticket was also introduced, besides system of i-ticket, wherein the passengers takes a print-out of e-ticket termed as the ERS (Electronic Reservation Slip) which is an authority to travel along-with one of identity proofs stipulated by the Railways. This ERS does not have any money-value unlike a PRS ticket and by itself is not a valid authority to travel in trains unless the passengers' name is appearing on the charts along with any one of the prescribed proofs of identity in original. Subsequently, moving towards adoption of paperless ticketing, Short Messaging

Service (SMS) sent by IRCTC containing all vital details has been permitted as an instrument on par with the ERS. Further, scope of paperless ticketing has been expanded by introduction of mobile application based booking through the IRCTC website. The scope and medium of service delivery has been constantly upgraded taking into account technological changes and user requirements.

In case of unreserved tickets also, with a view to cut down queues at Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters at Railway stations and to facilitate convenient booking of tickets by passengers, Indian Railways have introduced the facility of booking unreserved tickets including journey, season and platform tickets through mobile phone with more payment options in all suburban sections of Central, Western, Eastern, Southern, South Eastern, South Central and Delhi-Palwal and Delhi-Ghaziabad sections of Northern Railway and South Western Railway.

As regards ticket checked in coaches, a Pilot project for Hand Held Terminals for TTEs has been implemented successfully. The trial version is now working in 07 pairs of New Delhi based Shatabdi Express trains. It has been decided to further expand the project and provide Hand Held Devices to TTEs.

It will help in promoting paperless working, improving efficiency of ticket checking staff and greater transparency in ticket checking process. It will also improve passenger services as the status of not turned up passengers will get updated in Passenger Reservation System and the passengers at subsequent stations will be able to book such vacant accommodation.

Physical paper reservation charts have been replaced by digital display charts at some locations.

(b) and (c) Electronic Passenger Charting System at 88 stations have been provided by Signal & Telecom Department of Indian Railways. Details of stations are enclosed as statement. Total expenditure incurred for installation of Electronic Charting System at 88 stations is Rs. 10,56,10,497/-.

Light Emitting Diodes (LED) display boards and Electronic Charting system are provided under

passenger amenities and are maintained through passenger amenity funds.

(d) `60.44 crores has been invested in four Zonal Railways (Central, Eastern, Southern and South Central Railway) at `15.11 crores each for import of new printing machines for printing of Railway tickets (Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) tickets). In addition, an expenditure of `15.11 crores is expected to be incurred for import of one printing machine for Northern Railway Printing press at Shakurbasti, Delhi.

Nearly `9.195 crores has been invested in five Zonal Railways put together for creating infrastructures in printing presses for printing of Railway tickets (PRS & UTS tickets).

No capital expenditure has been incurred by the Stores Department to create big infrastructure for printing of charts in Railways.

(e) The created infrastructure will be fully utilized to meet the existing and future demands of tickets and as such the question of disposal of newly created infrastructure does not arise.

Statement

Electronic Passenger Charting System

S. No.	Name of Station
1.	Asansol
2.	Durgapur
3.	Jasidh
4.	Darbhanga Jn.
5.	Dhanbad Jn.
6.	Mughalsarai Jn.
7.	Jaynagar
8.	RauxaulJn
9.	Saharsa Jn.
10.	Samastipur Jn.
11.	Sitamarhi
12.	Gaya

S. No.	Name of Station
13.	Muzaffarpur
14.	Khagaria
15.	Bhubaneswar
16.	Puri
17.	Jammu Tawi
18.	New Delhi
19.	Pathankot Cantt
20.	Amritsar
21.	Ludhiana
22.	Ambala Cantt. Jn.
23.	Chandigarh
24.	Jaladhar City
25.	Allahabad
26.	Kanpur Central
27.	Agra Cantt.
28.	Gorakhpur Jn.
29.	Lucknow Jn.
30.	Chhapra Jn.
31.	Kathgodam
32.	Dibrugarh
33.	Katihar Jn
34.	Alipurduar Jn
35.	New Tinsukia
36.	Jaipur
37.	Ajmer
38.	Bhilwara
39.	Secundrabad Jn.
40.	Tirupati
41.	Hydrabad
42.	Kacheguda
43.	Nanded

S. No.	Name of Station
44.	Aurangabad
45.	Guntakal Jn.
46.	Guntu Jn.
47.	Jalna
48.	Nizamabad
49.	Rajahmundry
50.	Begumpet
51.	Tatanagar
52.	Bokaro Steel City
53.	Hatia
54.	Ranchi
55.	Raipur
56.	Bilaspur Jn.
57.	Bellari
58.	Dharwad
59.	Hospete
60.	Hubbali
61.	Belagavi
62.	Vijayapura
63.	Vasco-Da-Gama
64.	Ahmedabad
65.	Vadodara
66.	Anand
67.	Ankleshwar
68.	Bharuch
69.	Chittorgarh Jn.
70.	Indore
71.	Nadiad
72.	Nagda
73.	Ujjain
74.	Bhopal

S. No.	Name of Station
75.	Bharatpur
76.	Damoh
77.	Habibganj
78.	Katni
79.	Kota
80.	Rewa
81.	Satna
82.	SawaiMadhopur
83.	Bhawani Mandi
84.	Gangapur City
85.	Guna
86.	Ram Ganj Mandi
87.	Madgaon
88.	Udupi

Diploma Engineers of BRO

*466. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Diploma Engineers in Border Roads Organisation (BRO) have not been granted pay scale of Rs.5000-150-8000 as per Fifth Central Pay Commission (CPC) report and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether as per 6th CPC report, the recommendations of 5th CPC report were misinterpreted by BRO even though the above pay scale was granted / provided to the Diploma Engineers notionally w.e.f. January 01, 1996; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not providing the arrears to the Diploma Engineers w.e.f. January 01, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission (5th CPC) in Chapter 87 of its report made specific recommendations in respect of officers and staff of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). However, there was no specific recommendation for

upgradation of pay scale for diploma holder engineers of BRO. All the specific recommendations made by 5th CPC in respect of BRO staff as accepted by the Government have already been implemented. The Sixth Central Pay Commission (6th CPC) recommended for upgradation and merger of the post of Overseer with promotional post of Superintendent (Buildings and Roads) Grade-II and grant of pre-revised scale of Rs.5000-8000 to the combined cadre retrospectively w.e.f. 1.1.1996 at least for the purpose of fixation of pay. Accordingly the benefit of notional fixation of pay in the pre-revised pay scale of Rs.5000-8000 w.e.f. 1.1.1996 and the actual benefit of arrears w.e.f. 1.1.2006 has been granted to the diploma holder engineers of BRO. There is therefore no question of any arrears being pending for payment to diploma holder engineers.

Proposals for New Trains

*467. SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals forwarded by the State Government of Gujarat for starting new trains and extension of some trains from February, 2010 till August, 2014; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard, proposal-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Madam. Demands for introduction of new trains and extension of existing train services have been received from Government of Gujarat, during February 2010 to August, 2014.

(b) Details of the proposal and action taken there on is as under:

S. No.	Proposals/Request	Action Taken/Remarks
1.	Extension of Tirunelveli – Hapa upto Jamnagar.	19577/19578 Hapa–Tiruneilveli Express (Bi-weekly) has been extended upto Jamnagar w.e.f. 30.03.17.

S. No.	Proposals/Request	Action Taken/Remarks
2.	Introduction of Garib Rath Exp from Kutch and Mumbai	22903/22904 Bandra-Bhuj AC Express (Tri-weekly) introduced w.e.f 21.04.13, catering to the sector.
3.	Introduction of new train between Ahmedabad – Amritsar	19415/19416 Ahmedabad-Katra Express (Weekly) via Amritsar has been introduced w.e.f 25.01.15.
4.	New train from Ahmedabad to Palitana	22935/22936 Bandra-Palitana Express introduced w.e.f. 10.12.14.
5.	New Garib Rath/Duronto Express train Between Ahmedabad – Bhopal	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
6.	Direct train from Chandigarh to Dwarka	Examined but not found feasible.
7.	New train from Gandhinagar Capital to Delhi	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services between Ahmedabad and Delhi are already available.
8.	New train from Pipavav/Rajula to Mumbai	Examined but not found feasible.
9.	New train from Palitana to Parasnath	Examined but not found feasible.
10.	New train from Gandhidham to Mumbai (vis Disa)	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.

S. No.	Proposals/Request	Action Taken/Remarks
11.	New train from Ahmedabad to Bhildi (via Palanpur)	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
12.	Introduction of memu train between Nadiad-Mahesana every one hours.	Examined but not found feasible.
13.	Introduction of new train between Somnath to Rameshwaram/Puri/Howrah	Examined but not found feasible.
14.	Introduction of new train between Bhuj to Bareilly.	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
15.	Introduction of new train between Gandhidham to Bangalore.	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
16.	Introduction of new train between Bhuj to Bandra (via Morbi).	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
17.	Introduction of DEMU train between Rajkot-Veraval and Rajkot-Dwarka.	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
18.	Introduction of new superfast train between Porbandar to Bandra	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.

S. No.	Proposals/Request	Action Taken/Remarks
19.	Introduction of new train between Bhavnagar to Chennai/Kolkata/Ernakulam and Surat.	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
20.	Introduction of new train between Mahuva to Surat.	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
21.	Introduction of new train between Bhuj to Bhavnagar Somnath/Okha/Porbandar (via Morbi)	Examined but not found feasible.
22.	Extension of Rajkot - Secunderabad up to Tirupati.	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
23.	Extension of all trains from Veraval to Somnath.	Examined but not found feasible. However, alternate services are already available.
24.	Extension of Gujarat Queen up to Vapi and Palanpur.	Examined but not found feasible.

French President's Visit to India

*468. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French President visited India recently and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether both countries have reviewed their bilateral relations and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether both countries have identified areas for co-operation and discussion during the said visit including maritime security, counter terrorism and Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) the Agreements/MoUs signed and the advantages likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the bilateral relations with other countries; and

(e) whether India organised the founding conference of International Solar Alliance with France and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, the President of the French Republic, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, accompanied by his wife – Brigitte Macron, visited India on a State visit from 9-12 March 2018. President Macron arrived in New Delhi on 9th March 2018 and was received by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The working day of the visit was 10th March 2018. Apart from the Forecourt Ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, other components of the French President's program included paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhiji at Rajghat, a call on by the External Affairs Minister, delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House, and a meeting with Rashtrapati. Hon'ble Rashtrapati also hosted a banquet for the French President and his delegation. On 11th March 2018, Prime Minister Modi and the President Macron co-hosted the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. On 12th March 2018, President Macron and Prime Minister Modi inaugurated a 75MW solar power project in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. The project was built under the National Solar Mission by the French company – M/s Elgie. President Macron accompanied by Prime Minister Modi also visited Varanasi. In Varanasi, President Macron visited the Deendayal Hastkala Sankul – a trade facilitation centre for handicrafts and also took a boat ride from Assi Ghat to Dasaswamedh Ghat. President Macron was accompanied by a large delegation which included academia, business leaders and media persons. President Macron and his wife

Brigitte Macron also paid a personal visit to the Taj Mahal.

(b) 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of establishment of India-France Strategic Partnership. The visit offered both sides the opportunity to carry out a full review of the growing maturity in our strategic bilateral relations, which is rooted in our abiding faith in the shared values of democracy, liberty, justice and equality. The Agenda covered a wide range of issues including the current international situation, the fight against terrorism, our ongoing cooperation in the defence, space and civil nuclear sectors, bilateral trade and investment cooperation and people to people contacts. A number of outcomes were achieved during this visit including 14 agreements, one Joint Statement, and two separate vision statements on India-France cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region and Space cooperation respectively.

(c) Apart from the traditional areas of cooperation, both sides identified new areas of cooperation including climate change, maritime security and logistics support, education, energy, and railways.

- (i) In the area of *Maritime Security*, the two countries adopted a *Joint Strategic Vision in the Indian Ocean Region* to address the emerging challenges in the Indian Ocean Region that include, maritime traffic security in the face of the threats of terrorism and piracy; respect of international law by all States, in particular freedom of navigation and over-flight; fight against organized crime, trafficking, including in weapons of mass destruction, smuggling and illegal fishing; combating climate change and its consequences on security, particularly in terms of natural disasters; protection of the environment and natural resources, including tackling oil spills; and aid to victims of disasters. In addition, ISRO and the French CNES concluded an *Implementing Arrangement for Pre-formulation Studies of a Maritime Awareness Mission* with the objective of using satellites to provide relevant data and services to both nations to help monitor the maritime traffic and to identify the non-complaint ships. The monitoring system would provide end to

end solutions for detection, identification, monitoring of vessels in the regions of interest for India and France.

- (ii) In the area of *Counter-Terrorism*, the two countries have agreed to enhance operational cooperation between the respective counter terrorism agencies and launch a new cooperative effort to prevent and fight radicalization, in particular online-radicalization. Both countries have also agreed to strengthen counterterrorism in Multilateral Fora such as United Nations, Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GATF), Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and G20. The two countries called upon all UN member countries to implement the UNSC Resolution No. 1267 and other relevant resolutions designating terrorist entities and committed for an early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in the UN. The two countries also formalized an arrangement to engage in effective institutional interaction and cooperation to curb transnational narcotics trafficking including disruption of terrorist financing.
- (iii) *On the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant*, Nuclear Power Cooperation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) and French EDF signed an 'Industrial Way Forward Agreement' (IWFA). The IWFA contains a set of milestones that are essential to be fulfilled prior to finalizing the 'General Framework Agreement' (GFA). Once installed, the Jaitapur project will be the largest nuclear power plant in the world, with a total capacity of 9.6 GW. It is expected to contribute towards achievement of India's goal of 40% share of non-fossil energy by 2030.

(d) The details of the 2 vision statements and 14 agreements exchanged during the visit and the advantages likely to accrue to the country are as follows:

- (i) *Joint Strategic Vision of India-France cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region* – Recognises the crucial role of India-France Strategic Partnership for ensuring peace, security and stability and in bringing robust

economic growth and prosperity to the Indian Ocean Region and seeks to harness the opportunities and meet the challenges together through bilateral and international coordination.

- (ii) *India-France Joint Vision for Space cooperation* –Recognises the unique and historical partnership between India and France in the peaceful uses of outer space and seeks to guide the future direction of this bilateral strategic partnership by jointly harnessing the benefits of space technology.
- (iii) *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* - To facilitate in combating illicit traffic and consumption of drugs and impact terror financing.
- (iv) *India-France Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement* -To encourage legal and orderly migration of students, professional and skilled workers to each others' country, depending on opportunity available, and to assure the return to their country of illegal migrants who have been properly identified as their national and to combat irregular migration.
- (v) *Agreement between India and France to facilitate Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications* – To facilitate the mutual recognition of educational qualifications.
- (vi) *Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and SNCF France on technical cooperation in the field of Railways* – To deepen mutual cooperation and focus on priority areas of high speed and semi-high speed rail; station renovation; and suburban trains.
- (vii) Letter of Intent between India and France for creation of a permanent Indo-French Railways Forum - Enhance existing cooperation by creating a Indo-French Permanent Railway Forum.
- (viii) *Agreement between India and France regarding the provision of reciprocal logistics support*

between their Armed Forces - To facilitate the reciprocal provision of Logistic Support, Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces of the two countries during authorised port visits, joint exercises, joint training, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts etc.

- (ix) *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and France on cooperation in the field of Environment* – Will enable exchange of information between the Governments and technical experts of the two countries in the field of environment and climate change.
- (x) *Agreement between India and France on cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development* – Will allow exchange of information on smart city development, development of urban mass transportation systems, urban settlements and utilities etc.
- (xi) *Agreement between India and France regarding the exchange and reciprocal protection of classified or protected information* – Puts in place an agreed security protocol for exchange of classified and protected information.
- (xii) *Implementing Arrangement between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and CNES, France for pre-formulation studies of a Maritime Awareness Mission* - Will provide satellite-based end-to-end solution for detection, identification and monitoring of vessels in the regions of interest for France and India.
- (xiii) *Industrial Way Forward Agreement between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd, and EDF, France* -This agreement prescribes a way forward for the implementation of the Jaitapur nuclear power project.
- (xiv) *Bilateral Arrangement between India and France on cooperation in the matter of Hydrography and Maritime Cartography* - Will encourage cooperation between the two countries in the field of hydrography, nautical documentation and maritime safety information.

(xv) *Credit Facility Agreement between India and France of Euros 100 million for funding of the Smart City Projects through a Challenge Process* – To bridge the funding gap between the funds provided by the Central and State Governments under the Smart City Mission programme.

(xvi) *Memorandum of Understanding between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and the National Solar Energy Institute (INES), France* – Will enable the two agencies to work on projects in International Solar Alliance member countries in the areas of solar energy (solar photovoltaic, storage technologies, etc.) through transfer of technology and collaborative activities.

(e) Yes, the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance was co-hosted by India along with France on 11th March, 2018 at Rashtrapati Bhawan Convention Centre.

The ISA initiative was the brainchild of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The idea received full support of the French government and the initiative was jointly launched in Paris on 30th November 2015 at the COP 21 conference. The Framework Agreement for the Establishment of the ISA was finalized at the 4th International Steering Committee Meeting of the ISA that took place in New Delhi on 4th October 2016. The Framework Agreement of the ISA was opened for signature in Marrakech, Morocco on 15th November 2016. On 6th November 2017 the 15th ratification instrument of the ISA Framework

Agreement was deposited by Republic of Guinea. Thirty days after this deposit, the ISA became a legal entity on 6th December 2017.

The ISA includes 121 prospective member countries that fall within the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. To date, 61 countries have signed the Framework Agreement and 33 countries have ratified it. All 33 countries that ratified the ISA Framework Agreement by 11th March 2018 have become the “Founding Members” of the ISA.

The day-long Founding Conference saw the participation by 47 Heads of Delegations, including 21

Heads of State/Heads of Government, 2 Vice Presidents, 4 Deputy Prime Ministers and 19 Ministers. In addition, there was representation by 10 Multilateral Development Banks and senior representation from the United Nations, energy-related think tanks, representatives from the corporate sector and civil society. The Founding Conference included a Plenary Session in the forenoon and Technical Sessions in the afternoon.

Participating countries at the Founding Conference adopted the “Delhi Solar Agenda” wherein ISA member countries committed to a clean and healthy world for this generation and beyond, rooted in sustainable lifestyles. Member countries expressed their confidence that solar energy offered a clean, climate friendly and inexhaustible energy resource with an unprecedented opportunity to bring energy security to our peoples and improve their lives. They agreed to pursue an increased share of solar energy, facilitate affordable finance, explore innovative financing mechanisms and facilitate joint “research and development” efforts to this end.

Government of India also announced 27 solar-related projects worth US\$ 1.39 billion under the GOI Line of Credit programme in 15 African countries.

Use of Biotechnology

*469. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken by the Government to encourage the use of biotechnology in agriculture, animal science and healthcare sectors in the country along with the achievements thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, sector-wise;

(b) the details of the funds provided by the Government to support the Research and Development Projects based on biotechnology in these sectors across the country during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether a number of States have formulated their own biotechnology development strategy/policy

due to lacklustre approach of the Government to promote biotechnology in such States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) whether the Government has provided guidance/support to such States in formulating their own biotechnology development strategy/policy and 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) The National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2015-20 launched by the Government has identified agriculture, animal science and healthcare as important sectors and the Department of Biotechnology has supported several programmes in these sectors and also initiated new programmes during last three years and current year.

The achievements of the Biotechnology sector in India during last three years and current year include following:

- Number of Publications: 10,537
- Number of Patent Application filed: 183
- Number of Technologies/Products developed and commercialized: 301
- Start-ups/Entrepreneurs supported: 350
- Students trained in Industrial Programme: > than 5000

The sector-wise achievements in agriculture, animal science and healthcare are:

Agriculture:

- A guideline on 'Regulations and Guidelines on Biosafety of Recombinant DNA Research and Biocontainment, 2017' was released.
- Biotech KISAN Scheme with a major impact on rural livelihood was announced in October, 2016. Under this programme, Hubs are being established in 15 agro-climatic zones across the country.

- As a major boost to the sericulture sector, the transgenic silkworm resistant to BmNPV infection has been developed. These hybrids would be a boon to the sericulturists of the country.
- Fifteen countries joined hands to address the ambitious project of decoding the wheat genome by sequencing 17,000 million bases. Indian Scientists contributed by decoding the Chromosome 2A.
- Four virtual India-UK joint centres for agricultural nitrogen were established.
- Two bacterial blight resistant Basmati rice varieties namely, Pusa Basmati 1728 and Pusa Basmati 1718 have been developed and released.

Animal Science:

- A new programme for Brucella free villages has been announced for implementation on pilot scale in 50 villages covering 10 States. 3 new brucella diagnostic kit launched.
- The Department of Biotechnology has initiated cattle genomics programme.
- A cocktail vaccine for poultry salmonellosis was developed.

Health:

- National Biopharma Mission was launched on 30th June, 2017. The Mission with a total budget of US\$250 million aims to bring Industry and Academia together to promote entrepreneurship and affordable product development.
- First indigenous Rota Virus Vaccine was launched in March, 2015. A new injectable vaccine that protects against all four dengue strains endemic to India are being developed. A 1-day Dengue Diagnostic Test was developed.
- The Pre-term Birth programme was initiated to promote a multidisciplinary research effort to predict & diagnose preterm birth (PTB) by enhancing the knowledge of the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms.

- Iron fortified rice: IIT Kharagpur has developed an indigenous process technology and pilot scale manufacturing unit for iron fortified rice with the support from DBT.

(b) During the last 4 years the Department has provided a total budget of Rs 3965.56 Crores to support R&D based projects across the country in different Universities/Institutes/Research Organizations. The State-wise details are available on link: http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/wp-content/uploads/Statewise_-_project.pdf

(c) to (e) The Government of India announced the National Biotechnology Development Strategy in December 2015 with the major emphasis on Education, Research, Translation and Entrepreneurship. The Strategy clearly listed specific actions to be taken to achieve the target of US\$100 billion biotech industries by 2025. In the action plan it has been indicated that this strategy will be implemented in partnership with the State Governments.

During the last four years, States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have announced their State specific policies.

The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India is working closely with these State Governments in both formulation of policies and implementation of activities.

[Translation]

Construction of Level Crossings and Bridges

*470. SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of various manned/unmanned level crossings, railway over bridges and railway under bridges has been delayed across the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise along with the present status of the said level crossings/bridges;

(c) whether the construction cost of the said level crossings/bridges has been increased during the said period due to delay in their construction;

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise; and

(e) the number and the details of such level crossings/bridges for which construction cost has been shared with the concerned State or private company, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) (a) to (e) No Madam. No new manned/unmanned level crossings are being permitted for construction on existing lines as level crossings are a potential safety hazard for both road and rail users, more so for road users. Hence, question of delay for construction of manned/unmanned level crossings does not arise.

Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) are constructed in lieu of level crossings on cost sharing basis with State Govt. In few cases ROBs/RUBs are constructed on the request of State Government at their cost on deposit term basis, where level crossings are not present. Normally, Railway undertakes construction of ROBs/RUBs in Railway portion whereas approaches are being constructed by State Govt. Generally, there is no problem of construction of ROBs/RUBs in Railway portion. However, construction of ROBs/RUBs on approaches depends upon many factors such as availability of land, removal of encroachments, fixing the alignment of approaches, allocation of requisite funds etc. Therefore, it is not possible to fix the time schedule for construction of ROBs/RUBs projects.

However, Railways has taken following pro-active measures in close coordination with various stakeholders to enhance the progress of construction of ROBs/RUBs in replacement of busy level crossings which are as under:

- joint survey with all concerned including State Government to finalise the tentative General Arrangement Drawing (GAD).
- standardization of drawings for various spans to avoid delay in designing.
- nomination of nodal officer for each State for single window clearance of GAD from Railway side.

- commission of a web-based application with user-friendly features for online submission and approval of various plans and drawings related to ROBs/RUBs of National Highway Authority of India/Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (NHAI/MoRTH).
- signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to eliminate all level crossings on National Highway Corridors by MoRTH by construction of ROBs/RUBs at their own cost.
- Also, memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and Government of Maharashtra for construction of ROBs in their State by Government of Maharashtra on 28.12.2017. This MOU is first of its kind and expected that progress of construction of ROB in State of Maharashtra will improve. All State Govt. has also been advised by Ministry of Railways to come forward to sign similar MOU as signed with State Government of Maharashtra.

By taking pro-active measures in last 4 years (2014-15 to 2017-18) average 1162 ROBs/RUBs have been constructed as compared to 762 ROBs/RUBs constructed in period of 5 years *i.e.* 2009-10 to 2013-14.

[English]

Doubling of Railway Tracks

*471. SHRI MOHAN BHAI KALYANJI BHAI KUNDARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up the issue of doubling of railway track between Rajkot and Surendranagar and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this project is progressing as per time schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated and utilized for the said project and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time and cost overrun;

(d) the effective measures taken by the Railways to expedite the completion of the project without further delay; and

(e) whether the doubling of track is inclusive of electrification, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) (a) and (b) Doubling of Rajkot-Surendranagar section (116.17 Km) was included in the Budget 2015-16 and the detailed estimate has been sanctioned in June, 2016 at a cost of Rs. 1002.39 crore.

The status of the project is as under:

- Surendranagar-Daladi section (62.28 km): All tenders for civil works and P. Way works have been awarded. Earth work, bridge works, construction of station buildings, S&T work, etc are in different stages of execution.
- Daladi-Rajkot section (53.89 km.): Tenders for earthwork, major & minor bridges, station building and structures have been finalized in March, 2018.

The doubling of Rajkot-Surendranagar section (116.17 km) is planned to be commissioned in phases and complete project of doubling is targeted to be commissioned by March, 2021.

(c) During 2017-18, funds to the tune of Rs. 94.50 crore has been allotted for the project to be utilized.

(d) To expedite completion of project, a number of initiatives have been taken to speed up the works like increased allocation of funds through measures like funding through loan from Institutions like Life Insurance Corporation, etc. Besides these, to reduce delays on account of land acquisition, meetings with State Officials at various levels are held from time to time.

(e) Yes, Madam. Rajkot-Surendranagar doubling project has been sanctioned along with electrification and will be completed along with the doubling.

**Hygiene and Cleanliness at Railway
Platforms/Tracks**

*472. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has taken note of lack of hygiene and sanitation at the platforms and in running trains and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh measures taken by the Government under the Swachh Bharat Mission and other programmes/schemes to ensure overall hygiene and cleanliness on railway tracks, running trains and railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Maintenance of cleanliness is a continuous process and every endeavour is made to keep the stations/platforms and trains including toilets in clean condition. However, a few complaints are received. All efforts are made by the Railways to address the complaints.

(b) Some of the major initiatives taken by Indian Railways towards improvement of cleanliness of stations, tracks and in running trains are as follows:

- (i) Introduction of mechanised cleaning process, award of rag picking/garbage disposal contracts at stations.
- (ii) Concrete washable aprons on platform tracks are provided to facilitate clearing of night soil on platform lines by washing with water jets.
- (iii) Provision of clean and hygienic toilets including pay and use toilets at stations.
- (iv) Rag picking from railway tracks is also being done.
- (v) Cleaning of coaches including toilets of trains is done at both ends including mechanized cleaning.
- (vi) On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) has been provided in more than 980 pairs of trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and other

important long distance Mail/Express trains for cleaning of coach toilets, doorways, aisles and passenger compartments during the run of the trains.

- (vii) On demand 'Clean My Coach' service is provided in nearly 970 pairs of important Superfast/Mail/Express long distance trains having On Board Housekeeping Service.
- (viii) By expanding the scope of 'Clean My Coach', 'Coach Mitra' service is now being provided in OBHS trains as a single window interface to register coach related requirements of passengers such as cleaning, disinfestation, linen, train lighting, air conditioning and watering of coaches. 'Coach Mitra' facility has been introduced in about 800 pairs of trains.
- (ix) Clean Train Station (CTS) scheme has also been prescribed for limited mechanized cleaning attention to identified trains including cleaning of toilets during their scheduled stoppages enroute at nominated stations.
- (x) Earlier, dustbins were provided in AC Coaches only. Now, provision of dustbin is also being done in Non-AC coaches.
- (xi) Indian Railways is proliferating bio-toilets on its coaching stock so that no human waste is discharged from coaches on to the track. Nearly 1,20,000 bio-toilets have been fitted on around 33,000 coaches. In order to demonstrate the advantage of fitment of Bio-toilets, 22 Green corridors have been made functional, having zero human waste discharge from trains.
- (xii) Cleanliness awareness campaigns are carried out for awareness and education of the rail users.
- (xiii) Regular checks are conducted at officers / supervisors levels, and corrective action is taken wherever any deficiency is noticed.
- (xiv) Enforcement of Indian Railway (Penalties for activities affecting cleanliness at railway premises) Rules, 2012.

Women Entrepreneurship Platform

*473. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), thus building an ecosystem for women across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh and number of beneficiaries under Ichha Shakti, Gyaan Shakti and Karma Shakti as on date; and

(d) the details of funds allocated/expenditure incurred and other support provided by leading corporates and industry bodies viz. NASSCOM, CII, FICCI, SIDBI and Facebook along with the details of beneficiaries?

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 Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) was launched on 08.03.2018 in NITI Aayog. It aspires to bring together various stakeholders in public and private sectors who are working for promoting women entrepreneurship at one place; consolidating their efforts; give visibility to various ongoing schemes; and undertake research to identify policy interventions required to promote women entrepreneurship in the country.

So far various partners including leading corporates, industry bodies like NASSCOM, CII, FICCI and SIDBI have offered to provide various services to the women who register on this platform. Some of these initiatives include providing support for handholding, mentorship, capacity building, scaling up, networking support etc. State-wise financial support has not been proposed under WEP.

Developmental Activities

*474. SHRI DEEPAK ADHIKARI (DEV): Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all schemes/projects/developmental activities carried out by his Ministry since 2014, State-wise; and

(b) the details and the total cost of projects sanctioned for the North Eastern Region (NER) since 2014 along with their completion status, State-wise?

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 Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region supports the efforts of the State Governments to augment infrastructure projects under the following schemes:

- (i) **Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)-State:-** The Non- Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region came into existence in 1998, which aims at filling up the gap in infrastructure sector of the North Eastern Region through sanctioning the projects prioritized by the State Governments. Since 2014, the Ministry sanctioned 126 projects costing Rs.2992.12 crore under the scheme.
- (ii) **Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)-Central:-** The objective of the scheme is to ensure speedy development of North Eastern Region by increasing the targeted flow of budgetary resource for financing social and physical infrastructure projects pertaining to subjects in the Union and Concurrent Lists of the Constitution. The scheme enables the Central Ministries/Departments to fund projects in addition to the projects taken up through the 10% mandatory earmarking and also those of regional and national importance. Since 2014, the Ministry sanctioned 7 projects costing Rs.1233.32 crore under the scheme.
- (iii) **Schemes under North Eastern Council (NEC):-** Under the schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC), regional projects in different Sectors such as Health, Irrigation & Flood Control, Industries, Tourism, Human Resource Development, Science & Technology, Agriculture & Horticulture, Fisheries and Art & Culture etc. that benefit two or more North Eastern States are implemented by NEC on

priority basis as per the mandates under NEC Act. Since 2014, North Eastern Council sanctioned 380 projects with a total cost of Rs.2390.45 crore. The details of the projects may be seen in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Apart from the projects detailed in part (a) above, Government has taken concerted efforts for up-gradation of infrastructure in the North Eastern Region. All Central Ministries, unless specifically exempted, are required to spend 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support in the North Eastern Region not only through their ongoing schemes, but also through dedicated schemes/projects for the North Eastern Region. Several

initiatives have been taken by the Government of India for basic infrastructure development and providing road, rail, water, telecom and air connectivity in the North Eastern Region which, inter alia, include the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East, Broad Gauging & Capital Connectivity Rail Projects, Comprehensive Telecom Development Programme, Schemes for Strengthening of Transmission and Distribution system etc. As per the information received from line Ministries, the details of major projects sanctioned for North Eastern Region is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement – I

State-wise Number of Projects Sanctioned and Completed Since 2014

(Rs in crore)

State	NLCPR- State		NLCPR-Central			NEC schemes			
	No. of Projects	Approved Cost	No. of Projects completed (Cost)	No. of Projects	Approved Cost	No. of Projects completed (Cost)	No. of Projects	Approved Cost	No. of Projects completed (Cost)
Arunachal Pradesh	20	294.76	-	-	-	-	72	544.93	1(3.78)
Assam	24	686.5	-	3	266.22	1 (19.227)	25	149.49	1(3.43)
Manipur	15	425.14	-	-	-	-	76	590.04	-
Meghalaya	9	401.22	-	-	-	-	49	221.52	1(4.56)
Mizoram	24	264.92	-	1	300.00	1 (300.00)	41	278.55	2(5.31)
Nagaland	10	279.09	-	-	-	-	84	382.10	1(5.41)
Sikkim	15	276.41	-	-	-	-	19	118.40	-
Tripura	9	364.08	-	1	580	-	14	105.42	-
@Common Projects for more than one State	-	-	-	2	87.10.	1 (4.87)	-	-	-
Total	126	2992.12	-	5+2 @ = 7	1146.22 + 3 (324.097)	380	2390.45	6(22.49)	6(22.49)
					87.10 @ =				1233.32

Statement – II*Details of Major Projects Sanctioned for North-Eastern Region***(i) Roads**

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has formulated the **Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE)**, for upgradation of 10141 km road stretches of National Highways and State Roads, to improve the connectivity between the North Eastern Region (NER). Out of total length of 4099 km (modified length 3877 km based on DPR) approved for execution/implementation under Phase 'A' of SARDP-NE, work in about 3215km have been sanctioned so far at a cost of Rs. 30,732 crore. Out of these, 1783 km has been completed so far. List of roads included under Phase 'A' of SARDP-NE is at **Statement II (a)**.
- Out of 2319 km (modified length 2104 based on DPR) approved under the **Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways**, 2047 km have been sanctioned so far and total of 792 km has been completed so far. List of roads included under Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways is at **Statement II (b)**.
- BRO has been entrusted with completion of 05 roads of length 406.20 Km under SARDP and 07 roads of length 417.29 Km under NH Arunachal Package. Moreover, apart from above roads connecting major towns and cities of North Eastern Region, BRO has been entrusted with 178 roads for construction as per requirement of Army. Details of BRO works in NER is at **Statement III (c)**.
- Government has also approved the **Bharatmala Pariyojana**, where road

stretches aggregating to about 5301 km in NER have been approved for improvement. Out of this, 3246 km road length has been approved for development of Economic Corridor in North East. The list of roads in NER included under Bharatmala Pariyojana is given at **Statement II (d)**.

(ii) Railways

- 21 Railway projects consisting of 15 New Lines and 6 Doublings have been taken up in North Eastern Region including Assam which are at various stages of execution. Out of this 7 Railway projects consisting of 3 New Lines and 4 Doublings have been taken up in North Eastern Region from 2014 onwards which are at various stages of execution. Details of these projects are at **Statement II (e)**.
- **970 km Gauge Conversion completed in NE region** in last 3 years. Thus, all operational MG sections have been converted to BG and there is no MG operation in entire North East Region.
- **411.873 km** of New Line/Gauge Conversion/Doubling commissioned per year during the period 2014-15 to 2016-17 as against on average of 110 km commissioning per year in NE Region in period from 2009 to 2014.
- Connectivity to the State Capitals have been improved from 2014 onwards. Mendipathar (First Railway Station in Meghalaya) was connected by BG rail line on 29.11.2014. 1st passenger train on newly converted Lumding – Silchar section flagged off on 21.11.2015. 1st passenger train service to Jiribam in Manipur & Bhairabi in Mizoram was flagged off by Hon'ble PM on 27.05.2016.
- **New Projects sanctioned:** Following 7 Projects have been sanctioned in last 3

years from 2015-16 up to 2017-18 in NE regions for enhancing rail connectivity:

- a) **Bongaigaon-Gaolpara-Guwahati Doubling project (176km)** – Sanctioned in 2015-16: Project works have been taken up for execution.
- b) **Digaru-Hojai Doubling project (102 km)** - Sanctioned in 2015-16: Project works have been taken up for execution.
- c) **Sivasagar-Jorhat New Line (62 Km):** Project sanctioned in 2017-18 subject to requisite Govt. Clearance. Final Location Survey has been taken up.
- d) **Salona-Khumtai New Line (99 Km):** Project sanctioned in 2017-18 subject to requisite Govt. Clearance. Final Location Survey has been taken up.
- e) **Tezpur-Silghat New Line (25 Km):** Project sanctioned in 2017-18 subject to requisite Govt. Clearance. Final Location Survey has been taken up.
- f) **Saraighat Bridge Doubling (7 Km):** Project sanctioned in 2017-18 subject to requisite Govt. Clearance.
- g) **Kamakhya-New Guwahati Quadrupling (10.3 Km):** Project sanctioned in 2017-18 subject to requisite Govt. Clearance.

(iii) Air Connectivity

- Govt. of India has sanctioned Rs.4,500 crores for revival of 50 unserved and underserved airports including North Eastern Region. There are 11 Operational Airports, 12 Non-operational Airports and one Greenfield Airport in North East region as of now.

- **RCS-UDAN** has been launched to provide connectivity to unserved and under-served airports within the country and thus promote regional connectivity by making the airfare affordable. The flights under RCS-UDAN are made affordable through Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and other concessions to be given by the Central/State Government and Airport Operators. North East has been kept as priority area under RCS-UDAN.
- AAI has constructed a new Integrated Terminal Building having an area of 90,000 sqm with capacity to handle 3100 peak hour passengers at a time at a cost of Rs.1232 Crores.
- A New Greenfield Airport is constructed at Pakyong (Gangtok) at a revised cost of Rs. 553 crores suitable for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft with
- Apron, Terminal Building of 100 pax, peak hour capacity and other allied infrastructure.
- Airports Authority of India has taken up the proposal for setting up a Greenfield Airport at Hollongi, Itanagar for construction of Runway for A320 type of aircraft (Code-C).
- State-wise airport infrastructure in NER is given at **Annexure 2(vi)**.

(iv) Telecommunications

- **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan** has been launched at an estimated cost of Rs 5336 crore to be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). This project is aimed to cover the uncovered villages in the North-Eastern Region as also to keep seamless connectivity on national highways in this region.
- Government has set up **International Internet Gateway (IIG)** at Agartala to

improve the telecom capacity in the country by availing the service from the Bangladesh Submarine Company. Tripura has now become the third state in the country after Mumbai and Chennai to get International Internet Gateway (through Cox Bazaar-Bangladesh).

- **BharatNet** has been launched to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country for providing broadband connectivity in the Gram Panchayats in phased manner. It is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).

(v) **Power**

- **North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP)** at a cost of Rs.5111.33 Cr. launched for six States (viz., Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland) for strengthening of the Intra-State Transmission and Distribution systems.
- **Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission & Distribution Systems in Arunachal Pradesh & Sikkim** launched at a total estimated cost of Rs.4,754.42 Crore.
- **Tuirial Hydro Electric Power (60MW)** in Mizoram at a cost of Rs.913.63 crore completed and dedicated to the nation by Hon'ble PM on 16.12.2017

Statement – II (a)

List of Roads Included Under Phase 'A' of SARDP-NE

S. No.	State	Scope of work	Category of road	Road Length (in Km)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Improvement of existing 2-lane NH-37 from Nagaon-Dibrugarh to 4-lane (BOT(Annuity)).	NH	301
2.	Meghalaya	Construction of new Shillong By-pass connecting NH-40 & NH-44 (2-lane) (BOT(Annuity)).	NH	50
3.	Meghalaya	Four laning of existing 2-lane road stretch from Jorabat to Barapani on NH40(BOT(Annuity)).	NH	62
4.	Nagaland	Four laning of Dimapur to Kohima Road including Dimapur/Kohima Bypass on NH39 (BOT(Annuity)).	NH	81
5.	Assam	Improvement of existing single lane road stretches on NH-36, 51, 52, 53, 54, 61,152, 153 & 154 to double lane with paved shoulders, including Silchar bypass	NH	576
6.	Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam	2-laning of NH-44, 53, 54 & 154, including Jowai bypass in Meghalaya	NH	180
7.	Meghalaya	Improvement of existing 2 lane Barapani Shillong section of NH-40 and flyovers in Shillong city	NH	54

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Assam and Arunachal Pradesh	Re-alignment and improvement to 2-lane with paved shoulders of NH-37 from Dibrugarh to Rupai and improvement of Stilwell road and NH-38 to 2-lane with paved shoulders	NH	161
9.	Tripura	2 laning of NH-44 from Agartala to Sabroom.	NH	130
10.	Assam and Arunachal Pradesh	4 -lane connectivity to Itanagar	NH 37A, 52 & 52A	150
11.	Assam	2-lane Dibrugarh bypass on NH-37 (on EPC basis)	NH	14
12.	Sikkim/West Bengal	Alternative Highway to Gangtok		242
13.	Manipur/ Nagaland	Two laning of State road from Maram to Paren to provide connectivity of Manipur State with Nagaland State	State road	116
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	Improvement of road from Lumla to Tashigong via Dudunghar (Indo-Bhutan road)	State road	36
15.	Sikkim	Double laning of existing single lane Border Road from Gangtok to Nathula	GS road	87
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	Improvement / 2-laning of Taliha-Tato and Migging-Bile inter basin roads	State road	176
17.	Mizoram	Construction of a new 2-lane highway from Lawngtalai to Myanmar border in Mizoram to support Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project	State road	100
18.	Sikkim/West Bengal	Improvement of NH-31A from Sevoke to Ranipul to 2-lane standards	NH-31A	80
19.	Meghalaya	2 laning of Nongstoin-Shillong section	NH-44E	83
20.	Mizoram	2 laning/ realignment from Km 11.500 to 130	NH-44A	119
21.	Assam	2 laning of Golaghat-Rangajan road	State road	7
22.	Assam	2 laning of of Lumding-Diphu-Manja road	State road	56
23.	Assam	2 laning of Haflong-Jatinga road	State road	8
24.	Assam	2 laning of Dhubri-Gauripur road	State road	8.5
25.	Assam	2 laning of Baska-Bamara road	State road	25
26.	Assam	2 laning of Morigaon-Jagi road	State road	23
27.	Assam	2 laning of Barpeta-Howly road	State road	12
28.	Assam	2 laning of Goalpara-Solmari road	State road	6.5
29.	Assam	2 laning of Kokrajhar-Karigaon road	State road	18
30.	Assam	2 laning of Udalgiri-Rowta road	State road	13

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Manipur	2 laning of Tamenglong-Khonsang road	State road	40
32.	Manipur	2 laning of Pallel Chandel road	State road	18
33.	Nagaland	2 laning of Longleng-Changtongya road	State road	35
34.	Nagaland	2 laning of Mon-Tamlu-Merangkong road	State road	100
35.	Nagaland	2 laning of Phek-Pfutzero road	State road	79
36.	Sikkim	2 laning of Tarku-Namchi road	State road	32
37.	Sikkim	2 laning of Gyalshing-Singtam road	State road	85
38.	Tripura	2 laning of Kailasahar-Kumarghat road	State road	22
39.	Meghalaya	2 laning of Nongstoin-Rongjeng-Tura road	State road	201
40.	Nagaland	2-laning of Zunheboto-Chakabama road	GS Road	128
41.	Meghalaya	Upgradaton of Nongstoin-PambriewWahkaji-Mawthabah road to 2-lane	State road	68
42.	Meghalaya	Upgradation of Nongstoin-RambraiMyrshai-Chaigaon road to 2-lane	State road	71
43.	Meghalaya	Upgradatio of Mawthabah WahkajiPhiangdiloin-Ranikor road to 2-lane	State road	47
44.	Meghalaya	Upgradation of Ranikor-NonghyliamMaheshkhola-Baghmara road to 2-lane	State road	139
45.	Sikkim	2-laning of Melli-Manpur-Namchi road	State road	33
46.	Sikkim	2-laning of Legship-Naya Bazar road	State road	26
Total Phase 'A' of SARDP-NE				4099

Statement – II (b)*List of Roads Included Under Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways OF SARDP-NE*

S. No	State	Scope of work	Category of road	Road Length (in Km)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nechipu -Seppa road NH 229	NH – 229	99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Seppa -Khodaso NH 229	NH – 229	110
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Khodaso -Kheel -Hoj NH 229, via Sagalee	NH – 229	102
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Hoj -Potin NH 229	NH – 229	20

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	Potin -Yazali -Ziro NH 229	NH – 229	71
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	Ziro -Daporijo NH 229	NH – 229	160
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	Daporijo -Bame NH 229	NH – 229	108
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	Bame -Aalo NH 229	NH – 229	42
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	Aalo -Pangin NH 229	NH – 229	26
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pangin -Pasighat NH 229	NH – 229	84
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pasighat -Mahadevpur NH 52	NH – 52	
		(i) Major bridge of Debang valley, connecting roads with option of realignment from Digaru to Chowkham involving major bridge at Alubarighat		30
		(ii) 2-laning with paved shoulders of remaining stretches after exclusion of length under (i) above.		140
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	Mahadevpur -Bordumsa -Namchik -Jairampur -Mammao NH 52B	NH – 52B	97
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	Mammao -Changlang	NH – 52B	42
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang -Khonsa NH 52B	NH – 52B	67
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	Khonsa -Tissa NH 52B	NH – 52B	48
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tissa -Longding -Kanubari NH 52B	NH – 52B	80
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	Kanubari -Bimlapur NH 52B	NH – 52B	16
18.	Assam	Bimlapur to NH-37 link in Assam NH 52B	NH – 52B	70
19.	Assam	Missing bridge and its approach between Dhola and Sadia ghats on NH 37	NH – 37E	28
20.	Assam/Arunachal Pradesh	2-laning with paved shoulders from Islampur Tinali to Roing, via Sadia and Santipur	NH – 37E	32
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	Koloriang -Joram road	GS road	158
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	Yingkiong -Mariyung -Pasighat road	State road	140
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	Anini -Meka road	GS road	235
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	Hawai -Hawa Camp road	GS road	165
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	Hoj -Yupia -Pappu road	State road	35
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	Bame -Iekabali -Akajan road	GS road	114
Total Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways of SARDP-NE				2319

Statement – II(c)*Details of Road Work Assigned to BRO in NER***(A) SARDP WORK**

S. No	Name of Road	Length (In Km)	% of Physical progress	PDC
(i)	Lumla – Bletting (Km 0 to Km 47.85)	47.85	98.14	2018
(ii)	Bile – Migging	76.00	54.03	2022
(iii)	Taliha – Tato	100.00	65.37	2020
(iv)	Maram – Peren	117.06	96.09	2018
(v)	Gangtok-Sherathang-Nathula	65.29	80.41	2018
Total		406.20		

(b) NH under Arunachal Package

(i)	Ranaghat-Mebo-Dambuk-Bomjir (NH-52)	51.80	96.85	Handed over to State PWD.
(ii)	Akajan – Likabali-Bame	20.62	94.54	2022
(iii)	Joram – Koloriang	158.00	61.31	2022
(iv)	Meka – Anini (NH-113)	19.22	47.98	2018
(v)	Roing-Koronu-PayaDigaru-Tezu Road(Old NH-52/New NH-13)	77.40	90.86	2018
(vi)	Chawkham – Namsaidirak Road (Old NH52/New NH-15)	25.25	98.15	Road Completed
(vii)	Hayulaing-Chagwanti-Hawai Camp road	65.00	71.18	Only DPR preparation. No original work executed.
Total		417.29		

Statement – II(d)*List of Roads Included Under Bharatmla Pariyojana*

S. No.	State	Stretches	Length (km)
A. Economic Corridors			
1.	Assam	Bongaigaon -Guwahati -Nagaon -Tezpur -Dibrugarh -Margherita	3246
2.	Assam/ Meghalaya	Dudhnoi -Williannagar	
3.	Assam/ Arunachal Pradesh	Gohpur -Itanagar	

S. No.	State	Stretches	Length (km)
4.	Assam	Nagaon -Dimapur	
5.	Assam/ Manipur	Nagaland/ Numaligarh -Dimapur -Kohima -Imphal	
6.	Nagaland/ Manipur	Kohima -Jessami -Ukhrul -Imphal	
7.	Meghalaya/ Tripura	Assam/ Jorabat -Jowai -Silchar -Karimganj -Agartala	
8.	Tripura/ Manipur	Mizoram/ Manu -Simlung -Aizawl -Imphal	
9.	Assam/ Mizoram	Silchar -Aizawl	
10.	Assam/ Manipur	Silchar -Jiribam -Imphal	
Sub Total			3246
B. Feeder roads			
12.	Assam	Dibrugarh Ghat -Sengajan	48
13.	Assam	Bishwanath Chariali -Bishwanath Ghat	19
14.	Assam	Kumargaon -Dibrugarh Ghat	15
15.	Assam	Jorhat -Neamati	10
16.	Assam	Naltoli -Silghat	4
Sub Total			96
C. List of choke points and interventions planned			
17.	Manipur	Imphal	Bypass
18.	Assam	Silchar	Bypass
19.	Meghalaya	Shillong	Bypass
20.	Assam	Dibrugarh	Bypass
21.	Nagaland	Dimapur	Bypass
22.	Assam	Guwahati	Flyover
Sub Total			
D. List of congestions where interventions are to be planned			
23.	Mizoram	Aizawl	
24.	Meghalaya	Jorabat	
Sub Total			
E. List of logistics Parks			
25.		Guwahati	
Sub Total			

F. List of Border roads

26.	Sikkim	Mangan -Kodyong -Chungthang -Lachung -Yumthang -Yume - Samdang -Border	90
27.	Sikkim	Chumtang -Lachen Monatry -Log bridge -Pashi -Naku - Nakpolatok -Nakula	75
28.	Assam	Kochigaon -Raimana -Jaigaon -Lamkapura -Birpara	123
29.	Meghalaya	Baghmara -Rongra -Mahadeo -Ranikor	206
30.	Manipur	Sangshak -Namphisa	90
31.	Tripura	Teliamera -Amarpur -Sabroom	216
32.	Tripura	Khowai -Agartala	55
33.		Sub Total	855

G. List of International Connectivity

34.	Nagaland	Avakhung -Jessami	149
35.	Assam	Darranga -Guwahati	49
36.	Meghalaya	Dawki -Shillong	95
37.	Manipur	Imphal -Moreh	106
38.	Mizoram	Zortinpui -Lunglei (Kaladan NH-502A)	172
39.	Mizoram	Kawarpuchia -Seling (Seling -Theiriati (NH-54); Theiriati -Lunglei -Kawrpuchhuah NH-302)	294
40.	Tripura	Sabroom -Agartala	133
41.	Assam	Sutarkhandi -Karimganj	14
42.	Mizoram	Zowkhathar -Kawlkulh (Kawlkulh -Champai -Zowkhathar)	92
		Sub Total	1104
		Total	5301

Statement – II(e)*List of Railway Projects Taken Up in North Easter Region*

S. No.	Project	Year of sanction	Length (in km)	State(s)	Latest Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto March' 2017	Revised Outlay for 2017-18	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
New Line								
1.	Salona-Khumtai	2017-18	99	Assam	5958	-	0.10	Project included in Budget subject to requisite Government approvals.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Sibsagar-Jorhat	2017-18	62	Assam	1296	-	0.10	-do
3.	Tezpur-Silghat	2017-18	25	Assam	2025	-	0.10	-do-
Doubling								
1.	Bongaigaon-Goaipara-Guwahati	2015-16	176	Assam	2232	40	125	Work of earthwork, major & minor bridges have been taken up
2.	Digarua-Hojai	2015-16	102	Assam	871	30	45	-do
3.	Saraighat Bridge (doubling)	2017-18	7	Assam	888	-	0.10	Project included in Budget subject to requisite Government approvals.
4.	Kamakhya-New Guwahati Quadrupling	2017-18	10	Assam	3062	-	0.10	-do

*Airport Infrastructure - North Eastern Region***ASSAM****(1) Guwahati Airport:**

Guwahati Airport belongs to AAI. The Airport has been declared as International Airport in June, 2001. Airport is suitable for 'D' type (A-300) of Aircrafts Operations in all weather conditions.

Existing facility

- Runway (02/20), of dimension 3103m x 45m;
- Apron to park 12 nos. A-321, 7 Nos. ATR-72 and 1 No. for DO-228 type at a time.
- Terminal Building to handle 790 pax. at a time.
- Night landing facility – available and in use.

Works in Progress / Planned

- New Integrated Terminal Building having an area of 90000 sqm. for handling 3100 PHP (6.5 MPPA) at a cost of Rs. 1142 crore. PMC work awarded on 07/03/2017). Works to be awarded by Jan. 2018.

- Refurbishment & expansion of existing terminal building at a cost of Rs. 25 crores. PDC 31/01/2018

- Strengthening of existing runway. Work awarded for Rs. 44.78 crore on 24/10/2017. PDC – May 2019.

- New ATC cum Technical Block, cost of Rs. 150 crores. A/A & E/S in process.

(2) Dibrugarh Airport

- Dibrugarh Airport belongs to AAI.
- The Airport is suitable for operations of 'C' type (A-320) of Aircrafts in all weather conditions.

Existing facility

- Runway dimensions – 1829m x 45m
- Terminal Building : Can handle 500 passengers at a time.
- Apron capacity : 7 Aircrafts (A-321/ B737 type) at a time.
- Night Landing Facility -Facilities are available but no scheduled night operations.

Works in Progress / Planned

- One aircraft hangar for A-321/ ATR72 at cost of Rs. 21.07 crore. Work awarded on 11.04.2017. PDC – Feb, 2019.
- Runway extension by 460m along with associated works. Cost Rs. 52.31 crore. Work awarded on 13/11/2015. PDC – June, 2018.
- Construction of New Control Tower cum Technical Block. A/A & E/S accorded for Rs.38crores.

(3) Lilabari Airport

Lilabari Airport belongs to Airports Authority of India. Airport is suitable for 'C' type (A-320/321) of Aircrafts Operations.

Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 2286m x 45m
- Apron to park 2 nos. B737/ A-321.
- Terminal Building to handle 200 pax. at a time.

Works in Progress / Planned

- Re-carpeting of Runway, cost Rs.10 crores. Work in progress.

(4) Jorhat (CE)(Belongs to IAF) Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 2761m x 45m
- Operations: Suitable for 'C' type (B737) of Aircrafts Operations.
- Terminal Building : Can handle 120 passengers at a time.
- Airside capacity : 2 Aircrafts (ATR72/ B737 type) at a time.

Works in Progress / Planned

- Modification and expansion of existing Terminal Building at cost of Rs. 4.78 crore.

(5) Silchar (CE) (Belongs to IAF) Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 2286m x 45m
- Operations: Suitable for 'C' type (A320/A321) of Aircrafts Operations.

- Terminal Building : Can handle 150 passengers at a time.
- Airside capacity : 3 Aircrafts (A321/ B737 type) at a time.

Works in Progress / Planned

- Re-carpeting of Runway at a cost of Rs.16.64 crore. Progress 82%.

(6) Tezpur(CE) (Belongs to IAF) Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 2869m x 45m
- Operations: Suitable for 'C' type (A320/A321) of Aircrafts Operations.
- Apron to park 01 nos. B737/ A-321 and 01 ATR-72

MANIPUR**(7) Imphal Airport**

Imphal Airport belongs to AAI. The airport was declared as International dt. 14.11.2013. Airport is suitable for 'C' type (A-320/321) of Aircrafts Operations in all weather conditions.

Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 2746m x 45m
- Apron to park 3 nos. A-321 and 1 No. ATR-72 at a time.
- Terminal Building to handle 500 pax. (250 arriving + 250 departing) at a time.
- Night Landing Facility – available but no scheduled night operations.

Works in Progress / Planned

- Construction of 1 no. Hangar with capacity to park AB-320 category aircraft. Work awarded for Rs. 30.32 crore. PDC – Mar, 2019.
- Construction of New Fire Station at a cost of Rs. 4.47 crore.
- Apron expansion work at a cost of Rs. 11.83 crore.
- C/o New integrated Terminal Building for 1125Pk Hr capacity of appx 30000 sqm with

associated apron, link taxiway & allied works. SOW issued on 11.05.2017. Cost Rs.350 crores.

MEGHALAYA

(8) Shillong (Barapani) Airport

Shillong Airport is in the State of Meghalaya and belongs to AAI. Airport is suitable for 'C' type (ATR-72) of Aircrafts Operations in fair weather conditions.

Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 1829m x 45m
- Apron to park 2 nos. ATR-42.
- Terminal Building to handle 200 pax. at a time.

Works in Progress / Planned

- Extension & strengthening of Runway upto 7500 ft i/c ancillary works (Extn from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft) to make airport suitable for AB-320 type of aircraft operations. Expansion & strengthening of Apron for parking of 4 nos. AB-321 type of aircraft with link taxiway. Installation of ILS, Relocation of DVOR, diversion of drain along with electrical and other ancillary work. Revised DPR to be submitted to NEC after including cost of obstructions removal by State Govt. Details awaited.
- Construction of perimeter road, lighting/watch tower, ATC tower & Fire Station. Work in progress. Cost -Rs. 9.7 crore.

TRIPURA

(9) Agartala Airport

Agartala Airport is in the State of Tripura and belongs to AAI. Airport is suitable for 'C' type (A-321) of Aircrafts Operations in all weather conditions.

Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 2286m x 45m
- Apron to park 3 nos. A-321 and 2 Nos. ATR-72 at a time.
- Terminal Building to handle 500 pax. (250 arriving + 250 departing) at a time.

- Night Landing Facility – available and in use

Works in Progress / Planned

- New Integrated Terminal Building of 1200 Peak Hr Capacity of approx. 30000 sqm (3MPPA) & Apron for 6 additional parking Bays for A-321 type of Aircrafts at the cost of Rs. 438.28 crore. Construction work awarded on 08.06.2017, PDC – October 2019.
- Construction of one Hangar for A-321/ATR-72 type of aircraft. Work awarded on 24.10.2017 for Rs. 28.60 cr. PDC – November 2019.
- Construction of New Isolation Bay & associated link taxi track. Work awarded on 31/05/2017. for an amount of Rs. 15.57 cr. PDC – 09/06/2018.
- Construction of Operational wall, property wall, watch towers, perimeter road, storm water drains, widening of basic strip & perimeter lighting at the cost of Rs. 26.97 cr. started on 05.11.2016. PDC – Feb, 2018.
- Construction of CISF Barrack, Dog Kennel, Kote at a cost of Rs. 13.07 cr. Work awarded on 20/03/17. PDC – September, 2018.

NAGALAND

(10) Dimapur Airport

Dimapur Airport is in the State of Nagaland and belongs to AAI.

Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 2290m x 45m
- Apron to park -Four bays for B737/ A-321
- Terminal Building to handle 500 pax. at a time.
- NAV/Comm. Aids like ILS, VHF, DVOR, DME, NDB.
- ATC Control Tower cum Technical Block and Fire Station of CAT-VI.
- Night Landing Facility -Facilities are available but no scheduled night operations.

Works in Progress / Planned

- Strengthening of Runway, Taxiway and Apron – AA&ES for Rs. 43.32 Cr approved on 21.03.2017 & Work in progress. PDC April 2019.
- Isolation Bay with Link Taxiway – Planning stage.
- Facelift & Expansion of existing of Terminal Building Cost Rs. 2 crores.
- MT Workshop, Emergency Medical Centre.

MIZORAM**(11) Lengpui Airport**

Lengpui Airport is in the State of Mizoram and belongs to the State Govt. Airports Authority of India provides CNS/ATM services. Airport is suitable for 'C' type (A320) of Aircrafts Operations.

Existing facility

- Runway of dimension 2500m x 45m
- Apron with 2 Nos. Parking Stand for A-321/B737 and 2 Nos. for ATR-72.
- Terminal Building to handle 200 pax. at a time.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH**TEZU**

- AAI has developed the Tezu Airport for ATR-72 operations and has applied for license from DGCA for operation of civil flights from renovated old terminal building.
- Construction of New Domestic Terminal Building for handling 200 peak hour passenger and construction of New ATC Tower cum Technical Block cum Fire Station Cat-IV & associated facilities. Work in progress. PDC -Sept 2018.

ALGs

- Indian Air force is developing Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs) at Passighat, Ziro, Along. AAI has requested State Govt. for allotment of land for development of Civil Enclaves for operation of civil flight. Response of State Govt. is awaited.

Itanagar

- There is a proposal to construct a New airport in Arunachal Pradesh at Hollongi near Itanagar for which the State Govt. has been requested for details of land acquisition and cost involved for approval of proposal by MoCA.

Sikkim Pakyong

- A New Greenfield Airport is constructed at Pakyong (Gangtok) at a revised cost of Rs. 553 crores suitable for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft with Apron, Terminal Building of 100 pax. peak hour capacity and other allied infrastructure.

Security at Railway Stations

*475. SHRI HARISH MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of poor security at major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to have an integrated security plan for selected railway stations and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this project;

(d) the names of the railway stations selected for implementation of the said plan; and

(e) the other measures taken by the Railways to provide foolproof security at the vulnerable stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Prevention and detection of crime, registration of cases and maintenance of law & order in railway stations is the primary responsibility of States which is being discharged by them through the Government Railway Police (GRP). Ministry of Railways, through the Railway Protection Force (RPF), are supplementing efforts of States to strengthen security at railway stations. Coordination has been maintained by the RPF with GRPs of respective States to review security at railway stations and initiate measures to strengthen the same, as and when required.

With a view to strengthen surveillance mechanism at sensitive railway stations, installation of an Integrated Security System (ISS) has been approved for 202 identified stations comprising of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance system, access control, personal and baggage screening system and bomb detection system. CCTV cameras have already been provided over 108 railway stations under ISS. In addition, 132 baggage scanners, 35 under vehicle scanning system (UVSS) and 86 bomb detection items have also been provided under ISS. 340 dogs have also been deployed over different zonal railways for detection of explosives and tracking purposes.

(c) The sanctioned cost of ISS stands at Rs. 419.90 crore.

(d) Names of railway stations identified for implementation of ISS are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by Railways for strengthening and upgradation. Measures initiated by the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force (RPF), to strengthen security of passengers include escorting of about 2500 important Mail/Express trains daily (in addition to escorting of 2200 important Mail/Express trains by the Government Railway Police [GRP]), surveillance through Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras provided at about 394 railway stations, rendering assistance to passengers through 182 Security Helpline, prosecution of offenders (unauthorized vendors/hawkers, touts, trespassers, nuisance, entering ladies reserved compartments, etc.) under relevant provisions of the Railways Act, etc.

To strengthen security at railway stations, 983 stations have already been nominated for installation of CCTV cameras. It is further proposed to install CCTV Cameras to strengthen surveillance mechanism and to ensure safety and security of passengers at railway stations and trains over entire network of Indian Railways. It is further proposed to deploy trained manpower on hiring basis, under overall supervision of Railway Protection Force, for round the clock monitoring of CCTV feeds through control rooms to render security related assistance to passengers on real-time basis.

To further augment security of passengers with due emphasis upon security of women passengers, upgradation of All India Security Helpline 182 has been envisaged at an approved cost of Rs. 5.59 crore. Operationalization of single Security App has also been envisaged to provide round the clock security related assistance to women passengers.

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

All out efforts are being made by the Railways, through the RPF, to provide security to passengers in coordination with GRPs of respective states, who are primarily responsible for registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in railway premises as well as on running trains.

Statement

S. No.	Zone	Name of Stations
1.	Central Railway	Bhusawal, Nasik Road, Manmad, Chalisgaon, Jalgaon, Akola, Murtajapur, Badnera, Nagpur, Pune, Miraj, Chatrapati Shivaji Terminal (Main line & Suburban), Dadar, Kurla, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Thane & Kalyan.
2.	Eastern Railway	Malda, Bardhaman, Asansol, Durgapur, Sealdah, Kolkata(T), Bidhannagar, Majherhat, Ballygunge, Dum Dum, Howrah.
3.	Kolkata Metro Railway	Dum Dum Jn, Belgachia, Shyambazar, Sovabazar, Girish Park, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Central, Chandni Chowk, Esplanade, Park Street, Maidan, Rabindra Sadan, Netaji Bhawan, Jatindas Park, Kalighat, Rabindra Sarobar, Tollygunge, Kudghat, Bansdram, Naktala, Garia Bazar, Birji (Previous Pranab Nagar) New Garia.

SL. No.	Zone	Name of Stations
4.	East Central Railway	Dhanbad, Mughalsarai, Patna Jn., Rajendra Nagar, Muzzafar Pur, Samastipur, Raxaul.
5.	East Coast Railway	Puri, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Visakapatnam.
6.	Northern Railway	Lucknow, Varanasi, Faizabad, Ayodhya, Srinagar, Badgam, Anantnag, Jammu, Jammu Tawi, Udhampur, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Ambala, Saharanpur, Kalka, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Patiala, Bareilly, Moradabad, Haridwar, Chakkibank, Brijbehra, Panjgam, Awantipura, Kakapore, Pampore, Rajwansher, New Delhi, Delhi Main, H.Nizamuddin, Shahdara, Tilak Bridge, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt, Shivazi Bridge, Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad.
7.	North Central Railway	Agra, Mathura, Jhansi, Kanpur, Allahabad.
8.	North Eastern Railway	Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chapra.
9.	Northeast Frontier Railway	Guwahati, Dimapur, New Jalpaiguri, Diphu, Lumding, Maibong, Katihar, Kishanganj, Siliguri, Kokrajhar, New Tinsukia, Simalguri, Jorhat Town, Mariani, Furkating, Dibrugarh.
10.	North Western Railway	Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur.
11.	Southern Railway	Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Coimbatore, Madurai, Calicut, Tiruchirapalli, Mangalore, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Beach, Mambalam, Tambaram, Basin Bridge, Tiruvallur.

SL. No.	Zone	Name of Stations
12.	South Central Railway	Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Tirupati.
13.	South Eastern Railway	Kharagpur, Ranchi, Tatanagar, Chakradharpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Bokaro, Puruliya, Adra, Muri, Midnapur.
14.	South East Central Railway	Bilaspur, Raipur, Gondia.
15.	South Western Railway	Bangalore, Yaswantpur, Mysore.
16.	West Central Railway	Bhopal, Itarsi.
17.	Western Railway	Surat, Vadodara, Godhra, Ahmedabad, Ujjain, Church Gate, Marine Drive, Charni Road, Grant Road, Mumbai Central, Mahalaxmi, Lower Parel, Elphinston Road, Dadar, Matunga Road, Mahim, Bandra Local, Bandra Terminus, Khar Road, Santa Cruz, Vile Parle, Andheri, Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Malad, Kandivali, Borivali, Dahisar, Miraroad, Bhayander, Nayagaon, Basairoad, Nalasupara, Virar, Palghar, Boisar, Dahanuroad.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Bihar

*476. SHRI KIRTI AZAD:

DR. BHARTIBEN D. SHYAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of under construction/pending Rail Over Bridges (ROBs)/Rail Under Bridges (RUBs) and manned/unmanned level crossing in Darbhanga, Bihar;

(b) whether the said railway projects are being carried out as per their respective time schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay in implementation of the said projects, project-wise;

(d) the number of sanctioned and ongoing ROBs/RUBs projects in Darbhanga, Bihar along with the present status thereof; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) Five (5) Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges are sanctioned on cost sharing basis with State Government of Bihar in Darbhanga.

Details of the same is as under:

S. No.	Name of Works	Comments
1.	Darbhanga-Laheriasarai Railway line in lieu of level crossing No.25-Spl.	All these Road Over Bridges are sanctioned on cost sharing basis. Consent for cost sharing has been obtained from State Government. General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) is under various stage of preparation/approval. Effort is being made to expeditiously start the work in consultation with State Government.
2.	Darbhanga Yard in lieu of level crossing No.26.	
3.	Darbhanga-Samastipur Railway line in lieu of level crossing No.21.	

S. No.	Name of Works	Comments
4.	Darbhanga-Mohammadpur Railway line in lieu of level crossing No.2-Spl.	
5.	Darbhanga-Kakarghati Railway line in lieu of level crossing No.28	

ROBs/RUBs are being constructed in lieu of level crossings on cost sharing basis with State Govt. Normally, Railway undertakes construction of ROBs/RUBs in Railway portion whereas approaches are being constructed by State Govt. Generally, there is no problem of construction of ROBs/RUBs in Railway portion, however, construction of ROBs/RUBs on approaches depends upon many factors such as availability of land, removal of encroachments, fixing the alignment of approaches, allocation of requisite funds by State Governments etc. Therefore, it is not possible to fix the time schedule for construction of ROBs/RUBs projects.

[English]

Rail Development Authority

*477. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Rail Development Authority has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details including the role/mandate thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures that will be taken by the Authority, in terms of pricing and setting other standards of fair competition in the railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Government has approved the constitution of the Rail Development Authority (RDA) in April, 2017. The process for selection of the Chairman and three members has been initiated.

(b) The role/mandate of RDA is to get expert advice/make informed decision on :

- (i) Pricing of services commensurate with costs.
- (ii) Measures for enhancement of Non Fare Revenue.
- (iii) Protection of consumer interests, by ensuring quality of service and cost optimization.
- (iv) Promoting competition, efficiency and economy.
- (v) Encouraging market development and participation of stakeholders in the rail sector and for ensuring a fair deal to the stakeholders and customers.
- (vi) Creating positive environment for investment.
- (vii) Promoting efficient allocation of resources in the Sector.
- (viii) Benchmarking of service standards against international norms and specify and enforce standards with respect to the quality, continuity and reliability of services provided by them.
- (ix) Providing framework for non-discriminatory open access to the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) infrastructure and others in future.
- (x) Suggesting measures to absorb new technologies for achieving desired efficiency and performance standards.
- (xi) Suggesting measures for human resource development to achieve any of its stated objectives.

(c) RDA's functions inter-alia include :

- (i) Tariff determination functions as :
 - (1) Framing guiding principles/rules/models for tariff determination for both freight and passenger segments;
 - (2) Make recommendations on tariff setting including suggesting proposed tariff and revision of tariff;

(3) Framing principles for determining classification and reclassification of commodities;

(4) Framing principles for subsidy/social service obligations in form of budgetary support or other methods;

(5) Lay down guidelines/rules to determine track access charge for providing non-discriminatory access to Dedicated Freight Corridor network and others in future; and

(6) Any other function which is incidental or consequential to the abovementioned functions or such other functions regarding (1) to (5) above as specifically assigned by Central Government.

(ii) Ensuring fair play and level playing for stakeholder investment in Railways as :

(1) Propose modifications and send suggestions/Advisory Notes to Ministry of Railways on reference made by Ministry of Railways.

(2) Make suggestions regarding policies of Ministry of Railways for infrastructure creation through private investments/PPP and to ensure reasonable safeguards to PPP investors.

(3) Dispute resolution regarding future Concession Agreements subject to a specific clause in the Concession Agreement for referring of such disputes to RDA in compliance with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and Amendments thereto including the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 2015.

(4) Any other function which is incidental or consequential to the abovementioned functions or such other functions regarding (1) to (3) above as specifically assigned by Central Government.

Rank Equivalence in Armed Forces

*478. SHRI M. UDHAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn the controversial order that downgraded the military officers in comparison to their civilian counterparts in the Armed Forces Civil Services and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said order had caused a lot of heartburn over the entire issue of rank equivalence in the armed forces and led to widespread anger in the armed forces; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) The communication dated 18th October 2016 was issued by the Government explaining the existing functional equivalence being followed at Service HQrs for the limited purpose of assigning duties and responsibilities with respect to Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service posted at the Service HQrs. The said Note of 18th October 2016 has since been withdrawn vide an order dated 4th January 2018 to avoid scope for ambiguity and resultant misunderstanding.

Technology Mission for Railways

*479. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Technology Mission for Indian Railways was signed by the Ministries of Railways, Human Resource Development and Science and Technology to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among the Ministries and to take up research and development projects in the areas of heavy haul, safety, energy, environment and urban railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of Science and Technology (Ministry of Science & Technology) has been signed on 4th January, 2018 at New Delhi for implementation of "Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR)". Major areas of cooperation and technology development for Indian Railways have presently been identified along with respective design capabilities, manufacturing and maintenance practices for various assets, as under :

- (i) Throughput Enhancement
- (ii) Heavy Haul Technologies
- (iii) High Speed Technologies
- (iv) Safety with Improved Asset Maintenance and Reliability
- (v) Energy Systems
- (vi) Environmental Technologies
- (vii) Urban Railway Systems

Detailed projects in above areas would be formulated by Ministry of Railways and these identified areas would be added/improved upon dynamically from time to time, as per needs & priorities of Railways.

Transfer of Confirmed Ticket

*480. KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to allow passengers to transfer their confirmed ticket to another person in case they are unable to travel;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the guidelines framed for this purpose and the time by which it is likely to come into force;

(c) whether the Government has also decided to extend this facility to the National Cadet Corps and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said move will adversely affect the waitlisted train passengers and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to cover more waitlisted rail passengers and avoid black marketing of rail tickets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Section 53 of Railway Act 1989 provides that a ticket issued in the name of a person shall be used only by that person except in case of mutual transfer of a seat or berth by Passengers travelling by the same train or if allowed by an authorised railway servant who may permit change of name of a passenger having reserved a seat or berth subject to such circumstances as may be prescribed.

Passengers (Change of Names) Rules, 1990 were issued vide GSR 708(E) dated 16th August 1990 specifying the conditions under which a reserved ticket can be transferred to another person. An amendment to these rules was issued vide GSR 704 (E) dated 12.12.1997 wherein this facility was extended to National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets.

The facility of change of name is permitted to following category of passengers subject to fulfilment of conditions mentioned in the Rules mentioned above:

- (i) Government servant proceeding on duty
- (ii) Family member
- (iii) Students of a recognized government institution
- (iv) Cadet of National Cadet Corps (NCC)
- (v) Marriage party

(c) As mentioned above, this facility is already available to NCC cadets.

(d) and (e) This facility has been provided to meet the situation where a passenger holding confirmed ticket is not in a position to undertake the journey and someone else has to be sent in his/her place. Instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways to

take adequate safeguards to avoid misuse of this scheme, some of which are as under:

- (i) Granting of permission for change of name only by a Gazetted officer subject to production of requisite documents to prove the genuineness and fulfilment of conditions mentioned in the Rules. At those locations where Gazetted officer is not available, non-gazetted officer authorised in this behalf has to take post facto approval from the competent authority.
- (ii) Maintenance of proper record of such permissions.
- (iii) Inspection of these records by the officers.
- (iv) Not allowing this facility in the tickets issued on concession.

With a view to meet the demand of waitlisted passengers, waiting list position of the trains is monitored and to cater to the rising demand of passengers, to the extent feasible, various measures are taken which include introduction of new trains, enhancement of the composition of more popular trains, attachment of extra coaches in the existing trains, running of special trains for clearance of extra passengers traffic during peak seasons, festivals, special events etc. keeping in view the pattern of traffic, commercial justification, operation feasibility, availability of resources etc.

Various steps are taken by the Railways to avoid misuse of its passenger reservation system, some of which are as under:

- (i) Restriction on agents on booking of tickets during first thirty minutes of opening of Advance Reservation Period (ARP) booking and Tatkal booking.
- (ii) Condition of carrying one of the prescribed proofs of identity in original during journey by any one of the passengers booked on the ticket.
- (iii) Automatic preparation of reservation charts at least 4 hours before scheduled departure of

train and thereafter booking of available accommodation through internet as well as through computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters.

- (iv) Making provision in the PRS system to transfer vacant available accommodation after preparation of second reservation chart to next remote location.
- (v) Introduction of Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) known as VIKALP for providing confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and also to ensure optimal utilization of available accommodation.
- (vi) Modification of Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Ticket and Refund of Fare) Rules to discourage speculative booking of tickets.
- (vii) Provision of CCTVs at important PRS locations.
- (viii) Only one booking in one user login session except for return/ onward journey between 0800 and 1200 hours in case of tickets being booked through internet.
- (ix) Provision of CAPTCHA in the booking page of e-ticket/i-ticket on the IRCTC website to check use of scripting tools by unscrupulous elements for cornering of tickets.
- x. Introduction of a time check of 35 seconds for completion of online booking of tickets to avoid misuse through use of scripting software.
- xi. Making One Time Password (OTP) mandatory for payment of tickets booked online.
- xii. Conducting joint as well as independent checks by Commercial, Vigilance & Security Departments to curb the activities of touts.
- xiii. Touts so apprehended taken up as per provisions of Law.
- xiv. Intensification of checks during peak rush and festival periods. Touts and unauthorized

vendors apprehended and prosecuted as per relevant provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

- xv. Supplementing checks conducted at Reservation Offices by checks on the trains to detect the cases of transferred reserved tickets *i.e.* persons found travelling fraudulently against accommodation actually reserved in the name of another passenger.
- xvi. Conducting checks in booking offices, reservation offices, trains etc. to curb malpractices by Railway staff in connivance with touts. Stringent action taken against the railway staff under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules, if found indulging in malpractices.
- xvii. Deployment of RPF staff at important Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centres to prevent touting activities.
- xviii. Keeping surveillance on the possible activities of touts and unauthorised vendors through Close Circuit Television Cameras installed at important Railway Stations.
- xix. Educating general public through Public Address System and media, not to buy tickets from touts/unscrupulous elements and consequences of buying tickets from these sources.

Digital Transactions

5291. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is true that the Government has targeted 2,500 crore digital transactions by the end of 2017-18;

(b) if so, whether it is true that the target is not going to be achieved;

(c) if so, whether the Government feels that with about 25 lakh Point of Sale (POS) machines, it will be able to achieve the said target and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of digital transactions since demonetisation, month and Statewise; and

(e) the incentives and other exemptions that the Government is giving for POS machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Digital transactions have been rising consistently for the past few months and actual number of transactions till 31st March 2018 will be known at a later date.

(c) Presently there are more than 32 Lakhs Point of Sale (POS) machines which are being used for making Digital transactions using Debit/Credit cards. Debit/Credit cards are also being used at online payment portals for making transactions. Further, Digital transactions are being made using other modes

like Quick Response (QR) codes, BHIM platform/UPI, Internet banking etc which do not need a POS machine for transacting.

(d) The details of Digital Transactions month wise since demonetization is enclosed as Statement - I. The details of Digital transactions state wise for THREE available modes namely BHIM/UPI, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) and RuPay card on PoS since April 2017 is enclosed as Statement - II.

(e) Government of India, Department of Financial Services, through National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) is incentivizing the installation of BHIM Aadhaar POS machines for FY 2017-18. The scheme supports the banks to deploy 20 Lakh BHIM Aadhaar PoS devices for making digital payments. Under the scheme, the banks which are deploying BHIM Aadhaar PoS devices and merchant onboarding will be extended support of upto maximum Rs 1800/- per device.

Statement – I

The Month on Month Growth of Various Digital Payment Modes since Demonetization is as below-

Digital Payment Volume (In Crores)		Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17
Mode of Digital Payment		16	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18
RTGS*		0.8	0.9	0.9	1	1	1	0.9	0.9	1	1	1.1	1.1	1.1
EFT/NEFT*		12	17	15	14	16	15	15	15	16	16	16	17	17
IMPS*		4	5	6	7	7	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10
Credit Card at PoS*		10	12	9	11	12	11	11	12	11	12	12	12	13
Debit Usage at PoS*		24	42	25	27	26	25	26	27	27	28	27	29	30
m-Wallet*		14	21	25	31	24	22	24	23	20	20	19	29	33
PPI Cards*		3	5	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	5	3	3
Mobile Banking*		9	11	10	11	11	12	10	10	11	15	18	25	27
UPI(Incl. BHIM/USSD)#		0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.7	3.1	7.7	10.5	14.6	15.2
NACH#		16	21	16	19	20	21	21	21	19	20	21	20	22
AEPS#		3	4	4	5	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9
BBPS#		0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
NETC#		-	0	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	1	1	1	1.1	1.2	1.3
Total		95	138	115	136	129	127	128	130	129	142	148	171	182

Source: *RBI, #NPCI

Statement – II

The Month on Month Growth of BHIM/UPI, USSD and RuPay Card on PoS from April 2017 till 24 March 2018 State wise is as below:-

States	Digital Payment Volume (In Lakhs)												Total	
	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18*		
Andaman and Nicobar	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	3.6
Andhra Pradesh	18.7	20.1	21.0	21.6	26.3	84.7	267.5	336.8	332.0	278.6	287.8	230.2	230.2	1925.3
Arunachal Pradesh	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	2.4
Assam	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.7	4.7	7.3	12.8	20.5	19.1	14.4	18.3	14.8	14.8	124.4
Bihar	7.1	9.7	9.9	10.5	12.3	16.1	23.9	33.5	43.5	51.7	50.4	40.0	40.0	308.6
Chandigarh	2.5	3.1	3.4	3.7	4.7	5.9	8.6	11.5	12.6	13.1	12.5	10.2	10.2	91.7
Chhattisgarh	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.0	3.5	2.8	2.8	39.0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	9.5
Daman and Diu	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	6.4
Delhi	23.8	24.3	23.5	24.7	27.7	32.2	41.0	46.1	50.2	52.6	50.5	38.9	38.9	435.4
Goa	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.3	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.3	2.3	25.1
Gujarat	17.1	17.5	16.9	17.0	19.8	25.4	40.4	51.8	55.4	53.3	49.0	38.2	38.2	401.6
Haryana	23.0	24.4	26.0	26.4	26.0	35.4	59.5	76.0	97.3	107.3	132.2	85.1	85.1	718.7
Himachal Pradesh	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.7	3.3	4.6	5.3	6.3	7.1	6.1	5.0	5.0	49.3
Jammu and Kashmir	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.7	2.9	3.4	2.8	2.8	20.4
Jharkhand	3.2	3.6	3.7	3.8	5.6	8.7	12.6	16.5	18.7	19.3	20.2	15.6	15.6	131.5
Karnataka	29.3	31.7	32.1	32.8	36.3	49.4	94.1	121.8	132.3	120.9	116.8	97.7	97.7	895.1

Kerala	7.9	8.4	8.4	8.6	11.3	15.8	29.4	33.3	34.4	32.6	30.7	25.0	246.0
Lakshadweep	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Madhya Pradesh	9.0	10.1	10.1	11.1	14.0	19.6	36.8	52.0	57.8	57.0	55.7	43.9	377.1
Maharashtra	101.4	116.6	114.7	113.1	147.8	157.4	237.0	261.8	275.1	256.9	254.4	197.2	2233.4
Manipur	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	3.9
Meghalaya	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.0	5.4
Mizoram	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.2
Nagaland	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.8
Odisha	11.9	16.4	20.9	26.8	33.7	41.9	63.1	78.6	90.8	83.5	86.1	60.3	614.0
Puducherry	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.6	17.6
Punjab	9.0	9.0	8.6	9.0	9.0	11.2	14.5	16.7	18.5	18.6	18.1	14.6	156.7
Rajasthan	9.5	10.1	10.2	10.7	14.0	19.2	35.4	46.0	49.0	53.0	55.1	42.6	354.9
Sikkim	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	3.1
Tamil Nadu	31.9	34.1	32.5	32.1	35.5	41.5	66.7	75.9	84.4	79.7	76.3	61.1	651.8
Telangana	23.6	23.1	21.7	20.6	18.9	20.3	24.7	28.4	32.4	32.4	32.4	25.8	304.5
Tripura	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.9	7.6
Uttar Pradesh	112.6	117.0	112.4	120.6	129.5	136.0	163.3	187.2	519.6	651.3	733.2	482.2	3464.9
Uttarakhand	4.3	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.9	7.0	10.4	12.9	14.4	13.7	13.0	10.3	106.7
West Bengal	17.5	24.6	27.0	31.2	44.8	55.6	70.7	89.8	102.4	94.6	110.3	96.7	765.1

Source: DigiDhan website (www.digipay.gov.in), * Data till 24 March 2018

Per Capita Income Differentials

5292. KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per capita income in Economically Backward Areas including Bundelkhand in last five years;

(b) the economically backward areas and rest of India per capita income differentials in the country during each of the last five years and the current financial year; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Information on per capita income in Economically Backward Areas is not available in Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(c) The Government has been implementing several programmes for skill development, self-employment, wage employment and creation of assets that aim to promote inclusive growth and thereby bridge the income gaps. These include Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA) and various rural development schemes of the Department of Rural Development (DRD), namely, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

Facilities and Sanitation in Railways

5293. SHRI M. MURALI MOHAN:

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers are facing a lot of difficulty due to improper maintenance of rail coaches, serving of rotten food, lack of cleanliness, improper maintenance of toilets and blankets etc. and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways has any concrete plan to strengthen the current system to improve the cleanliness and maintenance of rail coaches upto accepted standards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the railway officials have been directed to conduct surprise checks to curb the above problems and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam. Maintenance and cleanliness is a continuous process and every endeavour is made to ensure proper maintenance and keep the coaches including toilets in properly maintained and clean condition. Blankets are also cleaned at prescribed periodicity. However, a few complaints are received. All efforts are made by the Railways to address the complaints.

In its endeavour to provide quality and hygienic food to the passengers, Railways have developed and operationalized an institutionalized mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services through regular inspections at various levels so as to address catering complaints. However, about 1290 complaints regarding quality of food has been reported during the period 01.04.2017 to 31.01.2018. Suitable penal actions have been taken in all cases, which inter-alia, includes imposition of fine in 244 cases.

(b) and (c) Improvement in maintenance and cleanliness of train coaches is a continuous endeavor of the Indian Railways (IR).

(1) Some of the policy decisions taken in this regard are:

- (i) Provision of dustbins in Non-AC coaches.
- (ii) Provision of mugs with chain in Non-AC coaches.
- (iii) Provision of Health Faucets in AC as well as Non-AC Sleeper class coaches.

- (iv) Cleaning of coaches of trains at both ends including mechanized cleaning.
 - (v) On Board House Keeping Service (OBHS) has been provided in nearly 980 trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi, and other important long distance Mail/Express trains for cleaning of coach toilets, doorways, aisles and passenger compartments during the run of the trains.
 - (vi) On demand 'Clean My Coach' service is provided on demand in nearly 970 important Superfast / Mail/Express long distance trains having OBHS.
 - (vii) By expanding the scope of 'Clean My Coach' / Coach Mitra' Service has been provided in nearly 800 OBHS trains as a single window interface to register all coach related requirements of passengers travelling in reserved coaches, such as cleaning, disinfection, linen, train lighting, air conditioning and watering of coaches.
 - (viii) Clean Train Station (CTS) scheme has also been prescribed for limited mechanized cleaning attention to identified trains including cleaning of toilets during their scheduled stoppages enroute at nominated stations.
 - (ix) Washing of bed linen (except blanket) provided for AC passengers is done after every single use. Blankets were being cleaned at least once in two months. Prescribed washing frequency of blankets has been recently increased to minimum once in a month. To improve the quality of washing of bed linen, 59 mechanized laundries have been set up in the railways, covering nearly 65% of linen washing requirement. Most of the remaining linen is also washed in outside mechanized laundries through contracts.
- (2) IR is improving the interior of the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches. New interiors

with more pleasing colours, aesthetically designed fittings, panelling, improved toilets, etc. are being provided in the existing coaches by refurbishing them during Mid Life Rehabilitation (MLR). Work in 700 such Model rake coaches is being progressively carried out. Out of these, more than 100 Model rake coaches have already been turned out.

- (3) Various premium services like Humsafar, Tejas, Antyodaya and coaches like Deen Dayalu and Anubhuti, which have improved passenger amenities, have also been introduced in service.
- (4) IR has launched Project Swarn with the objective of significantly improving the passenger experience. In total, 14 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi trains will be covered.
- (5) For the assistance of visually impaired travellers, Integrated Braille signage, i.e signage superimposed with Braille scripts, are being provided in the newly manufactured coaches of IR. Retrofitment of the same in existing coaches has also been taken up in a phased manner.

(d) Railway officials carry out regular inspections and surprise checks to ensure proper maintenance and cleanliness of trains. Detailed instructions/guidelines have been issued to the Zonal Railways for conducting joint inspections by Medical, Commercial and concerned infrastructure maintenance departments to inspect each and every catering unit (mobile and static) including base kitchens/cell kitchens on all Railway divisions/zones. Apart from this, regular and surprise inspections are done by Food Safety Officers, Designated officers and Joint Food Safety Commissioners. During the period 01.04.2017 to 31.01.2018, 40112 inspections have been carried out by various railway officials.

Railway Projects In West Bengal

5294. SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE:

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has made a plan to amend few or all railway projects pertaining to gauge conversion, narrow bridge, electrification of railway line and elevation of platforms to accommodate EMUs in the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of projects including funds incurred for each project;

(c) whether the Railways has fixed any target date for completion of gauge conversion work for the Ahmadpur to Katwa segment under the Eastern Railway;

(d) if so, the details thereof including expenditure incurred thereon till date;

(e) whether there is any plan for electrification of all non-electrical sections of railway lines in the State of West Bengal (Eastern Railway/Southern Railway/NFR); and

(f) if so, the targeted date of conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Execution of all gauge conversion projects on all Indian Railways including West Bengal are taken up as per standard specifications which take care of all requirements like narrow bridge, electrification, elevation of platforms, etc. for smooth running of all trains including EMUs.

(c) and (d) The Ahmadpur-Katwa (51.92 km) gauge conversion section has since been completed and commissioned on 30.12.2017. An expenditure of `137 crore has been incurred on execution of this project.

(e) and (f) For achieving 100% electrification of all non-electrical Railway sections on Indian Railways including in the State of West Bengal falling under Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway and Northeast Frontier Railway, Ministry of Railways have decided to electrify balance unelectrified 38000 broad gauge Route Kilometre (RKM).

In Budget 2018-19, 13675 RKM of electrification projects (including 802 RKM of State of West Bengal) have been included subject to necessary approvals. These electrification projects are proposed to be completed by 2021-22.

New Trains

5295. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce the services of new trains between Mangalore-Hubli via Madgaon, Mysore-Varanasi via Miraj, Jabalpur and Vasco-Chennai via Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Owing to operational and resources constraints, there is no proposal for introduction of direct train services on Mangalore-Hubli, Mysore-Varanasi and Vasco Da Gama-Chennai sectors. However, at present, 17311/17312 Vasco da Gama-Chennai Express (Weekly) via Yesvantpur and 16229/16230 Mysore-Varanasi Express (Bi-Weekly) via Solapur, Jabalpur are already available for the passengers of the respective sectors. Besides, introduction of trains is on-going process on Indian Railways.

[Translation]

National Per Capita Income

5296. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of national per capita income as compared to the per capita income of various States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any disparity in per capita income between rural and urban areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to remove this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) As per the latest Press Release of the Central Statistics

Office (CSO), the Per Capita Net National Income (NNI) for the years 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are Rs. 79,118, Rs. 86,647, Rs. 94,731 and Rs. 1,03,870 respectively. As per the reports received from State / UT Directorates of Economics and Statistics, the details of per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at current prices for the years 2013-14 to 2015-16 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Central Statistics Office has been compiling estimates of rural and urban income of the Indian economy, in terms of Net Value Added (NVA), only for the base years of National Accounts Statistics. Therefore, estimates of annual per capita NVA available separately for rural and urban areas for the latest base year, *i.e.* 2011-12 are Rs. 40,925 and Rs. 98,435, respectively.

(d) Reduction of rural and urban disparities has always been the priority of the Government's development policy. The Government has been implementing several programmes for skill development, self-employment, wage employment and creation of assets that aim to promote inclusive growth and thereby bridge the income gaps. These include Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA) and various rural development schemes of the Department of Rural Development (DRD), namely, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

Statement

Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices in Rupees With Base Year 2011-12

S. No.	State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	82870	93699	108163
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	91809	110935	123339
3.	Assam	49734	52895	60526
4.	Bihar	26948	28671	31454
5.	Chhattisgarh	69839	78001	84767
6.	Goa	215776	289185	327059
7.	Gujarat	113139	127017	140273
8.	Haryana	138300	148485	162034
9.	Himachal Pradesh	114095	123532	134376
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	61108	61185	74653
11.	Jharkhand	50006	57301	59628
12.	Karnataka	118829	129823	142267
13.	Kerala	123388	135537	147552
14.	Madhya Pradesh	52129	56093	61204
15.	Maharashtra	124724	132341	147399
16.	Manipur	47852	53187	55603

S. No.	State/UT	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
17.	Meghalaya	65118	64638	71318
18.	Mizoram	77581	103049	114524
19.	Nagaland	71510	78367	83621
20.	Odisha	60574	63173	65650
21.	Punjab	103831	108897	119261
22.	Rajasthan	69480	76436	83977
23.	Sikkim	194624	214148	233954
24.	Tamil Nadu	116329	128385	137837
25.	Telangana	112162	124058	137955
26.	Tripura	61570	63969	80027
27.	Uttar Pradesh	40124	42267	46253
28.	Uttarakhand	126247	135881	146454
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	106413	119312	124361
30.	Chandigarh	199129	206774	217548
31.	Delhi	229619	249635	271305
32.	Puducherry	148147	146921	160421

[English]

National Digital Literacy Mission

5297. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

SHRI E.T.MOHAMMED BASHEER:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gram panchayats connected with WiFi/Hotspot enabled broadband connection;

(b) the number of persons per family trained in digital literacy skills and the number that will be completed by 2020;

(c) the number of persons including Anganwadi and ASHA workers and authorized dealers who received IT training;

(d) the status of Pradhan Mantri Digital Saksharta Abhiyan;

(e) whether the Government has reviewed the progress of implementing the scheme namely National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) or Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA); and

(f) the target achieved for providing digital literacy up to December, 2017 and the steps Government proposes to take to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):
(a) Department of Telecommunication, M/o Communications has taken the following initiatives to provide WiFi / broadband connection to the gram panchayats:-

- l). The BharatNet project is aimed at providing broadband connectivity to all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country by 31.3.2019. Under this project, the last mile connectivity is envisaged by providing WiFi (2 Access Points

per Grampanchayat) or any other suitable broadband technology, at all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Work of Phase-I for 1,00,000 GPs has been completed in December 2017. As on 18.03.2018, by laying 2,68,195 km Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), a total of 1,13,739 Gram Panchayats have been connected on OFC, out of which 1,04,813 GPs have been made Service Ready for providing broadband connectivity.

- II). Under Universal Service Obligation Fund's (USOF) scheme, WiFi Choupals at 5,000 Gram Panchayats are envisaged through CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. (CSC-SPV) using BharatNet infrastructure. WiFi Choupals have been installed in 5,145 Gram Panchayats out of which service delivery has commenced in 1833 Grampanchayats. Further under USOF's scheme for setting up public WiFi hotspots at BSNL's 25,000 telephone exchanges in rural areas, WiFi hotspots have been installed and service delivery has commenced at 2429 exchanges.
- III). BSNL has provided WiFi at 500 Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra and 220 Gram Panchayats in Karnataka under sponsorship by respective state government. Also BSNL has provided WiFi at 11 villages / Gram Panchayats through sponsorship by Hon'ble MPs & MLAs.

(b) to (f) Digital Literacy schemes implemented by Government of India and their status are as follows:-

- I). The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has implemented two schemes namely 'National Digital Literacy Mission' (NDLM) and 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (DISHA) during the year 2014 to 2016, with a total cumulative target of providing digital literacy to 52.5 Lakh beneficiaries (one person per household). Both the NDLM and DISHA schemes were implemented concurrently. Under the NDLM and DISHA schemes, a total of 85.33 lakh candidates were trained out of which 53.67 lakh candidates were duly certified.
- II). Based on the successful implementation of NDLM and DISHA Schemes, the Government has initiated a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri

Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (PMGDISHA) in February 2017. The scheme aims at ushering in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2019. As on 23-03-2018, more than 1.10 crore candidates have been trained under PMGDISHA, out of which 55.57 lakh candidates have been duly certified.

- III). Under DISHA Scheme, a special focus was made to also include Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Anganwadi workers and Authorised Ration Dealers for imparting digital literacy. A total of 2,43,151 such candidates belonging to Anganwadi workers (1,75,556), ASHA(55,655) and Authorized Ration Dealers(11,940) were trained.
- IV). As on December 2017, a total of 85.33 lakh candidates under NDLM and DISHA schemes and 1.02 crore candidates under PMGDISHA were trained. In order to achieve the target under PMGDISHA, various efforts have been initiated which include State/district/block level workshops, awareness campaigns through Print and Electronic Media, setting up of a Toll-free Technical Support Centre, awareness through periodic newsletter and magazines, Posters, audio/video jingle, etc.

[Translation]

Email-ID for Government Employees

5298. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide email ID's to all Government employees from the National Informatics Centre;

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

(c) whether any other scheme is also under consideration by which Government employees would be able to see their service records and place various requests online through their email ID's; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) eMail Policy of Government of India was released in February 2015, to provide email ID's to all Government employees both at the centre and state by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Policy is under implementation stage.

(c) Presently, a pilot project namely eHRMS is under implementation in respect of employees of Department of Personnel and Training (DoP&T) with a view to provide various personnel related services and service records of the Government employees online.

(d) The project is envisaged to be completed by Financial Year (FY) 2019-20.

[English]

Research Activities by DRDO

5299. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of laboratories / units of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the areas of their research activities, location-wise;

(b) the details of various products developed by the DRDO including food products for the use of defence personnels and for the use of the civilians during each of the last two years and the current year;

(c) whether budgetary allocation for DRDO was reduced during the previous years due to which several research works / projects came to a standstill;

(d) if so, the details of funds allocated for research works in DRDO during the said period; and

(e) whether there are adequate number of scientists and other employees in DRDO and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Details of laboratories / establishments / units functioning under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) alongwith their areas of research and locations are given in the enclosed Statement - I.

These labs cover a wide variety of technology domains from aeronautics to missiles and naval systems.

(b) A list of products developed by DRDO during last two years and the current year for defence and civilian use is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Enclosed Statement-III.

(e) DRDO optimally utilizes the scientific manpower by following dynamic system of manpower planning.

Authorised Regular Establishment (RE) is reviewed periodically to meet the contingent requirements on account of workload and new projects undertaken by the laboratories of DRDO. Most of the labs follow a matrix structure of manpower allocation for projects. Each lab has multiple technology groups based on the area of the work of the lab. The project has a small core team and most of the technical activities associated with the project is assigned to the technology groups in the lab or even in other system labs.

Thus a scientist in a technology group may be working on multiple projects at the same time. Further, these projects can also be from other DRDO labs.

Statement – I

Areas of Research of DRDO Laboratories / Establishments /Units and their Locations

S. No.	Laboratories/Estabtlishments/Units	Location	Area of Research
Cluster Laboratories / Establishments:			
1.	Advanced Numerical Research & Analysis Group (ANURAG)	Hyderabad	Computational System

S. No.	Laboratories/Establlishments/Units	Location	Area of Research
2.	Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL)	Hyderabad	Missiles & Strategic Systems
3.	Aerial Delivery Research & Development Establishment (ADRDE)	Agra	Parachutes & Aerial Systems
4.	Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)	Bengaluru	Aeronautics
5.	Armaments Research & Development Establishment (ARDE)	Pune	Armaments
6.	Centre for Air Borne System (CABS)	Bengaluru	Air-Borne Systems
7.	Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics (CAIR)	Bengaluru	Artificial Intelligence & Robotics
8.	Centre for Fire, Explosives & Environment Safety (CFEES)	Delhi	Explosives
9.	Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS)	Hyderabad	High Energy Weapons
10.	Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE)	Chennai	Combat Vehicles
11.	Defence Avionics Research Establishment (DARE)	Bengaluru	Avionics
12.	Defence Bio-engineering & Electro-medical Laboratory (DEBEL)	Bengaluru	Bio-engineering
13.	Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory (DEAL)	Dehradun	Electronics & Communication Systems
14.	Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL)	Mysore	Food Research
15.	Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER)	Haldwani	Bio-Energy
16.	Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR)	Leh	High Altitude Agro-
17.	Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Sciences (DIPAS)	Delhi	Physiology
18.	Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR)	Delhi	Psychological Research
19.	Defence Laboratory (DL)	Jodhpur	Camouflaging and Isotopes
20.	Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL)	Hyderabad	Electronic Warfare
21.	Defence Materials & Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE)	Kanpur	Textiles, Polymers & Composites
22.	Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL)	Hyderabad	Metallurgy

S. No.	Laboratories/Establlishments/Units	Location	Area of Research
23.	Defence Research & Development Establishment (DRDE)	Gwalior	Chemical & Biological Warfare
24.	Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL)	Hyderabad	Missile & Strategic Systems
25.	Defence Research Laboratory (DRL)	Tezpur	Health & Hygiene
26.	Defence Terrain Research Laboratory (DTRL)	Delhi	Terrain Research
27.	Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)	Bengaluru	Gas Turbine
28.	High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)	Pune	High Energy Materials
29.	Institute of Nuclear Medicines & Allied Sciences (INMAS)	Delhi	Nuclear Medicine
30.	Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE)	Dehradun	Electronics & Optical Systems
31.	Integarted Test Range (ITR)	Balasore	Missile Testing
32.	Joint Cypher Bureau (ICB)	Delhi	Cypher Systems
33.	Laser Science & Technology Centre (LASTEC)	Delhi	Laser Technology
34.	Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE)	Bengaluru	Radars
35.	Microwave Tube Research & Development Centre (MTRDC)	Bengaluru	Microwave Devices
36.	Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL)	Ambernath	Naval Materials
37.	Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)	Kochi	Sonar Systems
38.	Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL)	Visakhapatnam	Underwater Weapons
39.	Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE)	Balasore	Armament Testing
40.	Research Centre Imarat (RCI)	Hyderabad	Missile & Strategic Systems
41.	Research & Development Establishment (Engrs) (R&DE[E])	Pune	Engineering Systems & Weapon Platforms
42.	Scientific Analysis Group (SAG)	Delhi	Cryptology
43.	Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE)	Chandigarh	Snow and Avalanche
44.	Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL)	Delhi	Solid- State/Semiconductor Materials
45.	Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)	Chandigarh	Ballistics
46.	Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (VRDE)	Ahmednagar	Wheeled Vehicles

S. No.	Laboratories/Establlishments/Units	Location	Area of Research
HR Institutions'			
1.	Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)	Pune	This is a Deemed University
2.	Centre for Personnel Talent Management (CEPTAM)	Delhi	Talent Management
3.	Institute of Technology Management (ITM)	Mussoorie	Technology Management
4.	Recruitment and Assessment Centre (RAC)	Delhi	Human Resource
Other Institutions'			
1.	Advanced Centre for Energetic Materials (ACEM)	Nasik	High Energy Materials
2.	Centre for Advanced Systems (CAS)	Hyderabad	Advanced Systems
3.	Centre for Military Air-worthiness & Certification (CEMILAC)	Bengaluru	Airworthiness & Certification
4.	Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre (DESIDOC)	Delhi	Information System and Documentation
5.	DRDO Integration Centre (DIC)	Panagarh	Systems Integration
6.	Institute for Systems Studies & Analyses (ISSA)	Delhi	Systems Analysis
7.	Mobile Systems Complex (MSC)	Pune	Missile Systems
8.	SF Complex (SFC)	Jagdapur	Propellant
Centres of Excellence'			
1.	Joint Advanced Technology Centre (JATC)	IIT, Delhi	Photonic Technologies, Plasmonics and Quantum Photonics
2.	Centre of Propulsion Technology (CoPT)	IIT, Mumbai	Propulsion Technology
3.	Jagdish Chandra Bose Centre for Advanced Technology (JCBCAT)	Jadavpur	Strategic Systems
4.	Research and Innovation Centre (RIC)	Chennai	Sensors & MEMS
5.	Advanced Centre for Research in High Energy Materials (ACRHEM)	UoH, Hyderabad	High Energy Materials
6.	DRDO Bhartiya University (DRDO-BU), Centre of Excellence	Coimbatore	Life Sciences
Under Department of Defence Research and Development:			
1.	Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)	Bengaluru	Society
2.	BrahMos	Delhi	Joint venture

Statement – II*Products Developed by DRDO for Defence and Civilian use During Last Two Years and Current Year:*

- » Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas
- » Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System
- » 155mm/52 Calibre Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)
- » Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) Swati
- » High Speed Heavy Weight Ship Launched Torpedo (Varunastra)
- » Anti-Torpedo Decoy System (Maareech)
- » Arudhra-Medium Power Radar
- » Akash Weapon System
- » Abhay Sonar
- » Hull Mounted Sonar (HUMSA)
- » NBC Technologies
- » 120 mm FSAPDS Mk-II Ammunition for MBT Arjun
- » 120 mm FSAPDS Practice Ammunition for MET Arjun
- » 250 Kg Pre-fragmented Bomb
- » 46m Inflatable Radome
- » Air Bursting Grenades for Individual Weapons
- » Anti Torpedo Decoys
- » Bar Mine Layer
- » CBRNe Remotely Operated Platforms
- » Commander's Non-Panoramic TI Sight for AFVs (T-90, T-72 & BMP-II)
- » Computerized Pilot Selection System
- » Dual Colour Missile Approach Warning System for Fighter Aircraft
- » Electro-Optical Fire Control System for Naval Ships
- » Electro-Optical Sensors for Airborne Platforms
- » Enhanced Range Rocket (Pinaka Mk-II)
- » EW Suite for Fighter Aircraft
- » Exotic and Indigenous Varieties of Vegetables under Protected Environment
- » G-band CC-TWT for Weapon Locating Radar
- » Heavy Drop System - I6T
- » Integrated Automotive Vetrionics Systems for APVs
- » Ku-Band MPM based Transmitter for Airborne Radar
- » Laser Target Designator with Thermal Imager for Air Force
- » Medium Size Integrated Aerostat Surveillance System
- » Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II
- » Mountain Foot Bridge
- » Multi Calibre Individual Weapon System
- » Multi-Influence Ground Mine
- » Penetration-cum-Blast (PCB) and Thermo-Baric(TB) Ammunition for 120 mm Arjun Tank
- » Identification of Friend & Foe (IFF)
- » New Family of Mines (NFM)
- » Smart Anti Airfield Mines (SAAM)
- » EW System - Himshakti
- » Sub-Munition Warheads for Pinaka
- » Synthetic Aperture Radar for UAV
- » Terrain Assessment System for Trans-border Deserts in Western Sector
- » Thermo-Baric Ammunition for 120 mm Arjun Tank
- » Upgraded Troposcatter Communication System for IAP
- » Vehicle Mounted High Power Laser Directed Energy System Against RPVs/UAVs/IDRONES
- » Water Mist System Validation for Fire Protection in Naval Ships

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed various nutritious and protein-rich foods to cater to the requirements of Service personnel deployed at high altitude and snow bound areas. The major food products developed by DRDO

are: Chicken biscuits; Protein rich mutton bar; Composite cereals bars; Egg protein biscuits; Iron and protein rich food bar; Whey Protein based chocolate; Chicken Katti Rolls and Anti-fatigue Tulsi Bar.

Statement – III

The total Defence Budget, Department of Defence Research & Development projection, final allocation and the percentage of Department of Defence Research & Development with respect to Defence Budget:

Year	Defence * Expenditure	Projection	(Rs. in Crore)	
			Budget allocated to R&D (actual)	%age of Defence Expenditure
2014-15	218694.18	18495.46	13257.98	6.06
2015-16	225922.98	19641.56	13317.12	5.89
2016-17	225899.59	18782.86	13382.05	5.92
2017-18 (BE)	274114.00	19935.60	14818.74	5.41
2018-19 (BE)	295511.41	22203.74	17861.19	6.04

Yes Madam, it is a fact that budgetary allocations are much less than the projections made by the Department of Defence Research & Development. However, the Department manages within the allocations by re-prioritising the project activities.

Indian Ocean Joint Monitoring Operation

5300. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest joint monitoring of the Indian Ocean by the country in cooperation with foreign nations is proving to be beneficial to the defence exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount saved by the Government in the said joint monitoring operation; and

(c) if not, the additional expense incurred by the Government in the said venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Indian Navy does not undertake joint monitoring of

the Indian Ocean in cooperation with other foreign nations.

Railway Projects In Kerala

5301. DR. P.K. BIJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as far as the allocation for railway projects is concerned, the opposition ruled States have been ignored especially the State of Kerala;

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

(c) the details of allocation for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The allocation of Budget is done on project wise and not Zone-wise or State-wise. Further, the outlay for each project is fixed based on status of land acquisition, progress of project and relative priority. The priority is given to the projects of capacity enhancement, last mile connectivity projects in order to

provide facilities to the rail users at the earliest. To make effective utilization of the investment, Ministry of Railways has decided to take up execution of project only after complete land acquisition. However, General Managers of Zonal Railways have been given powers to invite tenders if they are certain of the possibility of land acquisition in a reasonable time frame. For this purpose, a written assurance from State Government will be required by General Managers of Zonal Railways. Therefore the question of ignoring a particular State for allocation of Railway project does not arise.

(c) In Railways, funds are allocated project wise and not State wise. However, project wise information is available in public domain in Pink Book of respective years on Indian Railway website.

[Translation]

Funds Sanctioned by CSIR to Various Companies

5302. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has sanctioned funds as loans on easy terms for various companies for research and development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms adopted for sanctioning the said loans;

(d) the number of companies which have been provided funds as loans along with the period of such loans and the names of the project;

(e) the present status of loan recovery;

(f) whether any company has been declared sick after taking such loans; and

(g) 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) Yes, Madam. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) provides soft loan for R&D activities to companies under the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Scheme. The financial support to industry is in the form of soft loan with 3% interest.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) Name of projects, name of companies, amount of loan given, period of loan given and status of repayment of loan is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Norms adopted for granting loan is based on selection of project through CCEA approved procedure involving rigorous screening and project review. The criteria for selection of the project are based on novelty of the proposal, potential technological benefits and the ability of industry to capture those benefits.

(f) and (g) M/s Samtel Color Limited, Ghaziabad has become sick after availing loan and implementing the project.

Statement – I

Details of Loan under NMITLI Scheme

(Rupees in lakh)

S. No.	Name of Project	Company name	Loan amount	Period of loan disbursement	Status of loan repayment
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	5 & 25kw decentralized power packs	Sud-Chemie India Ltd., New Delhi	50.00	2002-03 to 2004-05	Total loan repaid

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Latent M. Tuberculosis: New Targets, Drug Delivery system, bio-enhancers and therapeutics	Lupin Ltd., Pune	1448.45	2001-02 to 2009-10	Being paid in time
3.	Nano-material catalysts and associated process technology for alkylation/ acylation/nitration of well identified industrial chemicals, pre-reforming of hydro-carbons and sulphur removal (<50 ppm) from petroleum fuels	Sud-Chemie India Ltd., New Delhi	95.00	2002-03 to 2003-04	Total loan repaid
4.	Versatile, portable PC based software for bioinformatics; and Development of Linux cluster version of Bio-suite	Tata Consultancy Services, Hyderabad	780.00	2001-02 to 2003-04	Total loan repaid
		Tata Consultancy Services, Hyderabad	174.00	2004-05	Total loan repaid
		Jalaja Technology, Bangalore	24.00	2001-02 to 2003-04	Defaulter
		Frontier Information Technologies Ltd., Secunderabad	40.000	2001-02 to 2003-04	Defaulter
5.	Development of an oral herbal formulation for treatment of psoriasis	Lupin Ltd., Pune	1644.58	2002-03 to 2009-10	Being paid in time
6.	Development of novel biotech therapeutic molecule – Lysostaphin	Bharat Biotech International Limited, Hyderabad	713.991	2002-03 to 2013-14	Being paid in time
	Development of novel biotech therapeutic molecule – Lysostaphin	Bharat Biotech International Limited, Hyderabad	434.24	2016-17 to 2018-19	Repayment not due
				Ongoing	

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Microbiological conversion of Erythromycin to Clarithromycin and other novel biologically active molecules	Alembic Ltd., Vadodara	28.50	2002-03 to 2003-04	Total loan repaid
8.	Novel molecular diagnostics for eye diseases and low vision enhancement devices	Lensel Optics Pvt. Ltd., Pune	14.75	2003-04 to 2004-05	Total loan repaid
		Xcyton Diagnostics Limited, Bangalore	69.56	2005-06	Being paid in time
9.	Value added polymeric materials from renewable resources: Lactic acid and lactic acid based polymers	Godavari Sugar Mills, Mumbai	485.00	2006-07 to 2008-09	Defaulter
10.	Recombinant approach to produce a-linolenic acid and docosahexanoic acid (DHA) in sunflower and yeast	Avesthgen Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	303.50	2003-04 to 2006-07	Defaulter
11.	A cost effective Simple Office Computing (Sofcomp) platform to replace PC	Encore Software Ltd., Bangalore	320.00	2003-04 to 2004-05	Defaulter
12.	A PC based high-end 3D visualization platform for computational biology – 'Darshee'	Strand Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	186.40	2003-04 to 2004-05	Total loan repaid
13.	Improved Genome Annotation Through a Combination of Machine Learning and Experimental Methods: Plasmodium falciparum As a Case Study	Tata Consultancy Services, Hyderabad	291.00	2004-05 to 2007-08	Total loan repaid
14.	Development of Novel Fungicides	Rallis Research Centre, Bangalore	188.29	2004-05 to 2006-07	Total loan repaid
15.	Novel Expression System	Biocon, Bangalore	33.125	2004-05 to 2008-09	Being paid in time
		Shantha Biotechics, Hyderabad	56.07	2004-05 to 2008-09	Being paid in time

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Development of Globally competitive 'Triple-Play' Broadband Technology	Divinet, Pune	938.75	2004-05 to 2006-07	Defaulter
17.	Market seeding of SofComp and Mobilis to develop wide-ranging applications as well as increase awareness	Encore Software Ltd., Bangalore	537.00	2005-06 to 2006-07	Defaulter
18.	Development of an integrated micro PCR system with In situ Identification	bigtech Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore	925.10	2005-06 to 2011-12	Being paid in time
19.	Development of high throughput marker assisted selection systems for improvement of drought tolerance and fibre quality related traits in Cotton	JK Agri-Genetics Ltd., Hyderabad	736.79	2006-07 to 2010-11	Being paid in time
20.	Novel method for development of B-type Natriuretic peptide (BNP) for diagnosis and treatment of congestive heart failure	Virchow Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	414.70	2006-07 to 2008-09	Being paid in time
21.	Development of Next Generation Plasma Display Technology a 50" High Definition (HD) TV Prototype	Samtel Color, Ghaziabad	2063.00	2006-07 to 2009-10	Defaulter
22.	Development of sensor networks chipset based on ultra-wide band technology	Virtual wire tech, New Delhi	422.00	2006-07 to 2009-10	Defaulter
23.	Design and development of cushion bonded/rigid bonded organic, cerametallic cookie & single/fuel sintered buttons (copper/Iron based), ceramic cookes and annular ring slutch discs and matching cover assemblies	Clutch Auto Ltd., Faridabad	1493.35	2007-08 to 2010-11	Defaulter
24.	Intellegent Viedo Surveillance System	Mind Tree Ltd., Bangalore	458.09	2008-09 to 2010-11	Being paid in time
25.	Novel therapy for management of sepsis	Cadila Pharma Ltd., hmedabad	2084.96	2007-08 to 2017-18 Ongoing	Repayment not due

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Development of DNA Macro-Chips for simultaneous detection of pathogens causing acute encephalitic syndrome (AES) Septicaemia and antibiotic resistance	Xcyton Diagnostics Limited, Bangalore	506.398	2007-08 to 2012-13	Defaulter
27.	Development of Characterization of an indigenous vaccine for Johne's disease	Biovet, Bangalore	429.01	2008-09 to 2014-15	Being paid in time
28.	Evaluation of RNAi-based constructs for conferring resistance on trasgenic rice against the blast fungus Magnaporthe grisea	Metahelix Life Sciences Ltd., Bangalore	83.27	2008-09 to 2010-11	Being paid in time
29.	Development of caerulomycins as novel immunosuppressive agents to prevent organ rejection after transplantation and to address various autoimmune and allergic disorders	EnEm Nostrum Remedies Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	800.00	2009-10 to 2014-15	Defaulter
30.	Novel DPP IV Inhibitors for the treatment of Diabetes Novel DPP IV Inhibitors for the treatment of Diabetes	Cadila Pharma Ltd., Ahmedabad	769.50	2009-10 to 2013-14	Being paid in time
		Cadila Pharma Ltd., Ahmedabad	277.87	2015-16 to 2017-18 ongoing	Repayment not due
31.	Development and production of a therapeutic monoclonal antibody against eNAMPT, a novel inflammatory target	Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd., Pune	1841.40	2010-11 to 2016-17	Being paid in time
32.	Design, Development and demonstration of high performance parabolic trough based 300 kW Solar Thermal Power Plant	Milaman Thin Film Systems Pvt. Ltd., Pune	1103.25	2010-11 to 2015-16	Defaulter
33.	Development and commercialisation of "Vennfer" – unique H.264 high definition software based multiparty, multipoint video conferencing solution on multipoint network transmission protocol	Intellisys Technologies & Reseach Ltd., Kolkata	296.00	2010-11 to 2013-14	Defaulter
34.	Develoment and commercialisation of NXR-4D: A lithium-Ion battery powered 4-door next generation electirc car (4-seater capacity)	Mahindera Reva Electric Vehicles Pvt. Ltd., Bangaluru	1751.80	2011-12 to 2015-16	Being paid in time

1	2	3	4	5	6
35.	Design and fabrication of All-fibre supercontinuum light source with application demonstration to detect fake pills	Vinvish Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram	225.25	2011-12 to 2013-14	Being paid in time
36.	Development and commercialization of Soleckshaw Lite -An innovative electrical Green transport platform	Kinetic Engg. Ltd., Pune	1317.17	2012-13 to 2014-15	Being paid in time
37.	Customized adaptation of nonClonable ID technology to establish authenticity of medical products	Bilcare Ltd., Pune	893.46	2011-12 to 2013-14	Defaulter
38.	Development of a diagnostic system for affordable, point of need testing to manage HIV and TB	ReaMetrix India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru	816.80	2011-12 to 2013-14	Being paid in time
39.	System based computational model of skin (SoCoMOS)	Persistent Sys. Ltd., Pune	184.485	2011-12 to 2015-16	Being paid in time
40.	Development of integrated technological solutions for security and operations based on UV sensor technologies	Aron Universal Ltd., Bengaluru	43.1	2013-14 to 2015-16	Being paid in time
41.	Design and development of photonic crystal cladded and double cladded Er and Er/Yb fibers, and application demonstration of high-power optical amplifier	Vinvish Technologies Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram	133.00	2014-15 to 2016-17	Being paid in time
42.	Demonstration and Validation of a LT-PEMFC system for automotive application	KPIT, Pune	119.650	2015-16 to 2017-18 Ongoing	Repayment not due
43.	Development of an antidiabetic agent based on the phytopharmaceutical drug guidelines from <i>enicostemma littorale blume</i>	Viridis Biopharma, Mumbai	196.828	2015-16 to 2017-18 Ongoing	Repayment not due
44.	Kappaphycus alvarezii and red seaweed based formulations for improving productivity and health of dairy and poultry animals	Aquaagri Processing, New Delhi	57.50	2015-16 to 2017-18 Ongoing	Repayment not due
45.	Automation of Ghani operation through vacuum conveying system	Fare Labs, Gurgaon	453.150	2015-16 to 2017-18 Ongoing	Repayment not due

Setting Up of Weather Stations

5303. DR. KRISHAN PRATAP: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more automatic weather stations in the country and if so, the details along with the locations thereof;

(b) whether the personnel deployed at these stations are properly trained to monitor the data and to provide accurate information and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether regular inspections are carried out to ensure the quality control, calibration and utilisation of data from automatic weather station in order to develop forecast and weather forecast model;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action 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. Augmentation of the observing system networks including Automatic Weather Station (AWS) network is a continuing process that shall be taken up as per the emerging needs from time to time.

(b) Field maintenance staff are trained to address the functional issues periodically as AWSs are operated without placing any manpower at their locations.

Various measures are being taken up to avoid and to rectify malfunctioning of AWSs. These are :

- Zonal Instrument Maintenance Centres (ZIMC) and Field Maintenance Units (FMU) are

established for routine inspection as well as maintenance of all unmanned field observing systems.

- Periodic preventive calibration of the field sensors and the systems.
- Periodic maintenance of the AWS sites.

(c) and (d) Quality control is rigorously carried out at ground station after receiving the hourly weather data prior to its utilization in the assimilation and forecast system in real time.

(e) Does not arise.

Vacancies in Postal Department

5304. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies in the postal department of the country, State/ UT-wise and post-wise;

(b) whether the postal services are affected due to the said vacant posts and if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacancies; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch any mechanism for taking feedback for the services offered and problems faced by the customers of post offices and 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) Postal Circle-wise and post-wise vacancies in the Department of Posts are as under:

Name of Postal Circle	Multi Tasking Staff	Postman	Postal Assistant / Sorting Assistant	Postmaster Grade (I, II, III) / Lower Selection Grade / Higher Selection Grade (I, II)	Inspector Posts / Asst Superintendent Posts	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	194	414	831	227	31	1697

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	362	269	247	95	4	977
Bihar	103	172	392	453	1	1121
Chhattisgarh	99	252	333	452	17	1153
Delhi	681	645	627	109	1	2063
Gujarat	433	1075	1035	791	86	3420
Haryana	178	249	437	132	8	1004
Himachal Pradesh	17	39	174	61	6	297
Jammu and Kashmir	175	204	230	58	16	683
Jharkhand	83	253	153	274	14	777
Karnataka	341	897	975	363	32	2608
Kerala	0	594	624	359	17	1594
Madhya Pradesh	328	746	162	249	29	1514
Maharashtra	2615	4552	3117	1028	78	11390
North East	42	67	82	78	8	277
Odisha	98	128	283	372	20	901
Punjab	108	454	609	234	11	1416
Rajasthan	274	316	788	373	36	1787
Tamilnadu	635	1073	895	2665	85	5353
Telangana	264	297	644	220	39	1464
Uttar Pradesh	1471	2338	3123	1497	28	8457
Uttarakhand	205	399	409	86	1	1100
West Bengal	546	951	895	766	52	3210
Total	9252	16384	17065	10942	620	54263

(b) Shortage of staff is due to vacancies arising on account of retirement, promotion, death and deputation. Recruitment to fill up vacant posts is done periodically by holding departmental examination, direct recruitment through Staff Selection Commission and also by individual Circle as per the provisions of the relevant recruitment rules. This is an ongoing process. Vacant posts are being manned by appropriately redeploying the available staff to ensure that postal services are not affected.

(c) The Department of Posts has a well laid out procedure for handling public grievances for, and feedback on, its services. A monitoring mechanism to ensure the quality of services and prompt redressal of public grievances is in place. The facility of feedback is available on Centralized Public Grievance Redress And Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) for customers. The customers can also give their feedback on social media platforms *i.e.* on Twitter and Facebook and on India Post Help Centre 1924. Dak Adalats are organized on quarterly basis at Circle and Divisional level for the

customers. Department of Posts has launched an online customer feedback survey for three months from 16.02.2018 to 15.05.2018 on India Post website (www.indiapost.gov.in) and on mobile application of the Department, viz. Postinfo App. This survey is to reflect the Customer's viewpoint on a particular service of a particular post office. In addition to the above, the customer complaint / suggestion book is available in each post office.

[English]

5G Test Bed

5305. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up test bed facilities for a Fifth Generation (5G) communication network in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government 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) to (c) The Government has approved financial grant for the project to set up 'Indigenous 5G Test Bed' in India by Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The eight collaborating institutes in the project are Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT), IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IISc Bangalore and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER). The project envisages setting up of end-to-end Open 5G Test Bed for Indian companies & academia in distributed architecture model. The proposed test bed is likely to enhance national capability in telecom technology, develop indigenous Intellectual Property (IP) and give fillip to Indian telecom manufacturers. The duration of the project is 3 years and total budget involved is Rs 224.0166 Crore.

[Translation]

Fund for Welfare of Minority

5306. PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme-wise number of proposals approved by Maharashtra Government during the last three years till date received by the Central Government for the approval of demand of funds for the welfare of minorities;

(b) the number of proposals approved out of the proposals received along with the funds released and the number of proposals that are still pending;

(c) the reasons for pendency of proposals; and

(d) the time by which pending proposals are likely to be approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing various schemes for the Welfare of Minority Communities. Amongst these schemes, Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) is implemented in identified Minority Concentration Areas which are relatively backward, as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) designed primarily for addressing development gaps/deficits by gap filling of various existing CSS of different Central Ministries and also for taking up innovative projects which are not covered by any of the existing CSS. Under this programme, the projects considered are demand based and as per the felt need of the States/UTs. Under MsDP, 8 blocks and 6 towns of Maharashtra has been identified as Minority Concentration Blocks and Minority Concentration Towns respectively. The projects considered and approved under the MsDP are of different types such as School Buildings, Hostels, Drinking Water, SadbhavMandaps, Toilets, Additional Class Rooms, AganwadiCentres, Polytechnics, Health related projects, ITIs etc. The projects so far submitted by Maharashtra Government and found in order under the scheme have been approved and no proposal is pending for approval. During the last three years *i.e.* from 1st April, 2015 to till date the total funds released for projects of the State Government of Maharashtra for

implementation under MsDP is Rs.4020.82 lakh. The details of the projects so far approved under MsDP is available at http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/scheme_performance/multi-sectoral_development-programme/empowered-committee-minute.

The Ministry has also released Rs 263.15 crore towards scholarships for 15, 80,018 nos. of beneficiaries from Maharashtra during the above period.

[English]

Weather Forecasting at District and Block Level

5307. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:

SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has decided to set up weather forecasting stations in 600 districts of the country and further to be taken down to block level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the first phase of the proposal, IMD has shortlisted around 130 districts and if so, the time by which these stations are likely to be set up;

(d) whether the Krishi Vigyan Kendras under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have been identified as the possible locations for the proposed weather forecasting stations; and

(e) 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 (c) Yes Madam. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is implementing District level Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services in Collaboration with Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and under that will set up District Agro meteorological Units (DAMU) in 530 districts in addition to the existing 130 Agro-Met Field Units (AMFU). The 530 DAMUs will be established in a phased manner by March 2020.

(d) and (e) Under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS), District Agro-Meteorological Units (DAMUs) will be established at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in each district in collaboration with ICAR to implement district level Agromet Advisory Services during 2017-20. In addition to existing 130 Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) which will act as DAMUs for the districts of their location, 530 DAMUs will be established in a phased wise manner. The network of DAMUs will be extended to cover all the districts by March 2020.

Grants to NGOs

5308. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH

SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Science and Technology takes help of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for running a number of their programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievement made thereto;

(c) whether the Ministry of Science and Technology extends financial grants to NGOs for the promotion of Science and Technology;

(d) if so, the details of funds made available to the NGOs by the Government during the last three years and the current year in this regard; and

(e) the names of the NGOs, which have been running the programmes of the Ministry during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Ministry of Science and Technology

doesn't take help of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for running programmes. Programmes of the Ministry are not outsourced to NGOs for running. However, the Ministry provides grants-in-aid support to the NGOs to implement Science and Technology (S&T) based intervention projects under its various schemes.

(c) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Science and Technology through its various constituents namely, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) are extending grants-in-aid support to NGOs under various schemes to promote science and technology interventions.

(d) During the last three years and current year viz. 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, Rs.38.01 crore, Rs.78.26 crore, Rs.81.81 crore and Rs.33.62 crore respectively has been provided to NGOs by the Ministry.

(e) Ministry of Science and Technology does not provide any grants-in-aid support to NGOs for running its programmes. NGOs are only implementing projects which are conceived by them and the Ministry provides grant-in-aid support to such projects on merit basis.

Flexible Mode of Transportation of Coal

5309. SHRI B. SRIRAMULU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Ministry is planning to adopt flexible mode of transportation using Roadways and Railways, both for easy evacuation of coal and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is aware that during the second tranche of linkage auction of 15 million tonnes of coal, the mining companies could not conclude the fuel supply agreements since there were supply constraints from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL);

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether the CIL's e-auction and linkage auction has not been in parity with its production and off take infrastructure;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government for maximum utilization of coal resources?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Coal is supplied to the Power Sector under Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) as per the mode convenient to the Power Plant. For non-power consumers, a dispensation for change of mode from Rail to Road has been extended by CIL.

(b) and (c) In the second tranche of Linkage Auction for Non-regulated sector, 14.8 Million Tonnes of coal linkage was booked. Out of this booked quantity, FSAs of about 14 MT quantity have already been signed which is around 95% of the linkage quantity. For the balance 0.8 MT of coal linkage, the provisional successful bidders have to submit requisite documents with the company to overcome the deficiencies which have been found during the verification process.

(d) to (f) E-auction of coal and coal linkage are two different modes for coal supply. Through auction route, long term linkages are given to the consumers and subsequently FSAs are signed. For non-power consumers, FSAs are valid for 5 years and renewable for another term of five years, whereas for power sector, FSAs are valid for 20 years or till the end of plant life or period of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), whichever is the earliest. E-auctions are generally conducted for shorter duration for the buyers with seasonal/periodic demand or in short term need of coal. Coal companies allocate fresh linkages through linkage auction or sell coal through e-auctions keeping in view various factors like production, existing commitments, logistics availability, evacuation infrastructure, market demand etc.

Setting Up of Central Schools for Minorities

5310. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of affordable and quality school education for children of minority communities especially of Muslims a panel has been set up by his Ministry which has recommended setting up of 211 Central Schools on the lines of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas in the minority concentrated districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and other recommendations made by the panel;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In the last several decades education of minorities especially Muslim girls had not been a priority area. This educational backwardness was more prominent in northern part of the country. In the last three years, the government has focused on educational empowerment of minorities and as a result, about 2.45 Crore scholarships under various schemes have been disbursed to minorities in which girls, on average, comprise of 50%. Further, several educational infrastructural assets under Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) have been sanctioned in the last 3 years in the minority concentrated areas including 767 schools, 493 hostels, 60 gurukul type residential schools, 10 Degree colleges, 16 Polytechnic, 94 ITIs, and 13,985 additional Classroom. As per 'All India Survey on Higher Education, 2015-16' of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the enrolment of minority women has improved to 11,21,066 in higher education during 2015-16.

The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), a Society working under the aegis of Ministry of Minority Affairs, in its 52nd meeting held on 29.12.2016, constituted an 11 member Committee to go into the modalities for establishment of institutions in different parts of the country with a view to facilitate educational empowerment of the minorities. The Committee, in its Report, submitted on 06.07.2017 to the General Body of MAEF, has recommended for a three tier model of educational institutions for minorities having:

- 211 Central Schools at the bottom;
- 25 Community Colleges at the middle; and
- 05 National Institutes at the top level.

(c) and (d) The General Body of MAEF has adopted the report and initial steps such as contacting

the concerned authorities/organizations have been taken by MAEF.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Integrated Security System

5311. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Railways on Integrated Security System (ISS);

(b) whether any negligence has come to the notice of the Railways in the use of ISS;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) The total amount spent so far by Railways on Integrated Security System (ISS) stands at Rs. 179.06 crore.

(b) to (d) No, Madam. No such report has been received regarding any negligence in the use of ISS. Railway Protection Force personnel have been deployed for round the clock surveillance through CCTV cameras and utilization of other security equipment provided under ISS. As and when malfunctioning of any security equipment is reported, necessary remedial measures are taken for repair of the equipment. Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras have already been installed over 108 railway stations under ISS. Besides, 132 baggage scanners, 35 under-vehicle scanning system and other security gadgets like hand held metal detectors, door frame metal detectors and bomb detection items have also been provided at nominated stations under ISS.

[English]

Threats to Advocates

5312. SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of recent attacks on properties and lives of advocates and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of cases reported in courts of the country and the losses estimated and the action taken so far on such incidents; and

(c) whether the advocates and courts are in anguish over delays in probing of such incidents and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor along with the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Defence Hospitals

5313. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Defence Hospitals under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more Defence Hospitals in the country and if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct a separate ward in Defence Hospitals for civilians, senior citizens and women; 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) There are 112 Military Hospitals, 12 Air Force Hospitals and 9 Naval Hospitals in the country. The State / UT wise number of such hospitals, along with location is indicated in the enclosed Statement. Currently, there is no such proposal.

Statement

S. No.	STATE	Number of Armed Forces Hospitals		
		Army	Navy	Air
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh		1 (INHS Kalyani, Vishakhapatnam)	1 (14AFH Hyderabad)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1 (181 MH Tenga)		
3.	Assam	6 (151 BH (Guwahati), (Tezpur), 160MH (Silchar), 162 MH (Dinjan), 180 MH (Missamari), 188 MH (Likabali)	155 BH	1 (5AFH Jorhat)
4.	Bihar	2 (MH Danapur, MH Gaya)		
5.	Goa	1 (MH Panaji)	1 (INHS Jeevanti, Vasco da Gama)	
6.	Gujarat	5 (MH Ahmedabad, MH Baroda, MH Bhuj, MH Dharangandhara, MH Jamnagar)		
7.	Haryana	3 (MH Ambala, Comd Hosp (WC) Chandimandir, MH Hissar)		

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6 (MH Kasuali, MH Shimla, MH Bakloh, MH Dalhousie, MH Palampur, MH Yol)		
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	11 (171MH Samba, Comd Hosp NC Udhampur, MH Doda, MH Kargil, 92BH Srinagar, 150GH Rajouri, 153 GH Leh, 166MH Jammu, 168MH Tangdhar, 169MH Surakot, 170MH Akhnoor)		
10.	Jharkhand	2 (MH Namkum, MH Ramgarh)		
11.	Karnataka	1 (MH Belgaum)	1 (INHS Patanjali, Karwar)	1 (Commd Hosp AF CHAFB)
12.	Kerala	3 (MH Cannonore, MH Trivandrum, MH Wellington)	2 (INHS Sanjivani, INHS Navjivani)	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6 (MH Bhopal, MH Gwalior, MH Saugor, MH Jabalpur, MH Mhow, MH Pachmari)		1 (3AFH Amla)
14.	Maharashtra	9 ((MH Ahmednagar, MH Aurangabad, MH Deviali, MH Kamptee, MH Khadakvasal, MH Kirkee, Comd Hosp SC Pune, MH CTC Pune, MH Pulgaon))	2 (INHS Asvini Mumbai, INHS Kasturi Lonavala)	
15.	Manipur	1 (183 MH Leimakong)		
16.	Meghalaya	1 (MH Shillong)		
17.	Nagaland	2 (154 GH Zakhama, 165MH Dimarpur)		
18.	Odisha	1 (MH Gopalpur)	1 (INHS Nivarani, Chilka)	
19.	Punjab	9 (MH Amritsar, MH Jalandhar, MH Patiala, 159GH Ferozpur, 167MH Pathankot, 172 Gurdaspur, 173MH Faridkot, 174MH Baathinda, 175MH Abohar)		1 (9AFH Halawara)
20.	Rajasthan	10 (MH Jodhpur, MH Nasirabad, 177MH Jalipa, 185MH Udaipur, MH Alwar, MH Jaipur, MH Kota, 176MH Sri Ganganagar, 184MH Suratgarh, 187MH Bikaner)		1 (15AFH Jaisalmer)

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Sikkim	1 (178MH Gangtok)		
22.	Tamil Nadu	2 (MH Avadi, MH Chennai)		1 (6AFH Coimbatore)
23.	Telangana	2 (MH Golconda, MH Secundrabad)		
24.	Tripura	1 (182MH Agartala)		
25.	Uttarkhand	5 (MH Dehradun, MH Lansdowne, MH Ranikhet, MH Roorkee, 161MH Pithorgarh)		
26.	Uttar Pradesh	12 (MH Babina, MH Jhansi, MH Agra, MH Allahabad, MH Bareilly, BH Lucknow, Comd Hosp (CC) Lucknow, MH Faizabad, MH Fatehgarh, MH Mathura, MH Meerut MH Varanasi)		3 (7AFH Kanpur, 11AFH Hindon, 12AFH Gorkhpur)
27.	West Bengal	7 (BH Barrackpore, Comd Hosp (EC) Kolkata, MH Panagarh, 158BH Bendubi, 163MH Lebong, 164MH Binaguri, 179MH Kalimpong)		2 (4AFH Kalakunda, 10AFH Hasimara)
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		1 (INHS Dhanvantari, Portblair)	
29.	Delhi	2 (Army Hosp (R&R), BH Delhi Cantt)		

*[Translation]***Computerised Reservation Centre at Parsabad**

5314. DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway officers of Dhanbad district have promised to set up computerised reservation centre at Parsabad station after agitation of local citizens;

(b) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to set up computerized reservation centre at Parsabad station; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The computerised passenger reservation centres are available at Hazaribagh Road Station and Koderma Railway Station located on either side of Parsabad Railway Station. These reservation centres fulfil the requirement of reservation of passengers in Parsabad area. Moreover, about 65% reserved tickets are now booked online on website www.irctc.co.in.

*[English]***Illegal Offers by Telecom Service Providers**

5315. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are luring the customers by adopting illegal offers which restrict the customers from shifting from one TSP to another;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has taken note of aforementioned malpractices by TSPs and if so, the details thereof and the response of the TRAI thereto; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government against such erring TSPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):

(a) to (d) As per the existing tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication access service is under forbearance except for National Roaming and Rural Fixed Line Services. The service providers have the flexibility to decide various tariff components for different service areas of their operation.

Tariffs are offered by service providers taking into account several factors including inputs costs, level of competition and other commercial considerations. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have flexibility to design their products to suit consumer demand. TSPs have such plans on offer which provide subscribers a wide choice of telecom products as per their need. Offering different plans with various combinations of tariff components by a telecom company is not prohibited under present regulatory norms prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), provided they are consistent with regulatory guidelines issued from time to time.

TRAI has reiterated the regulatory principles of non-predatory, non-discrimination and transparency in tariff offers. As such, the transparency in tariff offers will be objectively observed by the telecom service providers vis-à-vis the guiding principles of transparency. Similarly, TRAI will also examine the tariffs of telecom service providers on the touchstone of accessibility, accuracy, comparability and completeness. It will also take in account whether tariffs are distinct and identifiable, explicit and non-misleading, simple and unambiguous etc. This would ensure transparent offering of telecom tariffs to consumers.

Further, the definition on Non-discrimination provides a clear benchmark to telecom service providers to bring tariff offers to consumers on non-

discriminatory basis. Aforementioned regulatory principles provide greater clarity for enabling telecom service providers for designing their tariff in more innovative manner and also smoothly comply with the regulatory principles.

Further TRAI has written to operators to observe these principles while offering Tariffs to customers. They have been also asked to report all retail tariffs to TRAI and publish them transparently on their websites.

Cyber Attack

5316. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has issued an alert about spread of a new malicious software being circulated through spam messages that can potentially lock computers and demand ransom for restoring access to users;

(b) if so, the total amount of damages that have been reported through this malware ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent cyber attacks in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):

(a) and (b) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is regularly publishing Alerts and Advisories about the malware threats. CERT-In issued an alert regarding spread of variants of ransomware called "Locky" through spam mail messages. Locky ransomware is a type of malicious software that infects a computer and restricts users' access to affected files by encrypting them until a ransom is paid to unlock it. Countermeasures to prevent the infection were suggested in the said alert published on websites of CERT-In and Cyber Swachhta Kendra. No damage has been reported to CERT-In.

(c) Government has taken following measures to prevent cyber attacks and enhance cyber security in the country:

- (i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect systems and mobile devices.
- (ii) Security tips are published for users to secure their Desktops and mobile/smart phones.
- (iii) 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.
- (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 are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 25 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.
- (vi) Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) regarding their key roles and responsibilities for securing applications / infrastructure and compliance.
- (vii) Government has empanelled 67 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (viii) 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 training programs

covering 610 participants were conducted during the year 2017.

- (ix) Government has set up National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. Phase-I of NCCC has already been made operational.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Mobile Towers in Madhya Pradesh

5317. SHRI NAGAR RODMAL:

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operational Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) in Madhya Pradesh, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)-wise;

(b) whether the said number of BTSs are sufficient to meet requirement of the State and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of BTSs in Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof, circle-wise;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to set up BTS in remote villages of the State having no connectivity and the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(e) whether the Madhya Pradesh Electronic Development Corporation is capable to implement the BharatNet Project and if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government to implement the said project in the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):

(a) Telecom Service Provider (TSPs) wise details of the Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) in Madhya Pradesh are as under:

TSP	Airtel	BSNL	Idea	R Jio	Reliance	TTSL	Vodafone	Total
BTS count	22869	9511	25500	29281	275	3294	5825	96555

(b) to (d) 84.5% of the population in MP is covered by the current mobile network in the State. M/s BSNL and M/s Reliance JIO have planned 1449 and 26220 BTS in Madhya Pradesh during the year 2018-19.

(e) Government is implementing Bharat Net project under CPSU led model by BBNL through BSNL which is fully competent to do the work.

[English]

Status of Nuclear Cooperation Agreement Between India and USA

5318. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of nuclear cooperation agreement between India and the United States of America;

(b) the reactors imported, nuclear plants set up, other production facilities made and nuclear power generated in the country under the said deal; and

(c) whether the deal has not yet been operationalised and if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said deal is likely to become operational ?

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) During discussions between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and M/s Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) for setting up six units of AP-1000 (6 x 1208

MWe) reactors at Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh, M/s WEC has expressed willingness to continue with the proposed project in India. Further progress in these discussions will depend upon finalization of techno-commercial aspects of the project acceptable to the Indian side and upon establishing the viability of the project. In this regard, a Techno-Commercial Offer has been submitted by M/s WEC to NPCIL, on which negotiations have been initiated. Further progress in the negotiation will also depend on the operation of reference plant of the above design in U.S.

[Translation]

Doubling of Rail Lines in Bihar

5319. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of works being executed for doubling of rail lines in the country particularly in Bihar along with location-wise details thereof;

(b) the names of rail line where doubling work has been executed in Bihar during the last three years and the details of funds allocated for the same; and

(c) the names of doubling of rail line works which are likely to be completed during this financial year in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Doubling of Railway lines being executed on Indian Railways including those of Bihar involves works like earthwork, formation, ballasting, track linking, etc. Details of doubling projects being executed by Railway falling fully/partly in the State of Bihar for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No	Project	Year of Sanction	Anticipated cost	Outlay 2015-16	Outlay 2016-17	Outlay 2017-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Pirpainti-Bhagalpur (50.67 km)	2011-12	332	57	110	71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Chhapra-Ballia Patch Doubling (65 km)	2012-13	477	100	180	110
3.	Katreah-Kursela patch Doubling incl. bridge on river Kosi (7 km)	2012-13	99	2	32	45
4.	Hajipur-Ramdayalu (48 km)	2013-14	367	40	160	125
5.	Patratu-Sonnagar 3rd line (291 km)	2015-16	3406	103	250	70
6.	Hajipur-Bachwara (72 km)	2015-16	679	16	70	75
7.	Samastipur-Darbhanga (38 km)	2015-16	491	9	45	50
8.	Kiul-Gaya (123 km)	2015-16	1200	36	125	100
9.	Rampur Dumra-TalRajendrapul-Addl bridge and doubling (14 km)	2015-16	1491	20	51	120
10.	Karota Patner -Mankatha Surface triangle line (10 km)	2016-17	129	-	0.02	10
11.	Gaya -Bypass line for Manpur (2km)	2016-17	30	-	0.02	10
12.	Sagauli -Valmikinagar (109.7 km)	2016-17	1215	-	0.02	01
13.	Muzaffarpur -Sagauli (100.6 km)	2016-17	1186	-	0.02	02

Pirpanti-Kahalgaon (20.3 km) section of Pirpanti-Bhagalpur (59 Km) doubling project has been commissioned on 19.12.2017.

(c) Completion of projects depends upon several factors like complete handing over of encumbrance-free land by the State Government, forestry clearances, shifting of utilities, Road over/under bridges, canal & electrical crossings, etc. Hence, no time-frame has been fixed for completion of these projects.

Manpower Development

5320. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rolling stock technology is absolutely outdated and the system is beset with excessive manpower and if so, the facts thereof;

(b) whether manpower development has not kept pace with technology upgradation and if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether most of the equipment used by the Railways are now obsolete and need immediate replacements;

(d) if so, whether it is a fact that the above situation has made Railways incapable of coping up with increasing transport demand and improving the traffic volume and flows at lower unit cost of operation and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has made any study in this regard, if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) the concrete steps being considered by the Government to overcome the situation and to provide better service to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam. Upgradation of coaching stock technology in Indian Railways (IR) is a continual process and steps are taken regularly to upgrade the existing technology and induct new technology into the system. The manpower deployment for coaching maintenance is done as per defined yardsticks of IR. There is no excessive manpower for maintenance of coaches.

(b) No, Madam. Manpower is the most crucial asset of IR and full attention is paid for upgradation of manpower viz.a.viz. the available technology. Elaborate initial and in-service modules are available for the purpose of improving the knowledge of staff working in coaching maintenance.

(c) No, Madam. The equipment used by IR is upgraded on a continual basis as per requirement. Apart from upgradation of existing equipments, timely purchase of new equipments is also ensured.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Indira Vikas Patra

5321. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Savings Scheme of Indira Vikas Patra has been discontinued and over Rupees Nine Hundred crore is lying unclaimed with the Government as outstanding amount and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to disburse the aforesaid unclaimed money; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):

(a) Yes, the Small Savings Scheme of Indira Vikas Patra has been discontinued. The circle wise balances are being collected and will be submitted in due course.

(b) The amount lying unclaimed under Indira Vikas Patra can not be disbursed unless the Patras are presented at the Post Office by the customers. No application was necessary for purchase of IVPs and the certificates issued under the scheme did not bear the name/particulars of the purchaser. Any person presenting the Patras at the Post Office is entitled to receive the maturity value.

(c) Senior Citizen Welfare Fund has been established by the Government to utilize the unclaimed money in the Post Office Small Savings Schemes vide Gazette Notification No. 24 dated 14.05.2015 issued by Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department).

Pending Applications for BSNL Landlines

5322. SHRI B.V. NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 12,000 applications for landline connections are pending with the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether many areas are technically non-feasible and due to unavailability of underground cable, it is not possible to provide landline connections and if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether eighty four per cent of the said waitlisted applications are from urban areas and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the BSNL has stated that laying of underground cables is not economically viable in view of local bodies imposing right of way charges and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to reduce the aforementioned pendency of applications for landline connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):
(a) At present, 1708 applications are pending with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for landline connections. State/Circle-wise detail is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Many new developing areas are presently Technically Non-Feasible(TNF) as underground cable has not been laid in these areas. These areas are being made feasible in a phased manner, based on techno commercial viability.

(c) As on 31st January 2018, out of 1708 pending applications, 1391(81%) applications are pending from urban areas. State/Circle-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) For laying cables, local bodies charges for Right of Way(RoW) are often quite high, due to which in certain cases the viability for providing connections becomes non-economical. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has notified Indian Telegraph RoW Rules on 15th November, 2016. These rules specify only administrative charges of Rs.1,000/- per KM to be charged by the authorities for RoW permissions. The State Governments, Central Government and their agencies have been asked to align their policies with the Government of India RoW Rules, 2016. This matter is being pursued by DoT.

Statement

State/Circle-wise Waiting List of BSNL Landline as on 31.01.2018

SI No	STATE/CIRCLE NAME	Waiting List		
		Urban	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andaman Nicobar	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
4	Bihar	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0
6	Gujarat	437	49	486
7	Haryana	0	0	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
9	Jammu Kashmir	0	0	0
10	Jharkhand	0	0	0
11	Karnataka	0	0	0
12	Kerala	14	106	120
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0
14	Maharashtra	940	162	1102
15	North East-I	0	0	0
16	North East-II	0	0	0
17	Odisha	0	0	0
18	Punjab	0	0	0
19	Rajasthan	0	0	0
20	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
21	Uttar Pradesh(East)	0	0	0
22	Uttar Pradesh(West)	0	0	0
23	Uttarakhand	0	0	0
24	West Bengal	0	0	0
25	Kolkata	0	0	0
26	Chennai	0	0	0
Total		1391	317	1708

Rake Points

5323. SHRIMATI RITA TARAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of required infrastructure in the existing rake point, provision of new rake points and the two points rakes, supply and

allocation of chemicals, fertilizers and foodgrains are adversely affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken on the States' long standing demand for modernisation of existing rake points, notification of new rake points and provision of two point rakes at proposed places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Infrastructure at any rake point is provided as per quantum of traffic handled at the terminal. Improvement of existing rake points, notification of new rake points and provision of two point rakes is a need based and ongoing continuous process on Indian Railways. In the last two years, 20 works of rake point improvement have been sanctioned. In addition, a new liberalised mini rake and two points loading policy of covered rake has been introduced in 2016-17

Satellite Terminal Railway Station

5324. SHRI PRATAP SIMHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved Satellite Terminal Railway Station at Naganahalli, near Mysore to decongest the Mysore railway station;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the same new Satellite Terminal and the time by which the new Terminal will be completed;

(c) whether railway authorities have approved the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the new Terminal Station and if so, the details thereof ;

(d) the details of number of platforms, including high-level island platforms, maintenance lines, sick lines proposed to be constructed at Naganahalli;

(e) the number of trains handled by Mysore railway station per day; and

(f) the projected growth in the passenger traffic in Mysore in the next 10 years and the steps being initiated to improve passenger amenities at Mysore during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The project is approved at a cost of `789.29 Crs. and is planned to commission in Five years from the date of sanction.

(c) Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under preparation. Tender has been floated on 16.03.2018 and will be opened on 16.04.2018.

(d) The details of the proposed satellite terminal are: 6 Platforms of 750 Mtrs. 8 Stabling lines of 725 Mtrs, 4 pit lines of 620 Mtrs, 2 Sick lines of 225 Mtrs, 1 Wheel line of 50 Mtrs, 4 High level island platforms, 1 High level platform on the station house side, 1 High level platform of 585 Mtrs at the extreme end of the running line. Each passenger platform will be provided with shelter and connected through sub-way. Provision for sufficient water supply and lighting will be provided.

(e) Daily, on an average 76 trains are being handled at Mysore Railway station.

(f) Projected growth of passenger traffic at Mysore Railway station in the next 10 years is 3% annually. This is calculated based on the immediately preceding 04 years traffic volume at Mysore Railway station.

The following passenger amenities are to be taken up at Mysore Railway station during 2018-19.

- Platform surfacing on Platform No.1 to Platform No.6.
- Provision of Platform shelters to cover full length for all platforms.
- Extension of CC Aprons for Road-1 & Road-2.
- Improvement & expansion of circulating area duly shifting existing structures.
- Multi level parking at the main entrance.
- Provision of escalator on Platform No. 2/3 & Platform No. 4/5.
- Construction of new passenger lounges.
- Provision of additional seating arrangements at all the six platforms.

Income Inequality

5325. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI
VASAVA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the income inequality is higher in the country and the gap between the rich and the poor is getting widened as per the latest World Economic Forum Report which says that 60 per cent of the Indian population is poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the long term policy initiatives undertaken by the Government to bring down the widening gap between the rich and the poor;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to review the implementation of its welfare schemes in the country for better results keeping in view the widening gap between rich and poor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the achievement made as a result of Government initiatives so far?

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 (e) In India, the data on class distribution of income is not compiled centrally. However, household consumption expenditure data collected by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) could be used as a proxy to capture the economic inequality in terms of consumption expenditure. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. The disparities in the class distribution of consumption expenditure are measured by the Lorenz ratio from the NSSO data on Consumer Expenditure. Based on consumption expenditure data, the Gini coefficient (measuring the inequality between different expenditure classes of the population) in rural areas is observed to be almost same in 2004-05 and 2011-12 at 0.27 and 0.28 respectively. In the urban areas, the Gini coefficient has

increased marginally from 0.35 in 2004-05 to 0.37 in 2011-12.

The primary policy objective of the Government is development of all segments of the population. The Government is implementing a number of targeted programmes in this regard, like Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY), Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Stand Up India Scheme etc. These interventions are expected to yield better results over time towards overall balanced development in the country. Government reviews programmes, at different level of implementation so as to ensure benefit reaches to the targeted group and programme meets its intended outcomes.

Schemes for Strengthening of Minority Institutions

5326. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any schemes for strengthening of minority institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that aid sanctioned for Minority Institutes has not been fully utilized by them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the grants-in-aid sanctioned and released for these institutions during each of the last three years and the current year till date, State-wise; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for proper utilisation of the said aid?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) is implementing the scheme namely "Grants-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisation" (NGOs) for infrastructure development of minority institutions wherein Grants-in-Aid to NGOs are provided by MAEF for the following purposes:

- Construction / expansion of schools
- Purchase of Science/Computer lab equipments / furniture
- Construction/Expansion of Vocational Training Centre/ITI/ Polytechnic
- Construction of hostel building
- Construction/expansion of D.Ed./B.Ed. college
- Financial assistance for construction of toilets.

The detailed guidelines containing eligibility criteria, ceiling limits, application format etc is available on website of MAEF www.maef.nic.in.

(c) No, Madam,

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The MAEF has sanctioned Grants-in-aid of Rs.20.73 crore to 165 NGOs and released an amount of Rs. 20.32 crore during the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15 to 2016-17 The State-wise / Year-wise details of Grants-in-aid sanctioned by MAEF are available on website of MAEF www.maef.nic.in. Grants-in-aid for the 2017-18 is yet to be sanctioned.

(f) The MAEF conducts physical inspection of each project through its empanelled Inspecting Authorities before releasing first/subsequent installments of grants-in-aid. The second/subsequent installment of grants-in-aid is released only after ensuring proper utilization of amount of grants already released.

[Translation]

Budgetary Allocation for Safety of Trains

5327. SHRI ALOK SANJAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the budgetary allocations made with regard to the safety of Indian Railways during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the amount utilized out of the said allocation made;

(c) the details of the safety related measures adopted during the above said period; and

(d) whether despite all security measures taken, rail accidents are continuously taking place and if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The outlay made and expenditure incurred on safety related activities during the last three years and the current year is as under

	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2014-15	44842	43113
2015-16	46048	45516
2016-17	63062	53456
2017-18	68725	51973
(upto end of Feb.2018)		

(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, 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 & 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.

(d) No, Madam. The number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings mainly caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) have decreased from 135 in 2014-15, to 107 in 2015-16 and further to 104 in 2016-17. In the current year (upto 15th March, 2018) the number of consequential train accidents have further reduced to 71 as compared to 101 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

[English]

Development of Small Stations

5328. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make any special plan to develop small stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the stations to be developed and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the amount earmarked by the Government for the purpose; and

(e) whether the Government has stipulated any time-frame and if so, the details thereof? ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Modernisation/upgradation of railway stations is continuous and on-going process. At present, upgradation of stations has been undertaken under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. The scheme provides for development of stations, including small stations in the country. Selection of Railway stations under Adarsh Station Scheme is based on the identified need for upgradation of amenities. 1253 stations have been identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme out of which 1050 railway stations have been developed so far and the remaining stations are planned to be developed by 2017-18. State-wise list of stations identified to be developed under the scheme is enclosed as Statement. The expenditure on works of development of railway stations is generally funded under Plan Head – 'Passenger Amenities'. Rs. 1470.79 crores has been allocated under this Plan Head during the current year 2017-18.

Statement

(a) to (e) State-wise List of 1253 Stations Identified for Development under the "Adarsh Station Scheme" is as under:

State	Name of Station
Andhra Pradesh (44)	Adoni, Anantapur, Bapatla, Bobbili, Chittoor, Duvvada, Dwarapudi, Gudur, Guntakal, Guntur, Hindupur, Kakinada Town, Kurnool Town, Macherla, Machilipatnam, Nandyal, Narasaraopet, Naupada, Nellore, Palasa, Parvathipuram, Piduguralla Renigunta, Sattenapalli, Srikakulam Road (Amudalavalsa), Sri Satya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam, Vinukonda,

State	Name of Station	State	Name of Station
	Visakhapatnam (Vizag), Vizianagram. Chipurupalle, Ichchapuram, Simhachalam, Markapur Road, Pendurti, Mantralayam Road, Kuppam, Donakonda, New Guntur, Nallapadu, Angadipuram, Ongole, Araku, Kismudram and Gadwal.	Delhi (04)	Delhi Kishanganj, Subzi Mandi, Bijwasan and Shahabad Mohammadpur.
Assam (28)	Badarpur, Barpeta Road, Basugaon, Bijni, Fakiragram Jn., Goreswar, Gosaigaonhat, Hojai, Jakhalabandha, Jorhat Town, Karimganj Jn., Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Rangapara North, Rangiya, Rowta Bagan, Salakati, Silchar, Srirampur Assam, Tangla, Tihu, Tipkai, Udalguri. Bongaigaon, Jagi Road, Furkating, Tatibahar and Narangi.	Goa (02)	Vasco-da-gama and Sanvordem Curchorem.
Bihar (59)	Abhaipur, Anugraha Narayan Road, Ara, Arariya, Arariya Court, Bairgania, Bajpatti, Barauni Jn., Barsoi Jn., Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Biharsharif, Chhapra Jn., Dumra, Dumraon, Forbesganj, Garhpura, Ghogha, Ghora Sahan, Hasanpur Road, Hisua, Jamalpur, Janakpur Road, Jehanabad, Jiradai, Jogbani, Kahalgaon, Kharik, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Maheshkhut, Mansi Jn., Narainpur, Naugachia, Nawadah, Patna Sahib Jn., Rafiganj, Sahrpur Patori, Salauna, Sheikhpura, Shivnarayanpur, Sasaram Jn., Simraha, Simribakhtiyarpur, Sitamarhi, Sultanganj, Supaul, Tehta, Thakurganj, Thanabihpur, Warsaliganj, Chakia, Makhdumpur, Buxar, Jamui, Narkatiyaganj, Harinagar, Bagha and Dharhara.	Gujarat (32)	Ambli Road, Bechraji, Bhaktinagar, Bhanvad, Bhatariya, Dahod, Gandhigram, Himatnagar, Jamnagar, Kadi, Khambliya, Kosamba, Lalpurjam, Maninagar, Navsari, New Bhuj, Okha, Palanpur, Sabarmati, Siddhpur, Udhna, Una, Unja, Vadnagar, Vijapur, Visnagar, Vyara, Gandhidham, Gandhinagar Capital, Sabarmati BG, Patan and Kim.
Chhattisgarh (17)	Ambikapur, Balpur, Bhilai Power House, Champa, Chirimiri, Dongargarh, Korba, Mahasamund, Manendragarh, Raigarh, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Durg, Jagdalpur, Tilda, Kirodimal Nagar and Usalapur.	Haryana (16)	Ambala Cantt. Jn., Bahadurgarh, Bhiwani, Gurgaon, Kalanour, Karnal, Kosli, Kurukshetra, Palwal, Panipat, Rohtak, Sirsa, Sonipat. Rewari, Faridabad and Mahendra Garh,
		Himachal Pradesh (02)	Jwalaji (Jawala Mukhi Road) and Una Himachal.
		Jammu and Kashmir (05)	Hiranagar, Kathua, Udampur, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Jammu Tawi.
		Jharkhand (30)	Bokaro, Chakradharpur, Chakulia, Chandrapura, Chittarajan, Daltonganj, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, Garhwa Road Jn., Gomoh Jn., Jagadishpur, Jasidih, Lohardaga, Madhupur, Pakur, Parashnath, Phusro, Ranchi, Sahibganj, Silli, Tatanagar, Tori, Latehar, Barwadih, Bokaro Thermal, Katrasgarh, Giridih, Gumia and Gola Road.
		Karnataka (44)	Almatti, Badami, Bidar, Bellary, Chamarajanagar, Gadag, Gulbarga, Haveri, Londa, Wadi, Bagalkot, Chikballapur, Chintamani, Devanahalli, Dodballapur, Gauribidanur, Gokak Road, Hubli, Kabakaputtur, Kolar, Koppal, Nanjangud Town, Sambre,

State	Name of Station
	Sidlaghatta, Srinivaspura, Yelahanka Jn., Hole Narsipur, Belgaum, Kudachi, Ugar Khurd, Neralakatte, Bantawala, Subramanya Road, Bijapur, Mangalore Jn., Daroji, Mallapur, Gudgeri, Raichur, Davangere, Harihar, Tumkur, Kalas and Dharwad.
Kerala (75)	Alappuzha (Alleppey), Aluva, Ambalapuzha, Angamali for kaladi, Auvaneeswaram, Badagara, Chalakudi, Changanacheri, Charvathur, Chengannur, Cherthala (Shertalai), Chingavanam, Dhanuvachapuram, Etakkot, Ettumanur, Feroke, Guruvayur, Haripad, Irinjalakuda, Jaganath Temple Gate, Kanhangad, Kanjiramittam, Kannapuram, Kannur, Karunagapalli, Karuvatta, Kasargod, Kayankulam jn, Kazhakkuttom, Kochuveli, Kollam (Quilon), Kotikulam, Kottarakara, Kozhikkode, Kuruppantara, Manjeswaram, Mavelikara, Nilambur Road, Nileswar, Ochira, Kottayam, Mararikulam, Mulanturutti, Pappinisseri, Payyanur, Parappanangadi, Paravur, Pattikkadu, Payangadi, Piravam Road, Punalur, Quilandi, Sasthankotta, Thalasseri (Tellicherry), Tirur, Tiruvalla, Tiruvizha, Trichur (Trisur), Tripunittura, Vaikam Road, Valapattanam, Vayalar, Vellarakkad, Wadakancheri, Ernakulam Town, Chirayinkil, Kannur South, Kumbala, Trikarapur, Bekal Fort, Kundara, Mulangunnathu-kavu, Vallathol Nagar, Ottappalam, and Tiruvananthapuram Central.

State	Name of Station
Madhya Pradesh (44)	Anuppur, Ashok Nagar, Bina, Biora Rajgarh, Birla Nagar, Burhanpur, Chindwara, Dabra, Damoh, Gadarpur, Ghatera, Gwalior, Indore, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Junnordao (Jamai), Kareli, Katni Murwara, Khajuraho, Khandwa, Madanmahal, Maihar, Makronia, Meghnagar, Parasia, Patharia, Pipariya, Ratlam, Ruthiyai, Satna, Saugor, Shahdol, Shivpuri, Singrauli, Ujjain, Umaria. Rewa, Bandakpur, Howbagh, Bheraghat, Titamgarh, Balaghat, Madsaur and Sihora Road.
Maharashtra (110)	Ahmednagar, Ajni, Amalner, Ambarnath, Andheri, Bandra, Belapur, Bhandup, Bhayander, Borivali, Charni Road, Chembur, Chinchwad, Churchgate, Currey Road, Dadar (CR), Dadar (WR), Dahanu Road, Dahisar, Devlali, Dhule, Diva, Dock Yard, Dombivli, Gangakhed, Ghatkopar, Goregaon, Hingoli, Itwari, Jalgaon, Jalna, Jayasinghpur, Kalmeshwar, Kamptee, Kandivli, Karad, Karjat, Kasara, Katol, Khadki, Khopoli, King's Circle, Kolhapur, Kopargaon, Kurla, Latur, Lower Parel, Malad, Malkapur, Marine Lines, Matunga, Mira Road, Miraj, Multai, Mulund, Mumbai Central (Local), Nagarsol, Nahur, Naigaon, Nandura, Nandurbar, Narkhed, Nasik Road, Nimbhora, Pandhurna, Panvel, Parbhani, Parli Vaijnath, Pokarni Narsimha, Puntamba, Purna, Ramtek, Sangli, Sanpada, Santacruz, Saphale, Savda, Sewri, Shirdi, Shivajinagar, Solapur, Tilaknagar, Turbhe, Udgir, Ulhasnagar, Umrer, Vangaon, Varangaon, Vashi, Virar, Vishrambaug, Wardha. Dharangaon, Manmad, Amravati, Aurangabad,

State	Name of Station	State	Name of Station
	Odha, Gondia, Bhandara Road, Daund, Baramati, Nira, Majri, Khapri, Satara, Rahuri, Rajahmundry, Repalle, Washim and Dharmabad.		Raisingh Nagar, Ratangarh, Ringas, Sadulpur, Sardar Sahar, Sawai Madhopur, Sri Dungar Garh, Sujan Garh, Tehsil Bhadra, Gogameri, Sri Karanpur, Durgapura, Dakaniya Talav, Sri Vijaynagar, Mavli Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn. and Neem ka Thana.
Nagaland (01)	Dimapur.	Telangana (25)	Adilabad, Aler, Bhongir, Ghanpur, Jammikunta, Jangaon, Kamareddi, Karimnagar, Kazipet, Khammam, Lingampalli, Mahbubnagar, Malkajiri, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Raghunathpalli, Ramagundam, Shankarpalli, Tandur, Vikarabad, Warangal, Zahirabad (Medak), Basar, Moula Ali and Nagalapalli.
Odisha (47)	Angul, Balangir, Balasore, Balugaon, Banspani, Bargarh Road, Baripada, Belpahar, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Doikallu, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Jakhopura, Jaleswar, Jharsuguda, Kantabanji, Kesinga, Khariar Road, Khurda Road, Koraput, Lanjigarh Road, Lapanga, Meramandali, Muniguda, Paradeep, Raghunathpur, Rairangpur, Rayagada, Rengali, Rourkela, Soro, Talcher, Titlagarh Jn. Raj Athgarh, Dhanmandal, Brahmapur, Chatrapur, Sambalpur, Basta, Barpali, Khallikot, Ganjam, Salegaon, Loisingha, Deogaon Road, Sompeta and Damanjodi.	Tamil Nadu (50)	Arakkonam, Ariyalur, Avadi, Chennai Beach, Chennai Chetpet, Chennai Park, Chromepet, Coimbatore Jn., Hosur, Kanniyakumari, Korukkupet, Kudalagar, Kumbakonam, Manavur, Mayiladuturai, Nagappattinam, Nagore, Pamban, Peelamudu, Perambur Carriage Works, Pudukottai, Rajapalayam, Royapuram, Salem, Sankarankoil, Senji Panambakkam, Srirangam, Srivilliputtur, St. Thomas Mount, Tambaram, Teni, Tenkasi Jn., Thiruverumbur, Tiruchchirappalli Jn., Tiruninravur, Tiruppur, Tiruvalangadu, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur, Tuticorin, Virudunagar Jn., Vridhdhachalam Jn., Kadayanallur, Kanchipuram, Thirupparankundram, Tirumangalam, Irugur, Katpadi, Vellore Cantonment and Kaniyapuram.
Puducherry (02)	Mahe and Puducherry.	Tripura (01)	Pecharthal.
Punjab (32)	Abohar, Anandpur Sahib, Bareta, Barnala, Bathinda, Dera Baba Nanak, Dhuri Jn., Fazilka, Faridkot, Giddar Baha, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Khanna, Lehragaga, Maler Kotla, Mansa, Maur, Moga, Muktsar, Phagwara, Rajpura, Sangrur, Sunam, Tapa, Taran Taran, Dhandari Kalan, Bathinda Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot, Mohali, Batala and Tanda Umar.		
Rajasthan (40)	Abu Road, Alwar, Anupgarh, Balotra, Barmer, Chittorgarh Jn., Choti Khatu, Churu, Dausa, Dhaulpur, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalor, Jodhpur, Khairthal, Kolayat, Ladnun, Lalgarh, Lunkaransar, Nohar, Nokha, Rajgarh,		

State	Name of Station
Uttar Pradesh (152)	Acharya Narendra Dev Nagar, Achhnera, Aligarh, Amethi, Amroha, Atarra, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Babhnan, Bahraich, Bala Mau, Ballia, Balrampur, Banda, Bani, Barabanki, Baragaon, Barhni, Basti, Bhadaiyan, Bharat Kund, Bharwari, Bhuteshwar, Bijnor, Bilaspur Road, Bilhour, Bilhar Ghat, Burhwal, Chandauli Majhwar, Chandausi, Chandpur Siau, Chitrakut Dham Karvi, Chola, Chouri-Choura, Dapsaura, Daraganj, Daryabad, Deoria Sadar, Dildarnagar, Jaunpur, Farukhabad, Fatehpur, Fatehpur Sikri, Firozabad, Gaura, Gauri Ganj, Ghaziabad, Ghazipur City, Gonda Jn., Haider Garh, Hapur, Hardoi, Jais, Jakhania, Jaunpur City, Jhusi, Kalpi, Khalilabad, Khulpahar, Khurja Jn., Kiraoli, Kunda Harnam Ganj, Lal Ganj, Lal Gopal Ganj, Lalitpur, Maghar, Manikpur, Mau Jn., Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Mirzapur, Moth, Mughalsarai Jn., Munderwa, Musafir Khana, Muzaffarnagar, Naimisharanya, Naini, Naugarh (Siddharth Nagar), Nautanwa, Orai, Padrauna, Partapur, Patranga, Phulpur, Pilibhit Jn., Pokhrayan, Pratapgarh, Prayag, Prayag Ghat, Rudauli, Rurah, Sadat, Sakoti Tanda, Salempur Jn., Sandila, Shahganj, Shamli, Shohrathgarh, Sikohabad, Sirathu, Sitapur, Sitapur Cantt., Sohawal, Sultanpur, Tundla, Unchahar, Vrindaban Road, Manduadih, Varanasi City, Barhaj Bazar, Nagina, Najibabad, Seohara, Hathras, Lakhimpur, Colonelganj, Faizabad, Unnao, Bhadohi, Vindhyachal, Aonla, Chanethi, Lambhua, Koiripur, Dabhaura, Goshainganj, Baraut, Bagpat Road, Khekra, Useka Bazar, Gorakhpur,

State	Name of Station
	Phaphund, Fatehgarh and Mahmudabad. Rasulpur Gogumau, Modinagar, Belthara Road, Bhatni Jn., Bhadohi, Maniram, Pipraich, Suraimanpur, Karimuddinpur, Chit Baragaon, Gaur, Phapha Mau, Ram Chaura Halt, Bamhrauli, Etawa, Goverdhan and Gomti Nagar.
Uttarakhand (08)	Doiwala, Kathgodam, Kotdwara, Ramnagar, Rishikesh, Roorkee, Harrawala and Raiwala.
West Bengal (383)	Adisaptagram, Adra, Agrapara, Ahmedpur, Akra, Alipurduar, Alipurduar court, Alipurduar Jn., Aluabari Road, Ambalgram, Ambari falakata, Ambikakalna (Kalna), Amta, Anara, Andal, Andul, Aranghata, Asansol, Asoknagar Road, Azimganj City, Azimganj Jn., Badkulla, Bagbazar, Baghajatin, Baghdogra, Bagnan, Bagula, Bahadurpur, Baharu, Bahirgachhi, Bahirpuya, Baidyabati, Bakhrabad, Balagarh, Balarambati, Balgona, Balichak, Ballalpur, Bally, Ballyganj Jn., Ballyghat, Balurghat, Bamangachhi, Bamangram Halt, Bamanhat, Banarhat, Bandel, Baneswar, Banka pasi, Bankimnagar, Bankura, Banpur, Bansbaria, Banstala, Barabhum, Barakar, Baranagar, Barasat Jn., Barddhaman, Bargachia, Barrackpore, Baruipara, Baruipur Jn., Basirhat, Basudevpur, Basuldanga, Batasi, Bathnakkritiba, Bauria, BBD Bag, Begampur, Belakoba, Belanagar, Beldanga, Belerhat, Belgharia, Beliaghata Rd., Beliatore, Belur, Belur Math, Berhampur Court, Betberia ghola, Bethuadaheri, Bhadreswar, Bhagwangola, Bhasila, Bhatar, Bhedia (Ausgram), Bhimgarh,

State	Name of Station
	Bidhannagar, Bidyadharpur, Biman Bandar, Bira, Birati, Birnagar, Birshibpur, Bishnupur, Bisorepara Kodalia, Boinchi, Bolpur, Bongaon, Brace-Bridge, Brindabanpur, Budgebudge, Buniyadpur, Burnpur, Burobazar, Canning, Chakdaha, Chamagram, Champa Pukur, Champahati, Chanchai, Chandannagar, Chandanpur, Chandpara, Chandrakona Rd., Changrabandha, Chas Road, Chatra, Chatterhat, Chengail, Chhatna, Chowrigacha, Chuchura, Contai Rd. (Belda), Cooch behar, Dainhat, Dakhineswar, Dalkolha, Dankuni, Dantan, Darjeeling, Dasnagar, Debagram, Deula, Deulti, Dhakuria, Dhaniakhali, Dhaphdhopi, Dhatrigram, Dhubulia, Dhulabari, Dhupguri, Diamond Harbour Rd., Dinhata, Domjur, Dubrajpur, Dumdum Cantt, Dumdum Jn., Dumurdaha, Durgachak, Durganagar, Durgapur, Duttapukur, Eden Garden, Eklakhi, Falakata, Fuleswar, Gadadharpur, Galsi, Gangnapur, Garbeta, Garia, Gazole, Gede, Ghoksadanga, Ghoragata, Ghum, Ghutiarisharif, Gidhni, Girimaidan, Gobordanga, Gobra, Gokulpur, Gopalnagar, Gourinathdham, Guma, Guptipara, Gurap, Gushkora, Habibpur, Habra, Haldibari, Halisahar, Haripal, Harishchandrapur, Harishdadpur, Hasimara, Hasnabad, Haur, Harua Road, Hijli, Hindmotor, Hooghly, Hotar, Hridaypur, Ichhapur, Jadavpur, Jagaddal, Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, Jamuria, Janai road, Jangipur Road, Jessore road, Jhantipahari, Jhargram, Jiaganj, Jirat, Joychandipahar, Joynagar, Mojilpur, Kaikala, Kakdwip,

State	Name of Station
	Kalaikunda, Kalchini, Kalikapur, Kalinagar, Kalinarayanpur Jn., Kaliyaganj, Kalyani, Kalyani Ghoshpara, Kalyani Silpanchal, Kalyanpur, Kamakhyaguri, Kamarkundu, Kanchrapara, Kankinara, Kanthi, Kashinagar, Katwa, Khagraghat Rd., Khaltipur, Khana, Khardah, Khemasuli, Khidirpur, Kirnahar, Kolaghat, Konnagar, Kotshila, Krishnanagar City Jn., Kulgachia, Kulpi, Kulti, Labpur, Lake Garden, Lakshmi Kantapur, Lalgola, Lilluah, Lohapur, Loknath, Madanpur, Madarihat, Madhusudanpur, Madhyamgram, Magrahat, Mahisadal, Majhdia, Majher Gram, Malatipur, Malda Court, Malda Town, Mallikpur, Manigram, Mankundu, Masagram, Maslandapur, Matigara, Mecheda, Memari, Midnapur, Mollarpur, Mourigram, Muragacha, Murarai, Murshidabad, Nabadwip ghat, Nabadwipdham, Nabagram, Nagrakata, Naihati Jn., Nalhati, Nalikul, Namkhana, Nandakumar, Narayangarh, Narayan Pakuria Murail, Narendrapur, Nasibpur, Nekurseni, Netra, New Alipore, New Alipurduar, New Barakpore, New Cooch Behar, New Domohani, New Farakka, New Mainaguri, Nischindpur, Old Malda, Paglachandi, Palassy, Palla road, Palpara, Palsit, Palta, Panagarh, Pandaveswar, Panduah, Panjipara, Panskura, Park Circus, Patipukur, Patuli, Phulia, Pirtala, Prantik, Princepghat, Purbasthali, Purulia, Radhamohanpur, Raiganj, Rajbandh,

State	Name of Station
	Rajgoda, Rampurhat, Ramrajatala, Ranaghat, Raniganj, Remount road, Rishra, Rupnarayanpur, Rusulpur, Sagardighi, Sainthia, Saktigarh, Salanpur, Salar, Salboni, Samsi (Chanchol), Samudragarh, Sangrampur, Sankrail, Santaldih, Santoshpur, Sardaha, Shalimar, Shantipur, Sheoraphuli, Shyamnagar, Siliguri Jn., Simlagarh, Simurali, Singur, Sitarampur, Siuri, Sivok, Sodpur, Sonada, Sonamukhi, Sonarpur, Sondalia, Srirampur, Subhasgram, Sukna, Surjapur, Taki Road, Tala, Taldi, Talit, Tamluk, Tarakeswar, Tarapith Rd., Thakurnagar, Tikiapara, Tildanga, Titagarh, Tollygange, Tribeni, Uluberia, Uttarpara, Naksalbari and Radhikapur.

Subsidy in Rail Fares

5329. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the subsidy on all types of rail fares extended to the railway passengers at present;

(b) the total losses incurred by the Railways on account of subsidy given every year;

(c) whether after the success of the 'Give-it-Up' campaign on LPG subsidy, the Government has now drawn up a similar plan for rail fares;

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

(e) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be launched; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to encourage rich and affluent passengers to give up subsidy on rail fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) There is no subsidy on passenger and freight segment.

However, Indian Railways carries out certain transport activities which are uneconomic in nature and are carried out in the larger interest of the country. The tariff policy on Indian Railways has traditionally been one of restraint with regard to increase in passenger fare. Indian Railways continues to incur losses every year by performing a variety of unremunerative service. These losses are mostly due to (i) Low ordinary second class fare, (ii) Low Suburban and non-suburban season ticket, (iii) Loss on essential commodities carried below cost, and (iv) a variety of concessions granted on passenger ticket. Working of uneconomic branch lines, too, imposes a heavy burden on Indian Railways' finances. The overall losses incurred on coaching operation services and on essential commodities carried below the cost of operation was Rs. 35959 Cr. in 201516 & Rs. 39607 in 2016-17.

(c) to (f) Yes, Madam. With effect from 22.07.2017, Senior Citizen passengers have been given option of voluntarily giving up 50% of the concession in addition to the existing option of giving up 100% concession. Number of senior citizens who gave up concession for the period from 22-07-2017 to 28-02-2018 is as under:

- (a) 100% concession of concession value: 9.08 lakh senior citizens
- (b) 50% concession of concession value: 8.55 lakh senior citizens

The 'give up' concession scheme has the effect of increasing the earnings of the Railways.

Maintenance of Old Tracks

5330. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER:

DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is facing major problem due to old and outdated tracks;

(b) if so, whether most of the tracks were laid before independence and if so, the details of the length added after independence;

(c) whether the Railways has made any study of finding out the main deterrent factor in developing new railway lines and modernising very old railway lines, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether these old tracks caused many serious railway accidents and also has resulted in speed restrictions and if so, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether it is a fact that Railways continues to use same old railway lines, though they were reported unsafe for travel and regular accidents occurred on these old rail lines and if so, the reasons behind it; and

(f) the plan prepared by the Railways to resolve this problem and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam. Railway tracks are replaced through Track Renewal Works, which is an ongoing process. Track Renewal Works are undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis viz. traffic carried in terms of gross million tones, incidence of rail fracture/failure, wear of rails, corrosion of rails, maintainability of track as per standards, etc.

(b) No, Madam. At the time of independence, 60,116 track km were available in the country. After independence of the country, 61,291 track km has been further added making it cumulative 1, 21,407 track km.

(c) Although no specific study has been done by Railway to find out main deterrent factors in developing new railway lines, but there are many important factors such as various clearances related to acquisition of land, forestry and wildlife, cutting trees, shifting utilities and construction of road over bridges and road under bridges which affects the progress of developing new lines.

(d) and (e) There is no track in unsafe condition in the country. Renewal of track is an ongoing process. If any stretch of track is not renewed in time due to

various reasons, suitable speed restrictions, if required, are imposed to ensure safe running of trains. Temporary speed restrictions (TSRs) are imposed for short duration to carry out planned track renewals works, emergent works etc. These TSRs are removed once work is completed.

In the current year, 2017-18 (upto 15.03.2018) out of 71 consequential train accidents, 14 accidents are on account of track defects.

(f) For the year 2017-18, a target of 3600 km of Track Renewal in CTR units has been kept against which progress of 3493 km of track renewal has been achieved upto February, 2018. Track renewal target for 2018-19 has been kept as 3900 km in Complete Track Renewal (CTR) units (One km of Through Rail Renewal is counted as 0.5 km CTR units and one km of Through Sleeper Renewal is counted as 0.5 km CTR units).

Proposals for Development Works

5331. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Ministry for development works during the last three years from the Gujarat Government and the amount involved therein, scheme-wise and the details of action taken thereon;

(b) the reasons for which proposals received from the State Government are still pending;

(c) whether any time limit has been stipulated for disposal of proposals, if so the details thereof;

(d) whether delays in the execution of proposals hampers the development works and the manner in which cost escalation related to the works is adjusted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Ministry of Coal does not implement development works related schemes in the States. However, four proposals were received from Govt. of Gujarat in 2015-16 for prior approval for reservation of lignite bearing areas in favour of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.

(GMDC). These proposals as mentioned below were examined under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and accordingly prior approval of the Central Government was conveyed for reservation of lignite bearing areas in favour of GMDC:

1.	1400 hectare area of Damlai	Approval of MoC conveyed to Govt. of Gujarat vide letter no 11033/09/2015-CA-II dated 24.06.2016
2.	3015 hectare area of EFG	Approval of MoC conveyed to Govt. of Gujarat vide letter no 11033/09/2015-CA-II dated 17.02.2016
3.	1600 hectare area of Ghala lignite blocks	Approval of MoC conveyed to Govt. of Gujarat vide letter no 11033/09/2015-CA-II dated 24.06.2016
4.	2973 hect. Area of village Lakhpat and Punharajpur	Approval of MoC conveyed to Govt. of Gujarat vide letter no 11033/09/2015-CA-II dated 07.12.2016

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

[Translation]

Lawyers Pleading their Own Cases

5332. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several lawyers are pleading their cases themselves in the court in the fraud cases related to duping of people by making false promises for jobs in the Supreme Court/High Courts and the complaints with regard to their frauds are pending with the Law Commission and Bar Council for cancellation of their licences.

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

(c) the reasons for not cancelling their licences in this regard ?

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

[English]

Grievances of OEM

5333. SHRI PR. SENTHILNATHAN:

SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a copy of a letter from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) in Slovakia with regard to their grievances written to the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence in its letter dated 4 October, 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had directed the DDP to discuss this issue further after the receipt of the said letter;

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

(e) the current status of this issue raised by the said OEM from Slovakia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A copy of the letter dated 4th October 2017 from the OEM was received, whereby the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) desired to know as to what was the incorrect procedure followed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), due to which the proposal of MoU between OFB and the OEM was returned to OFB by the Department of Defence Production (DDP).

(c) to (e) In September 2016, the DDP had directed OFB to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for selection of technological partners. The proposal for signing MoU with M/s Grand Power, Slovakia for co-production of small arms was deliberated by OFB in their 2nd Board meeting of 2017 held on 28th February 2017 and was subsequently forwarded for approval to DDP in March 2017. The MoU was returned to OFB in July 2017 as it was found deficient in terms of procedure followed. OFB forwarded

the draft SOP in August 2017 which after examining was returned to incorporate suggestions of the Ministry. OFB after incorporating the suggestions in the SOP, forwarded revised SOP in February 2018. In March 2018, Department of Defence Production approved the above SOP.

Discontinuing Blankets in Trains

5334. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Railways is considering on a pilot project to discontinue providing blankets to passengers in AC coaches in some trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that this was necessitated because of complaints that the blankets served in trains were dirty and unhygienic; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, efforts are being made to improve cleaning of blankets.

[Translation]

Sugar Free Tea in Trains

5335. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps for providing sugar free/sugar less tea to the rail passengers suffering from diabetes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Instructions already exist with zonal railways to provide proper food to diabetic passengers on demand. Guidelines have already been issued to Zonal Railways to provide sugar free sachet of reputed brand in all trains as an alternative of sugar for rail passengers suffering from diabetes.

ESDM Sector

5336. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:

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

(a) the details of total investment made in Jharkhand and Rajasthan, separately for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector during the previous year along with the number of employment opportunities created;

(b) the number of youth provided training so far in Jharkhand and Rajasthan under ESDM skill development programme along with the number of persons out of them who have been provided employment; and

(c) the target set for providing training, employment and investment in Ahmednagar region and the State of Rajasthan separately in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):

(a) To offset disability and attract investments in electronics manufacturing, Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) was launched by the Government in July 2012. The scheme has been suitably amended from time to time. The scheme provides subsidy for investments in capital expenditure for setting up/ expansion of electronics manufacturing units (20% for SEZ units and 25% for non-SEZ units). The incentives are available for 44 categories of electronic products and components.

In the State of Rajasthan, applications for the total proposed investment of Rs.2,416.93 crore have been approved under M-SIPS, wherein employment for 11,851 persons has been proposed. No application has been received under M-SIPS for investment in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved a Scheme titled "Skill Development in ESDM for Digital

India" to facilitate creation of an eco-system for development of ESDM Sector in the country. This Scheme has a total target of 3,28,000 candidates at an approved outlay of Rs.410.94 crore for implementation in 32 States/ UTs.

In the State of Jharkhand, out of a total target of 15,000 candidates, so far 14,845 candidates have been trained, out of which 9,389 have been certified and 874 candidates have been employed.

In the State of Rajasthan, out of a total target of 15,000 candidates, so far 15,048 candidates have been trained, out of which 10,076 have been certified and 1,317 candidates have been employed.

In the State of Maharashtra, out of a total target of 15,000 candidates, so far 14,621 candidates have been trained, out of which 9,223 have been certified. In Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, a total of 504 candidates have been trained out of which 324 candidates have been certified. An application under MSIPS for the proposed investment of Rs.75.21 crore has been approved in Ahmednagar, wherein employment for 1,818 persons has been proposed.

MeitY has also initiated Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme in ESDM and IT/ ITES areas to give thrust to Research & Development, create an innovative ecosystem and enhance India's competitiveness in these knowledge intensive sectors. The Scheme was initiated in the Year 2014 with a budget outlay of Rs.466 crore for nine years. Under this Scheme, a total of 5 candidates (3 full time and 2 part time) have been admitted in the State of Jharkhand, while in the State of Rajasthan, a total of 40 candidates (36 full time and 4 part time) have been admitted.

Mission on Moon and Mars

5337. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO is working on any new mission to the Moon and the Mars;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue from the said missions along with the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon? ANSWER

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) Chandrayaan-2 is a totally indigenous mission with Orbiter, Lander and rover configuration. Orbiter is to be placed in 100 km orbit around the Moon. After reaching the 100 km lunar orbit, the Lander will be separated from the orbiter and it will soft land on the lunar surface and deploy a Rover. The Rover will then move around the landing site. The Orbiter will continue to orbit around the Moon and perform remote-sensing observations of the lunar surface.

ISRO has formed a study team to formulate plans to explore solar system bodies. The study team has recommended a future mission to Mars. Scientific proposals for payloads are selected by an expert committee.

(c) The Orbiter will study the Moon for its topography, elemental and mineralogical distribution and extent of subsurface water ice. The lander will land on the lunar surface and demonstrate ISRO's capability for landing on Moon. Subsequently, the Rover will roll out of the Lander and move around the landing site. The lander and rover payloads will conduct observations on the elemental composition and study the lunar ionosphere. The Chandrayaan-2 mission will definitely expand the scientific knowledge on Moon by remote-sensing from Orbiter and in-situ studies from lander/rover. Total expenditure on the mission is around Rs. 800 Cr. Mission planning for next MARS mission is under progress.

[English]

New High Court/Benches in States

5338. SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of High Court Benches and their jurisdiction in the States, State/ UT-wise;

(b) the details of the requests received from the States for establishment of separate High Courts/Benches along with the action taken thereon including the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the time by which separate High Courts/Benches are likely to be set up in each State?

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 Statement showing the details of the High Court Bench(es) State/UT-wise is enclosed.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and Judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000, Bench(es) of the High Court are established after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government, which is to provide infrastructure and meet the expenditure, along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, which is required to look after

the day to day administration of the High Court and its Bench. The proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

At present there is no proposal, which is complete in all aspects, for establishment of benches of High Courts pending for consideration by the Union Government.

Article 214 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a High Court for each State. Accordingly, every State is entitled to have its own High Court. However, the States are required to create and provide all the necessary infrastructure facilities such as, Court Buildings, Quarters for the Judges, court officials and staffs. The State also have to meet all the expenditure for setting up and running of the High Court.

The setting up of separate High Courts/Benches is subject to the creation of all necessary infrastructure facilities by respective State Governments/ requisite approval of High Court. Hence precise time in setting up may not be indicated.

Statement

State/Ut-wise Details of the High Court Benches

S. No.	High Court	Principal Seat	Jurisdiction	Permanent Bench
1.	Allahabad	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	-
3.	Bombay	Mumbai	Maharashtra; Goa; Daman and Diu; Dadra and Nagar Haveli;	Nagpur Panaji Aurangabad
4.	Calcutta	Kolkata	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar	-
5.	Chattisgarh	Bilaspur	Chattisgarh	-
6.	Delhi	New Delhi	NCT of Delhi	-
7.	Gauhati	Guwahati	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh	Kohima, Aizawl, Itanagar
8.	Gujarat	Sola ((Ahmedbad)	Gujarat	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	-
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	-

S. No.	High Court	Principal Seat	Jurisdiction	Permanent Bench
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Jharkhand	-
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Karnataka	Dharwad Gulbarga
13.	Kerala	Ernakulam (Kochi)	Kerala and Lakshadweep Island	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior Indore
15.	Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	Madurai
16.	Odisha	Cuttack	Odisha	-
17.	Patna	Patna	Bihar	-
18.	Punjab and Haryana	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh	-
19.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
20.	Sikkim	Gangtok	Sikkim	
21.	Uttarakhand	Nainital	Uttarakhand	-
22.	Manipur	Imphal	Manipur	-
23.	Meghalaya	Shillong	Meghalaya	-
24.	Tripura	Agartala	Tripura	-

Online Tracking System for Pension

5339. SHRI P.C. MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is having any proposal for online Pension Sanction and Payment Tracking System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the departments covered under the scheme;

(c) whether payment of pension through Public Sector Banks will be revamped and their data bases are updated for the existing pensioners;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received any report of payment of pension even after the death of pensioner in all categories; and

(f) if so, the details of amount paid and the steps taken for recovery of the excess pension paid?

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) Yes Madam. Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has implemented an online system called 'BHAVISHYA' for retiring central government civil employees. The system provides for on-line tracking of pension sanction and payment process. Tracking can be done by the individual as well as the administrative authorities for all actions preparatory to grant of pension and other retirement benefits. This is in line with the priorities of Government to ensure transparency and accountability in systems and processes.

At present, Bhavishya is implemented in main secretariat of 89 Ministries/ Departments except Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Defence, Department of Post, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Telecommunication and some security related sensitive organizations.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal to revamp the payment of pension through Public Sector Banks.

However, the data base for the existing pensioners is being updated by the Authorized Banks for pensions' payment once in a year through master data reconciliation with Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) and from time to time based on the Special Seal Authority (SSA) issued by CPAO to Central Pension Processing Centers (CPPCs) of Banks.

(e) and (f) Yes Madam. The Authorized Banks submit the report of payment of pension through e-scrolls to CPAO after making the payment of pension. Life Certificate is submitted by the Central Civil Pensioners/ Family Pensioners in the month of November every year and excess payment of pension may happen if the pensioner dies before the coming November, *i.e.*, the next due date of submission of Life Certificate. If excess/ wrong payment of pension is paid to the pensioner by Public Sector Banks then entire amount is recovered by the Banks from the pensioners/ family pensioners as per the guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in this regard. During the financial year 2016-17, an amount of about Rs. 73 crore was received/ recovered from the Authorized Banks by the Central Pension Accounting Office in respect of central civil pensioners/family pensioners.

Predatory Pricing Rules

5340. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are adopting commercial techniques to lure the customers and resorting to different plan system under same plan and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to curtail such irregularities;

(c) whether the TRAI proposes to lay down predatory pricing rules to bring transparency in tariff assessment of TSPs in view of the in-fight between them on disruptive pricing;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to take action against TSPs resorting to illegal practice of predatory pricing and 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) to (e) As per the existing tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication access service is under forbearance except for National Roaming and Rural Fixed Line Services. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have flexibility to design their products to suit consumer demand. TSPs have such plans on offer which provide subscribers a wide choice of telecom products and/or services as per their need.

Offering different plans with various combinations of tariff components by a telecom company is not prohibited under present regulatory norms prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), provided they are consistent with regulatory guidelines issued from time to time.

TRAI has reiterated the regulatory principles of non-predatory, non-discrimination and transparency in Tariff offers vide Telecommunication Tariff (63rd Amendment) Order, 2018 on 16th February, 2018. These amendments will be beneficial for the consumers, telecom service providers and the regulator.

As such, the transparency in tariff offers will be objectively observed by the telecom service providers vis-à-vis the guiding principles of transparency. Similarly, TRAI will also examine the tariffs of telecom service providers on the touchstone of accessibility, accuracy, comparability and completeness. It will also take in account whether tariffs are distinct and identifiable, explicit and non-misleading, simple and unambiguous etc. This would ensure transparent offering of telecom tariffs to consumers.

Further, the definition on Non-discrimination provides a clear benchmark to telecom service providers to bring tariff offers to consumers on non-discriminatory basis.

The amendments relating to the definitions of Significant Market Player (SMP), Predatory Pricing etc. would ensure fair play and healthy competition amongst the telecom service providers. This in turn would result in more 'value for money' for consumers.

The amendments provide greater clarity on aforementioned regulatory principles of enabling telecom service providers for designing their tariff in more innovative manner and also smoothly comply with the regulatory principles.

Further TRAI has written to operators to observe these principles while offering Tariffs to customers. They have been also asked to report all retail tariffs to TRAI and publish them transparently on their websites.

FTCs for Politicians/Legislators

5341. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

SHRI HARI OM PANDAY:

DR. RATNA DE (NAG):

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

(a) whether the Government has proposed to set up Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for speedy trial of cases involving politicians/legislators;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be established?

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) Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts.

In Writ Petition (Civil) No.699/2016 (Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay Vs Uol & Anr), the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on the 01st November, 2017 had directed the Union Government to prepare a scheme for setting

up of Special Courts exclusively to deal with criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs. A draft Scheme had accordingly been submitted before the Hon'ble Supreme Court for implementation. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Order dated 14.12.2017 has approved the Scheme and directed the Union Government to proportionately allocate the amount to be incurred to the different states in which the proposed Special Courts are planned to be located forthwith and thereafter the State Governments will make necessary arrangements of judicial officers, staff and infrastructure in consultation with the High Courts. The Union Government has released the funds earmarked for the financial year 2017-18 to the State Governments (where applicable) and as per orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court the said Courts had to start functioning from 01.03.2018.

Vacancies in CIC

5342. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts of the Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission (CIC);

(b) the total number of vacancies in the Commission as on March, 2018 and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay, if any, in filling up of the vacancies in CIC?

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) As per the provisions of the Section 12(2) of the RTI act, 2005, the Central information Commission shall consist of :

a) The Chief Information Commissioner and

- b) Such number of Central Information Commissioners not exceeding ten as may be deemed necessary.

Presently the Chief Information Commissioner and six Information Commissioners are posted in the Central Information Commission.

The selection of the Information Commissioners in Central Information Commission is made under Section 12(3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 after inviting applications through open advertisement and following the due process and with the approval of competent authority.

BSNL Mobile and Landline Connections in Andhra Pradesh

5343. SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile and landline connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years, telecom service provider-wise and district-wise;

(b) the reasons for decline, if any, in the number of mobile and landline connections of BSNL in the State; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to arrest the said decline in BSNL's connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):

(a) Licenses for providing telecom services are given service area wise. Accordingly the data is maintained in the Department service area wise and not district wise. The operator wise number of mobile and landline telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh service area, which includes the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, during each of the last three years and current year (as on 31.01.2018), are given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(b) There is no decline in mobile connections of BSNL in Andhra Pradesh service area. However, the

landline connections have witnessed a decline over the last three years. The reasons behind decline of BSNL landline connections are as under:

- General decline in the landline telephone connections due to tendency to shift to mobile services because of its convenience with regard to its utility and availability.
- Surrender of landline connections due to non-payment of telephone bills.
- Non availability of landline service on account of frequent interruption due to cable damage by various agencies working for road widening works, water and drainage activities etc.

(c) Various steps have been taken by BSNL to arrest decline of landline connections. These include rehabilitation of external plant and retrieval of good cable pairs, connecting all telephone exchanges on reliable digital media, patrolling of important cable routes to prevent cable theft etc.

BSNL has also launched various schemes to increase landline connections. These include:

- Unlimited free night calling from landline to any network between 22:30 hrs to 06:00 hrs for BSNL landline customers.
- BSNL has introduced new landline "Plan LL-299" with Fixed Monthly Charges (FMC) Rs.299. In this tariff plan 250 free calls are allowed to any network within India.
- BSNL has introduced Replacement of Instrument free of cost for existing customers, who have paid last six months bill for Landline/Combo connection with total amount of Rs.3600/-or above and having Landline for last three years
- BSNL has introduced Virtual landline Connection under plan "ÄSEEM" in which customers can get a Virtual Landline number and get diverted all the calls received on that number to a mobile number of his/her choice.

Statement – I

Operator Wise Number of Mobile Telephone Connections in Andhra Pradesh Service Area During the Last Three Years and Current Year as on 31.01.2018

S. No.	Telecom service provider	31.03.2015	31.03.2016	31.03.2017	31.01.2018
1.	Bharti Airtel	21842966	23592784	25867782	27243637
2.	IDEA	14101423	15390077	17580618	16732811
3.	Vodafone	6978118	7032368	6946782	6540448
4.	Aircel	2608951	2725320	2614825	2315578
5.	Telenor	5459948	5685052	5301805	4075080
6.	Reliance	5119638	5611249	3602108	282891
7.	TATA	6233932	4962611	3734568	2956652
8.	Rel Jio	0	0	9371987	13952799
9.	BSNL	9603423	9652963	9922220	10095444
	Total	71948399	74652424	84942695	84195340

Statement – II

Operator Wise Number of Landline Telephone Connections in Andhra Pradesh Service Area During the Last Three Years and Current Year as on 31.01.2018

S. No.	Telecom service provider	31.03.2015	31.03.2016	31.03.2017	31.01.2018
1.	Bharti Airtel	119680	145755	161781	166960
2.	Reliance	80426	75937	75535	72859
3.	TATA	162779	164318	172162	172249
4.	Vodafone	9118	9240	12150	26650
5.	Aircel	0	0	0	5312
6.	BSNL	1496743	1340655	1216162	1058998
	Total	1868746	1735905	1637790	1503028

SOs and Stenographers Exam

5344. DR. UDIT RAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Constitution Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court, in one of its judgements has declared DOPT's O.M. dated 22.7.1997 as illegal and directed the Government to modify the results of Section Officers (SOs)/Stenographers Grade 'B' limited Departmental

Competitive Exams-1996 with all consequential benefits by providing relaxation in qualifying marks/evaluation of standards;

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

(c) 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) Yes.

(b) i. In pursuance to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of S. Vinod Kumar vs. UOI read with the judgment pronounced in Indira Sawhney vs. UOI case, the Estt. (Res.), DOPT, vide its O.M. No. 36012/23/96-Estt.(Res.) dated 22.07.1997 withdrew the instructions contained in their OMs dated 23.12.1970 and 21.01.1977, in so far as these provided for lower qualifying marks for SC/ST candidates in departmental qualifying/competitive examinations for promotion. Subsequently, in pursuance to the Constitution (82nd Amendment) Act, 2000, these provisions were restored. However, the rules notified for conduct of SOs/Stenos LDCEs for the years 1996 to 1999 had no provision for lower qualifying marks/lesser level of evaluation for candidates belonging to SC/ST. As a result no SC/ST candidate qualified the SO LDCE for the years 1996 to 1999.

(ii) Aggrieved by this, some SC/ST candidates who appeared in LDCE 1996 under Category I (Section Officers of CSS) were engaged in litigation since 1998 and the matter went up to the Apex court.

(iii) Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 15.07.2014 in Civil Appeals No.6046-6047 of 2004 ordered as under:

"11. Consequently, civil appeals are allowed. The impugned order is set aside. 1997 O.M. is declared illegal. The respondents are directed to modify the results in the Section Officer/Stenographers (Grade B/Grade-I) Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 1996 by providing for reservation and extend all consequential reliefs to the appellants, if not granted so far....."

(iv) In compliance with the above judgment, UPSC modified the results of SOs/Stenos (Gr.B/Gr.I) LDCE, 1996 and as per the modified results, Appellants, who were declared successful were

included in Section Officer Select List-1996 against Examination Quota under Category-I (Section Officers' Grade). Later, the benefit was extended to similarly placed SC/ST officers who were declared qualified in the modified results of SOs/Stenos (Gr.B/Gr.I) LDCE, 1996.

(v) As regards, consequential benefits, orders for re-fixation of pay of these officers in SO grade upon their inclusion in SO SL 1996, have already been issued by this Department. After their inclusion in 1996 Section Officer Select List, they were provisionally interpolated in the appropriate USSSLs (Under Secretary grade of CSS), in order of their seniority with reference to the position of their immediate junior officer. Subsequently, the pay fixation benefit in Under Secretary grade has also been granted.

(c) Question does not arise

Operational Cost of Railways

5345. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has slashed its operational cost and working expenses and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the operational cost of Railways is higher than that of China and America and if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the operational cost of railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) It has been a continuous endeavor on part of the Railways to control its Working Expenses of which operational cost of Railways is also a part. As a result of various measures taken in this regard, the Railways have been able to substantially control the growth of Ordinary Working Expenses. The Ordinary Working Expenses in 2016-17 and 2017-18 grew only by about 10% despite being the years of implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations as against about 30% on the earlier occasion.

(b) Cross-country data of operational cost of Railways is not maintained in this Ministry.

(c) The steps taken by the Ministry to reduce the operational cost of Railways are as under:

- Railways are given spending limits lower than the sanctioned budget. They are also repeatedly instructed to effect savings in revenue expenditure to compensate for unavoidable post-budgetary increases such as revision of diesel prices, hike in power tariff, increase in rates of certain allowances/incentive bonus etc. The expenditure is monitored strictly according to the spending limits through monthly financial reviews.
- Tight control over expenditure in areas such as fuel/power consumption, contractual payments, purchase of materials etc is maintained.
- Energy audit of major load centres, effecting savings in electricity bills due to purchase of power by railways as “distribution licensee”
- Prioritization of expenditure on works/activities for better use of available resources.
- Improvement in Manpower productivity.
- Improvement in asset utilization by taking innovative measures and best practices available.
- Improvement in inventory management.
- Reducing the cost of operation and maintenance of rolling stock.

National Data Bank

5346. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH

SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed a National Data Bank as suggested by the Sachar

Committee for implementation of schemes related to minorities;

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

(c) whether the Government conducts social audit of all programmes and schemes that concern minorities;

(d) if so, the details of the audit conducted during the last three years and the current year;

(e) the outcome of the audit conducted and action taken thereto; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government for proper implementation of schemes formulated for the welfare of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (b) The Sachar Committee on social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community in India recommended creation of a National Data Bank (NDB) to maintain relevant socio-economic data for socio-religious categories (SRCs). Accordingly, a NDB has been created in the form of a webpage on the website of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The official data pertaining to various SRCs obtained from various data sources/ programme Ministries/Departments are uploaded on the webpage www.mospi.gov.in/national-data-bank. So far, around 200 tables on various socio-economic aspects of SRCs have been uploaded on the NDB.

(c) to (f) The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements a special programme called Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) to address the development deficits by creating socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities in identified minority concentration areas, which are relatively backward. This programme has a provision of monitoring through social audit mechanism. The Block Level Committee (BLC) monitors the implementation of MsDP at the block level. The District and State Level Committees that have been constituted for the implementation of Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities also to monitor

the progress of implementation of MsDP at the District and State levels.

Other programmes/schemes of the Ministry are mainly targeted towards individual beneficiaries belonging to minority communities like scholarships for students, coaching for students and aspiring candidates for competitive examinations for entry into technical and professional courses and for job employment, skill development trainings for youth and open school education plus skill training for school drop-out children. All the disbursements to beneficiaries are transferred into the individual bank accounts. Sufficient checks and balances have evolved in the process of submission and scrutiny of applications for scholarship schemes for minority students, and as such the need is not felt for monitoring through social audit.

The schemes/programmes of the Ministry are also reviewed for bringing about improvement and are monitored on regular basis for their effective implementation by holding of Regional Conference/Workshops, internal meetings, Progress Panchayats; besides carrying out periodical assessment and evaluation by independent agencies/inspecting authorities (IAs). Details in this regard, as available, are on the website of the Ministry at www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

Low Occupancy In Duronto Trains

5347. SHRI C.R. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Duronto Express trains on various routes are currently running with very low occupancy rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to increase the number of stoppage of Duronto Express to facilitate the passengers and also to enhance the occupancy rate; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The demand pattern on Indian Railways is not uniform throughout the year and it varies during the peak and

lean seasons. The demand for travel surges especially during the peak season like during summer holidays, festivals etc. The overall average occupancy of all Duronto trains during the financial year 2017-18 (up to February, 2018) was approximately 93%.

(c) and (d) With a view to improve the occupancy in Duronto Express trains, operational stoppages of these trains have been converted into commercial stoppages. However, at present, there is no proposal to increase the number of stoppages enroute Duronto trains.

Task Force on Elimination of Poverty

5348. DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD:

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force on elimination of poverty from the country;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of each of the recommendations made by the Task Force and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the poverty reduction in the country in the last three five year plans, plan-wise, year-wise and State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government now proposes to set up a committee to identify people below the poverty line across the country; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard and the role of the State Governments fixed in defining the BPL population and the time by which a final report is likely to be presented?

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 (f) Pursuant to the decision taken in the first meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th February, 2015, a Task Force on Elimination of Poverty in India was constituted by NITI Aayog on 16th March, 2015 under the Chairmanship of

Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The report of the Task Force was submitted to Prime Minister's Office on 11th July, 2016. The report of the Task Force primarily focuses on issues of measurement of poverty and strategies to combat poverty. Regarding estimation of poverty, the report of the Task Force states that "a consensus in favour of either the Tendulkar or a higher poverty line did not emerge. Therefore, the Task Force has concluded that the matter be considered in greater depth by the country's top experts on poverty before a final decision is made. Accordingly, it is recommended that an expert committee be set up to arrive at an informed decision on the level at which the poverty line should be set". With respect to strategies to combat poverty, the Task Force has made recommendations on faster poverty reduction through employment intensive sustained rapid growth and effective implementation of anti-poverty programs. The report of the Task Force is under consideration of the Government.

At present the official poverty estimates are based on data of Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. The poverty estimates for 2011-12 have been computed following the extant Tendulkar methodology and these have been released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013. According to this Press Note, the number of persons living below poverty line in India has been estimated as 27 crore (21.9%) in 2011-12 as compared to 40.76 crore (37.2%) in 2004-05. The rate of decline of poverty ratio during 2004-05 to 2011-12 was 2.18 % per year. The State/UT-wise poverty ratio for 2011-12 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Poverty Ratio for 2004-05 and 2011-12 (Tendulkar Methodology)

(% of persons)

S. No.	States	2004-05	2011-12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29.9	9.2

S. No.	States	2004-05	2011-12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.1	34.7
3.	Assam	34.4	32.0
4.	Bihar	54.4	33.7
5.	Chhattisgarh	49.4	39.9
6.	Delhi	13.1	9.9
7.	Goa	25.0	5.1
8.	Gujarat	31.8	16.6
9.	Haryana	24.1	11.2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	22.9	8.1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	13.2	10.4
12.	Jharkhand	45.3	37
13.	Karnataka	33.4	20.9
14.	Kerala	19.7	7.1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	48.6	31.7
16.	Maharashtra	38.1	17.4
17.	Manipur	38.0	36.9
18.	Meghalaya	16.1	11.9
19.	Mizoram	15.3	20.4
20.	Nagaland	9.0	18.9
21.	Odisha	57.2	32.6
22.	Puducherry	14.1	9.7
23.	Punjab	20.9	8.3
24.	Rajasthan	34.4	14.7
25.	Sikkim	31.1	8.2
26.	Tamil Nadu	28.9	11.3
27.	Tripura	40.6	14.1
28.	Uttar Pradesh	40.9	29.4
29.	Uttarakhand	32.7	11.3
30.	West Bengal	34.3	20.0
31.	All India	37.2	21.9

Closure of a Telecom Service Provider

5349. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:

DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the country;

(b) whether many TSPs are incurring losses due to unhealthy competition in the telecom market and if so, the details thereof, TSP-wise;

(c) whether a private TSP has filed for bankruptcy recently and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents;

(d) whether the sudden termination of all forms of services by the said private TSP without any opportunity of porting has led to consternation among its customers and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) whether the volume of porting has increased in recent times which has led to TRAI fixing the cap on the Mobile Number Portability (MNP) fee 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):

The particulars of Airtel are as below:

Particular	31-03-2013	31-03-2014	31-03-2015	31-03-2016	31-03-2017
Total Debt/ Equity	123%	119%	121%	142%	145%
EBITDA / Interest Exp.	6.2x	7.6x	11.0x	8.7x	3.7x
Total Debt/ EBITDA	2.9x	2.7x	2.6x	3.0x	3.0x
Total Debt/ (EBITDA-CAPEX)	6.4x	4.7x	4.9x	6.9x	8.2x

The particulars of Idea are as below:

Particular	31-03-2013	31-03-2014	31-03-2015	31-03-2016	31-03-2017
Total Debt/ Equity	98%	125%	117%	161%	209%

(a) The details of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) is placed in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Based on audited/unaudited information submitted by telecom service sector companies to TRAI, the profit before tax (PBT) for the telecom service sector companies has decreased from Rs.(-) 1699 crore for the financial year 2015-16 to Rs.(-)38153 crore for the financial year 2016-17. For the financial year 2016-17, out of a total of 50 companies, 24 companies have shown losses (*i.e.* decrease in PBT). Government ensures healthy competition in telecom sector. Recently, TRAI has reiterated the regulatory principles of non-predatory, non discrimination and transparency in tariff offers vide Telecommunication Tariff (63rd Amendment) Order, 2018 on 16th February, 2018. The details of losses of MTNL for last 3 years is as follows:

Year	Losses (in Cr.)
2014-15	2893.39 crs.
2015-16	2005.74 crs.
2016-17	2941.08 crs.

The losses of BSNL during the last three years are as under:

Year	Losses (in Cr.)
2014-15	8235 Cr.
2015-16	4859 Cr.
2016-17	4793 Cr.

Particular	31-03-2013	31-03-2014	31-03-2015	31-03-2016	31-03-2017
EBITDA / Interest Exp.	6.2x	8.4x	10.2x	7.0x	2.2x
Total Debt/ EBITDA	2.4x	2.7x	2.6x	3.2x	5.8x
Total Debt/ (EBITDA-CAPEX)	5.9x	5.3x	4.5x	7.8x	NA

The particulars of Reliance Communications are as below:

Particular	31-03-2013	31-03-2014	31-03-2015	31-03-2016	31-03-2017
Total Debt/ Equity	121%	126%	104%	118%	154%
EBITDA / Interest Exp.	2.8x	2.6x	2.9x	3.0x	2.2x
Total Debt/ EBITDA	6.5x	5.8x	5.5x	6.3x	7.4x
Total Debt/ (EBITDA-CAPEX)	9.7x	8.2x	8.5x	NMNM	

*Note: The likelihood of a company getting into financial stress is high when the Debt/ EBITDA ratio is 4X or above on a sustained basis. Considering cost of debt at 10% per annum and 8-year repayment period, the annual servicing is of the order of 22.5% of the outstanding debt amount, *i.e.* one-fourth of the debt needs to be serviced every year. In such a scenario, if the Debt: EBITDA ratio increases beyond 4X, the Company will not be able to service debt

(c) and (d) Three bankruptcy petitions bearing NO. 298/2018, 300/2018 and 302/2018 have been filed by corporate debtors M/s Aircel Ltd., M/s Aircel Cellular Ltd. and M/s Dishnet Wireless Ltd. respectively, under Section 10 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai Bench on 28.02.2018. Director (Service Compliance), Office of the Deputy Director General (C) Coimbatore [Formerly TERM-Cell, Tamil Nadu] had informed that during the EMF Audit on 20th February 2018, it has been revealed that most of the BTSs of M/s Aircel Ltd are found switched off and this has led to non-generation of UPC, thereby causing great inconvenience of the customers. It has also been mentioned that the quality of service being offered to the customers is -getting adversely affected. M/s Aircel Ltd through their letter dated 22nd February 2018 have informed that their major infra-provider has turned off as much as one third of their total sites in different LSAs across the country and has caused disruption in the network. In this connection, with a view to help subscribers to exercise their right to port they have requested TRAI to issue necessary direction to generate UPC through additional codes etc. After examination, a Direction was issued on 27th February 2018 to Mobile Number Portability Service Providers

(MNPSPs), M/s Aircel and other TSPs to facilitate portability by providing additional codes for generation of UPCs for the subscribers of M/s Aircel Ltd. All the Telecom Service Providers are governed by the License Agreement entered into with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Keeping in view that there has been a large scale deterioration of the services, DoT has issued direction to M/s Aircel Limited on 19.03.2018 for compliance of various clauses of the agreement including those relating to customer services and Quality of Performance.

(e) Till 2015, for the purpose of MNP service, the entire country was divided in two zones with 11 LSAs in each zone and MNP service was allowed only within the LSA. The scope of MNP was expanded in the financial year 2015-16, when MNP service was allowed across all licensed service areas on Pan India after the national rollout (Full MNP) w.e.f. 3rd July 2015. This resulted in huge upsurge in the number of porting requests from 64 lakh in 2010-11 to 636 lakh in 2016-17. TRAI reviewed upsurge in the porting requests when MNP services were opened on PAN India basis and the financial results of both the MNP Service Providers for the last two available years, TRAI decided that the per port transaction charge may be reduced.

After -following the consultation process, TRAI notified "The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (03 of 2018)" prescribing the 'Per Port Transaction Charge' of Rupees Four for each successful porting and simultaneously reducing the ceiling for MNP charges from Rs.19 / -to Rs.4 /-.

Statement – I

The Details of Telecom Service Providers

S. No.	Type of License	No. of Licenses/Aut horisation
1.	Basic	02
2.	CMTS(Cellular Telephone Services) Mobile	28
3.	UASL(Unified Access Services Licence)	86
4.	Unified License (UL)	93
5.	Unified Licence (VNO)	122
6.	Internet Service provider (ISP) License	206
7.	Unified License of ISP Authorisation	991
8.	International Long Distance (ILD) License	22
9.	National Long Distance (NLD) License	28

Indo-French Railways Forum

5350. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning for the creation of a permanent Indo-French Railways Forum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the purpose is to enhance the already existing cooperation so that representatives of the two countries can share information;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of proposed projects under the forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) A Letter of Intent has been signed by Hon'ble Minister of Railways, India and Hon'ble Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France on 10.03.2018 to set up permanent Indo-French Railway Forum.

The forum envisages to provide the framework for the exchange of information between both the countries specifically dedicated to policy development and the follow-up of issues pertaining to transport sector with a focus on railways including high speed, semi-high speed, regulating competition, intermodality, stations, sustainable urban mobility solutions, waste management and safety systems.

Cyber Physical System

5351. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology will launch a Mission on Cyber Physical Systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has planned to invest in research, training and skilling in robotics, digital manufacturing, big data analysis, quantum communication and internet of things, to harness the benefit of emerging new technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for research and development in new frontier cutting edge technologies 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) is a new initiative launched in 2016 to promote and foster R&D in Cyber Physical Systems and related areas like Data Science, Internet of Things, Cyber Security, and Quantum Communication; To develop technologies, prototypes and demonstrate associated applications pertaining to national priorities; To enhance high end researchers base, Human Resource Development in these emerging areas; To establish and strengthen the international collaborative research for cross fertilization of ideas; and To enhance core competencies, capacity building and training to nurture innovation and start-up ecosystem.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The Mission on CPS aims at research, technology development in the area of artificial intelligence, Robotics, setting up of advanced manufacturing, big data analytics, quantum communication, Internet of Things (IoT), training and skilling, establishment of dedicated Centre of Excellence to carry out domain specific research, training and capacity building; HRD and Capacity & Training through fellowships and short term training for faculty and to enhance innovation and start-up ecosystem in the country.

(e) The Government has initiated National Missions on new frontier cutting edge technologies like Quantum Computation, Quantum Communication, Quantum key distribution, Super Computing, Nano Technology, Solar System Development, Cyber Physical Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Big Data and Data Science. Some of the Missions are being implemented and some of them are at launching stage.

Deadline for Aadhaar Linkage

5352. PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to extend the deadline for Aadhaar linking with various services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Government services linked to Aadhaar;

(d) whether the said services are updated for Aadhaar linking; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court, in W.P (C) 494 of 2012 regarding Aadhaar matters, has passed an interim order dated 13th March, 2018 on the issue of extension of deadline for Aadhaar linking with various schemes/services. The relevant extract of the said order reads as under:

".....on a query being made, Mr. K.K. Venugopal, learned Attorney General for India submitted that this court may think of extending the interim order. However, the benefits, subsidies and services covered under Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 should remain undisturbed.

Having heard learned counsel for the parties, we accept the submission made by the learned Attorney General. Subject to that, we direct that the interim order passed on 15.12.2017 shall stand extended till the matter is finally heard and the judgment is pronounced. That apart, the directions issued in the interim order shall apply as stated in paragraphs 11 to 13 in the said order....

It is also directed that the same shall also control and govern the Passports (1st Amendment) Rules, 2018."

(c) to (e) Different Ministries/Departments of Central Government have issued notifications under section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act 2016, in respect of 252 Schemes till 31st December 2017, where Aadhaar authentication or proof of possession of Aadhaar as a means of identification of beneficiary is a requirement. These notifications also provide mechanism to handle such cases where Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual and instruct implementing agencies to deliver benefits on the basis of alternate identity documents.

Reforms in Civil Justice System

5353. SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is an urgent need to bring about reforms in the civil justice system of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that people in the country are very much disappointed due to inordinate delay in disposal of cases in all the courts of the country; and

(d) if so, the response 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) A series of measures have been taken to enable the expeditious disposal of civil cases. These include relevant amendments to the Civil Procedure Code to impose limit on the number of adjournments that may be granted to each party to three times and imposition of costs for adjournments; allowing service of summons using email, fax, speed post, courier services or directly through the plaintiff; providing for dismissal of suit where summons are not served in consequence of plaintiff's failure to pay costs; and limiting the time limit for filing of written statement by the defendant.

Necessary amendments have also been made to Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to make the award within 12 months, to resolve the dispute through fast track procedure, to ensure neutrality of arbitrators, and to restrict usage/ interpretation of the term 'Public Policy of India' as a ground for challenging the award. Further, in March, 2018, the Government has decided to introduce the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in the Parliament, which seeks to facilitate speedy appointment of arbitrators through designated arbitral institutions by the Supreme Court or High Courts.

With a view to address the issue of faster resolution of matters relating to commercial disputes,

the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015 was enacted and commercial courts were established at District Levels in all jurisdictions, except in the territories over which the High Courts have original ordinary civil jurisdiction *i.e.* the High Courts of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and of Himachal Pradesh. The specified value of such commercial disputes to be adjudicated by the Commercial Courts or the Commercial Division of High Court, as the case may be, is presently Rs.1 crore.

Further, in March, 2018, the Government has decided to introduce the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in the Parliament, which seeks to reduce the specified value of a commercial dispute to Rs.3 lakh from the present Rs.1 crore, and provide for establishment of Commercial Courts at district Judge level for the territories over which respective High Courts have ordinary original civil jurisdiction *i.e.* in the cities of Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and State of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Disposal of cases, including civil cases, pending in various courts of the country, is within the domain of the judiciary. The Central Government is fully committed to assisting the judiciary to enable speedy disposal of cases. It has undertaken many steps towards achieving this objective.

One important step is, strengthening of judicial infrastructure in districts through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary wherein a total of Rs. 6,100 crore has been released since 1993-94, out of which Rs. 2,655 crore (43.52%) has been released since April, 2014. 17,986 Court Halls and 14,986 Residential Accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on date. In addition, 3,151 Court Halls and 1,785 Residential Accommodations are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of 12th Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary beyond the Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from

01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated outlay of Rs.3,320 crore.

Under the Phase-I (2010-15) of the eCourts Mission Mode Project undertaken by the Central Government, against a total target of computerisation of 14,249 courts, the computerisation of 13,672 district and subordinate courts has been achieved. This includes the installation of hardware, the LAN and software. This has enabled the courts to upload the case status and orders online. Status of cases and copies of judgments have also been made available on the websites of the respective District and Subordinate Court Complexes which have been computerised. Rs. 935.00 crore were allocated for Phase – I out of which Rs. 639.41 crore were utilized.

A budget outlay of Rs.1670 crores was approved for the Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project (from July, 2015 upto 31 March 2019). The facilities of e-services such as cause lists, case status, daily orders, judgments etc. are being provided under the supervision of e-Committee of the Supreme Court and Computer Committees of respective High Courts. A total of 16,089 district and subordinate courts have been computerised under the eCourts Project till date. Video Conferencing facility has also been operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding prisons during the period 2015-17. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) developed under this project provides updated information on civil and criminal cases, including pending cases, for the computerised district / subordinate courts in the country.

Another initiative with a focus to improve access to justice is the Tele Law Scheme launched on 20th April, 2017, which is an effort to provide legal advice pro-actively to the marginalised sections of society through Common Service Centres (CSCs). This initiative facilitates delivery of legal advice through an expert panel of lawyers stationed at the State Legal Service Authorities (SLSA). Under this Scheme, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) connect potential litigants with lawyers through video conferencing facilities at CSCs which are, operated by Village Level Entrepreneurs. The Scheme has been launched in 1800 Gram Panchayats in 11 States (U.P., Bihar, Jammu and

Kashmir, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim). A total of 12,218 cases have been registered by PLVs under the scheme and legal advice has been provided in 9,094 cases.

The Government has also launched a scheme for Pro Bono Legal Services in April, 2017 in which interested lawyers and litigants can register on the website (www.doj.gov.in) to provide and avail pro-bono legal services as may be required. So far, 224 lawyers have registered on the portal and more than 298 cases have been assigned for pro bono assistance.

In order to reduce cases pending in courts for over 10 years, the Government has recently introduced Nyaya Mitra Scheme covering 227 selected districts of 16 States. Under the Scheme, retired judicial officers are engaged and designated as 'Nyaya Mitra' to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years. In the first Phase, 15 Nyaya Mitras have been engaged.

In pursuance of a resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, 24 High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee consisting of two Hon'ble Judges to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. At district level, the District Judge holds monthly meeting of all judicial officers to monitor progress made in reduction of long pending cases.

[Translation]

Reimbursement of Tuition Fee

5354. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has curtailed the reimbursement of tuition and hostel fees provided to the children of working and retired armed forces personnel including martyred, disabled and missing soldiers / officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the likely saving in Government exchequer as a result thereof;

(c) whether servicemen and ex-servicemen are distressed by the Government decision;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider the decision; and

(e) 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) The combined amount of tuition fee and hostel charges provided to the children of Armed Forces Officers / PBORs missing / disabled / killed in action has been capped at Rs.10,000 p.m. in accordance with the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission (7th CPC) as accepted by the Government.

Keeping in view that both the number of students and the tuition / hostel fee are open-ended, no fixed / uniform amount of savings can be indicated. Out of total reported 2679 students during the year 2017-18, 193 students have been reported to be drawing more than the capped amount of tuition / hostel fee and savings have been reported to be Rs.3.20 crore (Approximately).

(c) Representations have been received for removal of cap of Rs.10,000 p.m. on combined amount of tuition fee / hostel charges from some of the affected beneficiaries.

(d) and (e) The Government has decided to continue the educational concession without the cap of Rs.10,000 p.m.

[English]

Sustainable Development Goals

5355. SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures that have been taken by the Ministry in tracking and reporting data on progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

(b) the progress made towards achieving the SDG targets; and

(c) the ways and measures by which the Ministry aims to expedite collection of data on outcomes achieved with regard to implementation of SDGs?

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) to (c) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has developed National Indicator Framework for adoption by the Government containing list of national indicators for national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). These indicators will be the basis of monitoring of SDGs at national level based on the data provided by various Ministries/Departments implementing SDGs.

India-Based Neutrino Observatory

5356. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has written to the State of Tamil Nadu to grant permission to set up India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) in Theni, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response received by the Government in this regard;

(c) the time by which the INO is estimated to be operationalised; and

(d) the total budget estimate for the project?

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) During December, 2010 the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) had sent letter to Government of

Tamil Nadu for allotment of land to set up India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) surface facilities & for setting up of the National Centre for High Energy Physics-INO centre. Accordingly, Government of Tamil Nadu had allotted land of 26.8 ha for the project at Bodi West Hills (BWH), Theni District, Tamil Nadu.

(c) Seven years after obtaining all statutory clearances.

(d) Sanctioned cost of the project is Rs.1583 Crore.

Re-Engagement of Retired Rail Employees

5357. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that faced with the shortage of staff on safety related positions, the Railways has empowered divisional railway managers to re-engage retired rail personnel for appropriate posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has laid down some conditions for re-engagement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Railways to recruit employees for railway safety purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Keeping in view the shortage of staff in various categories of posts, Divisional Railway Managers have been empowered to re-engage retired employees on certain conditions, as under:

(i) Railway should give publicity to such re-engagement, by putting in on Railway websites.

(ii) While re-engaging such staff, medical fitness of the appropriate category should be obtained from the designated authorities as per existing practices.

(iii) Suitability/competency of the staff should be adjudged before such re-engagement and the

issue of their safety record as well as other operational requirements as needed should be adequately addressed.

(iv) Maximum age limit for which re-engagement shall continue will be 65 years.

(v) Retired employees being re-engaged, should not have been covered under the Safety Related Retirement Scheme/Liberalized Active Retirement Scheme for Guaranteed Employment for Safety Staff (LARSGESS).

(vi) This scheme is valid up to 01.12.2019.

(e) For various non-gazetted posts on Indian Railways, Railway Recruiting agencies are regularly providing panels of successful candidates to Railway/Production Units concerned for safety category posts. A recruitment process has been initiated to fill up around 90,000 vacancies mainly in safety category, for which employment Notices were issued in February 2018.

Railway Projects in North East States

5358. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether completion of various ongoing railway projects in North East states specially in Assam is getting delayed resulting in huge cost overrun;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for the delay in their execution, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds estimated and spent so far on such projects; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the works of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) 21 Railway projects consisting of 15 New Lines and 6 Doublings have been taken up in North Eastern Region including Assam which are at various stages of execution. Details of these projects are as under:

							(Rs. in crore)
S. No.	Project	Year of sanction	Length (in km)	Latest Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto March' 2017	Revised Outlay for 2017-18	
New Line							
1.	Bogibeel bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank line	1997-98	73	5372	4572	445	
2.	New Moynaguri-Jogighopa New Line with Gauge conversion of new Mal-Moynaguri Road and New Changrabanda-Changrabanda	2000-01	289	3290	2528	250	
3.	Jiribam-Imphal	2003-04	125	9658	5278	837	
4.	Dimapur-Kohima	2006-07	88	3000	237	100	
5.	Agartala-Sabroom	2008-09	110	3451	1592	375	
6.	Teteliya-Byrnihat	2006-07	22	780	372	85	
7.	Bhairabi-Sairang	2008-09	51	4600	1282	675	
8.	Sivok-Rangpo	2008-09	44	4085	536	10	
9.	Byrnihat-Shillong	2010-11	108	6000	23	20	
10.	Murkongselek-Pasighat	2011-12	31	450	209	10	
11.	Agartala (India) – Akhaura (Bangladesh)	2012-13	13	968	210	-	
12.	Dimapur-Tizit*	2013-14	257	4274	-	1	
13.	Salona-Khumtai*	2017-18	99	5958	-	0.10	
14.	Sibsagar-Jorhat*	2017-18	62	1296	-	0.10	
15.	Tezpur-Silghat*	2017-18	25	2025	-	0.10	
Doubling							
1.	Lumding-Hojai	2012-13	45	398	99	127	
2.	New Bongaigaon-Kamakhya via Rangiya*	2013-14	142	1798	-	0.10	
3.	Bongaigaon-Goalpara-Guwahati	2015-16	176	2232	40	125	
4.	Digaru-Hojai	2015-16	102	871	30	45	
5.	Saraighat Bridge (doubling)*	2017-18	7	888	-	0.10	
6.	Kamakhya-New Guwahati Quadrupling*	2017-18	10	3062	-	0.10	

*Project included in Budget subject to requisite Government approvals.

Projects in North Eastern Region have traditionally suffered on account of law and order, difficult geological conditions, less working seasons owing to prolonged rainy season, delay in land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances etc. resulting in delay and cost overruns.

(d) For faster execution of the pending projects, allocation of funds have been enhanced in the past 3 budgets and regular co-ordination meetings are held with State Governments and other Ministries of Government of India to expedite approvals and to remove impediments for these projects. Field units have also been empowered for faster decision making.

Repatriation of Indian Workers

5359. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has facilitated repatriation of nearly 90,000 Indians working in 54 countries and assisted 80,000 Indians who were caught in dangerous situations during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the ecosystem of administrative organization has been strengthened to address issues such as loss of passport and need for legal advice, medical emergency, shelter and transportation and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Embassies have been directed to be proactive to address such problems quickly; 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) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. Today, all Indians residing in any corner of the world are confident that in case of a crisis, their Government will provide them with a safe passage to the country. More than 90,000 Indians stranded abroad have been safely brought back since 2014. Around 22,000 of them have been extended air passages through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF).

The institutional framework for support and welfare of Indian nationals abroad stands considerably

strengthened. The MADAD portal, e-Migrate, ICWF and Indian Worker Resource Centres are among the important mechanisms to assist Indian nationals. All Indian Missions/ Posts also actively engage through social media platforms. External Affairs Minister herself receives large number of requests on her Twitter handle which are sent immediately to the concerned Indian Missions and Posts for necessary action. The Government has also launched an awareness campaign 'Surakshit Jaaye, Prasikshit Jaaye' towards ensuring that Indian workers should migrate safely with an enhanced skill set.

Indian Missions and Posts abroad are readily accessible to all Indian citizens within their jurisdiction and maintain close contact with the Indian community. There is a designated nodal officer in each Mission and Post to deal with emergency situations. In key Missions and Posts, a 24x7 Helpline has been established. A dedicated Community Welfare Wing has also been established in Missions and Posts where there is sizeable Indian community.

Indian nationals residing abroad are advised to register with the nearest Indian Mission or Post. In addition, Ministry issues instructions from time to time to its Missions and Posts abroad to address the challenges faced by the resident Indian community with a proactive approach.

Satellite Launching

5360. SHRI D.K. SURESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of satellites launched in the country till date;

(b) whether the Government has set any target to launch satellites for the benefit of various sectors of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the targeted objectives have been achieved successfully till date and if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government is taking any effective measures to ensure better performance of the satellite

programmes in the country 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) As on date, total satellites launched by ISRO are as follows:

Experimental/Technology Satellite	Demonstrator	8
Remote Sensing Satellite		31
Meteorological Satellite		3
Communication Satellite		35
Navigational Satellite		8
Science Satellite		8

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) ISRO has planned to launch state-of-the-art satellites in the areas of earth observations, meteorology, communication, navigation and space science. The data and services through the synergistic use of these satellites are intended to benefit various sectors, which include

- (i) Socio-economic Security viz. food, water, energy, health, shelter, infrastructure;
- (ii) Sustainable development; (iii) Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (iv) Weather & Ocean state forecast and (v) Governance and development.

The target of communication satellites is to meet the transponder requirements. Today we have 15 operational satellites and 105 foreign leased transponders to meet the demand. In order to address growing demand, additional satellites are scheduled for the launch.

In the area of navigation, with 7 in-orbit IRNSS satellites and another satellite, IRNSS-1I, scheduled for

launch in April 2018, the targeted accuracy of less than 20 m is also available over India and 1500 Km beyond region.

(d) Yes, Madam. Earth Observation (EO) data, in conjunction with field information, have been supporting a host of applications in the areas of land, water & ocean resources, weather & climate, environment & eco-system, urban & rural development, disaster risk reduction and Governance. Many of the applications have been effectively adopted by stakeholder Departments for operational use. A few of such applications include: Potential Fishing Zone Forecast & Ocean State Forecast (by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, MoES), Crop Acreage and Production Forecasting & National Agricultural Drought Assessment and Monitoring System (by Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre, MoA&FW), Biennial Forest Cover Assessment (by Forest Survey of India, MoEF&CC), Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment (by Central Water Commission, MoWR, RD&GR), Weather forecasting (by India Meteorological Department, MoES), Integrated Watershed Management Programme & MGNREGA (by MoRD). In addition, tele-medicine and tele-education services are also in place.

(e) In order to ensure better performance of the satellite programmes, the Department has taken following measures

- (i) conduct of user interaction meets and utilization programmes;
- (ii) capacity building for space applications;
- (iii) creation of an outreach facility; (iv) development of geospatial tools and information systems,
- (v) Proof of Concept demonstration and
- (vi) Institutionalisation of space applications.

[Translation]

Rise in Cost Due to Delayed Projects

5361. SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:

SHRI RAJKUMAR SAINI:

SHRI JANAK RAM:

SHRI ANOOP MISHRA:

SHRI BHARAT SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is monitoring projects especially those belonging to infrastructure sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of the Ministries which have maximum cases of rise in cost due to delayed projects and the total amount of rise in cost of these delayed projects;

(c) whether the cost of various stranded projects is increasing in the country due to adverse market conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to complete all the said projects in a time bound manner?

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 on the On-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) of this ministry.

The details of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects are available in flash report at www.cspm.gov.in/publications.

(b) The details of Sectors (corresponds to nodal Ministries) which has maximum cases of rise in cost due to delayed projects and the total amount of rise in cost of these delayed projects are available in flash report at www.cspm.gov.in/publications.

(c) The reasons for time and 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 the OCMS of this ministry, the main reasons for increase in cost of the projects

are: Under-estimation of original cost; Changes in rates of foreign exchange and statutory duties; High cost of environmental safeguards & rehabilitation measures; Spiraling land acquisition costs; Shortage of skilled manpower/ labour; Changes in Project scope; Monopolistic pricing by vendors of equipment services; General Price rise / inflation and Time Overruns.

(d) The major steps taken to ensure completion of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects without time and cost overruns include: 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 concerned Chief Secretaries for removal of bottlenecks and for facilitating the speedy implementation of major projects.

[English]

Multi-Functional Complex

5362. SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any information about working of Multi-Functional Complex in the railway land violating municipal rules and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to amend the provisions of Railway Act to regularise such buildings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof? ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Multi Functional Complex (MFC) buildings are covered under provisions of Section 11 of the Railways Act, 1989 and paragraph No.201 of Indian Railways Works Manual, 2000 and are considered "Operational Building" of Railways. Local Municipal rules and building bye laws are followed in construction of MFC buildings. However, Ministry of Railways is not in receipt of any information about working of MFC in the railway land violating Municipal Rules.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Subsidiaries of Public Sector Coal Companies

5363. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of subsidiaries of public sector coal companies along with their present status;

(b) whether these companies are required to be revived; and

(c) if so, the scheme prepared by the Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Coal India is a holding company, in which the shareholding of the Government of India (GoI) is 78.546%. It has seven wholly owned coal producing Indian subsidiary companies and one Mine Planning & Consultancy Company. The names of these subsidiaries alongwith their status are as under:

S. No.	Name of Subsidiary	Present Status
1.	Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	Applied for Miniratna Cat I
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	Miniratna Cat I
3.	Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	Miniratna Cat I
4.	South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	Miniratna Cat I
5.	Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	Miniratna Cat I
6.	Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	Miniratna Cat I
7.	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)	Miniratna Cat I
8.	Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDIL)	Applied for Miniratna Cat I

In addition, CIL has a foreign subsidiary in Mozambique namely Coal India Africana Limitada (CIAL)

Further, NLC India Limited has GoI shareholding of 84.04% and it has the following two subsidiaries:

1. NLC Tamilnadu Power Limited (NTPL) at Tuticorin, Tamilnadu – NTPL is a JV project with TANGEDCO (89:11). Its power generation capacity is 1000 MW (2 units of 500 MW each) using coal as fuel and is operational since 2016.
2. Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL) at Ghathampur, UP State – NUPPL is a JV project with UPRVNL (51 : 49). It has been sanctioned with 1980 MW (3 units of 660 MW each) of generation capacity and is under construction stage.

(b) and (c)-No subsidiary of Coal India Limited and NLC India Limited falls under the classification of sick company and the question of revival of these subsidiaries does not arise.

Dispatch of Coal

5364. SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispatch of coal by Coal India Limited (CIL) to its consumers in various sectors including power through road in April-October went up by 12 million tonnes and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Coal India had offered to supply the fuel to plants located at shorter distance by road from the available pit head stock, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had launched Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitran App in a bid to benefit customers of CIL lifting coal through road; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) In 2017-18 (till 31.10.2017), the movement of coal through road mode was about 93 Million Tonne (MT), which is about 29% of the total coal dispatch of 317 MT from sources of Coal India Limited (CIL). The coal dispatch through

road during the current fiscal of 2017-18 (till 31.10.2017) increased by about 12 MT over the dispatch of 81 MT during the corresponding period of 2016-17.

(b) In order to meet the coal requirement of power houses, the subsidiary companies of CIL have offered coal through road mode from available pithead stock to the power plants which are located within 50 km to 60 km from the nearest mines.

(c) and (d) On 01.11.2017, CIL has launched the 'Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran' App aimed at benefiting customers who are supplied coal by road. The App is a tool to monitor the coal dispatch and to ensure fairness in dispatch by following the principle of 'First in, First Out'. The App keeps track of all the activities viz. from issuance of Sale Order to physical delivery of coal by road.

The main benefits of the App for the customers include easy accessibility of the information at the click of button, apart from transparency in the system of loading programme and dispatch. The App also helps customers in planning of logistics for lifting of coal in tune with the loading programmes. It further helps in improved planning of procurement, production and stock management by the customers. It provides date-wise, truck-wise quantity of coal delivered against the Sale Orders and information related to Scheme-wise, Colliery-wise, Grade-wise, customer-wise details of Sale Orders issued during a period. In terms of loading, it provides allotment and lifting status in detail from different sources by truck and summary of the coal dispatch.

Tariff for Telecommunication Services

5365. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tariff for various telecommunication services in the country are higher in comparison to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the present pulse rates of the various telecommunication services of United States,

Australia and our neighbouring countries *i.e.* China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka separately; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the tariff rates of various telecommunication services in the country?

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 present tariff framework in the country, the tariff for telecommunication services is under forbearance except for national roaming, rural fixed line services and leased circuits. TSPs have the flexibility to offer different tariff plans/schemes depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations. The tariff applicable for various telecommunication services consists of upfront charges for the plan/scheme, fixed recurring charges and usages charges of various types. The total charge to be paid by the consumer for a service varies amongst different service providers with same service area and same service provider in different service areas. It is therefore difficult to compare the tariff levels prevailing in different parts of the country or between different countries. The tariff level in India is generally considered to be amongst the lowest in the world.

The tariff plans are of bundled nature and the trade-off is generally between monthly fixed charges and variable (call) charges. Therefore, average outgo per outgoing minute for usage would be a realistic indicator of average tariff. In similar manner the average outgo per GB of data can be considered as a realistic indicator of data tariff. The average outgo for both voice and data services in India have shown continuous downward trend, particularly in the recent past. Details are shown in the Table below.

Average Outgo for Voice and Data

Quarter Ending	Average outgo per minute (voice) (Rs.)	Average outgo per GB data (Rs.)
1	2	3
Jun-16	0.49	205

Particular	31-03-2013	31-03-2014
Sep-16	0.48	184
Dec-16	0.44	164
Mar-17	0.31	19
Jun-17	0.27	17
Sep-17	0.23	21
Dec-17	0.19	19

(c) Present pulse rate of other countries is not available in TRAI. Some information available on the websites of certain operators in these countries is as under:

Operator	Pulse rate
Vodafone Australia	60 sec pulse rate
Virgin Australia	30 sec pulse rate
Banglalink Bangladesh	10 sec pulse rate
Warid Pakistan	30 sec pulse rate
Mobitel Srilanka	60 sec pulse rate

(d) As indicated in para (a) and (b) the tariff is under forbearance and is decided by market forces. The rate for voice and services in India is showing continuously downward trend and no further steps are under consideration of TRAI presently.

[Translation]

Relocation of Tea Stalls

5366. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations regarding relocation of tea stalls located at railway stations under Bikaner and Jodhpur divisions of North Western Railway during the last three years;

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

(c) whether all the representations received, have been reviewed; and

(d) if so, the details of the representations received from Degana-Ratangarh rail section and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Division -wise details of representations received regarding relocation of tea stalls located at railway stations under Bikaner and Jodhpur division including Degana-Ratangarh rail section of North Western Railway during the last three years are given as under:

Name of the division	Details of the representations received regarding relocation of tea stalls				
	Summary of the representation	Name of the licensee	Name of station & location from where relocation is requested	Name of station & location for which relocation is requested	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5	6
Jodhpur	Relocation of catering stall of Shri Dilawar Mali at Sujangarh Railway Station at Platform Number (PF No.)1	Shri Dilawar Mali	Sujangarh Railway station at PF No. -1 towards Ladnun side	Sujangarh Railway station at PF -1 towards Station building side	As per

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Shifting catering stalls from PF No.-2 to PF No. -1 at Mokalsar station	Smt. Pinnu Devi	Mokalsar station on PF No. -2	Mokalsar station PF No. -1	Board's guidelines relocation of catering stalls was not found Justified
	Shifting catering stalls from PF No.2/3 to PF No. -1 at Bhagat Ki Kothi station	Smt. Saroj Rajendra Mangla	Bhagat Ki Kothi on PF No. -2/3	Bhagat Ki Kothi on PF No.-1	
	Shifting of catering stall from PF No.-1 in centre of platform at Basni Station	Smt. Krishna Chouhan	Basni Station on PF No-1 towards Marwar Junction Side	Basni Station on PF NO. -1 in centre of Platform	
Bikaner			NIL		

[English]

Safety of Passengers

5367. SHRI G. HARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that 27 major railway accidents took place in the past three years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that the Government has increased railway fares by 70 per cent during the last three years, but no concrete blueprint has been laid down to secure lives of passengers and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways has compromised the safety protocols and there were criminal negligence on its part which led to these major rail accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) During the past three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and the current year 2017-18 (upto 15th March, 2018), there have been 14 major consequential train accidents over Indian Railways, where 10 or more persons lost their lives. Details are given below:

S. No.	Date	Type of Accident	Zonal Railway	Division	No. of persons killed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	20.11.2016	Derailment	North Central	Jhansi	152
2.	20.03.2015	Derailment	Northern	Lucknow	39
3.	21.01.2017	Derailment	East Coast	Waltair	39
4.	26.05.2014	Derailment	North Eastern	Lucknow Jn	29
5.	04.08.2015	Derailment	West Central	Bhopal	29
6.	19.08.2017	Derailment	Northern	Delhi	24
7.	04.05.2014	Derailment	Central	Mumbai	23

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	18.08.2014	Manned Level Crossing accident	East Central	Samastipur	19
9.	24.07.2014	Unmanned Level Crossing (UMLC) accident	South Central	Hyderabad	18
10.	09.05.2014	UMLC accident	North Eastern	Varanasi	14
11.	07.12.2015	Misc. accident	East Central	Dhanbad	14
12.	30.09.2014	Collision	North Eastern	Lucknow JN	13
13.	26.01.2015	UMLC accident	Northern	Ambala	12
14.	07.06.2014	UMLC accident	East Central	Samastipur	10

(b) to (d) No, Madam. There has been no increase in passenger fares in the last three years since 25.06.2014. However, the minimum chargeable passenger fare for Second Class Non-suburban services has been increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 to bring it at par with the rate of platform tickets from 22.11.2015.

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, 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 is 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.

[Translation]

Sainik Schools

5368. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:
SHRI AJAY NISHAD:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government gives preference to any special region for opening of Sainik schools and if so, the details thereof along with the criteria / norms for opening of sainik schools;

(b) whether the Government provides preference in armed forces to the students passing out from these schools and if so, the details and the provisions / criteria in this regard;

(c) the status of proposals received from various States for establishing Sainik schools and the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the Union Government has earmarked / released funds for establishing Sainik schools and if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the details of funds utilised and works undertaken under the said funds; and

(e) whether any fund is lying pending and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken / being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) No, Madam.

(c) Status of proposals for opening of Sainik Schools is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) Sainik Schools are established on receipt of a specific request from the State Government, which is required to provide infrastructure in the form of land, educational and residential buildings, sports field etc. Government of India funds are due for release only after establishment of the Sainik Schools.

Statement

Status of Pending Proposals for Opening of New Sainik Schools

S. No.	State / UT	District	Remarks
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Diglipur, North Andaman	Site survey completed
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Niglok Village District East Siang	"In-principle" approval accorded.
3.	Assam	Golaghat	"In-principle" approval accorded.
4.	Haryana	Jhajjar	State Government to indicate date for site inspection
5.	Jharkhand	Godda	State Government to indicate site and date for site inspection
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Muraina	Proposal Stage
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Sagar	Site survey completed
8.	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	Memorandum of Agreement signed
9.	Odisha	Sambalpur	Memorandum of Agreement signed
10.	Punjab	Gurdaspur	Site Survey completed
11.	Rajasthan	Alwar	Memorandum of Agreement signed
12.	Rajasthan	Jhunjhunu	Memorandum of Agreement signed
13.	Sikkim	West Sikkim	State Government to indicate date for site inspection
14.	Telangana	Warangal	Memorandum of Agreement signed

S. No.	State / UT	District	Remarks
15.	Tripura	West Tripura	State Government to indicate date for site inspection
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi	Memorandum of Agreement signed
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Mainpuri	Memorandum of Agreement signed
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Amethi	Memorandum of Agreement signed
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Bagpat	Formal proposal is awaited from State Government
20.	Uttarakhand	Rudraprayag	Memorandum of Agreement signed
21.	West Bengal	Darjeeling	"In-principle" approval accorded.

[English]

Setting Up of Central Sector Project Coordination Committee

5369. SHRI ANOOP MISHRA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed all States to set up a Central Sector Project Coordination Committee (CSPCC) to facilitate seamless implementation of central projects and if so, the details thereof along with the composition of such committee;

(b) the details of States that are yet to set up such committees;

(c) whether such committees have been asked to conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of central projects and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of States that are found to be repeatedly incurring time and cost overruns and engaged in under utilisation of funds?

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) Yes, Madam. The Ministry had requested all States/UTs in February 2011 to constitute Central Sector Project Coordination Committees (CSPCCs) to monitor Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 150 crore and above. CSPCCs are constituted

under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, with Principal Secretary (Planning) of the State/UT as the Member Secretary, and with representatives from the Central Project Authorities working in the State, a representative from this Ministry and representatives from the concerned State Government Departments/Agencies.

(b) and (c) CSPCCs have been formed in 27 States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, NCT of Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

9 States/UTs, namely, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Telangana and West Bengal have not constituted the CSPCCs so far as per current information.

The objective of CSPCCs is to sort out bottlenecks for the timely implementation of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects, and to mitigate time and cost overruns in implementation.

(d) Central Sector Infrastructure Projects are implemented by the concerned central Ministries/Organisations. Some Central Sector Infrastructure Projects fall in more than one State (multi-State Projects). Sector-wise and State-wise details of the Central Sector Infrastructure Projects showing time

overruns, cost overruns and both time and cost overruns with respect to the original project implementation schedules are available in flash report at www.cspm.gov.in/publications.

Decline in Passenger and Freight Business

5370. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is facing stiff competition from road transport and thus its share in passenger and goods traffic is declining;

(b) if so, the percentage of share in passenger and freight transport of railways in the country;

(c) whether the competition with road transport is growing in intensity, both in passenger and in goods transport and the lack of coordination between railways and road transport has lowered the earning capacity of the railways and if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether people are moving away from railways on long distance routes and in local routes, metros and buses are giving stiff competition due to their superior comfort and speed causing massive losses and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has sketched any plan to find out the responsible causes for declining passenger share of railways and to attract more passenger and freight business for the railways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) The total transport system study carried out by RITES for the erstwhile Planning Commission in 2010 had estimated that Railways' share in the inter-regional freight traffic came down from 89% in 1951 to 30% in 2007-08. In passenger traffic also, road was the dominant mode, although precise modal shares were not indicated. The primary reason for decline of Railways' share is capacity constraints due to accumulated backlog in

investment in capacity. Capacity bottlenecks have resulted in non-realization of the maximum potential of Railways as well as deterioration in punctuality and transit times of railway traffic.

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. Capital expenditure in Railways' capacity enhancement has been greatly scaled up over the last four years. Average Capital Expenditure between 2014-15 and 2017-18 (RE) is Rs. 95132.22 Cr. compared to Rs. 45979.66 Cr. over 2009-10 to 2013-14. Other measures to attract and increase Railway traffic includes:

Freight Segment:

- (i) Liberalised Automatic Freight Rebate scheme for traffic loaded in empty flow direction, Long Term Tariff Contracts (LTTC) with key freight customers, Station to Station rates (STS), withdrawal of Dual freight policy for Iron Ore, Discount on loading of bagged consignment in open and flat wagons, Rationalisation of Coal Tariff, withdrawal of Port Congestion Charge, Rationalisation of Merry-Go-Round (MGR) system, Re-introduction of Short Lead Concession and reduction of minimum distance for charge from 125 km to 100 km, Distance increased for mini rake from 400 km to 600 km, Proliferation of Roll-on Roll-off (RORO) services, de-notification of 44 additional commodities for charging at FAK rates, withdrawal of congestion charge for stone traffic transported from Eastern Railway to Bangladesh via Darsana/ Benapole.
- (ii) To increase rail traffic, Indian Railways have introduced various schemes like Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme, Wagon Leasing Scheme, Special Freight Train Operators Scheme (SFTO), Automobile Freight Train Operator Scheme (AFTO), development of Private Freight Terminals (PFT).
- (iii) Time-tabled trains for running of automobiles rakes with a view to provide time-bound delivery of the automobiles traffic, time-table for each circuit has been chalked out and circulated to the zonal railways with advice to run the auto rake as per scheduled timetable.

- (iv) Use of extensive computerization in freight operation to improve monitoring and to improve utilization of assets, Deployment of higher capacity locomotives and higher capacity wagons, Improvement in maintenance practices of wagons and locomotives resulting in increased availability of rolling stock for traffic, Improvement in track and signaling to carry the higher volume of traffic, Training staff and officers to adopt the new technology and management practices.
- (v) Two Dedicated Freight Corridors (Western & Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridors) have been taken up to create adequate capacity, which is essential requirement to cater the traffic demand and improve quality of service.
- (vi) Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed rail corridor has been taken up with assistance of Government of Japan to usher in high speed rail travel in country.

Passenger Segment:

- (i) Augmentation of on-board capacity by attachment of additional coaches, running of special trains during festivals and holidays, running of Suvidha trains etc.
- (ii) Organising intensive ticket checking drives including fortress checks etc.
- iii. Augmentation of ticket selling capacity through operation of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM), ticket booking through mobile phones, utilizing the services of ticketing agents like Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBS), Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA), Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) etc.
- iv. Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) known as VIKALP has been introduced to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and also to ensure optimal utilization of available accommodation.
- (v) The number of RAC berths has been increased to provide additional accommodation to the passengers.

- (vi) provision has been made in the Computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) to transfer vacant available accommodation after preparation of second reservation chart to next remote location to enable optimum utilization of available accommodation.

National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board

5371. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH

SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes started by the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) and the achievements made during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, programme-wise;

(b) the details of the agencies working under the NSTEDB;

(c) the details of the efforts made in entrepreneurship/startups and the financial assistance given to various entities during the above period;

(d) the details of the people registered and successfully trained by the NSTEDB during the above period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for efficient functioning of NSTEDB?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The programmes initiated by National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) aim to nurture innovation and

technology led entrepreneurship , which also creates new avenues for wealth and job generation. In line with the PM's vision on Innovation and Start-up India, National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) programme has been initiated in 2016-17, which aims to convert knowledge-based and technology-driven innovative ideas into successful startups. Under NIDHI, different programs range from providing fellowships to the students opting for entrepreneurship through Entrepreneurship In residence (EIR) Program, Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring Technology Entrepreneurs

(PRAYAS) program by providing financial support for converting ideas into prototypes, availability of seed support to incubating ventures, providing mentoring and investment readiness support through accelerators, and creating world class infrastructure for incubating startups through Technology Business Incubators(TBIs) and Centres of Excellence (CoE). Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centers(IEDC) are also being promoted at institutions to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship amongst students. The details of programme wise, statewide and yearwise achievements are given below:

S. No.	Name of the programme	Quantitative Achievements			
		2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1.	Technology Business Incubator (TBI)	9 TBI established	11 TBI established	19 TBI established	8 TBI established
2.	Centre of Excellence (CoE)	-	-	-	4 CoE established
3.	Seed support to incubators	1 TBI supported	5 TBI supported	6 TBI supported	9 TBI supported
4.	Accelerator	-	-	-	5 Accelerators programs supported
5.	PRAYAS	-	-	-	10 PRAYAS Centers
6.	EIR	-	-	-	10 EIR for 100 EIR Fellowships
7.	IEDC	11	8	16	14

Table 1: Details of programme wise and yearwise achievements

The list of cumulative projects programme wise and statewide is given below.

S. No.	State /UT	TBI	CoE	Seed Support	Accelerator	PRAYAS	EIR	IEDC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3					-	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh							-
3.	Assam							1
4.	Bihar							-
5.	Delhi	2		1				
6.	Goa	1						-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Gujarat	8	1	4	2	2	2	1
8.	Haryana							1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1						1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir –	1		1				1
11.	Karnataka	6		2			1	3
12.	Kerala	3		2			1	2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1						13
14.	Maharashtra	4	1	3	1	3	2	3
15.	Manipur							
16.	Meghalaya							1
17.	Mizoram	1						-
18.	Nagaland							-
19.	Odisha	1	1	2		1	1	3
20.	Punjab	2						1
21.	Rajasthan	3						1
22.	Sikkim							-
23.	Tamil Nadu	7	2	3		2	1	12
24.	Tripura							
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1				1	2	6
26.	West Bengal	1		1	1			1
27.	Chhattisgarh							
28.	Uttarakhand	2						
29.	Jharkhand							
30.	Telangana	4		2	1	1		1

Table 2: Details of projects sanctioned Statewise and programme wise

(b) The details of various agencies working under NSTEDB as program management agencies are:

- Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India
P.O. Bhat, Dist. Gandhiagar 382 428 Gujarat

- Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
3rd Floor CSRE Building, IIT Bombay Campus,
Powai -400 076 bay
- Entrepreneurship Development Center (Venture Center)
Venture Center
100, NCL Innovation Park Dr. Homi Bhabha
Road Pune -411008

(c) The programs developed under NIDHI addresses various gaps in innovation led entrepreneurship ecosystem specifically built around institutions of higher learning. New initiatives are being implemented to generate innovator's pipeline, empowering incubators with idea to prototype funding, seed support, mentorship support, fostering international linkages and supporting women entrepreneurs etc.

The total financial assistance given to various entities (which includes technical Institutes like NITs, IITs, Public and Private universities, Engg. Colleges, Agriculture institutes, Management Institutes, Entrepreneurship Institutes, Technical Consultancy Organisations and NGOs) to implement various programs on innovation and entrepreneurship, during the last three and the current year is placed below:

F. Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Current F.Y.
Financial Assistance No.	Rs. 44.00 Cr.	Rs. 59.70 Cr.	Rs. 179.80 Cr	Rs. 190 Cr.

(d) The year-wise details of the people registered and successfully trained by the NSTEDB in the area of Science & Technology Entrepreneurship through various programs namely Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp (EAC): A 3 Days Program to sensitize and inculcate the seed of S&T entrepreneurship amongst youth, Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) (4 Weeks Program Capacity Building programme of potential entrepreneurs for setting up S&T based enterprises), Women Entrepreneurship Development

Programme (WEDP) (4 Week program to motivate and encourage potential women entrepreneurs, Technology based Entrepreneurship Development Programme (TEDP) 6 Week program for potential entrepreneurs having S&T background to promote technology led/R & D based enterprises. and Faculty Development Programme (FDP) (2 Week duration to train and enhance the supply of competent faculty/ resource persons for teaching and training entrepreneurship on PAN India basis) etc are given in the table 3

S. No	Name of Training Programme	F.Y 2014-15	F.Y 2015-16	F.Y 2016-17	F.Y 2017-18
1.	EAC	74267	93057	139352	149273
2.	EDP	1981	2695	5710	3753
3.	WEDP	1231	1652	3601	2748
4.	TEDP	2773	3141	6325	5505
5.	FDP	1948	1959	4266	3626

Table 3: Persons trained in various modules of training programs on S&T based Entrepreneurship

(e) For the efficient functioning of NSTEDB, the National Expert Advisory Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship set up by the Department monitors the major programs of NIDHI. Few other schemes of the Division are monitored by their respective Expert Advisory Committees having relevant external domain experts from various institutions and representation of the stakeholders. The entire programs of NSTEDB on S&T based entrepreneurship have also been recently

evaluated and approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee in March 2018. Periodically, the independent third party evaluation of the major programs are also carried out.

Cooperation Agreement with Morocco

5372. DR. KULAMANI SAMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into an agreement with the Moroccan National Railway Office (ONCF) to develop long term cooperation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A Cooperation Agreement was signed between Indian Railways and Moroccan National Railway Office (ONCF) on 14.12.2017 to develop long-term cooperation and joint partnership in different area of railway sector with focus on following areas:

- (i) Training and staff development;
- (ii) Expert missions, exchange of experience and personnel;
- (iii) Mutual technical assistance, including exchanging of experts.

Yoga Classes for Employees

5373. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conducts regular yoga classes for the Central Government employees and their families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred on yoga classes during each of the last three years; and

(d) whether the Government has any mechanism to assess the quality of yoga imparted by yoga teachers in the yoga centres 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) and (b) Yes Madam, Grih Kalyan Kendra has been organizing regular yoga training sessions w.e.f. 1.4.2015 for Central Government Employees and their families in its Samaj Sadans in Delhi and other cities. Yoga training is also being imparted in Moti Bagh-1 & CWG village in the space provided by these colonies. Besides, Yoga

Instructor has been provided by the GKK for conducting yoga training session for Government employees in ISTM office premises. Presently, GKK is organizing yoga classes at 39 locations at Delhi and outstations. A list of these yoga centres at Delhi/NCR and outstation is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Expenditure incurred on yoga classes during each of last three years are as follows:-

(i) 2014-15	Rs. 1,76,791/-
(ii) 2015-16	Rs. 1,94,11,327/-
(iii) 2016-17	Rs. 2,08,52,042/-

The item wise breakup of the expenditure is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Yes Madam, Yoga in the GKK Yoga Centres is imparted by qualified Yoga Teachers engaged on the recommendations of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY). Quality of yoga and other related issues are monitored by the Nodal Officers appointed by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) from among the Central Govt. officers residing in the respective residential colonies. A list of Nodal Officer is given in the enclosed Statement-III. Further progress of yoga is reviewed from time to time by holding meetings with all concerned including Yoga Teachers and Nodal Officers. Feedbacks are also obtained from the yoga Sadhaks about the quality of yoga imparted by yoga teachers. A sample feedback form is given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement – I

List of GKK Yoga Centre at Delhi/NCR and Outstation

S. No.	Name of Samaj Sadan
1.	Andrews Ganj, New Delhi
2.	Andrews Ganj Extension, New Delhi
3.	Asia House, New Delhi
4.	Bharti Nagar, New Delhi
5.	CWG Village (Only Morning), New Delhi
6.	Chanakya Puri, New Delhi
7.	Laxmi Bai Nagar, New Delhi

S. No.	Name of Samaj Sadan	S. No.	Name of Samaj Sadan
8.	Lodhi Colony, New Delhi	23.	R.K. Puram Sector-7, New Delhi
9.	Lodhi Road Complex , New Delhi	24.	Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi
10.	Moti Bagh-I (Only Morning) , New Delhi	25.	Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi
11.	New Moti Bagh (Only Morning), New Delhi	26.	Ghaziabad,
12.	Institute of Secretariat Training and Management, New Delhi	27.	Faridabad,
13.	Pandara Road (temporarily suspended due to renovation), New Delhi	28.	Chennai Anna Naur (Only Eventng),
14.	Peshwa Road , New Delhi	29.	Chennai Besant Nagar,
15.	Pragati Vihar Hostel , New Delhi	30.	Chennai Indira Nagar (Only Evening),
16.	Pushp Vihar, New Delhi	31.	Banglore Domlur,
17.	Raja Bazar, New Delhi	32.	Banglore Koramangla,
18.	R.K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi	33.	Dehradun Forest Research Institute,
19.	R.K. Puram Sector-1, New Delhi	34.	Dehradun Survey of India,
20.	R.K. Puram Sector-2, New Delhi	35.	Nagpur,
21.	R.K. Puram Sector-3, New Delhi	36.	Mumbai Ghatkper,
22.	R.K. Puram Sector-4. New Delhi	37.	Mumbai Antophill Sector-7,
		38.	Mumbai Antophill Sector-1,
		39.	Kolkata

Statement – II*Grih Kalyan Kendra (Accounts)**Statement Showing the Yoga Expenses Incurred During the Financial Year.*

S. No.	Particulars	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1.	Hon To Yoga Instructors	-----	1,05,31,320.00	1,23,51,079.00
2.	Rent to GKK for Yoga	-----	80,00,000.00	80,00,000.00
3.	Purchase of Yoga Mats Dillies etc.	1,76,791.00	8,80,007.00	5,00,963.00
	Total	176,791.00	1,94,11,327.00	2,08,52,042.00

Statement – III*List of Nodal Officers for Yoga Training Sessions at Grih Kalyan Kendras in Delhi*

S. No.	Name of GKK Sadan	Name of Nodal Officers	Contact Details
1.	Andrews Ganj Extn.	Shri Durga Prasad, Section Officer (AVD-II)	23040375(0), 9891919025
2.	Lodhi Road Complex	Ms. Kavita Vaibhav Padmanabhan	23092483(0) kavitha.padman@nic.in

S. No.	Name of GKK Sadan	Name of Nodal Officers	Contact Details
3.	Peshva Road	Shri Prakasham, US (RR)	23092561(0) 9818201372(r) prakasham.k@gov.in
4.	Sadiq Nagar	Shri Avinash Chandra, Under Secretary, DOPT	avinash.chandra@nic.in 9958703725
5.	Pushp vihar	Shri Subandhu Basu, Under Secretary, DOPT	Subandhu.basu@nic.in 23094195
6.	R.K. Puram Sector 4	Shri Rajender Singh, Sr. PPS to member (PESB)	Rajendra.singh@nic.in 9953198753
7.	R.K. Puram Sector - 7	Shri Raju Bagga. Section Officer. DOP'T	rbagga_6@yahoo.co.in 9968287639
8.	Raja Bazar, DIZ Area	Shri K.C. Raju, US (AVD 1)	Kc.raju@nic.in 011-23094799, 9868265202
9.	Andrews Ganj	Shri Sunil Kumar Mandi. US (RR &DC)	224651898(o) sunil.mandi@nic.in
10.	Laxmi bai Nagar	Shri D.K. Sengupta. Deputy Secretary, DOPT	usa@nic.in 9810491601
11.	Lodhi Colony	Shri Madan M. Mauraya, Under Secretary, DOPT	mmaurya@yahoo.com 9013352050
12.	R.K. Ashram Marg	Ms. Vasanthi V. Babu, SO (AIS)	Vasanthibabu30@gmail.com 011-23094824, 9899946230
13.	Bharti Nagar	Shri A. N. Narayan, Deputy Secretary, DOPT	an.narayanan@nic.in 011-26107960
14.	Chankaya Puri	Shri D.K. Sengupta, Deputy Secretary, DOPT	usa@nic.in 9810491601
15.	Moti Bagh	Shri Anil Tripathi, Under Secretary, DOPT	aniltripathi@hotmail.com 9868332285
16.	Pandara Road	Shri Anand Upadhyay, US (AVD.IB)	
17.	R.K. Puram, Sector-1	Shri A.K. Jain, Deputy Secretary, DOPT	ashok.jain62@gov.in 9968271683
18.	R.K. Puram, Sector-2	Shri A.K. Jain, Deputy Secretary, DOPT	ashok.jain62@gov.in 9968271683
19.	R.K. Puram, Sector-3	Shri R.K. Venkatesan, Under Secretary, DOPT	venkatesan.n@nic.in 9968820985
20.	P.V. Hostal	Shri Debabrata Banerjee, US (CS.I)	
21.	Asia House	Shri Pradeep Kumar, SO, DOPT	

S. No.	Name of GKK Sadan	Name of Nodal Officers	Contact Details
22.	New Moti Bagh	Shri Anil Tripathi, Under Secretary, DOPT	aniltripathi@hotmail.com 9868332285
23.	Common Wealth Games Village	Shri N. Sriraman, Director, DOPT	nsriraman1958@yahoo.com 011-24625562

Statement – IV*Feedback of Yogo Sadhak*

1.	Name of the Yoga Sadhak	Manisha
2.	Address	F-11/2 Andrewganj, New Delhi - 110049
3.	Name of Samaj Sadan	Andrew Ganj
4.	Name of Yoga Trainer	Pratibha Sharma
5.	Name of Nodal Officer	

Please rate the following observations

Rating Key: 1 = unsatisfactory, 2 = fair, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent

S. No.	Description	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Cleanliness of Hall, where Yoga Session is being held					√
2.	Quality of Mats and Duries			√		
3.	Basic Facilities at Yoga Hall			√		
4.	Presence of Caretaker				√	
5.	Whether satisfied with Yoga Teacher				√	
	i. Punctuality					√
	ii. Attitude					√
	iii. Methodology				√	
	iv. Knowledge of Yoga					√
	v. Communication				√	
	vi. Time Management				√	
6.	Overall satisfaction of Yoga Training					√

Signature

Date

Through Nodal Officer

Signature

Nodal Officer

Chief Welfare Officer, DoP&T

Use of Latest Technology in Postal Services

5374. SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide postal services by using latest technology such as drones etc. for delivering mail and parcels to various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said technologies are 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) No Madam. No proposal to use drones for delivery of mail or parcels is under consideration of the Department at present. However, the Department has taken measures such as development of a smart phone based Postman Mobile Application through which, delivery information can be updated on a real time basis and electronic signature of customers can be obtained on the smart phone.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

FTA with US

5375. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government is planning a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India in an effort to boost two-way trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether both sides are planning to enhance military exchanges and greater defence deals under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) and (b) There is no proposal currently

under discussion with the US Government for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the US.

(c) and (d) Government of India and Government of United States of America have established the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) for co-development and co-production of unique and exceptional technologies of mutual interest. DTTI is chaired by Secretary of Defence Production from the Indian side and Under Secretary for Acquisition and Technology and Logistics in Department of Defence from the US side. The last meeting of DTTI was held in Washington DC from 15-16 September 2017.

On 26 September 2017, during the visit of Mr. James Mattis, Secretary of Defence of the United States, both sides agreed to refocus and re-energize the DTTI as a mechanism to promote technology sharing as well as codevelopment and co-production efforts.

Construction of Roads

5376. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the status of implementation of the construction of 73 India-China border roads along the Line of Actual Control;

(b) the reasons for the delay and the challenges faced in progress of the project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Government has identified 73 roads as strategic Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs), out of which 34 roads are completed and in the remaining 39 ICBRs, work is in progress.

(b) The reasons for the delay and challenges faced in execution of road projects are:

(i) Delay in Forest / Wildlife clearance

(ii) Hard rock stretches

(iii) Limited working season

(iv) Difficulties in availability of construction material

(v) Delay in land acquisition.

(c) The Government has taken following measures to expedite the construction of border roads:

- (i) States of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have constituted the Empowered Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to BRO.
- (ii) Outsourcing has been allowed to augment the capacity of BRO.
- (iii) Enhanced financial and administrative powers have been given to the executives of BRO.

Construction of PHWR

5377. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to construct ten indigenous pressurised heavy water nuclear reactors;

(b) if so, the details thereof including total capacity of the said reactors;

(c) the separate details of operational and under construction nuclear power plants in the country;

(d) the details of places selected for the proposed plants; and

(e) whether the design and development of this project is a testament to the rapid advances made by the country's nuclear scientific community and industry 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) Four indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) each of 700 MW capacity are under construction at Kakrapara in Gujarat and Rawatbhata in

Rajasthan. In addition to this, the Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction in June 2017 for setting up ten indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) in Fleet Mode with a total capacity of 7000 MW (10 x 700MW) and also accorded sanction for construction of Kudankulam Units 5&6 (2x1000 MW) in cooperation with Russian Federation at the existing site of Kudankulam.

(c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The details of locations of the ten PHWRs are as follows:

Project	Location & State	Capacity (MW)
Chutka-1&2	Chutka, Madhya Pradesh	2 X 700
Kaiga-5&6	Kaiga, Karnataka	2 X 700
Mahi Banswara-1 & 2	Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan	2 X 700
GHAVP- 3 & 4	Gorakhpur, Haryana	2 X 700
Mahi Banswara-3&4	Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan	2 X 700

(e) Yes, Madam. India has achieved comprehensive capabilities in all aspects of commercial nuclear power reactor technologies of indigenous PHWRs including associated fuel cycles.

Statement

Nuclear Power Reactors in Operation

State	Location	Unit	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Tarapur	TAPS-1	160
		TAPS-2	160
		TAPS-3	540
		TAPS-4	540

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	Rawatbhata	RAPS-1 [@]	100
		RAPS-2	200
		RAPS-3	220
		RAPS-4	220
		RAPS-5	220
		RAPS-6	220
Tamil Nadu	Kalpakkam	MAPS-1	220
		MAPS-2	220
	Kudankulam	KKNPP-1	1000
		KKNPP-2	1000
Uttar Pradesh	Narora	NAPS-1	220
		NAPS-2	220
Gujarat	Kakrapar	KAPS-1 [§]	220
		KAPS-2 [§]	220
Karnataka	Kaiga	KGS-1	220
		KGS-2	220
		KGS-3	220
		KGS-4	220

[@] RAPS-1 is under extended shutdown for techno-economic assessment

[§] KAPS-1&2 units are under long shutdown for Enmasse Coolant Channel Replacement (EMCCR) and Enmasse Feeder Replacement (EMFR)

Nuclear Power Projects under Construction

Project	Location & State	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
KAPP-3&4	Kakrapar, Gujarat	2 x 700
RAPP-7&8	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	2 X 700
KKNPP-3&4	Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu	2 X 1000
GHAVP-1&2*	Gorakhpur, Haryana	2 X 700

1	2	3
PFBR [#]	Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu	1 X 500

*Work commenced, excavation to start soon

[#] Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) being implemented by BHAVINI

Uniform Civil Code

5378. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps in the direction of introducing uniform civil code in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has consulted various stakeholders in the country in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Law Commission has submitted any report to the Government regarding introduction of Uniform Civil Code in the country; and

(e) 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) Article 44 of Constitution provides that State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. In view of the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, and the matter requiring in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities, the Government has requested the Law Commission of India to undertake examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and to make recommendations thereon.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Rail Line Between Fatehpur-Satna

5379. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted for laying a new railway line to connect Fatehpur-Khed-Artara-Naini-Kajinar with Satna which falls under parliamentary constituency of MP; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No such survey has been conducted.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Corrupt Practices

5380. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:

DR. RATNA DE (NAG):

DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA:

SHRI HARI OM PANDAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the unethical and corrupt practices of top officials of Lucknow division regarding employee harassment, threatening to spoil the career and malafide demands from time to time;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has got the matter investigated departmentally or proposes to refer it to vigilance, ED or CBI with a view to curbing corrupt practices of officials of above railway division and punish them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Indian Railways have been proactive in dealing with unethical

and corrupt practices of Railway official(s) and in taking action under the relevant Rules. Whenever any report/complaint of unethical and corrupt practice, employee harassment, threats, malafide demands etc. is received, the matter is examined as per the laid down procedures. Based on outcome of investigation, appropriate action is taken against the official(s) concerned, whenever required, under the extant provisions.

A total of seven such complaints (six pertaining to Lucknow Division of Northern Railway and one pertaining to Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway) were received by the Railway administration during the last three years. Out of these complaints, one complaint having verifiable facts has been taken up by the Railway Vigilance for investigation and the concerned officer has been transferred from Lucknow. The remaining complaints have either been forwarded to concerned administrative authority for necessary action or disposed in accordance with laid down guidelines.

Corruption Charges

5381. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases that have been registered by the Government against top officials on the disproportionate assets and income during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last three years, corruption cases against the senior ranking officials have increased;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard and the status of the cases, case-wise;

(d) whether the Government has detected benami property possessed by the corrupt officers at present;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total value of benami property possessed by the corrupt officers that has been detected during the last three years; and

(f) 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) No such consolidated data is maintained by this Department for the number of cases pertaining to charges of disproportionate assets against top officials of the entire Government of India. However, as per available information, sanction for prosecution on the specific charge of disproportionate assets has been issued against 01 Indian Administrative Service officer in the last three years.

Prosecution Sanction under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has been issued against 03 Indian Police Service officers in the last three years.

(b) and (c) As per information received from the Central Vigilance Commission, the number of complaints against officers including senior ranking officials received and disposed of by the Commission during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Complaints received	Complaints disposed of
2015	32149	30789
2016	51207	48764
2017	26052	22386

Additionally, the number of first/second stage advisories issued by the Commission during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Request for advice received	Requests disposed of
2015	6106	4604
2016	5482	3804
2017	4812	3425

(d) to (f) Data specific to detection and value of Benami Property possessed by corrupt officers is not maintained centrally by this Department.

[Translation]

Bulk Booking in Tatkal

5382. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seats in trains get sold in minutes due to simultaneous booking of tatkal tickets in railway;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken cognizance of the said situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) On Indian Railways, reserved accommodation including Tatkal accommodation can be booked through computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters as well as through internet on first come first served basis. During peak rush periods/days when demand outstrips the availability, reserved accommodation especially in higher classes and on popular routes gets exhausted within short duration of opening of reservation. However, during lean periods, on non-popular routes and in lower classes, the accommodation remains available for longer duration. The phenomenon is more relevant for Tatkal where limited accommodation is earmarked. This happens as the available limited accommodation is accessed simultaneously through more than 10,300 counters at 3465 computerised Passenger Reservation Centers as well as through internet.

Some instances of inconvenience caused to the passengers while booking tatkal tickets also come to notice due to transaction failure while booking or while making the payment through internet. Transactions failures generally occur due to network problem on the users part or on account of payment gateway. As far as server of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is concerned, it has the capacity of 20000 bookings per minute which is sufficient to handle the present load. However, anticipating more number of tickets booking through internet in future, 5 new Itanium Servers have been installed to enhance ticketing capacity.

Some instances of unscrupulous elements involved in malpractices in selling of reserved tickets including tatkal tickets are also reported to avoid misuse of Tatkal Scheme there are some inbuilt features in Tatkal scheme which includes provision of not granting refund on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets except in case of certain special circumstances indicated in the scheme, not allowing any modification of Tatkal ticket, etc. Some additional steps have also been taken to facilitate the passengers and to avoid the misuse, some of which are:-

- (i) Staggering of the timings of reservation under Tatkal scheme.
- (ii) Disabling authorised agents to book Tatkal tickets during first half an hour of opening of reservation.
- (iii) During the journey, one of the passengers booked on that ticket is required to produce any one of the prescribed proof of identity, failing which all the passengers booked on that ticket are considered as travelling without ticket and charged accordingly.
- (iv) Captcha implementation in Registration, Login and Booking page to check fraudulent booking through automation software.
- (v) Imposition of minimum time limit before proceeding for payment gateway as well as after making payment while booking tickets through internet.
- (vi) Making OTP(one time password) compulsory for all net Banking Payment options.

To keep a check on the activities of unscrupulous elements involved in malpractices in reservation, preventive as well as regular checks are conducted jointly/individually by Vigilance, Security and Commercial Departments, and the action against the culprits is taken as per provisions of Railways Act, 1989.

[English]

Defence Manufacturing Unit

5383. SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new defence manufacturing unit is proposed to be set up in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the location identified for the purpose and the area proposed to be acquired;

(c) whether the proposed project would be in public, private or Public Private Partnership mode; and

(d) the details as to the cost of the project, its share holdings and other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Following manufacturing / overhaul projects of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are coming up in the country including Karnataka.

- (i) The foundation stone of a green field helicopter manufacturing facility has been laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 3'd January, 2016. The facility will function as an independent Division of HAL at Biderehalla Kaval, Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District, Karnataka. The Karnataka Government has allocated 610 acres of land for the project. The new facility of Tumakuru would be selfcontained for production and maintenance of LUHs, with future expansion for production of other Helicopters. The cost of project to cover initial setting up of the facilities is expected to be around 2000 Crores.
- (ii) Indo Russian Helicopter Pvt. Ltd. (IRHL) has been incorporated as Joint Venture (JV) cum subsidiary in May 2017 between HAL, Russian Helicopters and Rosoboronexport, with the objective to manufacture Ka-226T helicopters in India. The authorised capital of the JV is Rs.30 crores and paid up capital is Rs.10 crores. The JV has 50.5% shareholding by HAL, 42.5% by Russian Helicopters and 7% by Rosoboronexport. The facility for Ka-226T helicopters is proposed to be co-located at the helicopter manufacturing facilities coming up at Tumakuru.
- (iii) Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt. Ltd. has been incorporated as Joint Venture in August 2016 between HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines,

France with an objective to provide complete maintenance support for the Shakti and TM3332B2 engines fitted on Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) produced by HAL and operated by Defence Services. The authorised capital of the JV is Rs.50 crores. The JV has 50% shareholding by HAL and 50% by Safran Helicopter Engines. The JV has planned to set up its facilities at Goa.

Illegal Mining of Coal

5384. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any investigation relating to theft, blackmarketing, illegal mining and haulage of coal during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons, year, State and company-wise; and

(c) the quantum of coal in tonnes seized by the crime branch so far and the State-wise details of such coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Theft, black-marketing, illegal mining and haulage of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. With regard to quantum of coal stolen, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of theft / pilferage and illegal mining of coal. Illegal mining of coal is reported to be carried out mainly from abandoned mines, shallow coal seams situated at remote/isolated places from the mines and are scattered over a large area. As per information received from Coal India Ltd., the quantity of coal recovered in raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the State Government concerned, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value [Subsidiary-wise and State-wise] during the last three years are as under :-

Company	State	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Quantity Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Quantity Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Quantity Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	West Bengal	2229.60	44.64	4993.27	249.67	7804.76	390.23
	Jharkhand	2188.72	43.79	2645.78	132.32	3500.66	175.03
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Jharkhand	13812.17	585.04	12071.40	529.67	12718.85	549.60
	West Bengal	179.46	7.54	445.84	20.54	810.44	33.60
Central Coalfields Ltd.	Jharkhand	940.00	24.37	99.00	1.05	147.00	1.47
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.04
Western Coalfields Ltd.	Maharashtra	133.36	2.79	53.00	1.12	225.15	5.42
	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	3.00	0.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	49.53	1.95	0.00	0.000	3.50	0.14
	Chattisgarh	3.00	0.12	57.50	2.11	25.00	1.50
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	Odisha	74.30	0.72	63.10	0.63	57.80	0.38
North-Eastern Coalfields	Assam	13.03	0.62	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
Coal India Ltd.	19623.16	711.57	20428.89	937.11	25296.16	1157.56	

ILLEGAL MINING OF COAL SUBSIDIARY-WISE AND STATE-WISE

Company	State	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
		Quantity Recovered (tonne)	Approx. Value (Rs. in Lakh)	Quantity Recovered (tonne)	Approx. Value (Rs. in Lakh)	Quantity Recovered (tonne)	Approx. Value (Rs. in Lakh)
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	West Bengal	34.75	0.69	0.00	0.00	973.90	48.69
	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	110.77	5.54	285.50	13.60
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Central Coalfields Ltd.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Uttar Pradesh	139.00	1.55	2.00	0.02	33.00	0.33
Western Coalfields Ltd.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Chattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	Odisha	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North-Eastern Coalfields	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coal India Ltd.		173.75	2.24	112.77	5.56	1292.40	62.62

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 illegal mining / theft / pilferage of coal. The coal companies are working in close coordination with the State/local administration. The Management of subsidiary companies lodges FIR with local Thana to take necessary action.

Attack on RTI activists

5385. SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is collecting statistics about cases of attack on Whistleblowers and RTI activists across the country;

(b) if so, the yearly details of attacks in each State and Union territory, from 2015 onwards;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent such attacks and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government is issuing an advisory to offer better protection to the above categories of persons and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of cases in which FIRs have been registered, charge sheets filed, trials or convictions/acquittals from 2015 onwards?

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 (e) There were some media reports that some persons have been assaulted, missing and killed allegedly due to their role as RTI activists.

Maintenance of law and order and providing safety and security for all citizens is primarily the subject matter of State Government concerned.

There is no need for a separate policy to deal with such cases as the framework of existing laws such as

Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code etc. is considered adequate to provide for safety and security to all citizens, including RTI activists.

Government of India had drawn the attention of State Governments to the reports appearing in the media about the victimization of people, who use RTI to expose corruption and irregularities in administration.

[Translation]

Participation of Muslim Women

5386. SHRI RAJU SHETTY : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking steps to ensure participation of Muslim women in the development process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures being taken in this direction during the ongoing five year plan across the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the road map prepared for development of Muslim population in Muslim dominated areas of the country during the ongoing five year plan?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented three specific schemes in all states/UTs including Maharashtra which are exclusively for women/girls from the six centrally notified minorities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. These schemes are as follows:

- (i) Nai-Roshni -For leadership development of minority women belonging to notified minority communities. The scheme aims to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tool and techniques for interacting with Government system and others at all levels. The scheme is implemented through selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) all over the country.
- (ii) Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls – The Scheme provides scholarships to meritorious girls studying from

class IX to XII belonging to minorities. The scheme is implemented through Maulana Azad Education Foundation.

- (iii) Mahila Samridhi Yojana – The scheme is implemented through National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) wherein skill development training is imparted to group of women in women friendly trades. Training period is of maximum six months and raw material cost of upto Rs.1,500/-per trainee and stipend @ Rs.1000/-per trainee is provided. During the period of training, women are formed into Self Help Group, followed by infusion of micro-credit maximum upto Rs.1.00 lacs per member for the purpose of using the skill developed during the training, for income generation activities.

Besides, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has also implemented the following schemes/programmes for educational empowerment of the minority community from the six centrally notified minorities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains with separate earmarking of targets for women/girls:

- (1) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- (2) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- (3) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme
- (4) Maulana Azad National Fellowship
- (5) Free coaching and Allied Scheme
- (6) Nai Manzil -Integrated education and livelihood initiative for minority communities.
- (7) Padho Pardes -Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies.
- (8) Nai Udaan -Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC).

At least 30% of the targets under the schemes at S.No. 1 to 7 above are earmarked for girl students. The aforesaid schemes have been implemented for the minority community in all the states/UTs including Maharashtra.

Details of all the above schemes are available on the websites of this Ministry (www.minorityaffairs.gov.in), Maulana Azad Education Foundation (www.maef.nic.in) and NMDFC (www.nmdfc.org).

[English]

Watch Over Indian Ocean

5387. DR. K. GOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy has decided to increase watch over Indian Ocean and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether of late, China has increased its presence in the Indian Ocean in the name of anti piracy operations;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether atleast 12-15 major warships are on round the clock surveillance of critical choke points in the Indian Ocean Region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) The geo-strategic importance of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has seen a gradual increase in the recent past. Indian Navy closely monitors the maritime areas of our interest and regularly deploys ships for Presence and Surveillance Missions (PSM), off critical choke points I sea lanes in the IOR.

Atomic Clock

5388. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will soon launch a replacement navigation satellite fitted with corrected atomic clocks to make up for the crippled satellite IRNSS-1A and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the move became imperative after all three rubidium atomic clocks on IRNSS-1A failed in mid 2016 and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the clocks for ISRO's NavIC and the European Space Agency's first 18 Galileo satellites came from the same Swiss company and had developed similar problems around the same time; 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) Yes Madam. A navigation satellite, IRNSS-1I is scheduled for launch using PSLV launch vehicle in April 2018.

(b) Atomic clock of IRNSS-1A has become non-functional, but the satellite is being used for providing messaging services like disaster alerts, potential fishing zones information dissemination to fishermen, etc. IRNSS-1I will be added to NavIC constellation for providing intended navigation services.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) The atomic clocks used in NavIC and Galileo satellites are manufactured by M/s SpectraTime, Switzerland. Some of these clocks have failed in NavIC and Galileo. The reason for the failures has been analyzed and understood and the corrective actions have accordingly been taken on remaining clocks for upcoming satellites including IRNSS-1I.

Leakage of Examination Papers

5389. SHRI OM BIRLA:

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of examination paper leaks associated with various Government examinations during the current year and the past three years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that the examination papers are secured and

future incidents of paper leaking do not occur and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has handed over the investigation of the present incident of paper leak in the SSC exam to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has initiated the process for reconduction of SSC examination as soon as possible and if so, the details along with the time period within which such examination is proposed to be reconducted?

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) Centralised data with regard to the incidents of paper leaks associated with various Government examinations is not maintained. However, there have been some incidents of reported leakage of question papers in recruitment examinations which have attended by cancellation of said examination and re-conduct thereof. To avoid any untoward incident in the conduct of recruitment examinations, the Government Recruitment Agencies have taken various steps including the following:

- (i) Conduct of examinations on Computer based mode for securing the examination paper and avoiding incidents of paper leakage.
- (ii) Deployment of low powered jammers in the examination venues to block CDMA, GSM, 3G, 4G, Wi-fi and Bluetooth devices.
- (iii) CERT-IN certification for examination process and use of CCTV cameras.

(c) and (d) There was no leakage of question papers in the Combined Graduate Level (CGL) Examination, 2017. In view of some sporadic incidents of alleged cheating by some candidates at a few venues and subsequent agitation by a section of the candidates, SSC in order to reiterate and reaffirm the

faith of the candidates in the examination process recommended for an impartial enquiry by CBI. Accepting the recommendation of the SSC, Government has referred the matter to CBI for a free and fair enquiry. CBI has registered a Preliminary Enquiry case on 08.03.2018.

The said examination has not been cancelled, therefore, question of re-conduct does not arise.

Underground Coal Mining

5390. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether underground coal mines in various parts of the country are being stowed by sand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the methods of sand stowing adopted and the cost incurred;

(c) whether due to non-availability of sand, other materials are stowed in underground mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As per directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), in the stowing method of coal extraction, underground coal mines are stowed by sand.

(b) Sand is stowed in the voids of the underground coal mines by hydraulic means, wherein sand-water slurry is transported underground through pipeline by gravity.

Details of the coal mines stowed and cost incurred by various coal companies during 2016-17 are as follows:

S. No.	Name of Coal Company	No. of stowing mines	Cost incurred (in Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	ECL	34	107.96
2.	BCCL	5	2.08
3.	CCL	5	1.53
4.	WCL	12	26.99

1	2	3	4
6.	SCCL	20	129.35
7.	SAIL	3	5.41
8.	TSL (Tata Steel Limited)	5	16.75

(c) and (d) Due to scarcity of sand, various experimental trials have been conducted to use other materials like fly ash, boiler ash, crushed overburden material etc. for stowing in underground mines as a substitute for sand. Currently, crushed overburden material is used for stowing purposes in the underground coal mines where sand is not available in the near vicinity of the mine or it is costlier to transport sand from the distant river sources.

Un Peacekeeping Missions

5391. SHRI AT. NANAPATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether equipment deficiency and shortfall has been pointed out for the Indian troops deployed as part of UN Peacekeeping Missions in Congo and South Sudan;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in the matter in order to get smooth reimbursement from UN for India's contribution to peacekeeping missions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Presently a shortfall of some equipments exist in both the mission areas. This is primarily owing to following reasons:

- (i) Involvement of multiple intercontinental agencies and governments.
- (ii) Frequent changes in Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by United Nations.
- (iii) Remote and under developed terrain in mission areas lends little availability of local resources for quick mission area procurement.

The corrective steps taken by Government are as under:-

- (i) Policy on procurement of major equipment in mission area enunciated in January 2017.
- (ii) Spare brick maintained at Mission areas.
- (iii) 10% additional equipment deployed in Mission Area (replenished periodically)
- (iv) Schedule 25 introduced in DFPDS 16 - Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) has been delegated financial powers.
- (v) Periodic air transportation of ammunition to mission area vide air cargo.
- (vi) Enhanced powers of contingent Commanders to procure minor equipment including spares in the mission area.

[Translation]

Permission for Departmental Proceedings

5392. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed that the permission from the Hon'ble Governor for any departmental proceedings is not necessary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases which were lying pending for departmental proceedings before this decision, State-wise;

(d) the number of cases on which departmental proceedings have been initiated after the said court order, State-wise; and

(e) the outcome of the said proceedings?

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. So far, the Central Government has not come across any such direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court that the permission from the Hon'ble Governor for any departmental proceedings is not necessary.

(b) to (e) In view of reply to (a) above does not arise

[English]

Lack of Infrastructure in Post Offices

5393. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that many post offices in the country are functioning without adequate infrastructure like furniture and office set up including Thanjavur Head Post Office;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide adequate furniture to post offices and to make post office buildings friendly to Senior Citizens/pensioners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government 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) and (b) As per information available with the Government, all the Post Offices including Thanjavur Post Office are equipped with adequate infrastructure.

(c) and (d) The supply of furniture is an ongoing process of maintenance and upkeep and is being done depending upon the requirements of different Post Offices. The Department is committed to make Post Office buildings friendly for senior citizens/pensioners. All Departmental Buildings are being made accessible/friendly for physically challenged persons/ Sr. Citizens. Ramps have already been provided for convenience of senior citizens/pensioners in many Post Offices. Necessary arrangements like separate queues and sitting arrangements for convenience of pensioners/ senior citizens are being made in Post Offices.

Mobile Connectivity in Villages of Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh

5394. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages in the States of Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh do not have mobile connectivity;

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

(c) the time by which these villages are likely to be covered with mobile connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):

(a) and (b) According to data collected from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in 2014, it is estimated that there are 266 villages out of 97814 villages in Uttar Pradesh, and 5949 villages out of 29492 villages in Jharkhand (as per census 2011 data) that do not have mobile services. The District-wise list of uncovered villages is given in the enclosed Statement. District-wise list of uncovered villages is being updated on completion of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Phase-I project. Some rural and remote areas of the country do not have mobile services due to commercial non viability, difficult geographical terrain, law and order issues, etc.

(c) Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is likely to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. At present, the Department has a proposal for installing 179 mobile towers in Uttar Pradesh and 1054 mobile towers in Jharkhand in LWE Phase-II project.

Statement

List of Uncovered Villages in Uttar Pradesh

State	District	Number of villages
1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	Saharanpur	5
	Muzaffarnagar	7

1	2	3
	Bijnor	8
	Moradabad	5
	Rampur	2
	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	1
	Meerut	4
	Ghaziabad	14
	Gautam Buddha Nagar	7
	Bulandshahr	4
	Aligarh	12
	Mahamaya Nagar	3
	Mathura	8
	Agra	13
	Firozabad	3
	Bareilly	10
	Pilibhit	2
	Kheri	4
	Sitapur	1
	Unnao	3
	Lucknow	2
	Farrukhabad	2
	Auraiya	2
	Kanpur Dehat	3
	Kanpur Nagar	4
	Jhansi	3
	Lalitpur	2
	Chitrakoot	1
	Pratapgarh	2
	Kaushambi	2
	Allahabad	14
	Bara Banki	3
	Faizabad	3

1	2	3
	Ambedkar Nagar	2
	Sultanpur	5
	Bahraich	1
	Balrampur	2
	Gonda	3
	Siddharthnagar	2
	Sant Kabir Nagar	2
	Mahrajganj	1
	Gorakhpur	6
	Kushinagar	1
	Azamgarh	8
	Mau	7
	Ballia	2
	Jaunpur	5
	Chandauli	6
	Varanasi	34
	Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi)	4
	Mirzapur	6
	Sonbhadra	8
	Etah	1
	Kanshiram Nagar	1
Total		266

List of Uncovered Villages in Jharkhand

State	Name of District	Number of Villages
1	2	3
Jharkhand	Garhwa	169
	Chatra	462
	Kodarma	71
	Giridih	234

1	2	3
	Deoghar	121
	Godda	260
	Sahibganj	350
	Pakur	299
	Dhanbad	27
	Bokaro	59
	Lohardaga	97
	Purbi Singhbhum	244
	Palamu	365
	Latehar	391
	Hazaribagh	124
	Ramgarh	31
	Dumka	554
	Jamtara	174
	Ranchi	95
	Khunti	280
	Gumla	356
	Simdega	244
	Pashchimi Singhbhum	616
	Saraikela-Kharsawan	326
Total		5949

Portal for Digital Infrastructure

5395. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Will the Minister of STATE ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a new portal for enhancing the Digital Infrastructure in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):

(a) and (b) Madam, presently there is no proposal to launch a new portal for enhancing the Digital Infrastructure in the country.

MoU Proposal to OFB

5396. SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:

SHRI P.R. SENTHIL NATHAN:

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE with reference to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 169 dated 07.03.2018 be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had returned the MoU proposal to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in July 2017 since it was found deficient in terms of procedure followed;

(b) if so, the motive behind conducting Company Verification on 2 August 2017 through the Indian Defence Attache at Grand Power Banska Bystrica Facility;

(c) whether this visit of Indian Defence Attache was suppressed in reply to the Starred Question Nos.26 and 78 in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha respectively;

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

(e) whether the Government has probed this issue and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) proposal forwarded by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) was returned in July 2017 as it was found deficient in terms of procedure followed.

(b) Defence Attache (DA), Prague informed that the company evaluation/verification of Grand Power, Slovakia was carried out on 2nd August 2017 based on the request of Ministry of Home Affairs through Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) to (e) No Madam, reply to the Starred question No. 26 & 78 in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha was given on the report of DA, Prague that no company

verification was carried out on the request of Ministry of Defence/Ordnance Factory Board/Defence Public Sector Undertakings. On further enquiry, based on the letter of the Hon'ble MP regarding the reply made to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 26 dated 5th February 2018, it has been informed by the Indian Embassy that the Defence Attache, Embassy of India, Prague visited the firm Mis Grand Power, Slovakia on 2nd August 2017 for evaluation I verification of the credentials of the firm based on the request from Ministry of Home Affairs through Ministry of External Affairs.

[Translation]

Mobile Towers in Rural Areas

5397. SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether digitally driven social activities, e-governance and opportunities for employment are increasing around those areas in villages where telecom towers have been installed;

(b) if so, the total number of villages in rural areas of the country where telecom towers have been installed, State/UT-wise and Telecom company-wise; and

(c) the number of such towers targeted for installation in rural areas in the coming financial year, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):

(a) Ministry of Communications is primarily engaged in enabling the provision of necessary infrastructure for providing Telecommunications services in the country. The social, economic or any other impact of this is not monitored by the Department of Telecommunications.

(b) The information is enclosed as Statement.

(c) As per License agreement with Telecom Companies, each company is required to cover at least 50% of licensed area within a finite period of five years. Coverage beyond this is planned by operators as per their business plans.

Statement**State/UT-wise Details of Telecom Towers**

S. No.	Name of State	Name of TSP	* Total number of villages in Rural areas of the country where telecom towers have been installed;
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	BSNL	4304
		Reliance Jio	6220
		Telenor	509
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	826
		Idea Cellular Ltd	4888
		Vodafone	3267
2	Andaman and Nikobar	Vodafone	59
		Bharti Airtel Ltd	24
		BSNL	122
3	Arunchal Pradesh	BSNL	150
		BHL	5257
		Idea Cellular Ltd	55

*Figures indicate number of villages covered by Telecom Companies. There may be overlaps also, i.e. some villages covered by more than one Telecom Service Providers.

1	2	3	4
		Vodafone	61
		Reliance Jio	16
4	Assam	Bharti Airtel Ltd	11692
		Idea Cellular Ltd	8397
		BSNL	10377
		Reliance Jio	8219
5	Bihar	Aircel	8290
		Vodafone	7419
		Aircel	1782
		Telenor	1638
		Bharti Airtel Ltd	6107
		Idea Cellular Ltd	4215
6	Chatisgarh	Vodafone	1450
		Reliance Ltd	1463
		Reliance Jio Ltd	4059
		BSNL	1793
		Bharti Airtel Ltd	1582
		BSNL	1260
7	Delhi	Idea Cellular Ltd	1783
		Reliance JIO	1961
		Vodafone	602
		Bharti Airtel Ltd	257
		Idea Cellular Ltd	194
		Reliance Jio	118
		MTNL	250

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	99			Reliance Jio	4532
		Vodafone	403			Idea Cellular Ltd	5399
8	GOA	Bharati Airtel Ltd	107			Vodafone	648
		BSNL	98			Tata Teleservices Ltd	205
		Idea Cellular Ltd	140	12	Jammu and Kashmir	Vodafone	3515
		Reliance Jio	146			BSNL	767
		Telenor	39			Idea Cellular Ltd	3090
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	11			Bharati Airtel Ltd	5437
		Vodafone	158			Reliance Jio	3169
9	Gujarat	BSNL	6109	13	Jharkhand	Bharati Airtel Ltd	1729
		Vodafone	7435			BSNL	1423
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	6909			Idea Cellular Ltd	2108
		Idea Cellular Ltd	6905			Tata Teleservices Ltd	37
		Reliance Jio	4804			Telenor	195
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	3319			Vodafone	927
		Telenor	945			Reliance Jio	809
10	Haryana	Bharati Airtel Ltd	882	14	Karnataka	Aircel	467
		Idea Cellular Ltd	130			Bharati Airtel Ltd	6519
		BSNL	630			BSNL	3790
		Reliance Jio	1000			Idea Cellular Ltd	4684
11	Himachal Pradesh	BSNL	8945			Reliance Jio	4923
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	919			Tata Teleservices Ltd	1741

1	2	3	4
		Vodafone	3637
15	Kerala	Bharati Airtel Ltd	974
		AIRCEL	15
		BSNL	1111
		Idea Cellular Ltd	1007
		Vodafone	962
		Reliance Jio	980
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	280
16	Lakshdweep	Bharati Airtel Ltd	4
		BSNL	11
17	Madhya Pradesh	Bharati Airtel Ltd	5052
		BSNL	2340
		Idea Cellular Ltd	4954
		Reliance JIO	4358
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	4
		Vodafone	2409
18	Maharashtra	Bharati Airtel Ltd	6005
		BSNL	4273
		Idea Cellular Ltd	7647
		Reliance Jio	6740
		Telenor	1475
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	875
		Vodafone	6827

1	2	3	4
	Mumbai	Aircel	241
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	125
		Idea Cellular Ltd	119
		Reliance JIO	234
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	178
		Vodafone	305
19	Manipur	BSNL	191
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	2380
		Idea Cellular Ltd	561
		Reliance Jio	100
20	Meghalaya	BSNL	179
		BHL	6459
		Idea Cellular Ltd	570
		Vodafone	64
		Reliance Jio	274
21	Mizoram	BSNL	88
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	704
		Idea Cellular Ltd	9
		Vodafone	11
		Reliance Jio	71
22	Nagaland	BSNL	155
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	1400
		Idea Cellular Ltd	227

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
		Vodafone	8			Reliance Jio	108
		Reliance Jio	117			BSNL	59
23	Odisha	BSNL	2618	27	Tamilnadu	vodafone	5037
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	4806			Idea Cellular Ltd	6373
		Reliance Jio	3336			Bharati Airtel Ltd	14637
		Vodafone	3056			Reliance Jio	12658
		Idea Cellular Ltd	1730			BSNL	12530
24	Punjab	Idea Cellular Ltd	6162	28	Tripura	BSNL	269
		Reliance Jio	5504			Bharati Airtel Ltd	863
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	6129			Idea Cellular Ltd	358
		Vodafone	3672			Vodafone	108
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	366			Reliance Jio	178
		BSNL	5612	29	Uttar Pradesh	Bharati Airtel Ltd	39278
25	Rajasthan	Idea Cellular Ltd	4071			Idea Cellular Ltd	46030
		Reliance Jio	6491			Vodafone	12501
		Vodafone	5287			BSNL	6175
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	305			Reliance Jio	11234
		Bharati Airtel Ltd	4845			Telenor	9366
		Aircel	1145			Tata Teleservices Ltd	246
		BSNL	2510	30	West Bengal	Idea Cellular Ltd	23449
26	Sikkim	Idea Cellular Ltd	48			Vodafone	5819
		Vodafone	135			Tata Teleservices Ltd.	25
		Bharti Airtel Ltd	114			Bharati Airtel Ltd	5480

1	2	3	4
		Reliance Jio	30915
		BSNL	1866
Kolkata		Bharati Airtel Ltd	308
		Idea Cellular Ltd	704
		Reliance Telecom	699
		Tata Teleservices Ltd	196
		Reliance Jio	92
		Vodafone	266

[English]

Bullet Train

5398. SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where bullet trains are proposed to be introduced;

(b) the time by which such trains would be introduced in each such sector;

(c) the quantum of expenditure that will be incurred on each such train and on each sector; and

(d) the manner in which resources for the same will be mobilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) At present, Mumbai-Ahmedabad Rail corridor is the only sanctioned High Speed Rail Project in the country implemented with technical and financial assistance of Government of Japan. Out of the estimated cost of the Project of Rs. 1,08,000 crore, 81% is funded through a soft loan with 0.1% rate of interest per annum and 50 years repayment period with 15 years grace period. The project is targeted for completion in 2022-23.

Mechanised Sanitation System

5399. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway platforms in the country where mechanised sanitation system has been introduced;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred on introducing the above system at a station; and

(c) the details of railway stations where mechanised sanitation system is likely to be introduced during 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Mechanised Cleaning System has been introduced on 488 major stations (which includes platforms).

(b) No separate data has been maintained. An amount of Rs. 539.66 cr has been spent till February 2018 by Indian Railways for Swachhta related activities at stations.

(c) The Railways plan to introduce Mechanized Cleaning System on 97 more stations including platforms during 2018-19.

Construction of Residential Complex Near Railway Stations

5400. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of residential complexes is proposed around the railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government will consider providing accommodation facilities around stations for railway passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways has advertised its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis for redevelopment by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost

of the station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the Railway stations which may also include residential complex.

(c) and (d) Multi Functional Complexes (MFCs) have been commissioned at 17 railway stations and some more have been planned. These MFCs has provision of accommodation on payment basis for railway passengers.

Certifications of DGR Courses

5401. DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government agencies, related Recruitment Rules and private sector do not recognize the certifications of Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) courses since most courses are of below six months duration;

(b) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to ensure that the DGR enhances the duration of training courses beyond six months so that the certificates issued by them will be accepted for Government jobs as per the Recruitment Rules;

(c) whether DGR has not instituted any mechanism to find out the number of trained personnel, under the Assured Placement Training scheme who were successfully placed for employment; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to remedy this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The resettlement courses conducted by Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) are either in the Central / State Government run institutions / institutions aligned to regulatory bodies of Government or are National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant as stipulated by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). These courses makes Ex-servicemen (ESM) suitable for employment, both in Government as well as private sector.

Most diploma programmes are beyond 6 months duration unless specially tailored for DGR by Universities / National Council for Vocational Training.

A pilot programme for diploma courses upto one year is planned for Financial Year 2018-19 to facilitate ESM to get government jobs.

Matter has been taken up with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for amendment in the Recruitment Rules of different offices under Central / State Government, PSUs, Banks and Financial Institutions to ensure that certificates awarded for resettlement courses of below 6 months aligned to NSDC are recognized and given due weightage in recruitment for ESM.

(c) and (d) Placement assured training was planned on a pilot basis in the Financial Year 2015-16. However, the courses were not conducted as no service personnel had applied for the said courses.

DGR has started conducting skill courses approved by NSDC with a placement clause from second half of Financial Year 2016-17.

CVC Investigation

5402. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of advisories based on investigation which have been referred by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare during the last one year, case-wise;

(b) whether CVC has obtained action taken report from the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard; and

(c) if so, the case-wise 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) As per information available with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), 07 references / investigation reports were received in the Central Vigilance Commission from Ministry of

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) from January 2017 upto 9th March, 2018. Out of the 07 references received, CVC advised initiation of disciplinary proceedings and imposition of penalty in respect of 05 cases and closure of the case in respect of 02 cases.

(b) and (c) In respect of all the above 05 cases in which advisories were issued by CVC, action related to initiation of disciplinary proceedings has been initiated by MoAFW. In one case, major penalty has been imposed and other four cases are at various stages.

Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai Railway Line

5403. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the track in kilometres laid by the Railways on daily basis during the last three years;

(b) whether the Railways has fixed any per day target for laying of track during 2018-19 and also to treble the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Chennai railway line;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve the targets; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Targets and achievements of tracks laid are monitored on yearly basis. However, average track kilometer laid by Indian Railways on per day basis during the last three years (2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17) is 7.0 km / day.

Further, Indian Railways has fixed the target of 4100 km for New Line / Gauge Conversion / Doubling for 2018-19 including tripling of few sections of Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Chennai routes which work out to be 11.23 km /day. Railway is closely monitoring the progress of work to achieve the targets alongwith assured funding.

[Translation]

New Rail Line Between Pune - Nashik

5404. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Detailed Project Report (DPR) regarding Pune-Nashik new railway line mentioned in the budget of the year 2016-17 has been prepared;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Pune-Nashik (265 km) new line project was included in Railway Budget 2016-17 subject to requisite Government approvals at an estimated cost of Rs. 2425 crore. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of this project has been prepared and sent by Central Railway and received in August, 2017. As per DPR, cost of the project assessed is Rs. 5341.68 crore with Rate of Return (-)1.86% and length is 313.50 km. Government of Maharashtra has identified this project to be developed through Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Limited (MRIDL), a Joint Venture Company of Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways.

Electrification of Railway Network

5405. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has prepared a scheme amounting of Rs. 35 thousand crore for complete electrification of rail network of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways has identified any sectors in Maharashtra to include them into railway electrification scheme; and

(c) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways have decided to electrify balance 38000 Broad Gauge (BG) Route Kilometer (RKM) for achieving 100% electrification including all BG routes in the State of Maharashtra.

Year wise details of balance BG rail routes planned for electrification are as under:

Year	Route Kilometer planned for electrification.
2017-18	4000
2018-19	6000
2019-20	7000
2020-21	10500
2021-22	10500
Total	38000

Out of balance 38000 Broad Gauge (BG) Route Kilometer for 100% electrification, un-sanctioned work of 13675 RKM (including 615 RKM of State of Maharashtra) has been included in Budget 2018-19, which will be taken up for execution subject to statutory and mandatory approvals.

The expenditure of Rs. 32591 crore is planned for commissioning of 38000 Route Kilometers of sections on electric traction.

Action Plan for Better Passenger Facilities

5406. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are satisfied with the facilities being provided at the railway stations in the country particularly in small cities/towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for betterment of passenger facilities available at the railway stations in the country;

(d) if so, the details of major efforts made in this direction particularly in Bilaspur zone in Chhattisgarh during the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the existing mechanism for making available various facilities at railway stations to monitor their maintenance and to carry out their inspection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Improvement to Passenger amenities on Indian Railways is a continuous process. With a view to meet the expectations of the passengers, Indian Railways is making all out effort to provide improved facilities at the

stations including those located in small cities/towns. Indian Railways has more than 8500 Stations. It has always been the endeavour of the Railways to provide adequate amenities to the passengers at stations. Certain amenities are provided at the time of construction of new stations based on anticipated volume of traffic. Amenities are further augmented from time to time with growth in passenger traffic handled at stations, based on the felt need, expectations of the travelling public and availability of funds.

In the recent past Indian Railways has taken various steps to improve the services and facilitate the passengers, some of which are given below.

At stations:

- I. Lifts and Escalators at the stations for facilitating movement across platforms.
- II. Battery Operated Vehicles for carrying passengers before/after the train journey, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
- III. Yatri Mitra Sewa for passengers requiring wheel-chair assistance.
- IV. Well appointed Retiring Rooms, Waiting Halls and Executive Lounges to relax for passengers during transit.
- V. Wi-fi facility at 127 important stations on IR.

In Reservations and travel:

- I. Introduction of the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme known as 'VIKALP' to give option to waitlisted passengers to shift to alternate train having vacant accommodation.
- II. Provision of facility to physically handicapped persons to book reserved tickets online.
- III. Introduction of paperless unreserved ticket booking through mobile phone.
- IV. Automatic refund of confirmed/ Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC)/e-tickets on cancellation of trains.
- V. Enhancement of Senior Citizen Quota as well as quota earmarked for physically handicapped persons.

- VI. Making provision in the system for automatic preparation of reservation charts at least four hours before the scheduled departure of train.
- VII. Provision of facility to book available accommodation after preparation of first reservation chart through internet as well as across any computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter upto preparation of second reservation chart.
- VIII. Acceptance of all International Credit/Debit cards for booking of e-tickets through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website.
- IX. The passengers having confirmed/RAC/Waitlisted PRS counter tickets may cancel the same through IRCTC website (www.irctc.co.in) or through 139 within the prescribed time limit and the refund amount maybe collected across PRS counter on surrendering the original ticket.
- X. In order to facilitate cancellation of PRS counter tickets at relatively smaller stations, one of the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) cum PRS counters (wherever PRS booking facility is available) has been earmarked for granting refund beyond the working hours of PRS counters/Current counters. This facility is available in respect of PRS counter tickets for those trains whose scheduled departure time is within the next 24 hours.
- XI. Establishment of Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendras for issuing of tickets through public private partnership for establishment and operation of computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS)-cum Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) terminals.
- XII. Facility for booking unreserved ticket including platforms tickets and Season Tickets through mobile phone in the 6 suburban sections of IR in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Secunderabad and in Delhi – Palwal and Delhi-Ghaziabad sections of Northern Railway
- XIII. Commencement of concierge services with facility for online booking of wheelchairs through

IRCTC website at New Delhi and 22 other stations.

- XIV. Provision of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines to facilitate purchase of unreserved journey tickets.
- XV. Extension of e-ticketing facility to foreign debit/credit cards for foreign tourists and NRIs.
- XVI. Commissioning of online booking of retiring room at over 488 Railway stations.

(c) and (d) Modernisation/ upgradation of passenger amenities at railway station in Indian Railways is a continuous and on-going process. At present, upgradation of station is being undertaken under Adarsh Station scheme. 201 stations including 8 stations in Bilaspur zone (South East Central Railway - out of which 4 stations fall under Chhattisgarh), have been identified under this Scheme during the last three years and current year.

(e) Regular inspections are conducted by Officers, Service Improvement Group (SIG), Passenger Amenities Committee (PAC) & Passenger Services Committee (PSC) to monitor the availability and maintenance of passenger facilities at stations and remedial measures are taken as and when deficiencies are noted.

[English]

Shortage of Passport Office in Uttar Pradesh

5407. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Uttar Pradesh face serious difficulties due to shortage of passport offices in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any remedial measures to set up regional passport offices at district level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) and (b) There are no serious difficulties

being faced by the people of Uttar Pradesh due to shortage of passport offices in the State. There are three Passport Offices in Uttar Pradesh (UP) at Bareilly, Ghaziabad and Lucknow. There are six Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) in UP at Bareilly, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Posts (DOP) have decided to utilize the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices in the various States as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) for delivering passport related services to the citizens of the country. Under this scheme, there are 15 POPSK functional in Uttar Pradesh as on 22 March, 2018 at Agra, Allahabad, Ayodhya/Faizabad, Azamgarh, Ballia, Bijnaur, Deoria, Ghazipur, Jhansi, Meerut, Moradabad, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur and Unnao.

These PSK and POPSK function as extended arms of the Passport Offices for providing passport related services to the people of Uttar Pradesh. There are plans to open 17 more POPSK in Uttar Pradesh in the future taking the total number of POPSK to 32. The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the operationalization of these POPSK by 31 March, 2018.

4G Speed

5408. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that average 4G speed in the country is among the slowest in world and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the average 4G speed in other countries, country-wise;

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to increase the average 4G speed across the country; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be done?

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 Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) My Speed portal, the Telecom Service

Provider-wise average download speed on 4G Network in the country for the month of February 2018 is as per enclosed Statement. This TRAI result is based on the data speed samples collected on a crowd sourcing basis during speed test initiated by users over the last four months.

No authentic information is available to the Government on the average 4G speeds in other countries,

(c) and (d) In order to facilitate improvement in Quality of Services and expansion of telecommunication services including 4G-services, the Department of Telecommunications has initiated a series of policy initiatives and development programs:

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz across different bands 700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands in 2016.
- (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per guidelines.
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for achieving higher utilisation efficiency.
- (iv) permitting Internet Protocol (IP) based interconnections between TSPs in addition to the prevailing arrangements.
- (v) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers).
- (vi) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by TSPs.

About 5.15 lakh 4G-BTS have been installed in the country during the period July 2016 to February 2018, leading to a total installed base of around 7.52 lakh 4G-BTS in the country.

Network upgradation and improvement is an ongoing process for each TSP, based on changing traffic volumes, customer needs and market competition.

Statement*Telecom Service Provider Wise Average Download Speed on 4G Network*

Name of 4G Telecom Service Provider	M/s. Reliance	M/s. Airtel	M/s. Vodafone	M/s. Idea
Jio				
Average Download Speed (in Mbps)	21.3	8.8	7.2	6.8

Section 30 of Advocates Act

5409. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified section 30 of the Advocate Act, 1961 recently, enabling the lawyers to practice in courts across the country irrespective of their enrolment in any bar council without the need to transfer their licences to desired States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date from which this section will come into force ?

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) Yes Madam. Section 30 of the Advocates Act, 1961 has been notified on June, 9, 2011 and has come into force on June 15, 2011.

Electrification of Railway Lines Under NF Railways

5410. SHRI PARTHA PRATIM RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway lines to be electrified in the next year along with the details of the railway lines electrified during the last three years under the North Frontier (NF) railway;

(b) whether the Railways has taken any steps to speed up the electrification works of railway lines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) (i) The Ministry of Railways have decided to electrify the remaining 38000 Broad Gauge (BG) Route Kilometer (RKM) for achieving 100% electrification. This includes all BG routes under Northeast Frontier Railway.

Out of balance 38000 Broad Gauge (BG) Route Kilometer for 100% electrification, un-sanctioned work of 13675 RKM (including 2536 RKM of Northeast Frontier Railway) has been included in Budget 2018-19, which will be taken up for execution subject to statutory and mandatory approvals.

(ii) During last three years, including current year (up to February, 2018), Kaithar-Kumedpur-Singhabad section (113 Route Kilometer) under Northeast Frontier Railway has been electrified.

(b) and (c) In order to expedite electrification of railway lines in the country, various steps have been taken, which inter-alia include award of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts, better project monitoring mechanism, ensuring availability of funds through extra Budgetary Resources (Institution Finance) enhancing power of field units for award of contracts including sanction of estimates and increasing the number of executing agencies from existing three to six by entrusting electrification works to new agencies viz. IRCON International Limited, Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

[Translation]

Job Opportunities in IT Sector

5411. SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the Government has provided sufficient financial and basic facilities to create job opportunities in the Information Technology and the Information Technology and Electronics Services (ITES) in the country;

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

(c) the total number of IT and ITES employees working in the country; and

(d) the number of new job opportunities likely to be created in these sectors in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):
(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) India's Digital Economy has received a tremendous boost through various Government Initiatives such as Digital India covering e-Government Services, Common Service Centres (CSCs), BPO Promotion Schemes, Digital Payments, Electronic Manufacturing, and Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan; e-Commerce, GST Network, Make in India, Start-up India, Skill India, e-Health, Smart Cities, and e-Agriculture Market Place/ Digital Mandis.

The India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) of the Government aims to incentivize 48,300 seats BPO/ITeS operations, with an outlay of ₹493 crore, by 31.03.2019. The objectives of the scheme are to create employment opportunities for the youth and promotion of investment in IT/ITeS sector across the country, particularly in small cities/ towns including rural areas. The total 48,300 seats in IBPS have been distributed across the States/ UTs based on respective population percentage as per Census 2011. The State/ UT wise list of seats distributed under IBPS based on population percentage is enclosed Statement-I. Further, additional allocation of seats can be made to any State/ UT, based on demand, subject to overall availability of seats under the scheme.

Similarly, the Government has initiated a separate "North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS)", with an outlay of Rs. 50 crore, to incentivize 5,000 seats BPO/ITeS Operations in the North East Region. There

is no State wise distribution of seats in NEBPS; the total 5,000 seats are for the entire North East Region.

The Schemes provide financial support of up to ₹1 lakh per seat in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) towards Capital and Operational expenditure. The Schemes also provide special incentives to the units for promoting employment to women and especially abled persons, setting-up operations in locations other than the State Capital, generating employment beyond target, and promoting local entrepreneurs, within the overall financial support of ₹1 lakh per seat.

(c) and (d) As regards the employment in Electronics and IT sector, the number of employees has nearly become 39,68,000 in CFY 2017-18, an addition of 1,05,000, from 38,63,000 in FY 2016-17. The hiring trend is projected to remain similar to CFY in the FY 2018-19.

The Government initiatives such as Common Service Centres (CSCs), BPO Promotion schemes, Electronic Manufacturing, Digital Payments, and Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan have generated nearly 15 lakh additional jobs over the last two years. This includes about 5 lakh jobs generated by the growth in the Electronic Manufacturing Sector.

The various initiatives of the Government including Digital India coupled with new and emerging technologies are enhancing the digital economy of the country and are creating IT and Electronics led new job opportunities in both traditional as well as new sectors of the economy such as Transport, Health, Power, Agriculture, and Tourism. According to NASSCOM, it is estimated that the IT-BPM sector would continue to hire at a rate of 3% to 3.5% year-on-year to reach 45,00,000 total jobs by 2022.

Statement

IBPS Seats Distribution Across State(s)/UT(s) Based on Population % as per Census 2011

State/UT	Population	Population %	Seats by population %	Seats Rounded-off to nearest hundred
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	493,86,799	4.56	2,189	2200

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	1040,99,452	9.61	4,615	4600
Chhattisgarh	255,45,198	2.36	1,132	1100
Goa	14,58,545	0.13	65	100
Gujarat	604,39,692	5.58	2,679	2700
Haryana*	230,44,841	2.13	1,022	1000
Himachal Pradesh	68,64,602	0.63	304	300
Jammu and Kashmir	125,41,302	1.16	556	600
Jharkhand	329,88,134	3.05	1,462	1500
Karnataka*	525,95,898	4.86	2,333	2300
Kerala	334,06,061	3.09	1,481	1500
Madhya Pradesh	726,26,809	6.71	3,219	3200
Maharashtra*	889,10,077	8.21	3,941	3900
Orrisa	419,74,218	3.88	1,861	1900
Punjab	277,43,338	2.56	1,230	1200
Rajasthan	685,48,437	6.33	3,039	3000
Telangana*	274,44,644	2.53	1,214	1200
Tamilnadu*	634,51,020	5.86	2,813	2800
Uttar Pradesh*	1991,69,960	18.39	8,827	8800
Uttarakhand	100,86,292	0.93	447	400
West Bengal*	771,63,579	7.13	3,422	3400
Andaman and Nicobar Island	3,80,581	0.04	17	100
Chandigarh	10,55,450	0.10	47	100
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3,43,709	0.03	15	100
Daman and Diu	2,42,911	0.02	11	100
Lakshadweep	64,429	0.01	3	100
Puducherry	12,47,953	0.12	55	100
Total	10828,23,931	100.00	48,000	48,300

Note: 1. Total 48,000 seats have been distributed based on population percentage among States/UTsas per Census 2011, and then rounded-off to nearest 100.

2. Minimum seats support for a State/UT = 100

3. *Population of all the States of North East Region and Urban Agglomeration Population of certain cities [Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR (Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida), Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune] is subtracted from the respective State's Population and subsequently from overall population of Country.

[English]

Independent Religion Status to Lingayat Community

5412. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from the Government of Karnataka for granting separate/independent religion status to Lingayat community in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to consider the said proposal from the State of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the time by which the separate/independent religion status to the Lingayat community of the State is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (d) This Ministry has so far not received any representation from the Government of Karnataka for granting of separate/independent religion status to the Lingayat Community in the State. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs had communicated the comments dated 14.11.2013 of Registrar General of India (RGI) to the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) that Veerashaiva Lingayat is a Sect of Hindus and not an independent religion and that RGI did not assign a separate code to Veerashaiva Lingayat during Census-2011. It also stated that if Veerashaiva Lingayat is treated as a separate religion by providing a separate code other than Hindu, all scheduled Castes (SCs) professing the Veerashaiva Lingayat Sect will lose their constitutional status. However, this Ministry has recently received a proposal of Karnataka Govt. on 26.03.2018 regarding recognition of Lingayat as a religious minority.

Promotion of Tourism

5413. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for connecting various tourist places across the country by rail; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to connect tourist destinations like Guruvayur, Tirupati and Sabarimala which are already connected by rail excluding the latter one, by operating more direct trains from different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways, in addition to regular passenger trains across its network, in association with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and select State Tourism Development Corporations, operates special tourist trains like Luxury tourist trains, Buddhist special trains, Semi-luxury trains, Bharat Darshan trains, Aastha Circuits trains, State Special Tourists trains, Steam train, Charter trains etc. connecting various tourist places across the country.

(b) IRCTC has operated State Special Tourist Trains, Bharat Darshan Trains and Rail Tour packages to pilgrim destinations like Guruvayur, Tirupati and Sabarimala from various cities across the country.

Besides, operation of additional train services for tourist to connect various destinations including pilgrim places Guruvayur, Tirupati and Sabarimala is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, competing demands etc.

[Translation]

Delay in Issuance of Passport

5414. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unnecessary delay is being caused in issuance of passports from Ranchi Passport Office in Jharkhand and the time limit is not being followed in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the number of applications received seeking issuance of passports and the number of passports issued in the prescribed time frame during last one year;

(d) the number of such applications at present which are pending for more than three months;

(e) whether the Government has taken action against any officials in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) and (b) There has been no delay in the issuance of passports by the Passport Office (PO) at Ranchi, Jharkhand during the calendar year 2017.

(c) As on 31 December 2017, the total number of applications received by PO, Ranchi for passports was 93,213 out of which 87,098 passports were issued within 30 days [excluding Police Verification (PV) time] as stipulated in the Citizens' Charter of the Ministry for Issuance and Delivery of Passport Services.

(d) The number of applications pending as on 12th March, 2018 for more than 90 days with PO, Ranchi is 115 of which 80 were pending with the applicants and 35 pending for police verification report.

(e) and (f) As the passports have been issued within the stipulated time by the Passport Office at Ranchi, Jharkhand and no application is pending for more than 90 days with them, there is no cause for any action.

Basic Facilities at Stations

5415. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any schemes to provide basic infrastructural facilities such as drinking water, passenger shed, free wi-fi, display board, separate toilets for women, air conditioned waiting rooms and hotels, malls, etc. in a time bound manner for the development of Jalore, Raipur, Latehar, Tori, Balumath railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the total budget earmarked for the said projects;

(c) the reasons for delay in providing infrastructural facilities at Jalore, Raipur, Latehar, Tori and Balumath railway stations as per the model station structure; and

(d) the total budget allocated for providing facilities to passengers at above-mentioned railway stations during the last three years along with the total amount incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Raipur is a Non Suburban Grade (NSG-2) (earlier 'A1') category station. Jalore, Latehar and Tori are NSG-5 (earlier 'D') category stations. Balumath station is notified on 09.03.2018 and presently opened for goods traffic only. All Minimum Essential Amenities have been provided at these stations. These stations except Balumath have already been developed under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. The requisite amenities as specified for Adarsh Station are available at these stations. Further, improvement in passenger amenities at a station is a continuous process and is taken up based on the quantum of traffic handled, inter-se priority of works and availability of funds.

(d) Station-wise details of funds are not maintained. These details are maintained Zonal Railway wise. Works of development of passenger amenities at railway stations and their development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme are generally funded under Plan Head – 'Passenger Amenities'. The details of allocation and expenditure under this Plan Head to North Western Railway, East Central Railway and South East Central Railway which covers Jalore, Latehar, Tori and Raipur Railway stations, during the last three years i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Zonal Railway	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Allocation (RE)	Expenditure	Allocation (RE)	Expenditure	Allocation (RE)	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
North Western	42.18	35.58	60.31	66.07	53.42	55.59

	1	2	3	4	5	1	2
East Central		53.17	44.89	82.53	63.75	52.78	65.76
South East Central		39.57	36.12	48.71	31.38	29.55	31.49

District Mediation Centres

5416. DR. BANSILAL MAHATO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state?

(a) whether the Government encourages the States to support district mediation centres to resolve the cases particularly related to the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases brought to and disposed of by the mediation centres during the last three years and the current year State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to expand the facilities of existing mediation centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Mediation is one of the alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms. Legal

Services Authorities are engaged in promoting the use of ADR mechanisms including mediation. There are mediation centres in States, which deal with mediation matters referred to them by the Courts. Mediation is also done at pre-litigation stage in marital disputes pursuant to the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of K.Srinivas Rao v. D.A.Deepa. In Chief Justices' Conference held in 2013, it was resolved to strengthen ADR mechanism by sensitizing and training Judges and advocates, to conduct awareness programmes regularly and to set up mediation centres/ADR centres at the district level.

(c) A Statement showing State-wise number of cases received and cases settled through mediation during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (upto December, 2017) is enclosed.

(d) and (e) In order to promote and expand mediation, awareness campaigns are conducted to make the public aware of the facility of mediation. New ADR centres have been built to expand the facility of mediation.

Statement

Statewise Number of Cases Received and Cases Settled

S. No.	Name of the State	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18 (upto December, 2017)	
		No. of Cases Received	No. of Cases settled	No. of Cases Received	No. of Cases settled	No. of Cases Received	No. of Cases settled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3287	307	7095	821	4463	613
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	658	112	2268	599	983	339
4.	Bihar	962	256	2295	371	2757	471
5.	Chhattisgarh	1372	566	1528	408	2194	363
6.	Goa	158	13	116	4	183	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Gujarat	2301	451	6231	796	2978	488
8.	Haryana	18915	1949	7596	1628	8600	1703
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1501	390	1783	520	2321	451
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	73	15	291	43	345	40
11.	Jharkhand	6072	2627	8270	2400	11483	4500
12.	Karnataka	19121	1293	12945	3596	13154	4221
13.	Kerala	33750	9578	35355	10557	27835	8433
14.	Madhya Pradesh	55679	24803	75441	35517	53146	23293
15.	Maharashtra	Not available		48458	22021	49786	19709
16.	Manipur	38	6	10	0	23	1
17.	Meghalaya	23	13	22	4	5	1
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	5029	489	2770	254	1859	172
21.	Punjab	7092	1477	6944	1485	7087	1327
22.	Rajasthan	14895	2193	18738	2705	16566	1559
23.	Sikkim	88	20	170	72	107	53
24.	Tamil Nadu	9055	1282	9554	1044	8373	986
25.	Telangana	8864	981	5293	821	2673	580
26.	Tripura	0	0	17	3	29	5
27.	Uttar Pradesh	14993	3400	34423	6829	34642	6386
28.	Uttaranchal	901	384	1004	272	902	326
29.	West Bengal	1260	73	271	56	4595	724
30.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	11	0	17	1
31.	U.T. Chandigarh	1186	335	1101	345	690	237
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5	0	11	3	3	1
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	34	8	12	1
34.	Delhi	0	0	1782	526	1615	508
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	193	29	162	24	109	12
TOTAL		207471	53042	291989	93732	259535	77514

*[English]***E-Wallet Frauds**

5417. SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked e-wallet firms to furnish the details of financial frauds reported after the implementation of demonetization

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to bring changes in the laws to check such frauds;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the security agencies have been strengthened for proper surveillance of digital transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):
(a) and (b) 1. All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.

2. All authorised entities/banks issuing PPIs in the country have been advised by CERT-In through the Reserve Bank of India to carry out security audit by the 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.

3. As per the details shared by RBI, complaints were received regarding E-wallet scam involving 1020 bank accounts in 351 bank branches of public and private sector banks (13 banks): In the complaint received in November 2017, it was alleged that about 1020 bank accounts in different banks were used by the fraudsters to receive the money from victim's bank accounts by way of phishing.

(c) to (e) No. However Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Government have taken adequate measures for Risk Mitigation for Online Payments. RBI periodically reviews the cyber security developments and the threats and takes necessary measures to strengthen the cyber resilience of banks.

The measures taken by RBI and Government to ensure security of digital transactions are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Some of the measures taken by RBI are as follows-

1. A comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks issued on June 2, 2016 (DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16), includes section on 'Arrangement for continuous surveillance' in banks and also covers best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security
2. RBI has also set up a Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond. Based on market intelligence and incidents reported by the banks, advisories are issued to the banks for sensitizing them about various threats and ensure prompt preventive/corrective action.
3. Department of Banking Supervision under RBI, with the help of Indian – Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios.
4. RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive / detective measures to tackle phishing attacks. Banks have also been following the same with their users.
5. RBI has set up a Cyber Security and IT Examination (CSITE) cell in 2015 and carries out Information Technology (IT) Examination of banks separately from the regular financial examination of the banks to assess their cyber resilience. The examination, inter-alia, evaluates

the processes implemented by banks for security checks like Vulnerability Assessment (VA) / Penetration Testing (PT) etc. and their follow up action.

6. An inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security at RBI, reviews the threats inherent in the existing/emerging technology and suggests appropriate policy interventions to strengthen cyber security and resilience.
7. RBI has set up an Information Technology (IT) Subsidiary, which would focus, among other things, on cyber security within RBI as well as in regulated entities.
8. Banks and Payment System Operators have been advised to enhance the security and risk mitigation measures for (a) card transactions (includes card based online transactions) and (b) electronic payment transactions (includes e-banking transactions) by taking following measures –
 - a) Banks have been advised to provide online alerts for all card transactions (card present and card not present), vide, RBI circular dated February 18, 2009 (RBI / DPSS No. 1501 / 02.14.003 / 2008-2009) and March 29, 2011 (DPSS. CO. PD 2224 /02.14.003/2010-2011).
 - b) Banks have been advised, vide, circular February 18, 2009 (RBI / DPSS No. 1501 / 02.14.003 / 2008-2009) and December 31, 2010 (DPSS.CO.No.1503/02.14.003/2010-2011) to put in place a system of providing additional factor of authentication (2FA) for all card not present transactions using the information which is not available on the card.
 - c) Banks have also been advised vide circulars dated February 28, 2013 (DPSS (CO) PD No.1462 / 02.14.003 / 2012-13) and June 24, 2013 (DPSS (CO) PD No.2377 / 02.14.003 / 2012-13) for securing electronic (online and e-banking) transactions, to introduce additional security measures.
9. For Non-Bank Entities operating Payment Systems in India, in order to ensure that the technology deployed to operate the payment system/s authorised is/are being operated in a safe, secure, sound and efficient manner, RBI has, vide circulars DPSS.AD.No.1206 / 02.27.005 / 2009-2010 dated December 7, 2009 and DPSS.1444/ 06.11.001/ 2010-2011 dated December 27, 2010, which was subsequently amended vide circular DPSS.CO.OSD.No.2374 / 06.11.001 / 2010-2011 dated April 15, 2011 (copy is available on https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=6344&fn=9&Mode=0), mandated System Audit to be done on an annual basis by Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), registered with Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) or by a holder of a Diploma in Information System Audit (DISA) qualification of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Further, the scope of the System Audit should include evaluation of the hardware structure, operating systems and critical applications, security and controls in place, including access controls on key applications, disaster recovery plans, training of personnel managing systems and applications, documentation, etc. The audit should also comment on the deviations, if any, in the processes followed from the process flow submitted to the Reserve Bank while seeking authorization.
10. With a view to address the issue of cyber resilience, RBI had, vide circular DPSS.CO.OSD.No.1485/06.08.005/2016-17 dated December 9, 2016 (copy is available on https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=10772&fn=9&Mode=0), instructed all authorised entities/banks issuing PPIs in the country to carry out special audit by empanelled CERT-In auditors and take appropriate measures on mitigating phishing attacks.

In addition, details of direction pertaining to security for PPI transactions, are available in section 'Security, Fraud prevention and Risk Management Framework' of the Master Directions for PPI issued by RBI (DPSS.CO.PD.No.1164/02.14.006/2017-18).

11. RBI has issued various circulars wherein customer banks are advised to educate customers. These circulars are as follows:

- a) Card Payments – Relaxation in requirement of Additional Factor of Authentication for small value card present transactions dated May 14, 2015 (DPSS.CO.PD.No.2163/02.14.003/2014-2015).
- b) Cash Withdrawal at Point-of-Sale (POS) - Enhanced limit at Tier III to VI Centres dated August 27, 2015 (DPSS.CO.PD.No.449/02.14.003/2015-16).
- c) Card Not Present transactions – Relaxation in Additional Factor of Authentication for payments upto 2000/- for card network provided authentication solutions dated December 6, 2016 (DPSS.CO.PD.No.1431/02.14.003/2016-17).
- d) Master Direction on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments dated October 11, 2017 (DPSS.CO.PD.No.1164/02.14.006/2017-18).
- e) Banks have also been requested to educate customers about cyber security risks, as per the circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks dated June 2, 2016 (DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16).

In addition, steps taken by Government to secure digital payment system are as under:

1. Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber-attacks

for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

2. CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities along with countermeasures to create awareness among stakeholders to take appropriate measures to ensure safe usage of digital technologies. Regarding securing digital payments, 27 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.
3. CERT-In has empanelled 67 security auditing organizations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
4. All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
5. Cyber security exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 25 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In where organisations from different States and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated.
6. Cyber security awareness sessions are conducted by Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY) under the Digishala Awareness Campaign.
7. Government has established Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre to detect and clean infected systems in the country. The project is initiated in coordination with the Internet Service Providers and Industry.
8. Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance;

9. CERT-In is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for IT / cyber security professionals including CISOs of Government and critical sector organisations to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures. In addition, CERT-In has also conducted a workshop on security of digital payments systems for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.

[Translation]

Patents Secured by DAE

5418. SHRI JANAK RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of research papers published in the journals and the number of patents secured by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) during the last three years; and

(b) the position held by the country in the matters of research and patent as compared to the equivalent departments of America, Britain and China?

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) Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is a broad-based multi-disciplinary organisation incorporating basic research, applied research, technology development and its translation into industrial applications. During the three years period 2015-2018, different DAE institutions published a total of 6214 papers. The Department obtained 31 patents during this period.

(b) Following is the position of India in the matters of research papers and patents as compared to U.S.A, Britain and China for the last three years.

Research papers as per International Nuclear Information System (INIS) database

India (DAE)	China	UK	USA
6214	660	564	3550

Authentic data pertaining patents obtained by USA, Britain and China are not available with the Department.

[English]

Cess on Coal

5419. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government had increased the clean environment cess on coal per tone in 2015, when the royalty of coal was due for revision;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the last revision in rate of royalty of coal;

(c) whether coal bearing States like Odisha had requested for a larger share in the coal cess as they have to bear environmental cost of the same;

(d) if so, the response of the centre to this request;

(e) whether entire proceeds of coal cess will be used for GST compensation fund meant for all States and if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether coal bearing States like Odisha had opposed the move to give entire proceeds of coal cess to GST compensation funds; and

(g) if so, whether coal bearing States have been given any additional share in the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The Government had increased the Clean Energy Cess from Rs. 100 per tonne to Rs. 200 per tonne in the Finance Act 2015-16.

(b) The royalty of coal was last revised on 10.05.2012 vide Notification No. GSR-349 dt. 10.05.2012 to 14% ad-valorem on price of coal, as reflected in the invoice, excluding taxes, levies and other charges.

(c) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Allocation of Coal Mines

5420. KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to allow private companies to own coal mines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details regarding the process of allocation of such local mines; and

(c) whether the Government will be following the auction process as mandated by the Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had cancelled the allocation of 204 coal mines. The allocation of these 204 coal mines is being made under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Rules made thereunder. Allocation of coal mines/blocks under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 are made to companies both in public and in private sectors. Allocation of coal mines to private sector companies are made by way of e-auction (competitive bidding). The details of the norms for auction of coal mines to private sector companies are prescribed in the Rules and Tender document.

[Translation]

Gratuity Benefits Under NPS

5421. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons appointed by the Central and State Governments under the New Pension Scheme (NPS), 2004 are entitled to receive retirement gratuity and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the persons appointed under the said scheme after the decision of Courts or under special circumstances by various State Governments, several of them who have since retired, have not received the benefit of gratuity till date because various State Governments including Jharkhand have not received the copy of the notification issued to this effect by the Union Government and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to issue new pension manual to various States, giving

clear instructions to take immediate action on the pending cases in the light of the manual;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be issued; and

(e) 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 retirement gratuity and death gratuity in respect of Central Govt. employees appointed on or before 31st December, 2003, are regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, or corresponding rules applicable to All India Services, Railway employees and Defence personnel.

The benefit of Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity have been extended to Central Government civil employees covered under National Pension System(NPS) on the same terms and conditions as applicable in Old Pension Scheme under CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 vide DoPPW O.M. No. 7/5/2012-P&PW(F/B) dated 26.08.2016.

(b) The service conditions and retirement benefits of the employees of State Governments are regulated by the service rules notified by the respective State Governments.

(c) to (e) In view of reply to point (b), there is no proposal to issue any pension manual to the State Government.

[English]

Confiscation of Overseas Assets of Economic Offenders

5422. PROF. SADHU SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to put a mechanism in place for international cooperation to confiscate overseas assets of economic offenders of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) and (b) As far as international cooperation in relation to attachment or forfeiture of proceeds of crime is concerned, there is an enabling provision under section 105 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 which states that where the court has made an order for attachment or forfeiture of property derived or obtained, directly or indirectly by such person from the commission of an offence and such property is suspected to be in a contracting State, the court may issue a letter of request to a court or an authority in contracting State for execution of such order. Section 60 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 also has a provision permitting the court to issue a letter of request to a court or an authority in the contracting State.

As of now, India has signed Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters with 39 countries for mutual cooperation in such matters. In case of non-treaty States, a court can request the foreign court concerned for assistance through a letter of request/letter rogatory on the basis of assurance of reciprocity.

In addition, many international and regional conventions to which India is a member party, such as United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and United Nations Convention against Corruption also contain provisions on asset confiscation.

The Government has decided to introduce the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 in Parliament. The Bill, inter alia, provides for expeditious confiscation of proceeds of crime and properties of the fugitive economic offender with a view to make him submit to the jurisdiction of courts in India.

[Translation]

Nai Roshni Scheme

5423. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any assessment to estimate the effectiveness of „Nai Roshni“ scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken in this regard to ensure its proper implementation?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Yes, Madam. NITI Aayog has conducted an evaluation study on „Nai Roshni“ the scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women in 2015-16 and prepared a report in June, 2016. The main objective of the study was to assess the impact of the scheme on minority women and to identify policy/ programme impediments in implementation of the scheme. The study covered 15 Districts, 30 Blocks, 87 Villages and 27 NGOs spread over 8 (eight) states namely Assam, West Bengal, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Majority of the findings of the study indicate that the programme has been appreciated by most of the segments of the population of the society and it has assisted in creating confidence among minority women and developed leadership spirit in them. Moreover, the trained women are also utilizing their enriched knowledge within their surroundings and thereby availing their essential demands and claims from various Government Authorities.

(b) After approval of the scheme for implementation during the balance period of 14th Financial Commission *i.e.* 2017-20, the guidelines of the scheme has been revised and the suggestions of NITI Aayog for improving the implementation of „Nai Roshni“ have been considered. As per the revised guidelines of the scheme for the period 2017-20 with an objective to also empower the women economically, the organization is required to identify those women trained under this programme and who are willing to be further trained under any short term skill training so that they could get sustainable economic livelihood opportunities through suitable wage employment or self-employment / micro-enterprises during the hand holding period of training programme. Besides this, the scheme also encourages the organizations to identify the persons with disabilities from minority women and provide them some employment / Skill based training towards supplementing their household income.

Defence Industrial Corridor

5424. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started the procedure to set up the first defence industrial corridor in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of defence industrial corridors planned to be set up in the country to boost the indigenous defence industry; and

(c) the details of the budgetary provisions made for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Consequent to the announcement in the Budget Speech (2018-19) for setting up of two defence Industrial Production Corridors in the country, the Government has decided to establish two such corridors, one in Tamil Nadu and the other in Uttar Pradesh.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for each of the corridors will be prepared. The financial requirement for establishment of the corridors will be known only after preparation of the DPR.

[English]

Rainfall and its Prediction

5425. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the strategies and means used to measure and predict the rainfall;

(b) whether any measures are being taken by the Government to increase average rainfall; and

(c) if so, the details of the interventions taken by the Ministry 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) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has established a large number of observatories which have been recording the daily rainfall for more than 100 years now.

IMD has 706 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and 1350 Automatic Rain Gauge (ARG) where the rainfall is being measured every hour. In addition, IMD has about 6500 rain gauges maintained by state governments.

IMD issues three types of forecasts during the monsoon season *i.e.*, seasonal forecast (for the whole season), extended range forecast (10- 30 days), short-medium range forecast (0-10 days). These forecasts are issued based on dynamical and statistical models.

IMD issues the first stage operational long range forecasts for the southwest monsoon season (June-September) rainfall over the country as a whole in mid April. In addition to the update of its April assessment, forecasts for the monthly rainfall for July and August over the country as a whole and seasonal rainfall forecast for the 4 broad geographical regions of India (NW India, NE India, Central India and South Peninsula) are also prepared.

Under the 'National Monsoon Mission' (NMM) a state-of-the-art dynamical prediction model for a) improved prediction of monsoon rainfall on extended range to seasonal time scale (16 days to one season) and b) improved prediction of temperature, rainfall and extreme weather events on short to medium range time scale (up to 15 days) has been developed and is being used operationally by IMD.

An improved suite of prediction models has been implemented operationally at India Meteorological Department (IMD) for enhanced short range weather forecasting capability through assimilation of all available data.

(b) No Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Assessment of GDP

5426. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to assess the effects on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last four years; and

(b) 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) No, Madam.

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

[English]

SCTIMST

5427. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated the functioning of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has received complaints regarding the decision of governing body of SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram and if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted inquiry regarding the decision of governing body to affiliate Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), Delhi for MPH course;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken by the Government on the complaint regarding the affiliation of IIPH, Delhi for MPH course; and

(e) whether the Government has conducted inquiry regarding the complaints with regard to decisions of the governing body for violating of existing rules and exceeding the power by reducing qualification through Gazette Notification finally vested in legislature and if so, the details of the inquiry and conducted report thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The functioning of SCTMIS is continuously monitored

through the Governing Body and the Institute Body as per the Shri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology (SCTIMST) Act, 1980 and rules made thereunder.

(b) Yes, Madam. The complaints have been attended to as per the laid down procedures.

(c) to (e) This Department sought clarifications from SCTMIST and it has emerged that SCTMIST has followed its rules and procedures while affiliating the MPH Course of IIPH, Delhi.

The Governing Body has not reduced the basic qualifications prescribed for MPH Program since its inception in 1997.

RCEP Impact on Pharma Sector

5428. SHRI ADV. JOICE GEORGE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, (RCEP) which profoundly impacts the intellectual property rights to be negotiated, which is being pressurised by Japan, will lead to the issue that India may lose its status as the pharmaceutical hub of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agreeing to data exclusivity, extending patenting terms and unduly strong enforcement measures will weaken the generic pharmaceutical sector and will come in direct conflict with section 3

(d) of the Indian Patents Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this will make medicines expensive and inaccessible not just for Indians but for the entire developing world; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) to (f) The Intellectual Property Right (IPR) chapter including elements such as data exclusivity, extension of patent term, and enforcement in the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic

Partnership (RCEP) Agreement have not yet been finalised.

[Translation]

Nagpur-Nagbhir Narrow Gauge Line

5429. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Special Purpose Vehicle/ Joint Venture with Government of Maharashtra has been incorporated for execution of railway projects including Nagpur-Nagbhir narrow gauge line;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any time limit in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Limited (MRIDL), a Joint Venture company of Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways has been incorporated to undertake project development, funding and monitoring of Railway Infrastructure projects in the State of Maharashtra. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Government of Maharashtra and MRIDL is for 3 projects which do not mention Nagpur-Nagbhir gauge conversion project.

(c) to (e) Since the MoU has been signed recently in the month of February, 2018, it is too early to fix timelines for completion of the projects.

[English]

India-Australia Relationship

5430. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of India and Australia relationships;

(b) whether there has been improvement in the relationship during the last four years;

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

(d) the details of interactions that took place in QUAD where India and Australia apart from Japan and US, were part of since it came into being?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) to (c) India-Australia relationship has evolved in the recent years into a multi-faceted and strong partnership. Bilateral relationship was upgraded to strategic partnership in the year 2009. The countries have robust cooperation in the fields of defence and security, education, water resources management, trade etc.

A significant momentum to the relationship was imparted by the visit of Prime Minister to Australia in November 2014. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull visited India in April 2017. Australian Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove participated in the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi in March 2018 and held bilateral meeting with Prime Minister.

Australia lends strong support to India's bid for the membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group. The growing strength in the relationship is recognized in Australia's White Paper on Foreign Policy released on 23.11.2017. The White Paper states that India is in the front rank of Australia's international partnerships. Australia's White paper on Defence Policy also recognizes India as an increasingly important economic and security partner.

India and Australia have established many bilateral mechanisms to enhance cooperation. Inaugural India-Australia '2+2' Foreign Secretaries and Defence Secretaries Dialogue, was held in New Delhi in December 2017. Defence cooperation received a strong boost through the bilateral maritime exercise AUSINDEX, which was conducted in the Bay of Bengal for the first time in 2015. AUSINDEX 2017 was conducted off the coast of Fremantle, Australia during 17-19 June 2017. Australian naval ship participated in the 10th edition of MILAN organised by Indian Navy from 11 to 13 March 2018.

(d) Officials from India's Ministry of External Affairs, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United States' Department of State met in Manila on November 12, 2017 for consultations on issues of common interest in the Indo-Pacific region.

The discussions focused on cooperation based on the converging vision and values for promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. Discussions also focused on addressing common challenges of terrorism and enhancing connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region. The Indian side highlighted India's Act East Policy as the cornerstone of its engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.

[Translation]

Road Projects

5431. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the road projects under construction by the Border Roads Organisation at present, State and UT-wise;

(b) the details of the projects that are likely to be taken up by the Government in the near future including at Indo-China border;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals under the border road projects from the State Government of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b): The State-wise details of roads entrusted to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for construction / improvement in the border area are as per Appendix-A enclosed, which include the Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs).

(c) and (d): Border Roads Organisation takes up road construction projects in the border areas based on operational requirements of the Armed Forces.

Statement

State Wise Roads Entrusted to BRO in the Country for New Construction / Improvement:

S. No.	State / UT	Nos. of roads	Length (in km)
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	23.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	99	5267.51
3.	Assam	4	100.61
4.	Himachal Pradesh	11	924.52
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	231	7122.47
6.	Manipur	21	1838.00
7.	Mizoram	11	888.44
8.	Nagaland	10	841.18
9.	Punjab	10	276.68
10.	Rajasthan	53	2621.02
11.	Sikkim	37	910.17
12.	Tripura	2	201.04
13.	Uttarakhand	27	1117.01
14.	West Bengal	2	92.60
Total		519	22225.17

Assistance to Special Category States

5432. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to reduce the assistance provided to the States given special category status;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such reduction;

(c) the details of revenue sharing pattern of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs);

(d) whether the CSSs for some States are running under the ratio of 90:10 funding pattern during the last four years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken to reduce the assistance provided to the States given special category status for plan assistance. The Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) in its recommendations has not made any distinction between General Category States and Special Category States in the horizontal distribution of shareable taxes amongst the States. As per the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the devolution to the States in share of Central taxes has been increased from 32% earlier to 42% for the period 2015-2020. In view of the increase in the devolution of shareable taxes to 42 per cent for all the States, the block grants like Normal Central Assistance, Special Plan Assistance and Special Central Assistance (untied-SCA) which were available to the Special Category States earlier have not been provided since Union Budget 2015-16

(c) to (e) The funding pattern for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) is as per the recommendations of the Report of the Sub-Group on Rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes which has been accepted by the Central Government. Out of the 28 CSS, 6 schemes have been categorized as Core of the Core Schemes, 21 schemes as Core schemes and one as Optional scheme. The funding pattern for core of the core schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Social Assistance Programme etc. for all the States will continue as earlier. In the case of the 21 core schemes, the funding pattern of Centre: State share for the 8 North-Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States is 90:10 whereas it is 60:40 for all other States. In the case of one optional scheme which is optional for the State Governments, the Centre : State share will be 80:20 for the 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States while it will be 50: 50 for all other States. These arrangements have come into force from 2016-17.

[English]

Overburdened Railway Network

5433. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT :
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE :
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE :
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL :
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether presently the railway network is overburdened and inadequate to meet the new challenges of a fast developing economy and if so, the main challenges being faced by the Railways at present;

(b) whether some regions are beyond the reach of Railways due to unfavourable geographical conditions, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being considered by the Railways in this regard;

(c) whether the Railways has failed to attract adequate incentives and suitable talent due to lack of modern management not making economic analysis for perspective planning tariff; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto and the steps taken to combat the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. Railway have presently 483 over saturated sections out of 1245 sections. Over saturation of line capacity has resulted in stiff competition from other transport modes in maintaining the freight and passenger modal share. Hence, speedy execution of capacity enhancement works and availability of commensurate financial resources are one of the few main challenges before Indian Railways.

(b) Expansion of rail network is taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic

considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands..

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

Disability Pension

5434. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to withdraw pending appeals against disability pension and benefit and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether 16 of the 75 recommendations of the committee appointed to reduce litigation against veterans and serving personnel have been accepted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Recommendations number 27, 28, 30, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 44, 47, 48, 49, 52, 61 and 68 of the Expert Committee constituted by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri to suggest measures for reducing litigation and strengthening institutional redressal mechanism have been accepted for implementation.

H1B Visa

5435. DR. ANSHUL VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an arbitrary hike in the Visa fees by the US recently and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps the Government has taken to raise this issue with the US Government and the result of such steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) There has been no hike in the visa fee by the US Government recently. However, on December 18, 2015, the US President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-

113) which increased the supplemental visa fee for L-1 and H-1B visas for a period of 10 years for companies employing 50 or more employees in the United States, 50% or more of which were on L-1 and H-1B visas (50:50 rule). With this legislation in place,

50:50 companies are required to pay an enhanced fee of \$4,500 for each L-1 visa and \$4,000 for each H-1B visa as compared to \$2,250 and \$2,000 previously.

(b) Government of India remains closely engaged with the US Administration and the Congress on all issues relating to movement of Indian professionals under the H-1B and L-1 visa programmes, including the increase in visa fee. In our engagements, we have emphasized that this has been a mutually-beneficial partnership which should be nurtured. Indian skilled professionals have contributed to the growth and development of the US economy and have helped the US retain its competitive edge and innovation advantage. They are a big stakeholder in India-US relations and their backward linkages to India have helped US businesses.

The matter on US visa fee hike has also been raised by India at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva. India held consultations with the United States on 11-12 May 2016 at the WTO, Geneva under the dispute settlement procedures of the World Trade Organisation on the basis that the increased fees appear to result in treatment that is less favourable to Indian firms and consequently violate provisions of the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

[Translation]

Rotation of Officers Working on Sensitive Positions

5436. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has issued any instruction regarding rotation of officials working on sensitive positions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any Ministry/Department has not complied with such instructions;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, Ministry-wise; and

(d) the Ministry-wise details of the action taken in this regard during the said period?

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) Yes Madam. The Central Vigilance Commission has issued instructions, for effecting rotational transfers of officials posted in each organization, vide letters dated 15.04.1999, 02.11.2001, 01.05.2008, 04.01.2012 and 11.09.2013. As per these instructions, all Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations and CVOs are to identify sensitive posts and staff working in these posts and also ensure that they are rotated after every two/ three years to avoid developing vested interest. As identification of sensitive posts and effecting rotational transfers is a continuous process and CVOs have been made responsible for the same, all Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations are required to comply with the above instructions.

Fast Track Courts

5437. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:

SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken sufficient steps including the setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for the quick disposal of the cases of crime committed against women, children, deprived communities and minority communities in the country including the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases related to racial crime, hate crimes, rapes and sexual harassment cases registered in various High Courts and in the Supreme Court along with the number of such cases disposed of by FTCs, court-wise during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide legal aid to the victims of such crime to ensure speedy justice; and

(e) the State/UT-wise details of FTCs functioning 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) and (b) The setting up of subordinate courts, which includes Fast Track Courts (FTCs), lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts.

The Union Government in its Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission proposed setting up of 1800 FTCs in the country, including the North-Eastern Region, at a cost of Rs.4144 crore for trial of cases of heinous crimes involving senior citizens, women, children and other vulnerable sections of the society over a period of five years (2015-20). The 14th Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government and urged the State Governments 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. The States are expected to set up such FTCs from the additional tax devolution provided to them.

(c) The number of cases related to racial crime, hate crimes, rapes and sexual harassment cases registered in various High Courts and in the Supreme Court along with the number of such cases disposed of by FTCs, court-wise during each of the last three years and the current year is not maintained at the Union Government level.

(d) Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has set up legal services institutions right from the taluk level to Supreme Court level to provide free legal services to all the persons including women, children, SC & ST as separate categories eligible under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act.

Free legal services include payment of court fees, providing advocate and preparation of paper book, etc.

Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides for free legal services to the victims of crimes including women and children irrespective of their income.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has framed the NALSA (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulation, 2010 to ensure quality legal services and to monitor the progress of the free legal aid cases filed in the courts. A woman/child/SC/ST etc. can approach anyone of the legal services functionaries right from the taluka level to Supreme Court level with an application for legal assistance for prosecuting or defending his/her case as mentioned above.

(e) The States/UTs-wise details of FTCs functioning in the country is given in the Annexure.

Statement

State/UTs Wise Details of FTCs Functioning in the Country

Name of the States/UTs	Number of Fast Tracks Courts Functional
1	2
Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	72
Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram	-
Bihar	55
Chhattisgarh	21
Delhi	14
Goa	4
Gujarat	0
Haryana	0
Himachal Pradesh	0
Jammu & Kashmir	5*
Jharkhand	14
Karnataka	0
Kerala	0
Madhya Pradesh	0

1	2
Maharashtra	100
Manipur	3
Meghalaya	0
Odisha	0
Punjab	0
Puducherry	-
Rajasthan	0
Sikkim	2
Tamil Nadu	69
Tripura	3
Uttar Pradesh	273
Uttarakhand	4
West Bengal	88
Total	727

* No FTC is presently functional. However, 05 (nos) of courts are earmarked as FTCs to deal with rape cases.

Supply of Coal

5438. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) whether power companies have requested to reduce the supply of coal to them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether coal reserves available with the power companies have gone up to 1/6 of its annual production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) A number of Power Gencos had regulated their coal intake in 2016-17 and in the initial months of 2017-18 when demand for power was subdued while preferring to consume from their own stocks owing to comfortable stock position with them. The details of some of such Power Gencos are as under:

Name of Power Genco	% Materialization against FSA during 2016-17	% Materialization against FSA during 2017-18 (1st Qtr)
RRVUNL (Rajasthan)	53%	23%
PSPCL (Punjab)	64%	66%
MPPGCL (Madhya Pradesh)	46%	51%
HPGCL (Haryana)	54%	24%
GSECL (Gujarat)	51%	68%
MAHAGenco (Maharashtra)	62%	77%

(b) to (d) In 2016-17, pithead stock of CIL has increased to 68.42 MT on 31.03.2017 from 57.64 MT on 01.04.2016 mainly due to regulation imposed by a few Power Gencos as detailed above. On the other hand, coal stock at power house end depleted from 38.87 MT on 31.03.2016 to 27.63 MT as on 31.03.2017. As the coal production of CIL for the year 2016-17 was 554.14 MT, coal stock at power house end is much lower than one sixth of the annual coal production.

[English]

Deep/Dark Web

5439. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the existence of 'deep web' and 'dark web' beyond the 'surface web' on the internet and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is aware about the potential black markets operating on dark web such as illegal drugs, weapons etc.; and

(c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to regulate the deep

and dark web and commonly used browsers from accessing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) The term "deep web" is used to denote a class of content on the Internet that is not visible through general browsing and not indexed by search engines. "Dark web" is part of "Deep web" that has been intentionally hidden and is inaccessible through standard web browsers. Dark web sites serve as a platform for users for anonymity. The hidden ecosystem of the Dark web has potential of being used for malicious activities due to its inherent anonymous nature. Traditional search engines are prevented from indexing the deep web pages by using techniques such as dynamic content, pages without back links (unlinked pages), sites requiring login, pages with limited access content etc. Dark web technologies such as The Onion Routing (TOR) provide restricted access as well as prevent monitoring through use of encryption. There had been media reports about role of 'deep web' and 'dark web' as potential black markets for sale of illegal drugs, weapons etc.

(c) The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides a legal framework for addressing all types of prevailing cyber crimes as reported in the country. Also, the issue of development of effective technical solution has been engaging the attention of academia and research community worldwide. Government is in touch with academia and research institutions to evolve and engage in suitable research activities in this area.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Tribal Land by CIL

5440. SHRI AJAY NISHAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the company-wise total acres of tribal land acquired by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its ancillaries during each of the last three years;

(b) whether these companies have prepared any rehabilitation package for tribal families;

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

(d) the company-wise actual rehabilitation package provided to tribal people alongwith the

provision to provide employment to displaced people during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The company-

wise total acres of tribal land acquired by Coal India Limited(CIL) during each of the last three years is as under:

Fig in Acres				
Subsidiary	2014-15	2015-16	2016-2017	2017-18 (till Feb., 18)
ECL	46.16	49.74	70.91	58.71
BCCL	NIL	1.65	NIL	NIL
CCL	144	336	106	132
NCL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
WCL	92.857	307.485	214.601	164.947
SECL	408.35	288.20	783.86	527.93
MCL	NIL	7.22	156.45	NIL

(b) and (c) Except for MCL, R&R activities including tribal families are conducted in all the other subsidiaries of CIL under CIL's R&R Policy 2012, subject to modifications by Subsidiary Boards and suiting to local conditions. MCL follows R&R Policy of Govt. of Odisha.

As per R&R policy of CIL 2012, additional benefits admissible to Scheduled Tribes(ST) people are as under: -

- The Tribal people are given one-time financial assistance of 500 days MAW for loss of customary right or usage of forest produce while other project affected families are given subsistence allowance at the rate of 25 days MAW per month for one year.

- The tribal communities are shifted as a unit and are provided facilities to meet the specific needs of the tribal communities that will allow them to maintain their unique cultural identity.
- Tribal affected families resettled out of the district are given 25% higher rehabilitation and resettlement benefit.
- Employment is also provided to the people whose land are acquired in 2:1 ratio i.e. 1 employment against 2 acres of land.

(d) Company-wise actual rehabilitation package provided to number of tribal families during each of the last three years are as under:-

Subsidiary	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18(till Feb., 18)
ECL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
BCCL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
CCL	206	287	259	165
NCL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
WCL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
SECL	262	476	301	124

Subsidiary	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18(till Feb., 18)
MCL	374	206	243	95

Company-wise employment provided to the displaced Tribal people during each of the last three years are as under:-

Subsidiary	2014-15	2015-16	2016-2017	2017-18(till Feb., 18)
ECL	19	16	24	28
BCCL	NIL	1	NIL	NIL
CCL	77	168	53	66
NCL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
WCL	23	65	67	18
SECL	157	253	360	204
MCL	374	206	243	95

Setting Up of Nuclear Plants

5441. SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for setting up of nuclear power plants finalised or accorded approval during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Central public sector companies are engaged in production of nuclear energy and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to permit entry of private sector in nuclear energy sector as an equipment manufacturer and reactor operator;

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

(e) the estimated capacity of energy production to be met through private sector?

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) During the last three years and the current year, the Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of twelve (12) nuclear power reactors -ten (10) indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up in fleet mode & two (02) units of Light Water Reactors (LWRs) to be set up in cooperation with Russian Federation to enhance nuclear power capacity in the country. The details of these projects are given below:

State	Location	Project	Capacity(MW)
PHWRs to be set up in fleet mode			
Madhya Pradesh	Chutka	Chutka -1&2	2 X 700
Karnataka	Kaiga	Kaiga -5&6	2 X 700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	Mahi Banswara -1&2	2 X 700

State	Location	Project	Capacity(MW)
Haryana	Gorakhpur	GHAVP -3&4	2 X 700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	Mahi Banswara -3&4	2 X 700
Light Water Reactor (LWR) to be set up in cooperation with Russian Federation			
Tamil Nadu	Kudankulam	KKNPP -5&6	2 X 1000

(b) Yes, Madam. Presently, two public sector companies of the Department of Atomic Energy, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) are involved in nuclear power generation.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration at present, to allow private partnership in the nuclear power generation sector. The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 permits Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in setting up of nuclear power plants as a junior equity partner of a Government company. At present companies in private sector in India are participating in a major way in setting up nuclear power plants through supply of components, equipments and works contracts.

(e) The total installed capacity from conventional energy sources (Excluding Renewable Energy Sources) in the country as on 28.02.2018 is 2,71,300 MW. Out of which private sector contributes about 89,540 MW. It is estimated that capacity of energy production from conventional sources likely to be added through private sector during March 2018 – March 2022 will be 3802 MW. The likely retirement of private sector plants during March 2018 – March 2022 is about 1,070 MW. Hence, the total capacity for energy production from private sector at the end of March 2022 is likely to be 92,272 MW from conventional energy sources.

[English]

Doubling of Trivandrum-Kanyakumari Rail Line

5442. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to double Trivandrum-Kanyakumari railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the doubling work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Trivandrum-Kanniyakumari doubling project has been included in the Budget 2015-16. Detailed estimate of this project is sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1432 crore in August, 2017. Earthwork/Bridge works have been taken up.

Execution/completion of projects depends on a number of factors such as statutory clearances, acquisition of land, shifting of various utility services etc. Therefore, it is not feasible to give fixed time lines for completion of the project.

[Translation]

Unmanned Level Crossings

5443. SHRI VIKRAM USENDI:

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has announced to end all unmanned level crossings in the country;

(b) if so; the details of unmanned level crossings converted into manned level crossings during the last three years in the country including Chhattisgarh, zone and place-wise; and;

(c) the State-wise details of funds allocated for this purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. It has been decided to eliminate all Unmanned Level

Crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge (BG) route in next 2 years by either of the following methods:-

- Closure – Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/ negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).
- Merger – Merger of unmanned level crossing to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway/Road Under Bridge (RUB)/Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.
- Provision of Subways/RUBs.
- Manning – The unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means will be

progressively manned based on rail-road traffic volume, visibility conditions.

(b) During the last 3 years and the current year (upto Feb.2018), 5156 UMLCs have been eliminated out of which 1986 were manned and 3170 were closed by closure/merger/subway. In Chhattisgarh, during the last 3 years and the current year (upto Feb.2018), 69 UMLCs have been eliminated out of which 15 have been manned and 54 were closed by closure/merger/subway. Place-wise data of UMLCs eliminated is not maintained. Zone-wise data of UMLCs eliminated during the last three years and the current year (upto Feb.18) is as follows:

S. No.	Zonal Railway	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18 (upto Feb'18)	Total
1.	Central Railway	49	43	17	All UMLCs eliminated	109
2.	Eastern Railway	56	51	61	4	172
3.	East Central Railway	28	20	42	26	116
4.	East Coast Railway	98	159	128	53	438
5.	Northern Railway	163	98	150	176	587
6.	North Central Railway	26	19	70	54	169
7.	North Eastern Railway	62	139	126	70	397
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway	43	79	123	70	315
9.	North Western Railway	64	94	124	168	450
10.	Southern Railway	86	98	119	114	417
11.	South Central Railway	119	68	149	89	425
12.	South Eastern Railway	78	120	190	186	574
13.	South East Central Railway	39	56	43	13	151
14.	South Western Railway	56	100	65	52	273
15.	Western Railway	101	71	96	177	445
16.	West Central Railway	80	38	All UMLCs eliminated	All UMLCs eliminated	118
Total		1148	1253	1503	1252	5156

(c) State-wise data of funds allocated is not maintained. Zone-wise details of funds allocated for Plan Head 29 and Plan Head 30 regarding ROBs, RUBs and LCs during the last three years (2015-18) is as follows:

(in Rs. Crore)

S. No.	Zonal Railway	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Central Railway	101.51	139.00	165.07
2.	Eastern Railway	66.34	90.37	105.37
3.	East Central Railway	70.68	109.60	130.97
4.	East Coast Railway	116.73	203.47	255.52
5.	Northern Railway	277.61	475.45	584.94
6.	North Central Railway	271.67	414.60	488.80
7.	North Eastern Railway	83.40	161.99	180.32
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway	146.13	166.73	194.89
9.	North Western Railway	261.09	271.61	485.77
10.	Southern Railway	314.99	409.50	503.63
11.	South Central Railway	213.64	262.54	316.87
12.	South Eastern Railway	65.50	179.58	287.34
13.	South East Central Railway	138.45	192.15	218.85
14.	South Western Railway	169.01	185.37	209.33
15.	Western Railway	165.17	307.33	340.71
16.	West Central Railway	200.08	176.18	206.62
Total		2662.00	3745.47	4675.00

[English]

Safety Measures Announced in Budget

5444. SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the safety measures which have been announced during the budget are being implemented by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A fund namely 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' (RRSK) has been created in 2017-18 with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore over a period of five years for critical safety

related works. Accordingly, a provision of Rs. 20,000 crore has been made in Budget Estimates and Revised Estimate, 2017-2018 out of 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' to fund essential works for ensuring safety.

The details of works to be executed through Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) have been summarized as under: —

Summary of RRSK works identified

(1) Civil Engineering Works

(including Track works, Bridge rehabilitation, Vehicular ultrasound testing system for rail/welds, broken rail detection system, adoption of flash butt welds & weld quality improvement etc)

-
- (2) Safety works at Level Crossings
(including elimination of LC/ROB/RUB/Subways etc)
- (3) S&T Works
(including Train Protection & Warning System, Train Collision Avoidance System, up-gradation of standard of interlocking, replacement of overaged signalling gears by electrical/electronic interlocking etc)
- (4) Mechanical Engineering
(including Freight Design & Maintenance, Coach Design & Maintenance, Diesel Locomotive maintenance, Crew Management and Disaster management)
- (5) Electrical Engineering
(Replacement of overaged traction distribution assets, conversion of unregulated OHE to regulated OHE, replacement of masts/portals, replacement of transformers, cables, earthing, panels, wiring etc)
- (6) Human Resource Development
-

The above works of asset replacement are targeted for liquidation in a period of five years. Outlay of the Rs. 20,000 crore has been allocated in Budget Estimates 2018-19 also.

Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including upgradation of technology to aid safe running of trains. These include replacement of over-aged assets, elimination of unmanned level crossings, 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 inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.

As a safety culture a well established safety management systems is existing which identifies Safety hazards and unsafe practices in the railway operation so that corrective action can be initiated much before occurrence of a disaster. Instructions have been issued

from time to time to inculcate safety habits amongst all railway employees.

New Law Colleges

5445. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER

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

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for setting up of law colleges from various State Governments including that of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals received along with the number of proposals approved and the number of proposals still pending;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any new action plan for setting up of law colleges in recent years; and

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

Labour Force Survey

5446. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment and unemployment on the basis of labour force survey conducted by the Government;

(b) whether the Government proposes to conduct periodic survey to assess rise in employment rate at all India level on regular basis;

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

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be finalised for the said purpose?

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) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has been conducting quinquennial Employment-Unemployment Surveys to measure employment-unemployment related indicators. The latest survey on Employment and Unemployment was conducted by NSSO during its 68th round (July 2011 - June 2012). Based on the survey results, Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) (in per cent) in usual status (ps+ss) at all-India level, are given as under:

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) (in per cent) in usual status (ps+ss) during 2011-12

All-India	WPR and UR (in per cent) in 2011-12	
	WPR	UR
	38.6	2.3

Statements showing WPR and UR according to usual status by States/UTs during 2011-12 are given in the enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

(b) to (d) A nation-wide PLFS has been launched by NSSO, Government of India from April, 2017 on continuous basis with the objective to measure quarterly changes of key labour force indicators (such as Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) & Unemployment Rate (UR)) in urban areas as well as to generate the annual estimates of labour force indicators both in rural and urban areas. For measuring the labour force indicators, both Current Weekly Status (CWS) and Usual Activity Status (US) approach are followed.

A rotational panel sampling design is used in urban area, where 25% of the sample First Stage Units (FSUs) *i.e.*, Urban Frame Survey blocks will be replaced in every subsequent 5th quarter with a new panel of FSUs. Thus, each of the sample households are visited once in each of 4 quarter. For rural areas, fresh sample FSUs (*i.e.* villages) is selected for 8 quarters of two-year period and 25% FSUs of annual allocation is to be surveyed in each quarter. There is no revisit in the rural sample households.

Statement – I

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) According to Usual Status@ for each State/UT During 2011-12

State/UT	WPR (%)
Andhra Pradesh*	47.0
Arunachal Pradesh	36.8
Assam	34.1
Bihar	27.3
Chhattisgarh	46.3
Delhi	33.7
Goa	35.8
Gujarat	42.2
Haryana	34.4
Himachal Pradesh	52.0
Jammu and Kashmir	38.9
Jharkhand	35.1
Karnataka	42.3
Kerala	37.7
Madhya Pradesh	38.5
Maharashtra	43.1
Manipur	37.2
Meghalaya	43.5
Mizoram	43.2
Nagaland	36.7
Odisha	41.2
Punjab	39.2
Rajasthan	40.0
Sikkim	51.9
Tamil Nadu	44.3
Tripura	38.8
Uttarakhand	36.1
Uttar Pradesh	33.3

State/UT	WPR (%)
West Bengal	39.2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	42.0
Chandigarh	35.4
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34.4
Daman and Diu	40.3
Lakshadweep	33.4
Puducherry	35.5
all-India	38.6

*Andhra Pradesh includes Telangana as it was not a separate State during the NSSO survey period July 2011-June 2012

@ principal status + subsidiary status

Statement – II

*Unemployment Rates (UR) According to Usual Status@
for Each State/UT During 2011-12*

State/UT	UR (in %)
Andhra Pradesh*	2.1
Arunachal Pradesh	2.1
Assam	4.7
Bihar	3.5
Chhattisgarh	1.5
Delhi	3.7
Goa	4.8
Gujarat	0.5
Haryana	2.8
Himachal Pradesh	1.3
Jammu and Kashmir	3.5
Jharkhand	2.5
Karnataka	1.6
Kerala	6.7
Madhya Pradesh	1.0
Maharashtra	3.6
Manipur	0.7

State/UT	UR (in %)
Meghalaya	1.6
Mizoram	3.1
Nagaland	17.8
Odisha	2.4
Punjab	2.2
Rajasthan	1.2
Sikkim	1.1
Tamil Nadu	2.2
Tripura	12.8
Uttarakhand	3.2
Uttar Pradesh	1.5
West Bengal	3.2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6.5
Chandigarh	5.9
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.0
Daman and Diu	0.2
Lakshadweep	13.9
Puducherry	2.2
all-India	2.3

*Andhra Pradesh includes Telangana as it was not a separate State during the NSSO survey period July 2011-June 2012.

@ principal status + subsidiary status

Explanatory Note:

1. Usual activity status (US): This relates to the activity status of a person during the reference period of last 365 days preceding the date of survey. The activity status on which a person spent relatively longer time (major time criterion) is considered the usual principal activity status (ps). Besides the usual principal activity status, a person may be engaged in economic activity, during the last 365 days, for a period of 30 days or more. The status in which such economic activities are pursued is the subsidiary economic activity (ss) of the person.

2. Worker Population Ratio (WPR): WPR defined as the number of persons employed per 1000 persons.
3. Unemployment Rate (UR): UR is defined as the number of persons unemployed per 1000 persons in the labour force (which includes both the employed and unemployed).

Punctuality of Trains

5447. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the punctuality is one of the major issues affecting railways and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether an internal committee of railways has carried out any study to ascertain the reasons behind late arrival and departure of trains and submitted its report recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of findings and recommendations made by the committee;

(e) whether the Government has implemented these recommendations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken for implementing these recommendations?

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

(b) to (f) Yes, Madam. An internal committee of Railways has been constituted by the Ministry to carry out an analysis of the factors affecting punctuality and to recommend structured measures to bring perceptible change in the areas related to the punctuality with a view to improve the same. The committee is analyzing the reasons for late arrival and departure of trains and holding deliberations taking into account the various aspects of the passenger train operations including the measures to improve punctuality from the passenger/customer satisfaction point of view.

Insufficient Budget Allocation

5448. SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL):

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of coordination in implementation of foreign policy due to insufficient budget allocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the budget allocation for the year 2017-2018 is sufficient;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Ministry to receive more funds under budget allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) to (e) The Ministry prioritizes and rationalizes its expenditure within allocated budgetary ceilings while ensuring that foreign policy priorities and objectives are addressed and met. The Ministry seeks enhancement of funds allocation from Ministry of Finance, where needed, including projecting its requirements with justifications in the Supplementary Demands for Grants and at Revised Estimates stages.

[English]

INS Arihant

5449. SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage the INS Arihant has suffered and the estimated cost of its repair; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be repaired and set to sail along with its complete operational capabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The information cannot be divulged in the interest of National Security.

Receipts from Legal/Medical Practitioners

5450. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate Law/Rules compelling issuance of receipts to the clients by the legal and medical practitioners in the interest of transparency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be operational/or in force.

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

Fake Call Rackets

5451. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints about increasing number of phone calls made by dubious fake call rackets that dupe people by promising jobs, various offers and fraudulently obtaining sensitive financial information;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such complaints received during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government 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) and (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) receives a large number of complaints every year through phone, physical and electronic medium including online Centralised Public Grievance Redress

and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) Portal under various categories. However, no specific category of complaint is available in CPGRAMS regarding fake call rackets. Sometimes DoT receives complaints related to the subject matter. Whenever DoT receives such type of complaints, like dubious fake call rackets that dupe people by promising jobs, various offers and fraudulently obtaining sensitive financial information, DoT advises complainants to approach the Law enforcing agencies like Police etc, for lawful action. DoT at its level also investigates the matter with respect to telecom resources used / call details related to such complaints and brings it in to the notice of local police or any other law enforcing agency as the case may be, for suitable action.

(c) DoT helps the Law Enforcement / financial Agencies by facilitating & providing information related to telecom network, technical aspects, and telecom resources / Call details, if required. It has been observed that cyber-crime activities for frauds in financial transactions are being carried out in an organised manner primarily from some districts of Jharkhand targeting ignorant persons from all over India. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Phone Frauds (IMCPF) led by MHA with representatives from various Ministries / Departments, including Department of Telecommunications, to assess various aspects of dealing with phone frauds.

Export Orders for PHWR

5452. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) is undertaking any efforts to obtain export orders for its Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR);

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the NPCIL has obtained any export orders for PHWRs from any foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(e) whether any detailed analysis of the said reactors were conducted by the aforementioned foreign

nations to ascertain its safety and operational capabilities and if so, 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) While Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has developed all aspects of commercial indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 220, 540 and 700 MW unit size, there is no proposal, currently, to export its PHWRs.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

CCTV in Ladies Coaches

5453. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways is working on a detailed plan of installing CCTV cameras in ladies coaches on priority especially in suburban trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways has proposed to provide CCTV based surveillance system in all passenger carrying trains, including ladies coaches in suburban trains. Funding is contemplated from Nirbhaya Fund.

Smuggling through Foreign Post Offices

5454. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the custom officials in the country have expressed concern over the functioning of the

Foreign Post Offices (FPOs) and urged the Government to completely computerize FPOs to check smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether instances of smuggling of banned and restricted items in parcels through FPOs have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to curb this illegal practice in an effective way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) A joint task force of the Department of Posts and Department of Customs has been formed to discuss various issues faced by both the Departments in functioning of FPOs. Further, the Department of Posts and Customs are collaborating to implement on pilot basis, SECUREX (Security and Customs Related Electronic Exchange of Data) project which has been developed by the Universal Postal Union along with World Customs Organization. This project will enable Department of Posts and Customs to exchange data electronically in advance which will assist in risk management.

(c) Yes.

(d) The details are placed in the table below:-

Period	Restricted Items (No. of cases booked)	Prohibited items (No. of cases booked)
2015-16	1440	657
2016-2017	2413	1373
2017-2018 (upto Feb' 2018)	1829	495

(e) The Department of Customs has installed 17 X-ray scanning machines at the FPOs to scan foreign parcels. In case of suspicious items 100% examination

is carried out. The customs department is also in the process of procuring 15 scanning machines to strengthen the examination process in the FPOs.

GDP Growth Forecast

5455. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has revised its 2017-18 GDP growth forecast and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether as per data released recently by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) it has marked that the Indian economy grew 7.2% in the October-December quarter of 2017-18 emerging as the fastest growing major economy in the world, overtaking China;

(c) if so, whether the increased percentage growth of the farm and manufacturing sector is more than the previous quarter;

(d) if so, whether confidence in the Indian economy has increased substantially on account of the policy measures of the Government and of the Central bank; and

(e) if so the details of the policy measures undertaken for the purpose?

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 Ministry releases and revises estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) / Gross Value Added (GVA) as per the published advance release calendar. Accordingly, as per Second Advance estimates of National Income, 2017-18 and Quarterly estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the third Quarter (Q3) of 2017-18 released on 28th February, 2018 by Central Statistics Office (CSO), the GDP growth in the country is estimated to be 6.6 percent at constant (2011-12) prices and 9.8 percent at current prices during financial year 2017-18.

(b) Comparison with national income estimates of other countries is not done by CSO. As per the press release of CSO dated 28th February, 2018, growth rates of GDP during the third quarter (October-December) of financial year 2017-18 is estimated to be 7.2 percent at constant (2011-12) prices and 11.9 percent at current prices.

(c) Gross Value Added (GVA) growth rates of 'agriculture, forestry & fishing', and 'manufacturing' sector, during the second quarter (July-Sep) and third quarter (October- December) of 2017-18 at constant (2011-12) and current prices are given in the table below:

Percentage Growth rate as compared to same quarter of previous year

Industry	At Constant Prices		At Current Prices	
	Q2 (July - September)	Q3 (October- December)	Q2 (July - September)	Q3 (October- December)
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2.7	4.1	4.3	7.9
Manufacturing	6.9	8.1	9.5	10.9

(d) and (e) Government is continuously taking steps to boost growth in the Industry, which inter alia includes putting in place policy frameworks to create a conducive business environment, strengthening infrastructure network and ensuring availability of required inputs. The Make in India initiative aims to make India a hub for manufacturing, design and

innovation. It focuses on infrastructure, simplified processes, job creation, skill development and fostering innovation in select thrust sectors. The Government has undertaken Foreign Direct Investment policy reforms in 21 sectors covering 87 areas. In addition to the opening up of new sectors and enhancement of caps for existing sectors, various conditionalities for foreign investments

have also been simplified. The Government has also taken up a series of measures to improve the Ease of Doing Business. The emphasis has been on simplification and rationalization of the existing rules and introduction of information technology to make governance more efficient and effective. Monetary policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided the price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth and a conducive environment for a revival in investment activity.

[Translation]

Research to Boost Indigenous Technology

5456. SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to expedite the research work in the country to give a boost to the economy by making foreign trade profitable;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether India has ignored development of its original technology and has adopted foreign technology;

(d) if so, whether the foreign technology is capital based while the indigenous technology is labour based which is necessary for the country like ours which has a large population;

(e) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to develop indigenous technology and to improve it; and

(f) if so, the details 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 Ministry of Science and technology has been strengthening the knowledge base, expediting research work in the country needed for the socio-economic development through its various programmes and schemes. The people and nation-centric thrust to

science, technology and societal pursuits remains the prime focus of all the Departments under the Ministry. The Ministry through its constituent Departments has developed innovative technologies in some economically important sectors such as: drugs and pharmaceuticals; food & food processing; water; innovative farm machinery; housing & construction; infrastructure engineering including roads; glass & ceramics; agrochemicals; aromatic & medicinal plants; leather; petroleum & petrochemicals; mining, minerals & metals which are significantly benefitting the common people as well as Indian industry.

(c) and (d) The Government has laid down many policies and announced schemes from time to time that encourage the fruit of indigenous research reaching public/society at large and getting successfully commercialized. The Ministry is actively participating in schemes like Make in India, Start-up India, Stand-up India and Digital India etc which are aimed at taking fruits of indigenous research towards fulfilling defined economic & social aims.

Science for Equity, Empowerment & Development (SEED) Division, DST through its programmes/schemes provide opportunities to motivated scientists, technologists and field level/based S&T organizations to take up action-oriented and location-specific demonstration projects aiming at socio-economic development of primarily the rural population. This is realized through adoption/adaptation of indigenous/improved technologies to enhance quality-of-life through better livelihood opportunities and income generation primarily in rural settings and/or for underprivileged communities.

(e) and (f) The Department of Science and Technology is taking initiatives in the thematic areas of energy and water for research, technology and solutions. Two specific schemes Water Technology Initiative and Clean Energy Research Initiative have been formulated to develop indigenous research based technologies and also leverage international collaboration to further improve upon developed technologies.

Also under the Technology Development Programmes of DST, nearly 100 projects are supported every year to develop the technologies in the area of Advanced Manufacturing, Waste Management, and Devices for Agriculture, Textile, Analytical and Biomedical Applications.

Technology Development Board under DST, provides equity capital, soft loan, grant or any other financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies primarily for "Development & Commercialization of indigenous technologies". Since inception, TDB has emerged as a unique techno-financial institution that finances technology-based projects encouraging new ideas from large, medium, small and micro-enterprises even at the risk of failures. TDB has funded more than 400 projects in all sectors pan India with about 300 successfully commercializing the indigenous technologies.

Patent Acquisition and Collaborative Research & Technology Development (PACE) scheme under DSIR, focuses on development and demonstration of innovative technologies traversing the journey from proof-of-concept or laboratory stage to pilot stage, ready to be launched for commercialization by industries and institutions, either stand alone or in collaboration.

Extension of Catering Contracts

5457. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding fraud/misappropriation of funds have been received for extending catering contracts in various States of the country including Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment regarding loss of revenue every year caused by the said scams in Railways;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No such complaints have been received regarding fraud/misappropriation of funds for extending catering contracts in various States of the country including Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

NLCPR

5458. SHRI NINONG ERING: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned for Arunachal Pradesh under the 'NonLapsable Central Pool of Resources, (NLCPR) scheme during each of the last three financial years, project, location-wise; and

(b) the funds allocated along with the present status of each of the project?

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) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme sanctioned nine (09) projects for Arunachal Pradesh costing Rs.108.44 crore from 2014-15 to 2016-17. The details of these projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

In the current financial year, nine (09) projects costing Rs.163.88 crore have been sanctioned.

Statement*Details of Projects Sanctioned Under NLCPR Scheme*

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of the project	Approved cost	Funds released
2014-15			
1.	Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Middle School Khaso in West Kameng district to Higher Secondary (Ph-II)	2.66	0.95
2.	C/o internal/sectoral township road at Tani Happa (New Sagalee) (SH: Survey, investigation, jungle Clearance, Formation cutting, pavement, CD work, CC drain & Protection work)	12.14	9.93
3.	C/o road from Pakoti to Kamsha village (6.50 km)	9.51	5.62
4.	C/o road from parsi-Parlo (Patuk ADC HQ) (Phase-I 5km length complete upto	5.01	4.41
5.	C/o Nyodu to Sibe Siru road (23 km) in West Siang district	19.49	7.01
6.	Providing water supply to Yingkiong for 2.00 MLD (Ph-I)	7.39	6.33
7.	Water Supply at Tali	5.54	1.99
2015-16			
8.	C/o road from PMGSY Bongleng road to Khet village in Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh	14.21	5.11
2016-17			
9.	C/o 6 nos. Bridges to provide connectivity to Admn. CO HQ, palling with district HQ in upper Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh	32.49	11.69

Area of India Under Foreign Countries

5459. SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of India which is under the occupation of foreign countries and the time since when it has been under their occupation, country-wise; and

(b) the action plan of the Government to get these areas back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) and (b) Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of approximately 78,000 sq. kms. of Indian

territory in Jammu and Kashmir. China has been in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1962. In addition, under the so-called China Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' signed between China and Pakistan on 2 March 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

The fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and Chinese authorities several times and also reiterated to international community on various occasions, including at the highest levels. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national

interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Pending Cases in RCTs

5460. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average delay time and cause of delay in disposal of cases that are pending in Railway Claim Tribunals (RCTs);

(b) whether the Government plans to decrease disposal time to offer expedited relief to victims; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan proposed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The average delay time in disposal of cases is approximately 04 years. The reason for delay in disposal of cases is that, settlement of claim cases being a judicial process, the legal procedure adopted involves different stages for completion of statutory and other formalities such as investigation by G.R.P./RPF, filing of written statements, tendering of evidence, summoning of witness, arguments and adjournment sought by the contestants for producing evidence, cross-examination of claimant's documentary evidence, transfer of cases from one Bench to the other sought by the claimants, non-availability of heirship title with the claimants, vacancies in the posts of Members and other officers in RCT, etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Efforts are being made to offer expedited relief to victims as under:

- (i) In case of train accident, suo moto orders are passed by the Principal Bench of Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) to the other Benches of RCT to settle the claim cases within 06 weeks.
- (ii) RCT is regularly holding Circuit Benches to dispose of claim cases (other than train accident cases) by deputing Members to other Benches where pendency of cases is high.

Modernisation of Railways

5461. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has developed time bound action plan for the next five years in the field of modernisation of Railways *i.e.* speed, safety, security at railway stations along with passengers and catering facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the long term requirement of coaches and additional coaches required by the Indian Railways and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details regarding the rail factories producing the railway wagons and cast wheels for railway wagons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. With a view to increasing speed of trains in Indian Railways, 'Mission Raftaar' has been announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17. The mission envisages a target of doubling of average speed of freight trains and increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kmph.

Action plan for improving mobility and increasing average speed includes removal of speed restrictions, construction of road over bridges (ROBs) and road under bridges (RUBs), right powering of trains, introduction of twin-pipe in wagons and replacement of conventional trains by Main Line Electric Multiple unit(MEMU) trains and Diesel Electric Multiple Unit(DEMU) trains.

All technologies, maintenance procedure & processes in connection with safe running of train are introduced after thorough examination from safety point of view. Maintenance procedures are constantly being upgraded/modified with the change in technologies. Indian Railways have adopted or are continuously introducing new technologies such as electronic interlocking at all interlocked Broad Gauge stations, Automatic Train Protection(ATP) system based on European Train Control System Level 2 (ETCS-L2) in the entire G route, Train Management System covering all 4 Metros, Remote

Diagnostics and Predictive Maintenance, Track Circuiting at station, Use of 60 Kg rails and Pre

Stressed Concrete Sleepers(PSC), Long Welded Rail Panels(LWR), Thick Web Switches in turnouts, Digital Ultrasonic Flaw Detection Machines for rail defects. A policy decision has been taken to manufacture only Linke Hoffman Bushce(LHB) type coaches from 2018-19 onwards. All electric locomotives have been provided with Vigilance Control Devices(VCD) which helps in checking the alertness of Loco Pilots(LPs). Training to the Loco Pilots is being imparted on Simulators for improving reaction time and driving skills.

Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by Railways for strengthening and upgradation. Measures initiated by the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force(RPF), to strengthen security of passengers include escorting of about 2500 important Mail/Express trains daily (in addition to escorting of 2200 important Mail/Express trains by the Government Railway Police(GRP)], surveillance through close circuit television(CCTV) cameras provided at about 394 railway stations, rendering assistance to passengers through 182 Security Helpline, prosecution of offenders(unauthorized vendors/hawkers, touts, trespassers, nuisance, entering ladies reserved compartments, etc.) under relevant provisions of the Railways Act, etc.

It is proposed to install Close Circuit Television(CCTV) Cameras to strengthen surveillance mechanism and to ensure safety and security of passengers at railway stations and trains over entire network of Indian Railways. Funding is contemplated from Nirbhaya Fund of Government of India.

To further augment security of passengers with due emphasis upon security of women passengers, upgradation of All India Security Helpline 182 has been envisaged at an approved cost of `5.59 crore. Operationalisation of single Security App has also been envisaged to provide round the clock security related assistance to women passengers.

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 /UTs for regular monitoring and review of security arrangement for the Railway.

All out efforts are being made by the Railways, through the RPF, to provide security to passengers in coordination with GRPs of respective States, who are primarily responsible for registering of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.

To provide pure and healthy food to passengers, a new Catering Policy has been issued on 27th February, 2017. As per Catering Policy 2017, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has been mandated to carry out the unbundling by creating distinction primarily between food preparation and food distribution on trains. In order to upgrade quality of food preparation, IRCTC is to set up new kitchens and upgrade existing ones. Further, detailed instructions/guidelines have been issued to the Zonal Railways for conducting joint inspections by Medical, Commercial and concerned infrastructure maintenance departments to inspect each and every catering unit(mobile and static) including base kitchens/cell kitchens on all Railway Divisions/Zones. Apart from this, regular and surprise inspections are done by Food Safety Officers, Designated Officers and Joint Food Safety Commissioners. Further steps being taken to ensure that good quality and hygienic food is served to the passengers inter-alia includes (i) Optional Catering Service has been introduced as a pilot project, on 32 Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains under the management of IRCTC, (ii) Introduction of station based E-catering for widening the range of options available to passengers for ordering food of their choice, (iii) Pilot for introduction of precooked food('ready to eat' meals) in the range of options available to passengers, (iv) Operation of Centralized Catering Service Monitoring Cell(CSMC) (toll free number 1800-111-321) for prompt redressal of passenger grievances relating to the catering activities and real time assistance to travelling public, (v) Operation of all India Helpline(No. 138) for rail users to lodge complaints/suggestions regarding food and catering services, (vi) A Twitter handle @ IRCATERING has also been made operational to cater to the complaints/suggestions with regard to catering services.

(c) Assessment of long-term requirement of coaches is an ongoing exercise.

(d) The Rail Factories producing the Railway wagons and the type of wagons that are being produced are as under :-

1. Braithwaite & Company Limited : BOXNHL, BOXNS, BOSTHSM2, BCNHL, BRN 22.9, BOBRNHSM1
2. Burn Standard Company Limited : BOXNHLSM1, BOXNS, BOSTHSM2, BCNHL, BRN 22.9, BOBRNHSM1, BOBSN
3. Golden Rock Workshop, Southern Railway : BOXNHL, BVCM, BLC
4. Samastipur Workshop, East Central Railway : BOXNHL
5. Amritsar Workshop, Northern Railway : BOXNHL, BVCM
6. Hubli Workshop, South Western Railway : BVZI, BVCM
7. Jamalpur Workshop, Eastern Railway : BOXNHL, BVCM, BLC

The production units manufacturing wagon cast wheels under Ministry of Railways are :-

1. Rail Wheel Factory(RWF)
Yelahanka, Bangalore, Karnataka.
2. Rail Wheel Plant(RWP)/Bela
District – Saran, Bihar

High Speed Bullet Train to Kolkata

5462. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is considering to connect Kolkata region of West Bengal with high speed bullet trains;

(b) if so, the time by which the said region is likely to be connected with high speed bullet trains; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Kolkata-Delhi, Kolkata-Mumbai and Chennai-Kolkata corridors

are part of the six corridors on Diamond Quadrilateral connecting metropolitan cities and growth centres identified for feasibility study for High Speed Rail.

As High Speed Rail Projects are capital and technology intensive and their implementation depends on technical feasibility, financial viability and availability of resources, no specific time-frame can be indicated at this stage.

PMS Scheme for Minorities

5463. SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount disbursed for Gol Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) scheme for minorities for different States in the past five years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the amount released for Gol PMS scheme for minorities by different States in the past five years;

(c) whether amount per student distributed under scheme for minorities by different States is adequate and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government would revise the scholarship amount in accordance with the rising fee in universities and increase in living cost and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) The details of the amount disbursed/released under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme during the last five years, State-wise is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The Scholarship is disbursed as per the stipulated guidelines of the Scheme and is given as 'admission fees/tuition fees' and 'maintenance allowance', considering the fact that most of the beneficiaries are from the economically weaker sections amongst the six notified minority communities namely – Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and studying in government schools/institutions.

(d) Therevision and streamlining of scheme is a continuous process in the Ministry.

Statement*State-wise Financial Achievements under the Post-matric Scholarship Scheme in the last five years*

S. No.	States/UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
		Amount Released (Rs. In crore)	Amount Released (Rs. In crore)	Amount Released (Rs. In crore)	Amount Released (Rs. In crore)	Amount Released (Rs. In crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.65	12.36	3.52	9.05	10.05
2	Telangana	0.00	0.00	6.98	11.94	12.04
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Assam	12.06	19.17	21.70	20.49	18.61
5	Bihar	7.90	18.20	19.49	22.34	24.86
6	Chhattisgarh	2.30	1.52	1.49	1.19	1.08
7	Goa	0.61	0.00	0.05	0.11	0.17
8	Gujarat	11.19	17.75	21.13	12.91	9.97
9	Haryana	0.00	0.30	0.52	1.84	*
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.31	0.06	0.18	0.26	0.26
11	Jammu and Kashmir	6.10	15.74	10.00	11.42	14.43
12	Jharkhand	5.86	6.71	6.81	6.78	8.24
13	Karnataka	18.07	29.39	53.77	32.68	24.96
14	Kerala	27.13	21.68	32.80	21.04	24.96
15	Madhya Pradesh	6.95	7.34	6.68	8.50	9.61
16	Maharashtra	26.20	38.72	35.24	23.98	20.22
17	Manipur	2.82	5.79	5.38	2.07	2.19
18	Meghalaya	0.19	0.10	0.26	3.27	3.33
19	Mizoram	4.32	1.52	0.33	0.44	0.12
20	Nagaland	0.07	0.20	0.20	0.66	0.19
21	Odisha	1.23	2.42	2.59	2.19	2.09
22	Punjab	43.55	41.38	46.88	31.84	*
23	Rajasthan	15.35	22.97	26.91	19.41	17.50
24	Sikkim	0.40	0.21	0.14	0.24	0.10
25	Tamil Nadu	21.14	30.19	39.81	24.78	21.24
26	Tripura	0.44	0.42	0.36	0.51	0.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27	Uttar Pradesh	36.72	129.90	65.03	66.69	54.24
28	Uttarakhand	1.64	0.00	0.70	1.42	2.12
29	West Bengal	56.95	90.87	91.63	46.63	43.41
30	Andaman and Nicobar	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Chandigarh	0.18	0.07	0.11	0.11	27.35
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
33	Daman and Diu	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01
34	Delhi	0.17	0.41	0.34	0.79	2.09
35	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
36	Puducherry	0.00	0.12	0.08	0.15	0.18

*According to the PFMS report, the achievement showing in UT of Chandigarh during 2016-17 includes State of Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab.

[Translation]

Seats Occupied by Coolies

5464. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coolies occupy the seats and make these available to rail passengers on hefty amount;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of it; and

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No person including coolies are allowed to occupy seats in trains and make them available to rail passengers by taking money. It is a punishable offence under Section 155 of the Railways Act, 1989. However, a few incidents of occupying seats by coolies and making them available to rail passengers by taking money have been reported over Indian Railways. During the year 2017, 123 coolies were arrested for involvement in this malpractice over Indian Railways. Whenever such an incident comes to notice, immediate punitive action is taken as per extant provisions.

[English]

Pending OCI Applications

5465. SHRI VINOD LAKHAMASHI CHAVDA:

SHRI D. S. RATHOD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any details about the pending OCI applications in Britain during the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the pending OCI applications; and

(d) the steps taken to give OCI cards to the pending applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) and (b) There are 729 OCI applications pending with our High Commission in London for the period from February 24, 2014 to February 23, 2018 (last four years) for various reasons. There are 324 OCI applications (for the period January 01, 2014 to December 31, 2017) pending with our Consulate in Birmingham. There are a total of 213 OCI applications

pending at our Consulate in Edinburgh (during the last four years) including the applications requiring mandatory waiting period of 21 days before the OCI Cards could be granted.

(c) No application, complete in all respect, is pending with our High Commission or Consulates in the UK. The reasons for pendency for majority of the OCI applications are, lack of minimum mandatory supporting documents or rejection on technical grounds (like photo specifications, illegible documents, etc.) or a lack of necessary clearances from the security agencies. The pendency is also because of ineligibility of the applicants or misrepresentation of facts by the applicants. There are also instances wherein applicants have not collected their OCI card for months.

(d) Several steps have been taken to address the issue of pendency, including contacting and reminding the applicants to complete the documentation process, submit mandatory documents and re-submit photos with correct specifications for further processing of the application. The Ministry also constantly coordinates with the security agencies for timely clearance of the OCI applications, especially in respect of foreign spouse-based OCI applications.

Setu Bharatam Scheme

5466. SHRI BALKA SUMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched the Setu Bharatam scheme for building 208 bridges at railway crossings on national highways to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that no bridge has been operationalised under the scheme so far and construction work has begun only for 24 and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) This matter pertains to Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH). As per information given by them, the position is as under:

In order to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic, Ministry has envisaged a plan for replacement of all the Level Crossings on National Highways by Road Over Bridges (ROBs) or Road Under Bridges (RUBs) under a scheme Setu Bharatam. Under this programme, construction of 208 ROBs or RUBs on Level Crossings (which are not falling under any other programme like National Highways Development Project (NHDP) etc.) at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,800 crore are included originally. However, due to site requirements/constraints, construction of bypasses, National Highway entrustment to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and corridor construction approach etc., 174 ROBs/RUBs are remaining as on date under Setu Bharatam scheme. 90 ROBs have already sanctioned for Rs. 7101.24 crores. 40 ROBs have already awarded and 24 ROBs have been taken for execution.

Law against Torture

5467. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any law has been enacted to address the practice of torture in India and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the time by which such a law is likely to be enacted;

(c) whether steps have been taken to ratify the UN convention against torture;

(d) if so, the detail thereof; and

(e) whether any compensation schemes is in force to compensate for the loss incurred by the victims of torture?

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 (e) Section 330 and 331 of the Indian Penal Code has provision against voluntarily causing hurt/grievous hurt to extort confession or to compel restoration of property. The Law Commission of India has submitted its 273rd Report on Implementation of "United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or

Punishment" on 30.10.2017 along with a draft Bill title "The Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017". As Criminal Laws are in the Concurrent List, the report of the Law Commission along with the draft Bill has been circulated to State Governments/Union territories, by Ministry of Home Affairs, for their views.

Updation of Records in Courts

5468. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many subordinate courts across the country aren't updating daily progress of cases on the website according to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that at least 1000 districts and subordinate courts aren't updating data regularly although this analysis is crucial for monitoring the performance of judges of the lower courts, if so, the action taken in this regard;

(d) the names of States which are not updating the daily progress cases data; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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 the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), most of the subordinate courts are updating the case details on the website. Some courts are unable to update case data due to issues related to internet connectivity and Virtual Private Network (VPN). Every State has been given facility to track uploading of data, which can be tracked Court Complex - wise.

(c) As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 126 out of 6120 court establishments (2% of the court establishments) have not uploaded the case data for more than 7 days as on 23.3.2018.

(d) As per information available from NJDG, the state-wise number of court establishments which have not been able to upload daily progress case data in

NJDG for more than 7 days as on 23.03.2018 is given below:

Sr. No.	State	Number of Court Establishments
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Assam	4
3.	Bihar	4
4.	Chhattisgarh	14
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	4
6.	Jharkhand	7
7.	Karnataka	4
8.	Kerala	22
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1
10.	Maharashtra	13
11.	Manipur	3
12.	Mizoram	3
13.	Odisha	7
14.	Sikkim	2
15.	Tamil Nadu	3
16.	Tripura	2
17.	Uttar Pradesh	27
18.	Uttarakhand	5
Total		126

(e) The Department of Justice has brought the issue of timely data entry in the National Judicial Data Grid to the notice of the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India as well as the High Courts, and has shared the list of courts that are unable to update case data regularly, with them. To provide smooth and reliable high speed internet connectivity to all district and subordinate courts across the country, the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and the Department of Justice have recently approved a Wide Area Network (WAN) project connecting all the district and taluka courts through BSNL in a single network grid as part of Phase-II of eCourts project.

Appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries

5469. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any precedent of appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries by the Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries is legally untenable and unconstitutional after the 91st Constitution Amendment; and

(d) 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) and (b) Yes, Madam. Since 1951, 33 Parliamentary Secretaries have been appointed and the last such appointment was made in the year 1990.

(c) and (d) No appointment of Parliamentary Secretary has been made by the Government of India after the enactment of the Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003.

Internet Speed and Connectivity

5470. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether optical fibre based Internet connectivity and its proper speed is essential for cashless transactions;

(b) if so, whether the existing internet speed in the country is one of the lowest in the world and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the current spectrum policies do not facilitate achieving universal broadband availability, especially in areas with lower commercial potential and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to address aforementioned issues including internet speed; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to streamline wireless internet connectivity and the progress made so far to boost cashless transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):

(a) Optical fibre based Internet connectivity is not essential for cashless transactions as optimum internet speed for the same is achievable with or without optical fibre based connectivity.

(b) As per Akamai's (an international agency) Quarter 1, 2017 report on "The State of Internet", India with an average internet speed of 6.5 Mbps has a global rank of 89.

Internet speed depends on various parameters such as technology deployed, network coverage, number of simultaneous users accessing the internet, connectivity to the website being accessed etc. The speed of mobile internet is further dependent on a number of factors such as distance from Base Transceiver Station (BTS) serving the customer, the number of simultaneous users being served by the BTS, the traffic handled by the BTS etc. As such, the mobile users may experience different speeds at different location and time of usage.

(c) and (d) As per current spectrum policy, access spectrum is assigned to Telecom Service Providers through auction for the entire licensed service area, which includes rural as well as urban areas. Further, Notice Inviting Applications No:1000/06/2016-WF (Auction) dated 8th August 2016 through which last spectrum auction was carried out, inter-alia, provides for rollout obligations for coverage of Rural Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) also in 2100 Megahertz (MHz), 2300 MHz & 2500 MHz spectrum.

Government has planned the BharatNet project to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media to be completed by March 2019. Under this project, last mile connectivity is planned to be provided through Wi-Fi or any other suitable technology. Upto 18th March 2018, 268195 Kms of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid and 104813 GPs have been made service ready.

Under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme for setting up Wi-Fi Choupals at 5,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Common Service Centre – Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV) of Ministry of

Electronics & IT, Wi-Fi Choupals have been installed in all 5000 GPs, out of which service delivery has commenced in 1833 GPs.

Under USOF's other scheme for setting up public Wi-Fi hotspots at BSNL's 25,000 telephone exchanges in rural areas, at 2429 exchanges Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed and service delivery has commenced.

In addition to the above, Government has allocated 965 MHz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services in the country. Telecom Service Providers are continuously rolling out their networks using this spectrum resulting into increase in internet connectivity and speed in the country.

Problems in Cantonment Areas

5471. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether people in the cantonment areas are facing many problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to provide financial assistance for the welfare of civilians residing in cantonment area and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up a high level committee to take note and solve the problems of the civic population residing in these areas; and

(e) 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) Reports and representations are received from time to time about difficulties faced by residents of Cantonment areas. These cover subjects such as closure of roads, delay in mutation of properties, renewal of leases, building bye-laws and provision of civic amenities. These matters are addressed on case to case basis as per extant rules and instructions.

(c) The Government provides financial assistance to Cantonment Boards in the form of general Grant-in-aid and Grants for creation of capital assets. These amounts together with their own internal revenue are utilised by the Cantonment Boards for providing civic amenities / welfare measures for civilians residing in Cantonment Areas. General Grant-in-aid of Rs.267.42 crore and Grant for creation of capital assets of Rs.62.43 crore has been provided for Cantonment Boards during the financial year 2017-2018.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal. The problems are resolved on case to case basis as per extant rules and instructions.

Chinese Transgressions

5472. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been increase in Chinese transgressions over the last one year or so;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these transgressions are taking place in disputed areas or in new areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. There are areas along the LAC where both sides have differing perception of LAC. Due to this both sides undertake patrolling upto their perception of the LAC and as a result transgressions do occur.

[Translation]

Rail Projects in Madhya Pradesh

5473. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many rail projects in Madhya Pradesh are pending;

(b) if so, the details of the projects pending during the last three years;

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the details of the projects approved for Madhya Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a), (b) and (d) At present, 38 projects covering a length of 6770.46 Km at

the cost of Rs. 76495.6 crore falling partly/fully in the State of Madhya Pradesh are in different stages of execution. Out of these, 3 new line and 18 doubling projects falling partly/fully in the State of Madhya Pradesh have included in the Budget since last 3 years *i.e.* from 2015-16 to 2017-18. Besides, 2 doubling projects have also been proposed in the Budget 2018-19. Details of these projects are as under:

S. No.	Name of Project	Year of sanction	Latest anticipated cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
NEW LINES			
1.	Indore-Jabalpur (342 Km)	2016-17	5440
2.	Indore-Manmad via Malegaon (368 Km)	2016-17	8857.98
3.	Nimach-Badi Sadri (48 Km)	2017-18	490.44
DOUBLING			
1.	Anuppur-Katni 3rd line (166 Km)	2015-16	1370.94
2.	Bilaspur (Pendra Road)-Anuppur 3rd line (50 Km)	2015-16	393.98
3.	Teegaon-Chichonda Ghat section 3rd line (17 Km)	2015-16	175.66
4.	Itarsi-Nagpur (Balance) 3rd line with Dharakho-Maramjhiri Ghat section 3rd line (280 Km)	2015-16	2449.91
5.	Jhansi-Bina 3rd line (153 Km)	2015-16	2001.63
6.	Katni-Bina 3rd line (279 Km)	2015-16	2478.23
7.	Katni Grade Separator Bypass line (22 Km)	2015-16	582.13
8.	Katni-Singrauli (261 Km)	2015-16	1762.94
9.	Mathura-Jhansi 3rd line (274 Km)	2015-16	3677.76
10.	Nimuch-Chittaurgarh (56 Km)	2015-16	389.99
11.	Ramna-Singrauli (160 Km)	2015-16	2436.21
12.	Satna-Rewa (50 Km)	2015-16	403.49
13.	Sontalai-Bagratawa patch doubling (7 Km)	2015-16	96.44
14.	Indore-Dewas-Ujjain (80 Km)	2016-17	603.69
15.	Jhansi-Khairar-Manickpur & Khairar Bhimsen (411 Km)	2016-17	4187.00
16.	Jukehi Chord line at Katni (1Km)	2016-17	12.45
17.	Nagda-Ujjain Doubling of Gambhir Bridge (1 Km)	2016-17	28.16

1	2	3	4
18.	Powarkheda-Jujharpur single line flyover in up direction (12 Km)	2016-17	247.03
19.	Nimach-Ratlam (133 Km)	2018-19 (Proposed)	910.00
20.	Dholpur-Jhansi Bina 4th line (321.80 Km)	2018-19 (Proposed)	486.95

(c) Completion of these projects is dependent upon many factors such as land acquisition, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, cutting of trees, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, apart from availability of adequate funds. Therefore, timelines for completion of all the projects are not feasible to be fixed.

Criteria for Identification of BPL People

5474. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criteria set to identify the families below the poverty line in the country;

(b) whether the cases of partial attitude in exclusion of the families under BPL category and inclusion of ineligible families into this category have been taken into cognizance by the Government;

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

(d) whether the Government is likely to issue any guidelines to include the eligible families into BPL category; 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) to (e) Ministry of Rural Development provided financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting the BPL Census to identify the families living Below Poverty line in the rural areas who could be targeted under its various programmes. The last BPL Census for the Tenth Five Year Plan period was conducted in 2002 using the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socioeconomic

indicators/parameters/criteria were used on the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development.

In 2011, in place of BPL, the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) was conducted by the States / UTs with the financial and technical support of the Government of India through a comprehensive programme involving the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (ORGI), Ministry of Home Affairs and State Governments / UT Administrations. SECC 2011 includes three-step process involving 13 (thirteen) Automatic Exclusion parameters for identifying not-poor households, 5 (five) Automatic Inclusion parameters for identifying poorest of the poor households and 7 (seven) Deprivation Criteria for identifying poor households. The SECC Data at "Draft stage" was placed in public domain and was displayed prominently in Gram Panchayats for inviting claims and objections during Gram Sabhas. The claims and objections received were examined by the appropriate authority in district. Based on decision on claims and objections, the SECC Draft list was finalized in each District by District Authority. The SECC facilitates evidence based information and better targeting of benefits to the intended people. Ground truthing and validation of beneficiaries' data is got done in Gram Sabha. To maximize the outcome of Government expenditure on rural Development the Government has revamped governance framework which has increased transparency and accountability. For transparency and accountability citizens have been empowered to monitor programme and up-keep of assets created under the rural development programme through Mobile applications, namely, "Meri Sadak" and "Gram Samvad".

[English]

Confidentiality Agreement

5475. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have signed new confidentiality agreement replacing the 2008 pact, among 14 other pacts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for foreclosing of sharing classified information on defence deals, including the Rafale fighter aircraft deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) An Agreement between India and France regarding the Exchange and Reciprocal Protection of Classified or Protected Information was signed on 10th March, 2018 during the State Visit of President of France to India. This agreement defines the common security regulations applicable to any exchange of classified and protected information between the two countries.

Fake Caste Certificates

5476. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of securing employment on the basis of false caste certificates which came to the notice of the Railways during 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 along with action taken thereon;

(b) the steps taken/being taken to check the recurrence of such cases in future;

(c) whether promotion of SC/ST employees is withheld or kept in sealed cover during the process of verification of caste certificate at the time of promotion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with legal base like DoPT order/court order, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There are 105 complaints of fake caste certificates received for the period 2014-2017 (including 31 carried forward complaints received prior to 2014). The details of such cases are mentioned below:-

S. No.	Details	No. of cases
1.	Under investigation	72
2.	Investigation Completed	33
	i)Cases proved and detected as false after due verification	29
	ii)Cases not proved as false after due verification <i>i.e.</i> cases found as genuine.	04
3.	Removed from service	17
4.	Under DAR proceedings	12

(b) Instructions were issued on 01.10.1982 circulating therewith a copy of Ministry of Home Affairs letter dated 29.06.1982 regarding verification of caste certificates produced by the candidates wherein it has been laid down that each officer who has been assigned the responsibility of recruitment or maintenance of the Service Records of the employees should ensure the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe certificates issued by the civil authorities are properly checked. If any discrepancy is noticed in such certificates, it should be immediately brought to the notice of the civil authorities for necessary action. The above instructions have been reiterated from time to time and latest on 23.06.2016 enclosing therewith a copy of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. in the matter to all the Zonal Railways/Production Units etc., to follow the extant instructions.

(c) No Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Power Generated from Nuclear Power Plant

5477. Dr. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generated from Nuclear Power Plants (NPP) in the country during each of the last three years, NPP-wise; and

(b) the quantum of by-product/nuclear waste generated from these plants during the said period, NPP-wise?

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 details are attached as Annexure.

(b) The wastes generated at the nuclear power stations during the operation of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) are of low and intermediate radioactivity level. Typically, the quantity of low and intermediate level

waste to be stored at site is about 0.15 cubic meters/year/MW. These wastes are appropriately treated, concentrated and subjected to volume reduction. The concentrates are immobilized in inert materials like cement, bitumen, polymers etc. and stored in specially constructed structures located at the site under monitoring. The treated liquids and gases are diluted and discharged under continuous monitoring, ensuring that the discharges are well within the limits set by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The radioactivity level of the stored wastes reduces with time and by the end of the plant life, falls to very low levels.

Statement

Details of the Total Power Generated from Nuclear Power Plants

State	Location	Unit	Capacity (MW)	Generation (in Million Units, MU) [§]		
				2014 – 15	2015 – 16	2016 – 17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	Tarapur	TAPS-1	160	718	786	1236
		TAPS-2	160	1297	500	935
		TAPS-3	540	4545	4530	4159
		TAPS-4	540	3713	4573	4530
Rajasthan	Rawatbhata	RAPS-2	200	1282	1226	1106
		RAPS-3	220	1720	1845	1618
		RAPS-4	220	1995	1668	1936
		RAPS-5	220	1628	1950	1715
		RAPS-6	220	1109	1773	1096
Uttar Pradesh	Narora	NAPS-1	220	1341	1803	1655
		NAPS-2	220	1550	1630	1724
Gujarat	Kakrapar	KAPS-1	220	1943	1608	##
		KAPS-2	220	1586	421	##
Karnataka	Kaiga	KGS-1	220	1695	1918	1742
		KGS-2	220	1450	1834	1708
		KGS-3	220	1567	2078	1063
		KGS-4	220	1751	1842	2021

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu	Kalpakkam	MAPS-1	220	1318	1861	1465
		MAPS-2	220	1299	1349	1739
	Kudankulam	KKNPP-1	1000	4330*	2261	6212
		KKNPP-2	1000	-	-	2339**
Total Generation (MUs)				37837	37456	39999

§ The generation figures are rounded to nearest integer.

* KKNPP-1 Generation Details: Infirm Power for 2014-15 (up to December 30, 2014) = 2243 MUs and Commercial Power Generation for 2014-15 (from December 31, 2014) = 2087 MUs.

KAPS-1&2 have been taken in project mode for Enmasse Coolant Channel Replacement (EMCCR) and Enmasse Feeder Replacement (EMFR) activities from August 01, 2016 onwards.

** KKNPP-2 generated about 2327 MUs of infirm power during the year 2016-17.

Revenues Earned by Post Offices from Value Added Services

5478. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of revenue, the Department of Posts earns from various services including e-commerce, payment banks and other value added services;

(b) the future expansion plans in these sectors in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the number of the Indian Postal Payments Bank accounts in Andhra Pradesh Post office-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):

(a) Madam, the details of the percentage of revenue the Department of Posts earns from various services including e-commerce and other value added services are furnished below.

Details	Financial Year 2016-17 (In crore of Rs.)	%age of revenue to total revenue
1	2	3
Speed Post	1785.25	15.51

1	2	3
Business Post	752.52	6.54
Express Parcel	64.18	0.56
Business Parcel	94.8	0.82
Bill Mail Service	77.15	0.67
e.Post	1.63	0.01
Postage through Franking Machines and Pre-postage	777.34	6.75
Sale of Stamps	470.78	4.09
Commemorative Stamps	43.3	0.38
My Stamps	5.33	0.05
Philatelic Ancillaries	13.54	0.12
Postage- Other Schemes	8.5	0.07
MO & IPO	284.62	2.47
Retail Post	67.68	0.59
Logistic Post	16.31	0.14
E. Bill Collection	26.34	0.23
Railway ticket booking	2.54	0.02
MGNREGA	48	0.42
Other Activities	152.57	1.33

1	2	3
Net Receipts / Payments to Other Administration (Other Countries)	-267.22	-2.32
Postal		
SB & CC Remuneration	7085.84	61.56
Total	11511	100.00

(b) As the delivery services on value added services are offered PAN India, any expansion of these services in the country will include expansion plans for Andhra Pradesh too.

24 IPPB Branches are being set up in the state of Andhra Pradesh in April, 2018 and there would be complete integration with all post offices so that each post office functions both as DoP outlet and as an access point for the Payments Bank, subject to technical and commercial feasibility.

(c) India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched only two pilot branches (Ranchi and Raipur) in the country so far. 650 branches across the country are to be launched soon.

Change in Schedule of Train No. 12274/12273

5479. SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has changed the schedule, route and travel time of Howrah Duroto Express (Train No. 12274 & 12273); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. With a view to providing additional service on the Jasidih-Delhi sector, it has been decided to divert 12273/12274 Howrah-New Delhi Duroto Express via Jasidih, w.e.f. 09.02.2018, with change in schedule of the train.

Details of Schemes for Minority Development'

5480. SHRI D.S. RATHOD: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any details of the schemes for minority development; and

(b) if so, the details of the education and economic aid provided under these schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) This Ministry is implementing the following Schemes/Programmes in the country for the welfare of six centrally notified minorities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains:

- (1) Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) -implemented in identified Minority Concentration Blocks, Minority Concentration Towns & Clusters of Contiguous Villages for infrastructure development.
- (2) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme – for educational empowerment of students belonging to the notified minority communities.
- (3) Maulana Azad National Fellowship – Provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from notified minority communities.
- (4) "Naya Savera" Free coaching and Allied Scheme -to enhance skills and knowledge of students and candidates from minority communities to get employment.
- (5) Padho Pardes – Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies.
- (6) Nai Udaan -Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc.
- (7) JiyoParsi – Scheme for containing population decline of Parsis in India.
- (8) Nai Roshni – Scheme for leadership development of Minority Women.
- (9) Seekho Aur Kamao – Skill development initiative for minorities.
- (10) Nai Manzil – A scheme for formal school education & skilling of school dropouts.
- (11) USTTAD -Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development.

- (12) Hamari Dharohar -A scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority Communities under the overall concept of Indian Culture.
- (13) Grants-in-Aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) for implementation of education and skill related schemes:
- (a) Grants-in-Aid to NGOs/Trust/Society
- (b) Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to the Minorities
- (c) Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for providing short-term job oriented skill development courses to youths belonging to minority communities.
- (14) Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for providing concessional loans to minorities for self-employment and income generating ventures.

The details of the schemes including funds allocated/released/spent and the achievements during each of the last three years and the current year in respect of the schemes at serial No. (1) to (12) are available on the website of this Ministry (www.minorityaffairs.gov.in), the one at serial No.(13) are available on the website of MAEF (www.maef.nic.in) and at serial No. 14 are available on the website of NMDFC (www.nmdfc.org).

[Translation]

Pending Projects for Approval

5481. SHRI HARI MANJHI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise number of projects approved by NITI Aayog during the last three years including Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) the State/UT-wise details of the projects of States which are pending before the Union

Government/NITI Aayog including those of Jharkhand and Bihar;

(c) the State/UT-wise reasons for not providing approval to the said projects;

(d) whether the Government has received requests from the States to provide approval to the pending projects; and

(e) if so, the State/UT-wise details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 (e) Erstwhile Planning Commission /NITI Aayog approved /sanctioned the project proposals received from State Governments under One Time Additional Central Assistance (OTACA)/ Special Plan Assistance (SPA) till 2014-2015 and recommended to the Ministry of Finance the release of Funds. The List of such proposals of States including Jharkhand/ Bihar sanctioned / approved is enclosed Statement. NITI Aayog has discontinued the approval/sanctioning of such project proposal from 2015-16 following the acceptance of recommendations of 14th Finance Commission for increased devolution to the States by way of enhancing the share of States in the net proceeds of Union Taxes from 32% to 42 % resulting in increased fund transfer to the States. Erstwhile Planning Commission also accorded investment clearance for irrigation project proposals having inter-State ramification for their inclusion in the Annual Plan of States. This clearance was also required for inclusion of the projects for availing funds under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). The investment clearance of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects is no longer in the purview of NITI Aayog as the same has been transferred to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

Statement

List of Sanctioned Proposals of States

S. No.	States	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	---	---
2.	Arunachal Pradesh (SPA)	135	---	--

S. No.	States	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
3.	Assam(SPA)	0	---	--
4.	Bihar	19	--	---
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	----	--
6.	Goa	1	----	---
7.	Gujarat	1	---	---
8.	Haryana	5	-	--
9.	Himachal Pradesh (SPA)	1502	--	---
10.	Jammu and Kashmir (SPA)	2	--	---
11.	Jharkhand	29	--	--
12.	Karnataka	7	---	--
13.	Kerala	32	--	--
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	--	--
15.	Maharashtra	1	-	--
16.	Manipur (SPA)	12	-	--
17.	Meghalaya (SPA)	17	--	--
18.	Mizoram(SPA)	45	---	---
19.	Nagaland(SPA)	27	--	--
20.	Odisha	56	---	---
21.	Punjab	3	---	--
22.	Rajasthan	2	---	--
23.	Sikkim (SPA)	1	---	---
24.	Tamil Nadu	2	---	---
25.	Telangana	6	---	---
26.	Tripura (SPA)	65	---	---
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1	--	--
28.	Uttarakhand (SPA)	106	---	--
29.	West Bengal	49	--	--

Dumping Garbage Along Tracks

5482. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land on both sides of railway tracks in towns and cities is being used for open defecation and garbage dumping;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the railway officials to deal with this problem under the Swachh Bharat Campaign; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The problem of open defecation alongside the railway tracks largely exists in approaches to stations falling in major cities where railway land is encroached upon. It not only causes public nuisance but also affects the safety and train operations. Indian Railways has undertaken a series of measures to address this problem as under:

- (i) Guidelines have been issued to Zonal Railways to permit provision of suitable mobile toilets / eco-friendly mobile toilets by the local Government for the use of encroachers in the railway land to avoid human defecation on the railway track and nearby.
- (ii) Adequate toilets as per norms have been provided at railway stations for the passengers.
- (iii) Regular cleaning drives and awareness campaigns under Swachh Bharat Mission have been undertaken for keeping railway premises clean which include prevention of open defecation.
- (iv) Indian Railway is actively associated with the Government of India's initiative for generating awareness for prevention of open defecation alongside the railway tracks in coordination with local Government.

At major trespass locations, alongside the stations in the city areas, boundary wall has also been planned, wherever feasible.

[English]

Data Loggers

5483. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has instructed its Zonal Railways to link the arrival and departure of trains with data loggers to eliminate the practice of manually recording punctuality performance at railway junctions across zones to ensure correct reporting of such data and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it was also decided to utilize these data loggers for capturing trains' running information and update Control Office Application (COA) automatically at the central server; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the list of railway stations and zones where data loggers have been provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. A pilot project was started on Indian Railways to link Data Logger (DL) with Control Office Application (COA) at 34 locations (17 Terminal and 17 Inter change points) for capturing and disseminating real time information of train running to the rail user. This has now been expanded and presently data loggers at 42 locations are linked with Control Office Application (COA).

The list of 42 stations where this link has been provided and operationalized are as under:-

Station	Division	Railway	No. of Stations
Khandwa	Bhusawal	CR	1
Balahrshah	Nagpur	CR	1
Roha and Mumbai CST	Mumbai	CR	2
Asansol	Asansol	ER	1
East Outer Cabin (EOCM), Manpur and Mughalsarai(NEWC)	Mughalsarai	ECR	3
Goldenganj and Seemapur	Sonpur	ECR	2
Pradankhunta	Dhanbad	ECR	1

Station	Division	Railway	No. of Stations
Jhajha and Kiul	Danapur	ECR	2
Bhubaneswar and Bhadrak	Khurda Road	ECoR	2
Duvvada	Waltair	ECoR	1
Chipyana and Palwal	Delhi	NR	2
Kanpur	Allahabad	NCR	1
Lucknow Jn. and Gorakhpur RRI	Lucknow	NER	2
Guwahati and Silchar	Lumding	NFR	2
New Bongaigaon-3 cabins	Rangiya	NFR	1
Rani nagarJalpaiguri, Old Malda Jn. and Katihar RRI-3 cabins	Katihar	NFR	3
Jaipur and Rewari	Jaipur	NWR	2
Chennai Central and Jolarpettai	Chennai	SR	2
Gudur	Vijayawada	SCR	1
Secuderabad	Secuderabad	SCR	1
Jharsuguda	Chakradharpur	SER	1
Bilaspur	Bilaspur	SECR	1
Banglore	Banglore	SWR	1
Ahmedabad and Palanpur	Ahmedabad	WR	2
Nagda	Ratlam	WR	1
Bina	Bhopal	WCR	1
Jabalpur and New Katni Jn.	Jabalpur	WCR	2
Total			42

[Translation]

Monitoring the Progress of Anti-Corruption Measures

5484. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training monitors the progress of measures being undertaken to curb corruption through the annual action plans prepared in this regard;

(b) if so, whether the Government has detected cases of corruption where proper action has not been taken through such monitoring of cases;

(c) if so, the details of such cases during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon and the outcome 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) to (d) The Central Government

is fully alive and committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and has taken several measures to combat corruption and improve the functioning of the Government.

As a part of this policy, a Probity Portal has been launched in Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) through which following probity related issues are monitored at DoPT and Cabinet Secretariat level:

- (i) Pending Sanction for Prosecution
- (ii) Pending disciplinary proceeding cases
- (iii) Implementation of Rotational Transfer Policy
- (iv) Review under Fundamental Rule (FR) 56 (j) and other relevant rules for premature retirement.

Directions have been issued from time to time to concerned Ministries/Departments for strict adherence to applicable rules and time schedules.

Pending Defence Deals

5485. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of defence deals pending on the basis of complaints at present;

(b) whether some of the allegations have proved false and if so, the number of such allegations that proved false during the last three years;

(c) whether the possibility of scams in defence deals is likely to be completely wiped out in case the process of allegations is made complex; and

(d) the impact on the modernisation of the armed forces due to pending defence deals on account of allegations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Capital Acquisition of defence equipment is undertaken in accordance with the extant Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) which incorporates provisions to ensure the highest degree of probity, public accountability, impartiality and transparency in the procurement process. It envisages signing of an Integrity Pact between Government and bidders for all capital procurement / schemes of Rs.20 crore and

above, as against the earlier requirement for such a Pact for schemes of over Rs.100 crore.

Allegations of corruption are dealt with expeditiously as per provisions of DPP and guidelines on the subject, which include provision for taking action against vendors for vexatious or frivolous complaints.

Modernisation of the Defence Forces is a continuous process based on threat perception, operational challenges, technological changes and available sources to keep the armed forces in state of readiness and remaining equipped with modern weapon system. During the last three years and in the current year (upto 31.01.2018), 192 contracts have been signed for capital procurement of defence equipment for armed forces.

Scrapping of New Pension Scheme

5486. DR. RAGHU SHARMA:

SHRI MOHAN BHAI KALYANJI BHAI
KUNDARIYA:

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests for scrapping the New Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to re-introduce old pension scheme in place of New Pension Scheme (NPS);

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has received request for the same, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the NPS is more beneficial to the employees than the old pension scheme 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) to (d) Representations have been received regarding the implementation of National Pension System (NPS) which, inter alia, include demand that NPS may be scrapped and the Government may re-introduce old defined benefit pension system.

Government has made a conscious move to shift from the defined benefit pay-as-you-go pension scheme to defined contribution pension scheme, now called as National Pension System (NPS), after considering the rising and unsustainable pension bill. The transition also has the added benefit of freeing the limited resources of the Government for more productive and socio-economic sectoral development.

There is no proposal to replace the NPS with old pension scheme in respect of Central Government employees recruited on or after 01.01.2004.

(e) National Pension System (NPS) had been designed giving utmost importance to the welfare of the subscribers. There are a number of benefits available to the employees under NPS. Some of the benefits are enlisted below:

- NPS is a well designed pension system managed through an unbundled architecture involving intermediaries appointed by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) viz. pension funds, custodian, central record keeping and accounting agency, National Pension System Trust, trustee bank, points of presence and Annuity service providers. It is prudently regulated by PFRDA which is a statutory regulatory body established to promote old age income security and to protect the interest of subscribers of NPS.
- Dual benefits of Low Cost and Power of Compounding- The pension wealth which accumulates over a period of time till retirement grows with a compounding effect. The all-in-costs of the institutional architecture of NPS are among the lowest in the world.
- Tax Benefits- Contribution made to the NPS Tier-I account is eligible for tax deduction under

the Income Tax Act, 1961. An additional tax rebate of Rs.50000 is also allowed for contributions made to NPS Tier-I under Section 80CCD (IB) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

- Transparency and Portability is ensured through online access of the pension account by the NPS subscribers, across all geographical locations and portability of employments.
- Partial withdrawal- Subscribers can withdraw up to 25% of their own contributions before attaining age of superannuation, subject to certain conditions.

The amount of monthly annuity payable to a Government servant on exit from NPS depends upon various factors such as accumulated pension wealth of the Government servant, portion of accumulated pension wealth utilized for the purchase of annuity and the type of annuity purchased.

Under the defined benefit pension system applicable to Government servants appointed before 01.01.2004, pension is calculated based on qualifying service and the last pay drawn by the Government servant.

[English]

Recruitment in Coal India Limited

5487. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

DR.HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH

SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recruitment process of Coal India Limited (CIL) is fully transparent and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether part of the vacancies have been filled through campus selection for various disciplines in approved institutions;

(c) if so, the number of management trainees selected through campus selection during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether there is irregularity in campus selection; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) In all cases of recruitment, Coal India Limited (CIL) follows the Recruitment Policy including Government guidelines and directives on reservation etc. as approved by its Board. Recruitment Policy and results of both written examinations as well as interviews are placed in public domain.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The number of candidates selected as Management Trainees through campus selection during the last 3 years and the current year is as follows:

Year 2015	–	497
Year 2016	–	508
Year 2017	–	239
Year 2018	–	46 (Campus selections are likely to be concluded by May 2018).

(d) to (e) A complaint was received alleging irregularities in campus recruitment and promotions in CIL which is under examination by the Ministry.

IIIDEM

5488. SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:

KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established the India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its aims, objectives and achievements since its establishment;

(c) whether the IIIDEM conducted a training programme on Capacity Development for Election Management under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) recently and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of international programmes conducted by the IIIDEM along with the number and names of countries which participated in them so far; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for further improvement of processes and practices to ensure free and fair elections 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

India Post Payments Bank

5489. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:

KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts and if so, the details and the status thereof along with the benefits accrued/likely to be accrued therefrom;

(b) the number of IPPB branches opened so far, State/UT-wise along with the time by which branches of the said bank are likely to be opened in all the States/UTs;

(c) whether many international firms including global banking institutions like the World Bank have reportedly expressed interest for getting associated with IPPB and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether IPPB has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign lenders regarding banking operations and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether IPPB has installed ATMs and issued Debit Cards across the country and if so, the details thereof including the number of ATMs installed and Debit Cards issued, State/UT-wise; and

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to promote/incentivize opening of new IPPBs in unbanked rural areas 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) Yes, Madam. The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been incorporated as a Public Limited Company under Department of Posts (DoP) with 100% Government of India equity on 17.08.2016.

IPPB aims to drive financial inclusion at the last mile, by bringing customers under formal banking channels and providing access to banking services at affordable rates. There are multiple socio-economic benefits that would be realized by the economy at large, and are mentioned below:

- (i) Migration from cash based transaction to digital economy, thus removing intermediaries leading to a more economical and efficient settlement of transactions
- (ii) Reduction in opportunity costs in availing banking and financial services leading to higher economic outputs
- (iii) Access to formal credit channels (through 3rd party tie ups) leading to increase in business capacity (at better rates) and productivity compared to the higher costs incurred

otherwise, leading to higher income and lower costs

(b) and (f) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted Payments Bank License to the department on 20.01.2017 and since then IPPB has launched its two pilot branches one each in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi (Jharkhand). There would be complete integration of IPPB branches with the 1.55 lakh Post offices so that each Post office functions as both, a DoP outlet and an access point for the Payments Bank, subject to technical and commercial feasibility. The Pan India Rollout of 650 branches is to commence from April, 2018. The number of planned IPPB branches state wise is enclosed Statement.

(c) India Post Payments Bank is in early stages of discussion with various global and domestic institutions to enhance their product suite, as per the Payment Bank guidelines governing 3rd party products.

(d) No

(e) IPPB has not installed any ATMs so far. However, IPPB will leverage the DOP ATMs for its banking operations, which are already connected with the network of ATMs of other banks.

IPPB has issued 8,638 debit cards to its customers at the Raipur and Ranchi branches and access points.

State	No of Debit cards issued as on 31.12.2017
Chhattisgarh	4,542
Jharkhand	4,096
Total	8,638

Statement

State Wise Details of IPPB Branches

S. No.	State/UT	Number of IPPB Branches
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24

1	2	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
4.	Assam	26
5.	Bihar	38
6.	Chandigarh	1
7.	Chattisgarh	27
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haweli	1
9.	Daman and Diu	0
10.	Delhi	3
11.	Goa	1
12.	Gujarat	32
13.	Haryana	20
14.	Himachal Pradesh	12
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	8
16.	Jharkhand	22
17.	Karnataka	31
18.	Kerala	14
19.	Lakshwadeep	1
20.	Madhya pradesh	42
21.	Maharastra	41
22.	Manipur	9
23.	Meghalya	8
24.	Mizoram	6
25.	Nagaland	9
26.	Odisha	33
27.	Puducherry	1
28.	Punjab	22
29.	Rajasthan	33
30.	Sikkim	1
31.	Telangana	23
32.	Tamil Nadu	36
33.	Tripura	5

1	2	3
34.	Uttar Pradesh	73
35.	Uttarakhand	12
36.	West Bengal	25
Total		650

KIRAN

5490. SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:

SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:

KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is running a programme called Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) and if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;

(b) the salient features of the said programme;

(c) the total amount disbursed under the said scheme since its inception till date, year-wise;

(d) the number of women scientists working in various research institutions and technology departments/agencies of the Government; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the participation of women scientists 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) Yes, Madam. In the year 2014-15, Department of Science and Technology (DST) started Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme to provide various career opportunities to

women scientists by bringing women-specific programmes/schemes under one umbrella. It is primarily aimed at bringing gender parity in Science & Technology (S&T) sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development (R&D) domain through various programs. The objectives of KIRAN scheme are as follows:

1. To retain women in science and help re-entry of women scientist after a break into career paths within S&T sector.
2. Enhance the representation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
3. To implement programmes under different categories keeping in view the individual capability, competency and aptitude in the context of basic research, societal development and self employment.
4. To provide avenues for capacity building, knowledge and skill enhancement both at national and global level.
5. To provide career substance through mobility initiative especially to overcome the issues and challenges on account of relocation faced by employed women scientists.

(b) KIRAN is a holistic scheme that includes various programmes to address different challenges faced by women scientists and technologists in S&T domain. Gender mainstreaming of women in S&T sector having break in career is brought about through three components of Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) [WOS-A for conducting research in Basic and Applied Sciences; WOS-B for projects in research that encompass S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and WOS-C that enables them to become intellectual property Rights (IPR) professional. In 2016-17, 'Mobility' component was introduced under KIRAN to address relocation issue of working Women Scientists. In 2017-18, DST also launched 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) under KIRAN to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake International collaborative

research in premier institutions in USA for duration of 3-6 months. Further, DST has conceived a new programme 'Vigyan Jyoti' during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science & Engineering and launched a Pilot initiative in 14 premier academic institutions from different geographical locations. Under this Pilot Project, residential programme of 3 weeks duration is envisaged for meritorious girls studying in Class XI that encompasses various activities aimed at mentoring and motivating them to pursue higher studies and careers in science & engineering. Further, institutional support is also provided through Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme to facilitate & augment women's participation in R&D activities in S&T Domain.

(c) Since the inception of KIRAN, around Rs. 235 crores (Rs.44 crores in 2014-15; Rs.56 crores in 2015-16; Rs.60 crores in 2016-17 and Rs.75 crores in 2017-18) has been disbursed in various programmes.

(d) According to Official Statistics available, as on 01.04.2015, about 13,313 women scientists are working in various research institutions and technology departments/ agencies of the Government.

(e) Under KIRAN Scheme, several women-specific programmes are being implemented in order to improve women's participation in S&T domain through gender mainstreaming, overseas opportunity, addressing relocation issue of working women scientists, self employment, improvement of research facilities in women universities, training & skill development, etc. 'Women Scientist Scheme' under KIRAN provides career opportunities to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career, for pursuing research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. There are three major components of Women Scientist Scheme namely, i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for projects in research that entail S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) that enables

them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) professional. In 2016-17, 'Mobility' component has been introduced under KIRAN to address relocation issue of working Women Scientists. In 2017-18, DST initiated 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake International collaborative research in premier institutions in USA for duration of 3-6 months. Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (Bio-CARe) for women Scientists of Department of Biotechnology is aimed at career development of employed/ unemployed women Scientists. The scheme is open for all areas of Life Science/Biology. 'Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme' of KIRAN has also an important role in enhancing women's participation in Research & Development activities in S&T Domain. In CURIE, budgetary support is extended to women only Universities for development of research infrastructure and creation of state-of-the-art research laboratories. Recently, DST has launched Pilot of new programme 'Vigyan Jyoti' during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science & Engineering. Fourteen premier academic institutions from different geographical locations are involved at the pilot project stage. Under this Pilot Project, 21 days residential programme for meritorious girls studying in Class XI is envisaged that encompasses various activities. DST has also constituted 'Standing Committee for Promoting Women in Science' in May, 2016 in order to enhance participation of women in S&T sector.

Representation of Reserved Categories

5491. SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:

SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the Central Government Services is quite less as compared to the percentage of reservation for them;

(b) if so, the current status thereof, category and Ministry/Department-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether several Ministries/ Departments have failed to submit annual reports about their representation in services within time and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are a large number of backlog vacancies for SCs, STs and OBCs and the Government has failed to fill up these vacancies through special recruitment drives so far ;

(e) if so, the current status thereof, Ministry/Department-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper representation of the above reserved categories of people and to fill up the backlog vacancies?

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) As per information received from 77 Ministries/ Departments including their attached/ subordinate offices, the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the posts and services under the Central Government as on 01.01.2016 is 17.49%, 8.47% and 21.57% respectively.

The Ministry/Department-wise representation of SCs, STs and OBCs (in percentage) as on 01.01.2016 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

Representation of OBCs in the Central Government services is less as compared to the percentage of reservation for them because reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) started in September, 1993.

As per available information, representation of OBCs as on 1.1.2012 was 16.55% which has now

increased to 21.57% as on 01.01.2016. Therefore, there is an increasing trend in the representation of OBCs in the posts and services of the Central Government.

(c) Out of the 79 administrative Ministries/Departments required to submit data, 77 Ministries/ Departments have submitted data on the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs as on 01.01.2016. As regards data as on 01.01.2017, 70 administrative Ministries/ Departments have submitted such data. The Ministries/Departments collect data from all their administrative controlled units spreading across the Country and submit consolidated data to the Department of Personnel and Training.

(d) to (f) 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 92,589 backlog vacancies for SCs, STs and OBCs which arose upto 31.12.2016. Out of these, 63,876 vacancies were filled up during the period 01.04.2012 to 31.12.2016 and 28,713 vacancies of SCs, STs and OBCs remained unfilled as on 01.01.2017. Ministry/Department-wise detail is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Department of Personnel & Training has 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.

Statement – I

*Representation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the Posts and Services Under the Central Government
as on 01.01.2016 (in Percentage)*

S. No.	Ministry/Department	SCs	STs	OBCs
1.	D/o Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare	23.1	6.96	12.97
2.	D/o Agriculture Research and Education	16.67	8.33	2.78
3.	D/o Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	21.18	4.08	19.72
4.	Cabinet Secretariat	12.7	2.28	13.03
5.	M/o Civil Aviation	17.85	5.07	15.31
6.	M/o Commerce	24.51	7.71	7.43
7.	D/o Industrial Policy and Promotion	22.68	7.7	16.52
8.	M/o Culture	14.14	3.96	12.34
9.	D/o Atomic Energy	16.43	6.87	20.83
10.	M/o Development of North Eastern Region	13.1	14.29	11.9
11.	M/o Earth Sciences	17.16	6.51	8.28
12.	M/o Environment, Forests and Climate Change	21.95	7.17	11.92
13.	M/o External Affairs	19.09	5.05	12.8
14.	M/o Food Processing Industries	37.5	3.12	3.12
15.	M/o Home Affairs	16.18	10.12	25.45
16.	M/o Information and Broadcasting	24.78	10.5	15.91

S. No.	Ministry/Department	SCs	STs	OBCs
17.	M/o Labour and Employment	21.93	7.57	16.16
18.	M/o Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	20.3	7.75	11.19
19.	M/o New and Renewable Energy	26.04	4.17	7.29
20.	M/o Panchayati Raj	19.4	2.99	20.9
21.	M/o Parliamentary Affairs	24.24	10.1	17.17
22.	D/o Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances	22.45	4.08	8.16
23.	D/o Pensions & Pensioners Welfare	18.18	4.55	11.36
24.	D/o Personnel and Training	12.25	4.31	8.92
25.	M/o Petroleum and Natural Gas	22.22	5.33	6.67
26.	M/o Power	23.82	5.29	8.32
27.	M/o Railways	17.4	8.02	21.91
28.	M/o Social Justice and Empowerment	20.64	2.85	9.96
29.	D/o Space	11.66	3.63	22.12
30.	M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation	16.53	7.42	21.6
31.	M/o Steel	17.39	4.74	8.3
32.	M/o Textiles	17.02	3.99	9.61
33.	M/o Tribal Affairs	23.01	8.85	14.16
34.	M/o Urban Development	24.57	7.64	7.3
35.	M/o Water Resources	19.28	7.57	16.05
36.	M/o Youth Affairs and Sports	17.63	7.46	14.58
37.	M/o Ayush	12.87	5.85	25.73
38.	D/o Health and Family Welfare	25.73	6.93	13.33
39.	D/o Defence	20.23	6.68	19.23
40.	D/o Defence Production	19.14	7.55	16.7
41.	M/o Investment and Public Asset Management	19.61	1.96	13.73
42.	D/o Economic Affairs	19.36	5.99	8.98
43.	D/o Expenditure	19.28	4.85	10.95
44.	D/o Financial Services	22.82	5.83	13.59
45.	D/o Revenue	18.46	6.53	11.43
46.	D/o Bio-Technology	18.99	9.5	7.82
47.	D/o Science and Technology	23.76	6.31	5.71

S. No.	Ministry/Department	SCs	STs	OBCs
48.	D/o Scientific and Industrial Research	19.54	6.9	8.05
49.	D/o Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals	26.36	5.43	13.95
50.	D/o Fertilizers	23	3	14.5
51.	D/o Pharmaceuticals	23.01	5.31	10.62
52.	D/o Coal	27.34	3.52	5.86
53.	D/o Corporate Affairs	18.57	7.89	14.26
54.	D/o Consumer Affairs	21.63	7.37	12.98
55.	D/o Food and Public Distribution	20.31	6.29	18.07
56.	D/o Heavy Industries	22.22	7.02	8.77
57.	D/o Public Enterprises	19.44	6.94	9.72
58.	D/o Higher Education	23.42	5.88	9.97
59.	D/o Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY)	13.44	4.43	14.01
60.	D/o Posts	18.48	8.03	17.49
61.	D/o Telecommunication	16.72	5.14	10.54
62.	D/o Legal Affairs	22.04	4.35	10.04
63.	D/o Legislative Department	22.15	4.7	11.41
64.	M/o Drinking Water & Sanitation	12.36	6.74	14.61
65.	D/o Land Resources	18.67	6.67	5.33
66.	D/o Rural Development	19.65	6.05	10.83
67.	M/o Mines	19.6	9.42	13.29
68.	NITI Aayog	20.96	4.97	8.7
69.	President's Secretariat	23.62	4.43	13.28
70.	M/o Road Transport and Highways	20.65	7.06	13.86
71.	M/o Shipping	23.66	11.73	14.99
72.	M/o Tourism	27.91	8.14	13.08
73.	UPSC	27.74	4.08	9.09
74.	M/o Women and Child Development	29.01	5.56	14.2
75.	Vice President Secretariat	24.49	2.04	8.16
76.	Comptroller and Auditor General	16.77	7.76	13.37
77.	Election Commission	20.29	5.13	15.16
	Total	17.49	8.47	21.57

Statement – II

Category-wise Details of Backlog Vacancies (as on 31.12.2016), Vacancies Filled Up (as on 31.12.2016) and Unfilled Vacancies (as on 01.01.2017)

Ministry/ Deptt.	SC			ST		
	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Posts	673	372	301	717	257	460
Defence Production	1014	1013	1	1597	1579	18
Financial Services	9528	8598	930	6456	5391	1065
Atomic Energy	292	195	97	398	191	207
Defence	703	304	399	893	527	366
Railways	2194	2049	145	4266	3942	324
Revenue	3631	1220	2411	2226	585	1641
Urban Development	226	75	151	257	82	175
Human Resources Development	926	336	590	614	145	469
Home Affairs	10011	6813	3198	5405	3175	2230
Total	29198	20975	8223	22829	15874	6955

Ministry/ Deptt.	OBC			TOTAL (SC+ST+OBC)		
	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled
1	8	9	10	11	12	13
Posts	718	234	484	2108	863	1245
Defence Production	164	149	15	2775	2741	34
Financial Services	14455	13030	1425	30439	27019	3420
Atomic Energy	1444	802	642	2134	1188	946
Defence	2707	1439	1268	4303	2270	2033
Railways	2204	2194	10	8664	8185	479
Revenue	5064	2076	2988	10921	3881	7040
Urban Development	692	95	597	1175	252	923
Human Resources Development	1557	571	986	3097	1052	2045
Home Affairs	11557	6437	5120	26973	16425	10548
Total	40562	27027	13535	92589	63876	28713

[Translation]

Vacant Post of Pilots

5492. SHRI BHARAT SINGH:

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:

SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the three wings of Armed Forces are facing shortage of pilots and if so, the details thereof and number of pilots working in the armed forces, wing-wise;

(b) whether a number of posts of pilots are lying vacant in all three wings of armed forces and if so, the details thereof, wing-wise;

(c) the time period since when these posts are lying vacant, wing-wise and the reasons for delay in filling up such posts;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make recruitment process simpler and faster to address the shortage;

(e) if so, the steps taken / proposed to be taken to attract the youth for becoming pilots in the armed forces; and

(f) whether the Government is organizing / proposes to organize career fair in the Universities and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) The details are as follows:

Indian Navy:

The details are as follows:

Government Sanction	:	735
Borne Strength	:	653
Vacant Posts	:	82

Indian Army: The details of Army Aviation are as under:

Sanctioned	:	794
Held	:	602
Vacant	:	192

Indian Air Force:

There is a marginal shortage of pilots in Indian Air Force against the authorised establishment. However, the available strength of pilots in the IAF is sufficient to meet the current operational requirements. With the accretions sanctioned by the Government in the recent past, these shortages would be mitigated.

(d) to (f) The induction process has been streamlined and simplified. Selection process in vogue is satisfactory, with proactive steps been taken by the armed forces to reduce the shortage, which includes participation in career fairs / exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools & colleges, visuals / signage at strategic locations, etc.

Apart from the above, regular Army Melas at Army Command level, Aviation specific demonstrations during NCC parades, advertisement through Additional Director General Public Information and on website in open domain are undertaken for increasing awareness and attracting youth to armed forces.

[English]

Operating Procedure

5493. SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN

SHRIMATI V. SATHAYABAMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) followed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) was deficient before the Board Meeting held on 28 February, 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the issues discussed and deliberated in that meeting with regards to the signing of MoU with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM);

(c) whether the Government has suddenly found that the SOP followed by OFB was deficient; and

(d) if so, the reasons for wasting so much time on this project and the Government's view on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTR OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) There was no Government approved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for the selection of a technological partner. OFB in their 2nd Board meeting of 2017 held on 28th February 2017 deliberated the recommendations of the Committee constituted by the Rifle Factory Ishapore on the response received from the three firms against the Expression of Interest (EOI). After deliberation the Board resolved to recommend to Department of Defene for approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Grand Power Slovakia. The draft SOP for the selection of technological partner forwarded by OFB in August 2017 was examined in the Department of Defence Production and OFB was directed to incorporate the suggestions of the inistry. The revised SOP, incorporating the suggestions of the Ministry was submitted by the OFB in February 2018 which, after examination, has been approved by the Ministry in March 2018.

Approval to the MoU Proposal with OEM

5494. SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any letters from Members of Parliament with regards to the delay in according approval to the MoU proposal with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for the manufacture of small arms NBP pistols;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had conducted any probe suppressing the company verification in the facility of OEM on 2 August, 2017; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the status of the probe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes Madam, a letter was received from Hon'ble Member of Parliament stating that Grand Power

Slovakia and DCD-Grand Power India (Pvt) Ltd, India had submitted an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for co-production of state-of-the-art small arms to Rifle Factory Ishapore and the same was pending for approval.

(b) A proposal for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was forwarded by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) to the Department of Defence Production in March 2017. The MoU was returned to OFB in July 2017 as it was found deficient in terms of procedure followed. Earlier in September 2016, OFB had been asked to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for selection of the technology partners. The draft SOP for selection of technological partners submitted by OFB in August 2017 was examined in the Department of Defence Production and OFB was directed to incorporate the suggestions of the Ministry. The revised SOP, incorporating the suggestions of the Ministry, was submitted by the OFB in February 2018 which after examination has been approved by the Ministry in March 2018.

(c) and (d): On enquiry, it has been informed by the Defence Attache, Prague, Embassy of India, Slovakia that he had visited the firm M/s Grand Power, Slovakia on 2nd August 2017 for evaluation / verification of the credentials of the firm based on a request from Ministry of Home Affairs through Ministry of External Affairs and in this regard a report was submitted by the DA to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Encouragement to SMEs

5495. SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:

SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI
KUNDARIYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector towards indigenous manufacturing in defence sector under Make in India programme in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any target in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is encouraging the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in engineering sector for defence supply under Make in India;

(d) if so, the details of the SMEs which have bagged the contract and the quantum of products supplied or to be supplied along with the net worth of the contract etc., Statewise; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to increase the participation of SMEs contribution in engineering sector by way of simplifying the procedures for defence supply and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The contribution of MSEs towards total domestic procurement from vendors by OFB / DPSUs during the last three years is as follows:-

Financial Year	Procurement from MSEs by DPSUs / OFB (Rs. in Crore)
2014-15	3301.17
2015-16	3701.08
2016-17	4256.93

(b) and (c): The Government has notified Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), Order, 2012 under MSMED Act, 2006 which is effective from 1st April, 2012. It has become mandatory w.e.f 1st April 2015. The Policy has set an annual goal for procurement from the MSE sector at the beginning of the year, with the objective of achieving an overall procurement goal of minimum 20 per cent of the total annual purchases of the products or services produced or rendered by MSEs from the latter, in a period of three years. Out of 20% target of annual procurement from MSEs, a sub-target of 4% (*i.e.* 20% out of 20%) will be earmarked for procurement from MSEs owned by SC / ST entrepreneurs. However, in the event of failure of such MSEs to participate in the tender process or meet the tender requirements and the L1 price, the 4% subtarget for procurement earmarked for MSE owned by SC / ST entrepreneurs will be met from other MSEs.

(d) The States / UT wise data on procurement from MSMEs is not maintained in the Ministry.

(e) The preamble to the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) – 2016, specifically mentions that

enhancing the role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Defence Sector is one of the defining features of DPP. Following specific provisions have been introduced in DPP-2016 that would increase the participation of MSMEs in the defence sector:

- (i) In 'Make' category of capital acquisition, Government funded projects with estimated cost of prototype development phase not exceeding Rs.10 crore and Industry funded projects with estimated cost of prototype development phase not exceeding Rs.3 crore are reserved for MSMEs.
- (ii) In addition, it has been mandated to involve MSME associations while carrying out feasibility studies for 'Make' projects. MSMEs have also been granted relaxation in the registration and profitability criteria for consideration as eligible "Indian Vendor" for participation in the 'Make' projects.
- (iii) In the discharge of offset obligations, a multiplier of 1.50 will be permitted where MSMEs are Indian Offset Partners (IOPs).

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Vacant Land

5496. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:

SHRI KIRTI AZAD:

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under the control of the railways;

(b) whether the Railways proposes to exchange its land with the land owned by the State Governments and other agencies for various metro rail networks in the country;

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

(d) whether the railways has received any proposals in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the railways also proposes to allow provision of educational facilities on its land; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard along with the present status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (f) As on 31.03.2017, the total land available with the Railways is approximately 4.76 lakh hectare.

Railway has the policy of crossing of railway land by Metro Railway Network which involves limited use of land by a Metro Railway for a specific purpose without conferring upon them any right of possession of occupation of the land and without in any way affecting the Railways' title possession, control and use of the land. Railway also has the policy to exchange land with State Government and Government agencies on equitable cost basis. In recent past, no such proposal has been received by this Ministry.

As per extant instructions setting up of only Kendriya Vidyalayas is permitted on Railway land by giving railway land on lease for 99 years.

[English]

Pilferage of Coal

5497. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism put in place by the Government to check pilferage/theft of coal clandestinely from Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries in the country;

(b) the number of raids conducted by the security personnel to unearth such pilferage/theft of coal along with number of officials of CIL and its subsidiaries found involved in such pilferage/theft across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and the action taken/being taken by the Government in such cases so far;

(c) whether the Government has received suggestions from various quarters to prevent such pilferage/theft of coal across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government on such suggestions so far; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to eliminate such pilferage/theft of coal from CIL and its subsidiaries across the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) Theft / pilferage of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. Various suggestions from Members of Parliament, various organisations and general public to prevent pilferage / theft of coal are received from time to time. The same are duly considered in the Ministry and systemic improvement measures for preventing theft / pilferage are conveyed to Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries for compliance. Following steps are being taken by CIL subsidiaries to check such incidents in future :-

- At strategic locations of all mines Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) based Boom Barriers & closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera at weighbridges, General Packet Radio Services (GPRS) based vehicle tracking system with geofencing, CCTV camera have been installed.
- A close watch on the activities of criminals is being kept by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Regular FIRs are lodged by the Colliery Management and CISF with local Thana.
- At regular intervals interaction and liaison with District officials are made. Meeting with District Collector & other District Administrative Officials are held regularly.
- 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 Railway Protection Force [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 over burden (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.

As per the information received from Coal India Ltd., whenever any incident of theft / pilferage of coal comes to the notice of the coal companies, the Management of subsidiary companies lodges First Information Report (FIR) with local Thana to take necessary action. The status of conviction after reporting the case to local police is not easily available. The details of FIRs lodged in case of theft / pilferage of coal, subsidiary-wise and State-wise is as under :-

Company	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (upto December, 2017)
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	West Bengal	27	116	241	105
	Jharkhand	2	18	35	16
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Jharkhand	9	9	10	9
	West Bengal	0	0	0	2
Central Coalfields Ltd.	Jharkhand	11	3	0	1
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0
	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	0
Western Coalfields Ltd.	Maharashtra	13	6	19	11
	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	0
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	1	1
	Chattisgarh	1	6	1	2
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	Odisha	4	0	1	0
North Eastern Coalfields	Assam	66	35	31	20
Coal India	135	193	341	167	

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. The coal companies are working in close coordination with the State / local administration to prevent theft / pilferage of coal.

Ceiling on Construction

5498. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of civilian houses adjacent to various Army, Navy and IAF camps / bases is one of the major factors responsible for terrorists to strike on these installations;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has fixed any ceiling on construction of houses for civilians near the defence installations;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and whether the ceiling fixed by the Government are properly adhered to and would be re-examined in view of spate of terror strikes on various defence installations; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Restrictions on building constructions around defence installations are regulated under various Statutes and Rules / Notifications issued thereunder. This includes the Works of Defence Act, 1903, The Cantonments Act, 2006, The Aircraft Act, 1934, Ministry of Civil Aviation, 1934 Gazette Notification SO84(E) dated 14.01.2011 (as revised from time to time).

In order to regulate building constructions around defence installations not covered by such notifications, Ministry of Defence issued interim guidelines on 18.05.2011 for issue of No Objection Certificate (NoC) for construction activities within 500 meters of such installations. The guidelines dated 18.05.2011 have been amended from time to time. The last amendment to the NoC guidelines was issued on 21.10.2016 in respect of security restrictions in 342 Army establishments for construction / repair of civilian houses.

The guidelines for issue of NoC are reviewed and amended from time to time based on security concerns of the defence installations and issues relating to public inconvenience.

[Translation]

Installation of GPS in Trucks of CIL

5499. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS :

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Coal had announced to install GPS in all the trucks of Coal India Limited (CIL) to check theft of coal and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the process of installing GPS in all the trucks of CIL has been completed;

(c) if so, the date on which the said process has been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. GPS were installed in 8689 number of vehicles engaged in coal transportation up to the month of September 2017. This is a continuous process and as per strength of the fleet running for transportation of Coal, an additional 2270 GPS has been installed in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited till January 2018.

[English]

Revenue Expenditure

5500. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE :

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE :

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway transport has lagged behind the requirement due to inadequate investment, if so, the facts thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that several committees including the National Transport Policy Committee, the Rail Tariff Enquiry Committee and the Railway Reforms Committee have also highlighted the shortcomings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways spends heavily on revenue expenditure and there is little left for capital expenditure, if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Railways needs to generate enough funds on its own for capital expenditure and

also find new, non-government sources of funding in order to witness a noticeable change; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being considered by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Railways has lagged behind due to inadequate investment. Railways has a huge throwforward in its capital expenditure program. Currently, the throwforward in capacity expansion program is over `4 lakh crores. Several committees including the National Transport Policy Committee, the Rail Tariff Enquiry Committee and the Railway Reforms Committee have also highlighted the shortcomings. Recent Committee headed by Shri Debroy for "Restructuring and Mobilization of Resources" has recommended to explore sources of funding PPPs, JVs, -institutional finance, etc., in addition to the conventional mode of internal generation of resources.

(d) Yes, Madam. The total revenue expenditure and the internal resources available out of it for capex from the year 2016-17, 2017-18(RE) and 2018-19(BE) is given below :-

	(Rs. in crores)	
	Total Expenditure	Amount of Revenue available for capital expenditure
2016-17	165382	10113
2017-18 RE	187425	11425
2018-19 BE	201090	13490

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. A new source of funding viz. Extra-Budgetary Resources (Institutional Finance (EBR-IF in short) has been introduced with effect from financial year 2015-16. It is envisaged to mobilize funds to the tune of `1.5 lakh crore through EBR(IF) for financing Railway projects over a period of five years (2015-16 to 2019-20).

The Ministry of Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) with the Life Insurance Corporation of India(LIC) on 11th March 2015 whereby

LIC has agreed to provide funding assistance to the tune of `1,50,000 crore over a five year period from 2015-16 to 2019-20 for financing Railway projects. These funds will be routed through Indian Railway Finance Corporation who will finance the identified projects and lease them to the Railways. ERB-IF funds are being utilized in mostly Doubling and Electrification projects.

Monitoring of Schemes

5501. SHRI M. MURALI MOHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted/to be constituted to monitor, supervise and give advice for proper spending and implementation of the various schemes being implemented by the Ministries of Government of India/ State Governments/UTs; and

(b) 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) and (b) The primary responsibility for monitoring and supervising the implementation of schemes lies with the concerned Ministries/Departments. However, the Government of India had constituted 8 Groups of Secretaries (GoS) to look into 8 thematic areas and give recommendations to improve Governance and Growth in these areas. Recommendations of the Thematic GoS were circulated in February, 2016 among the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India with a direction to prepare Action Plan to implement GoS recommendation pertaining to them. These 8 Thematic areas were:

- (i) Good Governance –Challenges and Opportunities
- (ii) Employment Generation Strategies
- (iii) Farmer Centric Issues in Agriculture and Allied Sectors
- (iv) Energy Conservation and Efficiency
- (v) Innovation Budgeting and Effective Implementation

- (vi) Accelerated Growth with Inclusion and Equity
- (vii) Swachh Bharat and Ganga Rejuvenation
- (viii) Health and Education: Universal Access and Quality

Similarly, the Government constituted another 8 GoS on 8 sectors and their reports were also circulated in January, 2017 among the Ministries/Departments in the Government of India with a direction to prepare time-bound Action Plans for implementation of the recommendation pertaining to them. The 8 rapporteurs of the Sectoral GoS have also been given the responsibility to monitor the implementation of Sectoral and Thematic Action Plans prepared by the Ministries/Departments. The following were the 8 Sectors:

- (i) Transport & communications
- (ii) Energy & Environment
- (iii) Health, Sanitation and UD Report
- (iv) Education & Social Development
- (v) Commerce & Industry
- (vi) Science & Technology
- (vii) Governance Final Report
- (viii) Crisis Management

New Military Station at Nabagram

5502. SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to start the new military station at Nabagram, Murshidabad and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to enhance the fire power, manpower of military station located at Siliguri, North Bengal and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any plan to raise a new regiment / battalion comprising hill people of Darjeeling, Sikkim as Bengal Gorkha regiment / Darjeeling Gorkha regiment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam. Nabagram Military Station is planned as a green field project on 250 acres of defence land.

(b) Military capacity enhancement of Indian army is a continuous process, which takes into account the existing and emerging challenges / threats. Accordingly, new Military Stations and accretion of manpower is approved from time to time to maintain requisite force levels and operational preparedness of the Indian Army.

(c) and (d) Post independence, it has been the policy of Government not to raise any new Regiment based on particular class, caste, creed, community, religion or region.

Functioning of State Wakf Boards

5503. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of State Wakf Boards, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether the Central Wakf Council is giving financial assistance to State Wakf Boards to help them complete digitalisation of their records;
- (c) if so, the present status of the progress of the computerization scheme of records of the State Wakf Boards;
- (d) whether the Government has evolved a transparent and comprehensive system for efficient management of the wakf properties and funds and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is providing help to those Institutes which are being established on wakf properties and are engaged in educational activities especially empowerment of girls, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether WAKF MUTAWALLIS are the custodian of wakf properties across the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The Ministry reviews

the functioning of State Waqf Boards (SWBs) from time to time by convening Conferences of Chairman & Chief Executive Officers of SWBs, Regional Review Meetings with regard to implementation of various provisions of Waqf Act, 1995 and progress of implementation of the Schemes of Computerization of Records of SWBs and Strengthening of SWBs which have been merged this year and renamed as Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS). Besides that Central Waqf Council (CWC) also undertakes visit of SWBs from time to time to review their functioning as well as capacity building of muttawallis. The Central Waqf Council has regulatory powers under Section 9(4) of the amended Waqf Act 1995 to issue directive to the Waqf Boards, if it is satisfied that there was prime facie evidence of irregularity or violation of the provisions of the Act, which shall be complied with by the concerned Board under intimation to the concerned State Government. As the outcome of visits of SWBs, various new provisions have been added in the QWBTS where financial assistance is provided to SWBs for GIS Mapping of Waqf Properties, setting up of Video Conferencing Facility, maintenance of Centralized Computing Facility (CCF) and ERP Solution for better administration of SWBs.

(b) Central Waqf Council is the Implementing Agency for Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS). Under the scheme, financial assistance has been released to SWBs for setting up of Centralized Computing Facility (CCF) to help them to complete data entry and digitization of records of waqf properties. Funds under the scheme are provided for GIS Mapping, augmenting strength of personnel deployed in SWBs, capacity building of Muttawallis, office automation and so on.

(c) and (d) A web-based centralized software application named as Waqf Management System of India (WAMSI) has been developed by NIC for efficient management of the waqf properties. The web-portal consists of four modules (i) Registration of Waqfs, (ii) Mutawalli returns assessments, (iii) Leasing details of properties and (iv) Litigation tracking. As on 28.02.2018, records of 5,68,724 Immovable Waqf Properties have been entered in WAMSI Registration

Module and 2,80,754 records of Waqf Properties have been digitized.

(e) No such Scheme is implemented by the Ministry. However, Central Waqf Council provides interest free loan to Waqf Institutions under the scheme of Grants-in-aid to Waqfs to develop the commercially viable urban waqf properties.

(f) As per Section 3 (i) of Waqf Act, 1995 as amended, Mutawalli means any person appointed either verbally or under deed or instrument by which a waqf has been created, or by a competent authority, to be the mutawalli of a waqf and includes any person who is a mutawalli of a waqf by virtue of any custom or who is a naibmutawalli, khadim, mujawar, sajjadanshin, amin or other person appointed by a mutawalli to perform the duties of a mutawalli as well as any person, committee or corporation for the time being managing or administering any waqf or waqf property. The details regarding mutawallis are not maintained by the Central Government.

District Legal Services Authority

5504. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state?

(a) the number of District legal services authorities and Taluka legal services committees established, State-wise including Delhi as on 1st March, 2018;

(b) the number of panel lawyers/paralegal volunteers appointed by legal aid authorities as on 1st March, 2018, State-wise including Delhi; and

(c) the number of legal aid clinics established by legal aid authorities as on 1st January, 2018, State-wise including Delhi?

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) State-wise number of District legal services authorities and Taluka legal services committees including in Delhi as on 1st March, 2018 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) State-wise number of panel lawyers/ Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) appointed by legal aid authorities including in Delhi as on 1st March, 2018 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has established 20,134 legal aid clinics in the country. In addition, under Access to Justice Project 46 legal aid clinics were set up by the Government in Tuensang and Mon districts of Nagaland in 2016-17. The Government in partnership with UNDP also implemented another project during 2009-2017 on Access to Justice. Under the project, 4 legal aid clinics were set up in Odisha in partnership with National Law University, Odisha and 2 legal aid clinics were set up in Mumbai in partnership with Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Thus the total number of legal aid clinics comes to 20,186. The State-wise details of which are given in the enclosed Statment-III.

Statement – I

State-wise Number of District and Taluk Legal Services Authority

S. No.	State Legal Services Authorities	Total No. of District Legal Services Authorities established	Total No. of Taluk Legal Services Committees established
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	138
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	00
3.	Assam	22	03
4.	Bihar	37	15
5.	Chhattisgarh	22	65
6.	Goa	2	11
7.	Gujarat	31	234
8.	Haryana	22	34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	42

1	2	3	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	22	68
11.	Jharkhand	24	4
12.	Karnataka	30	148
13.	Kerala	14	62
14.	Madhya Pradesh	50	149
15.	Maharashtra	33	303
16.	Manipur	9	00
17.	Meghalaya	11	04
18.	Mizoram	8	00
19.	Nagaland	11	00
20.	Odisha	30	88
21.	Punjab	22	40
22.	Rajasthan	35	181
23.	Sikkim	04	06
24.	Tamil Nadu	32	150
25.	Telangana	11	78
26.	Tripura	5	14
27.	Uttar Pradesh	71	304
28.	Uttarakhand	13	31
29.	West Bengal	19	42
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	01	03
31.	Chandigarh	1	00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	00
33.	Daman and Diu	02	00
34.	Delhi	11	00
35.	Lakshadweep	00	2
36.	Puducherry	1	3
Total		651	2222

Statement – II*Details of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)*

S. No.	Name of the SLSAs	Total No. of Panel Lawyers appointed	Total number of Para Legal Volunteers on the panel of the Legal Services Institutions.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2798	2032
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	202	787
3.	Assam	702	1614
4.	Bihar	2085	4495
5.	Chhattisgarh	2097	2843
6.	Goa	152	379
7.	Gujarat	2876	3849
8.	Haryana	1613	1431
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1329	5786
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	333	372
11.	Jharkhand	1310	2499
12.	Karnataka	2701	3639
13.	Kerala	3274	2566
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7181	5632
15.	Maharashtra	4376	4853
16.	Manipur	141	668
17.	Meghalaya	105	818
18.	Mizoram	70	170
19.	Nagaland	111	190
20.	Odisha	2759	5034

1	2	3	4
21.	Punjab	1,566	2121
22.	Rajasthan	3278	3254
23.	Sikkim	182	730
24.	Tamil Nadu	10,216	3518
25.	Telangana	1166	2724
26.	Tripura	503	526
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2578	4143
28.	Uttarakhand	411	849
29.	West Bengal	3679	1519
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	32	59
31.	Chandigarh	63	68
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14	11
33.	Daman and Diu	30	59
34.	Delhi	1351	3863
35.	Lakshadweep	11	89
36.	Puducherry	298	406
Total		61,593	73,596

Statement – III*Statewise Details of Legal Aid Clinics*

S. No.	State Legal Services Authority	Number of legal aid clinics established (as on 01.01.2018)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	858
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	21
4.	Assam	186
5.	Bihar	261

1	2	3
6.	Chhattisgarh	493
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13
8.	Daman and Diu	7
9.	Delhi	50
10.	Goa	120
11.	Gujarat	638
12.	Haryana	506
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1010
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	215
15.	Jharkhand	498
16.	Karnataka	876
17.	Kerala	652
18.	Lakshadweep *	
19.	Madhya Pradesh	1138
20.	Maharashtra	647
21.	Manipur	81
22.	Meghalaya	133
23.	Mizoram	102
24.	Nagaland	170
25.	Odisha	526
26.	Puducherry	63
27.	Punjab	526
28.	Rajasthan	7432
29.	Sikkim	31
30.	Tamil Nadu	818
31.	Telengana	392
32.	Tripura	370
33.	U. T. Chandigarh	19
34.	Uttar Pradesh	181
35.	Uttarakhand	267
36.	West Bengal	886

1	2	3
	Total	20,186

*Being a small Island all are directly contacting the State Legal Services Authority for the legal assistance.

[Translation]

Passenger Amenities

5505. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of passenger amenities announced in the rail budget during the current financial year and the amenities announced last year but yet to be provided; and

(b) the proposed action plan for starting each of the said amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In the Railway Budget 2017-18, it was announced that 500 stations will be made differently abled friendly by providing lifts and escalators. Accordingly, Railways have decided to provide escalators at all 'A-1', 'A', 'C' category stations ('C' category stations with footfalls of 25000 and above) and stations of tourist importance progressively. It has been planned to provide additional 2589 additional escalators and 1000 lifts at railway stations. So far, 473 escalators at 171 stations and 330 lifts at 137 stations have been provided. Further, work is in progress for provision of 303 escalators at 115 stations and 306 lifts at 98 stations.

In the Rail Budget 2016-17, the following announcements were made:

1. Provision of passenger amenities and beautification on the stations at pilgrimage centres.
2. Provision of atleast one Divyang friendly toilet at each platform in 'A-I' class stations.
3. Raising of low level platforms in Mumbai suburban stations.

It is Railways' endeavor to provide passenger amenities announced in the Budget in a time-bound manner. Adequate additional funds, if required, are

made available to Railway Zones, depending upon availability and inter-se priority of works.

[English]

Disclosure of Defence Information

5506. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are new rules on public disclosure of defence information under the new India-France Defence deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the new set of rules and the details of information likely to be made available for public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) An Agreement between India and France regarding the Exchange and Reciprocal Protection of Classified or Protected Information was signed on 10th March, 2018 during the State Visit of President of France to India. This agreement defines the common security regulations applicable to any exchange of classified and protected information between the two countries.

Digital Locker Initiative

5507. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA: Will the Minister of State Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed an authority to administer and manage its Digital Locker Initiative, one of the key projects under Digital India Programme to push paperless governance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) Yes, Madam. The Government has appointed Digital Locker Authority to administer and manage Digital Locker Initiative.

(b) Digital Locker Authority was constituted under the Information Technology (Preservation and Retention of Information by Intermediaries Providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016 vide no. 3(42)/2014-EG II (Part-II) on dated 4th October 2016. Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) discharges the function of Controller of Digital Locker Authority (CDLA).

In this regard the progress made so far is as under-

- A web interface www.dla.gov.in has been created.
- Digital Locker framework has been created which comprises of Electronic consent framework and Digital Locker Technology Framework.
- Digital Locker Service Provider (DLSP) licensing workflow has been defined.
- Workshops and conferences have been carried out to increase awareness regarding benefits of Digital Locker and paperless governance.

[Translation]

Notaries in Uttar Pradesh

5508. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of notaries in Uttar Pradesh at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of such districts where the notary officers have not been appointed;

(c) the time by which notary officers are proposed to be appointed in such districts;

(d) whether the Government has viewed any proposal to appoint notary officers in Kaushambi and district Pratapgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

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) 1850 Notaries have been appointed in Uttar Pradesh till date. The Notaries Rules do not

provide for district-wise vacancies and therefore, the department does not maintain district-wise data relating to notaries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Madam.

[English]

State Wakf Boards

5509. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 31 State Wakf Boards and 42000 registered Wakf properties excluding many non-registered Wakf properties and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are large number of complaints regarding Wakf properties across the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to appoint a Board of adjudication at the central level and three member tribunal at State level to deal with the complaints on war footing, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to start functioning along with the terms and conditions of Board of Adjudication and State level tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) There are 32 State/UT Waqf Boards (SWBs) in the country and 5,68,724 records of waqf properties have been entered in the Registration Module of Waqf Management System of India (WAMSI) Portal. The details are available at www.wamsi.nic.in.

(b) As per Section 32 of the Waqf Act 1995 as amended, the waqf properties are managed by State Waqf Boards. The Ministry and Central Waqf Council receive complaints regarding the waqf properties from time to time and the same are forwarded to concerned SWBs & State Governments for appropriate action.

(c) and (d) The Board of Adjudication under Section of 9 (5) of the Waqf Act, 1995 has already been constituted by the Central Government on 19.01.2017 and a copy of Gazette notification containing terms & conditions is given in the enclosed Statement. Further, as per Section 83 of the Waqf Act, 1995 as amended, the State Government shall constitute as many Tribunals as it may think fit, for the determination of any disputes, question or other matter relating to a waqf or waqf properties etc.. Every Tribunal shall consist of:

- (i) one person, who shall be a member of the State Judicial Services holding a rank, not below that of a District, Sessions or Civil Judge, Class I, who shall be the Chairman;
- (ii) one person, who shall be an officer from the State Civil Services equivalent in rank to that of the Additional District Magistrate, Member;
- (iii) one person having knowledge of Muslim law and jurisprudence, Member,

The terms & conditions of appointment including the salaries and allowances payable to the Chairman and other members other than person appointed as ex officio members shall be such as may be prescribed. Three member Tribunals have been constituted in 22 SWBs.

Statement*Copy of Notification Regarding Constitution of
Board of Adjudication**THE GAZETTE OF INDIA: EXTRAORDINARY*

[Part II - Sec. 3(ii)]

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 19th January, 2017

S.O.220(E).— In pursuance of the provisions contained in sub-section (5) of section 9 of the Waqf Act 1995 (43 of 1995), the Central Government hereby constitutes the Board of Adjudication for the purpose of deciding disputes arising out of directives issued to the Boards by the Central Waqf Council under sub-section (4) of section 9 of the said Act and appoints Justice M.Y. Eqbal, retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, as its Presiding Officer, for period of three years with effect from the date of publication of this notification or till he attains the age of seventy years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

2. The Presiding Officer shall be paid a consolidated fee of one lakh rupees per sitting subject to a maximum of five lakh rupees upto the final settlement of the dispute.

3. The Presiding Officer shall be entitled to such travelling allowance and daily allowance (TA/DA), as are admissible to a serving Judge of the High Court, for journey performed in connection with hearing of the case.

4. The Presiding Officer shall decide the dispute within a period not exceeding three months, or such longer period as is agreed to by the parties in writing, after the dispute is referred to him for adjudication.

5. Proceedings shall be conducted in the premises of the Central Waqf Council Bhawan.

6. The Central Waqf Council shall make available such secretarial and other staff, as may be required by the Presiding Officer, for deciding the dispute under this notifications.

7. The parties to the dispute shall bear their own costs and expenses incurred in to adjudication and jointly pay in equal share the fees and expenses of the Presiding Officer and of his legal or technical adviser, if any appointed for the purpose, unless the Presiding Officer in his order, direct a party to pay all or part of his fees and expenses.

[F. No. 8/6/2015-Waqf]

J. ALAM, Jt. Secy.

Strengthening Rail Network

5510. SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways plans to carry out a market study to find out ways to increase its revenue by nearly Rs. 30,000 crore and if so, the details thereof and the present status of the plan;

(b) whether the Railways proposes to strengthen rail network and capacity expansion to bring the national transporter back on track; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Marketing and planning for rail traffic on Indian Railways is done on a continual basis, with specialized arms for passenger / freight marketing and planning functions at different levels – Zonal and at Railway Board levels. However, for the long-term plans, Railway intends to prepare a 'National Rail Plan' with a time horizon upto Financial Year 2030.

(c) M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Survey Ltd. have been issued the Letter of Award by Railway Board on 22.03.2018 to execute the work of National Rail Plan.

National War Memorial

5511. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct a National War Memorial in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the location identified for the purpose;

(c) the names / details of the persons in whose memories it is to be constructed; and

(d) whether any such memorial exists anywhere in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The National War Memorial is being constructed in the area around canopy at 'C' Hexagon,

east of India Gate in memory of about 22,500 Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in national interest and in defence of the sovereignty and integrity of the country in the post-independence period. There are about 120 regional War Memorials, including individual memorials under various commands.

Starting of New Trains from Gujarat

5512. SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Saurashtra Region of Gujarat is having very low/inadequate train services and representations have been made to railways for starting new trains and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways has also received representations from various people/organisations/rail users for starting of new trains from Rajkot/Bhavnagar region of Saurashtra;

(c) if so, whether the Railways intends to accept the demands of people of Saurashtra in the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) No, Madam. At present, 50 pairs of Mail/Express and 36 pairs of passenger trains are serving the stations situated in Saurashtra region of Gujarat. These services are adequately catering to the needs of the passenger of this area.

Representations for introduction of new trains including from Rajkot/Bhavnagar region of Saurashtra have, inter-alia, been received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament. These demands are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time. Accordingly, following long distance services for have been provided during the last 3 years from the stations located in the Saurashtra region:

1. Train No.19579/19580 Bhavnagar-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express.
2. Train No.19203/19204 Bhavnagar-Bandra Terminus Express.

3. Train No.22935/22936 Palitana-Mumbai Express.
4. Train No.22937/22938 Rajkot-Rewa Express.
5. Train No.19029/19030 Mahuva-Bandra Terminus Express.
6. Train No.22993/22994 Mahuva-Bandra Terminus Express.
7. Train No.22991/22992 Veraval-Bandra Terminus Express.
8. Train No. 22939/22940 Hapa-Bilaspur Express.
9. Train No. 79449/79450 Morbi-Maliya Miyana DEMU.

Besides, introduction of trains is on-going process on Indian Railways. However, owing to terminal/maintenance constraints at Okha, Porbander, Veraval, Rajkot etc. introduction of new trains from Saurashtra region of Gujarat is operationally not feasible, at present.

Petya Malware Cyber Attack

5513. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY: Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Petya Malware Cyber Attack has spread in Mumbai port terminal computer units;

(b) if so, if so details thereof ;

(c) whether it is also fact that the Government is planning to set up a National Cyber Coordination Centre, to prevent such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details and the status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) As per the information reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), operations of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) Mumbai were partially affected by the Petya ransomware. Advisory regarding detection and prevention of Petya ransomware was issued by CERT-

In on 27 June 2017. Remedial measures to contain damage and prevent such incidents have been advised by CERT-In.

(c) and (d) Government has set up National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) in CERT-In to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. Phase-I of NCCC has already been made operational.

Recycling Nuclear Waste for Power Generation

5514. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for upgrading technology to recycle and re-use nuclear waste for power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the total quantum of nuclear waste estimated to be involved in the recycling process and the follow up action proposed to be 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 (c) Yes, Madam. Closed nuclear fuel cycle is being followed in India treating spent nuclear fuel as a material of resource instead of nuclear waste. The closed fuel cycle aims at recovery and recycle of fuel elements, separation of useful isotopes such as Cs (Caesium) and Sr (Strontium) for use in health care and industry. The spent fuel is reprocessed to recover the fuel elements like Uranium and Plutonium for recycling back in the reactor for generation of power in second stage of Indian nuclear power programme. This finally leads to a very small

percentage of residual material present in spent nuclear fuel requiring their management as radioactive waste. Radioactive waste contains various useful radio-isotopes like Cs-137, Sr-90, Ru-106 (Ruthenium) etc having different societal applications. An in-house developed technology has been established and deployed for separating Cs137, one of the prominent fission product, from waste and converting in to non-dispersive Cs glass pencil to be used for blood irradiators. Research and development has been carried out for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel and recycling back to reactors as fuel. Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), utilizing reprocessed spent fuel, is under operation since many decades.

(d) The quantity of waste will depend on the power generation. In general, only 1% of the fuel originally used becomes waste as rest is reused. Even this 1% comes down further when radioisotopes like Cs-137 are taken out and used in irradiators.

[Translation]

Survey Of Railway Projects In Bihar

5515. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for laying railway lines, gauge conversion and electrification of railway lines in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present surveys for laying of 34 new lines and 7 doublings falling fully/partly in the State of Bihar have been taken up and are at different stages of progress. However, there is no sanctioned survey for any Gauge Conversion project falling fully/partly in Bihar. Details of these surveys are as under:-

S. No.	Zonal Railways	Plan head	Name of the Project	KMS
1.	ECR	New Line	Areraj-Narkatiaganj via Lauria	87
2.	ECR	New Line	Bagha-Choutrava-Bathwadiya-Nawalpur-Louria-Yogapatti	
			Betiya-Ghogha-Vaishkhawa-Balthar-Mainatad-Bikhnathori	45
3.	ECR	New Line	Barauni-Hasanpur via. Bhagvanpur and Cheria Bariarpur	50
4.	ECR	New Line	Bhagwanpur-Samastipur via mahua, Tajpur	60
5.	ECR	New Line	Bihar Sharif-Nawada	36
6.	ECR	New Line	Biharianj-Birpur (92 Km) via Murliganj, Triveniganj Khurda, Jadia, Chatapur,Pratapganj Bhimnagar)	95
7.	ECR	New Line	Biharsharief-Jahanabad via Enkgarsari	65
8.	ECR	New Line	Chakia-Bairgania via Madhubani, Phenhara	50
9.	ECR	New Line	Chakia-Kesariya (Kaithwalia	25
10.	ECR	New Line	Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur	50
11.	ECR	New Line	Dehri-On-Son - Bhunathpur	39
12.	ECR	New Line	Dhanbad-Giridih (50 Km)	50
13.	ECR	New Line	Dildarnagar-Mundeshwari Dham	70

S. No.	Zonal Railways	Plan head	Name of the Project	KMS
14.	ECR	New Line	Ghogardia to Ghoghepur via Kishanpatti, Jamalpur	50
15.	ECR	New Line	Hasanpur-Tilrath	35
16.	ECR	New Line	Islampur-Bodhgaya via Manpur	50
17.	ECR	New Line	Islampur-Khizersarai-Manpur	60
18.	ECR	New Line	Jhajha-Girdih via Sonuchakai	82
19.	ECR	New Line	Kusheshwarsthan-Saharsa	35
20.	ECR	New Line	Lalitgram-Puraini-Murliganj	55
21.	ECR	New Line	Lohna-Muktapur via Alinagar, Trimuhani, Bahedi	75
22.	ECR	New Line	Madhubani-Benipatti-Pupri	45
23.	ECR	New Line	Madhubani-Kamtaul	30
24.	ECR	New Line	Madhubani-Sitamarhi-Bairgnia via Shivpur, Pakri Dayal, Dhaka,	50
25.	ECR	New Line	Maharajganj-Ratan Sarai via Afrad, Laddhi, Jamo	32
26.	ECR	New Line	Motipur-Rajapatti via Sahibganj	58
27.	ECR	New Line	Mugalsarai-Bhabua via Naugar	40
28.	ECR	New Line	Nawadah-Giridih via Satgawan	130
29.	ECR	New Line	New Line from Jehanabad-Arwal via Kinjar	45
30.	ECR	New Line	Pawapuri-Nawada	35
31.	ECR	New Line	Simri Bhakhtiyarpur-Bihariganj	54
32.	ECR	New Line	Sitamarhi-Janakpur via Bathnaha	45
33.	ECR	New Line	Thawe-Motihari-Choura Dano	90
34.	ECR	New Line	2 Nos. Bye-passes at Bachhwara-Samastipur & Garhwa Road	34
35.	ECR	Doubling	7 nos. Of flyovers at Sasaram, Phulwarisharif, Patliputra-Danapur, Pradhankhanta, Ankorah, Chiraila Pauthu & Mughalsarai	154
36.	ECR	Doubling	Doubling work of Muzaffarpur-Motihari-Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur	318
37.	ECR	Doubling	MGS-Patna-Kiul 3rd line	335
38.	NER	Doubling	Gorakhpur Cantt-Valmiki Nagar	91
39.	NFR	Doubling	Katihar-Mukuria	39
40.	NFR	Doubling	Malda Town-Kumedpur-Barsoi 3rd line	56

S. No.	Zonal Railways	Plan head	Name of the Project	KMS
41.	NFR	Doubling	Radhikapur -Barsoi	52

ECR - East Central Railway, NER - North Eastern Railway,
NFR - Northeast Frontier Railway

For achieving 100% electrification including all Broad Gauge (BG) routes, Ministry of Railways have decided to electrify the remaining unelectrified 38000 broad gauge Route Kilometre (RKM).

In Budget 2018-19, 13675 RKM of electrification projects (including 566 RKM of State of Bihar) have been included subject to necessary approvals.

Promotion of Engineers

5516. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether promotion of Group B engineers in BRO is not regulated under the rules similar to those in other Ministries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any arrangement in the Union and the State Governments that around 25 to 33 per cent of the total vacant posts of Executive Engineers is filled with the promotion of Group B engineers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government is considering to incorporate such arrangement in BRO also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Group 'B' Engineers working in Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are promoted to the next higher grade as per the provisions of Recruitment and Promotion Rules notified by the Government of India with the approval of Department of Personnel & Training. 20% of existing vacancies in Assistant Executive Engineers (Civil) and 50% of existing vacancies in Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical & Mechanical) are filled up by promotion of Group 'B' Engineers working in BRO.

[English]

Gender Parity

5517. SHRI PRATAP SIMHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps aimed at gender parity in Science and Technology sector by inducting more women talent in the Research and Development domain through various Programmes/Schemes;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to provide various career opportunities to women scientists; and

(c) 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) In the year 2014-15, Department of Science and Technology (DST) started Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme by bringing women-specific programmes/schemes under one umbrella to provide various career opportunities to women scientists. KIRAN is primarily aimed at bringing gender parity in Science & Technology (S&T) sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development (R&D) domain through various programs/schemes. 'Women Scientist Scheme (WOS)' of KIRAN, DST, provides career opportunities to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career, for pursuing research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. There are three major components of Women Scientist Scheme (WOS) namely, i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, ii)

Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for projects in research that encompass S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) that enables them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) professional. In 2016-17, 'Mobility' component was introduced under KIRAN to address relocation issue of working Women Scientists. In 2017-18, DST also launched 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) under KIRAN to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake International collaborative research in premier institutions in USA for duration of 3-6 months. Further, DST has conceived a new programme 'Vigyan Jyoti' during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science & Engineering and launched a Pilot initiative in 14 premier academic institutions from different geographical locations. Under this Pilot Project, residential programme of 3 weeks duration is envisaged for meritorious girls studying in Class XI that encompasses various activities aimed at mentoring and motivating them to pursue higher studies and careers in science & engineering. In addition, Women Scientists & Technologists are also encouraged to attend capacity building programmes related to R&D, entrepreneurship development, enhancing managerial skills and leadership under 'National Program for Training of Women Scientists & Technologists working in Government Sector' of DST. Further, institutional support is also provided through Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme to facilitate & augment women's participation in R&D activities in S&T Domain. Women Technology Parks (WTPs) are promoted to extend S&T facilitation at a single platform particularly for women to address challenges related to livelihoods, occupational hazards, health, nutrition and so on. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is also implementing 'Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE)' to enhance the participation of Women Scientists in Biotechnology research.

[Translation]

Atrocities on Minorities in Pakistan

5518. SHRI ALOK SANJAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the alleged atrocities committed against Hindus, Sikhs and other minorities in Pakistan and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of families who came to India and sought the status of refugees during the last three years and the current year alongwith the number of families which have returned to Pakistan;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard alongwith the details of the assistance granted to such families;

(d) whether the Government has taken up the said issue with the Government of Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Pakistani Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)): (a) Government has seen reports appearing in the media on the problems faced by members of the minority communities in Pakistan including that of intimidation, abduction, persecution, forced conversions and forced marriages of girls.

(b) and (c) As per available information, more than 12000 Pakistan nationals including those belonging to minority communities have been granted Long Term Visas (LTVs) during the last three years.

Government also extends certain facilities to persons belonging to persecuted minority communities from Pakistan namely Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, staying in India on LTV. These include purchase of a small dwelling unit for self occupation and suitable accommodation for carrying out self-employment, issuance of PAN card and Aadhar card.

(d) and (e) It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its constitutional

obligations towards its citizens, including those from the minority community. Government has from time to time, taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and has conveyed the expectation that the latter will look after the safety, security, well-being and will protect freedom of its minority communities.

[English]

High Fees in Supreme Court

5519. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the poor and low income group people find it difficult to file petitions in the Supreme court due to high fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any scheme has been introduced by the Supreme Court for facilitating the filing of petition and providing financial assistance to the poor and people belonging to low income group; and

(d) if so, 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) and (b) Supreme Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted to provide free legal aid to eligible persons under section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, including a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe; a woman or a child and a person in receipt of annual income less than Rs.1.25 lakh.

(c) and (d) Supreme Court Legal Services Committee provides free panel lawyers to eligible persons under section 12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 for legal advice, drafting of applications and filling up of various forms, making personal appearance in the court and providing certified copies of judgements. It also pays court fee on behalf of such litigants. In special cases where court appoints commissions for such persons, it makes payment to the commissioners and incurs expenditure for summoning of witnesses.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Rail Divisions

5520. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include certain rail divisions in Udaipur, Chittorh and Kota in the Ajmer division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The jurisdiction of Railway Divisions is decided on the basis of operational and administrative requirements, keeping in view the geographical contiguity of the divisions forming a zone, smooth movement of rail traffic and provision of better control to improve efficiency of the system. The present arrangement is working satisfactorily.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again 12.00 o' Clock.

11.03 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

... (*Interruptions*)

(At this stage Shri S. Rajenderan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I have received Notices of Adjournment Motion from some members on different issues. The matters though important do not

warrant interruption of business of the day. These matters can be raised on some other occasions. Therefore, I have not allowed any notices of Adjournment Motion.

...(Inruptions)

12.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Inruptions)

[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 Speaker, I beg to lay on the table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2016-2017.
- (2) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9001/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY): Madam, I

beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Khamman, for the year 2016-2017.
- (2) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Khamman, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9002/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-9003/16/18]

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, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during various sessions of Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Lok Sabhas:-

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. 36 Eighth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9004/16/18]
2. Statement No.37 Twelfth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9005/16/18]

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. 35 Seventh Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9006/16/18]
4. Statement No. 24 Fifteenth Session, 2009
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9007/16/18]

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

5. Statement No. 33 Second Session, 2009
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9008/16/18]
6. Statement No. 28 Third Session, 2009
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9009/16/18]
7. Statement No. 28 Fourth Session, 2010
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9010/16/18]
8. Statement No. 27 Fifth Session, 2010
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9011/16/18]
9. Statement No. 24 Seventh Session, 2011
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-9012/16/18]
10. Statement No. 25 Eighth Session, 2011
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9013/16/18]
11. Statement No. 24 Ninth Session, 2011
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9014/16/18]
12. Statement No. 23 Tenth Session, 2012
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9015/16/18]
13. Statement No. 21 Eleventh Session, 2012
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9016/16/18]
14. Statement No. 20 Twelfth Session, 2012
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9017/16/18]

15. Statement No.19 Thirteenth Session, 2013 16.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9018/16/18]

16. Statement No. 16 Fourteenth Session, 2013
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9019/16/18]

17. Statement No. 15 Fifteenth Session, 2013-14
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9020/16/18]

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

18. Statement No. 14 Second Session, 2014
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9021/16/18]

19. Statement No. 13 Third Session, 2014
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9022/16/18]

20. Statement No. 12 Fourth Session, 2015
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9023/16/18]

21. Statement No. 10 Fifth Session, 2015
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9024/16/18]

22. Statement No. 9 Sixth Session, 2015
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9025/16/18]

23. Statement No. 7 Seventh Session, 2016
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9026/16/18]

24. Statement No. 7 Eighth Session, 2016
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9027/16/18]

25. Statement No. 6 Ninth Session, 2016
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9028/16/18]

26. Statement No. 4 Tenth Session, 2016
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9029/16/18]

27. Statement No.4 Eleventh Session, 2017
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9030/16/18]

28. Statement No. 2 Twelfth Session, 2017
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9031/16/18]

29. Statement No. 1 Thirteenth Session, 2017-18
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9032/16/18]

12.04 Hrs**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE****90th to 102nd Reports***[English]*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):
Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the PublicAccounts Committee (2017-18):-

- (1) 90th Report on the subject 'Performance of Special Economic Zones (SEZ)'.
- (2) 91st Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Ultra Mega Power Projects Under Special Purpose Vehicles'.
- (3) 92nd Report on the subject 'Pradhan Manti Gram Sadak Yojana'.
- (4) 93rd Report on the subject 'Management of Vacant Land in Indian Railways'.
- (5) 94th Report on the subject 'Working of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and Academic Activities of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata for the period from 2010-11 to 2014-15'.
- (6) 95th Report on the subject 'Health and Family Welfare'.
- (7) 96th Report on the subject 'Management of Narcotics Substances'.
- (8) 97th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 75th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Performance of Import and Export Trade Facilitation through Customs Ports' relating to Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue-CBEC).
- (9) 98th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Sixty-second Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Ratna and R-series Hydrocarbon Fields'.
- (10) 99th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 69th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Sub-urban Train Services in Indian Railways'.
- (11) 100th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 70th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Commercial Publicity in Indian Railways'.
- (12) 101st Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 64th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme'.
- (13) 102nd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 25th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Disaster Preparedness in India'.

12.04½ Hrs.**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 253rd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 247th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 253rd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, tourism and culture on Action Taken by the government on the

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9033/16/17

recommendations contained in the 247th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping.

12.04¾ Hrs.

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 252nd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 246th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 252nd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, tourism and culture on Action Taken by the government on the recommendations contained in the 246th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

12.05 Hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): On behalf of Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the National Cadet Corps

Act, 1948 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and rules made thereunder.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948 the member of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Madam, Speaker, from the very first day, the main Opposition Party i.e. the Congress Party has been trying to obstruct the proceedings of the House ... (Interruptions) The members of the Congress Party have constantly tried to obstruct the proceedings of this House ... (Interruptions) YSRCP and TDP moved a No - Confidence Motion ... (Interruptions) Madam, yesterday the Congress Party brought playcards displaying a number ... (Interruptions) After moving a No - Confidence Motion the Congress Party showed playcards. I would like to say that even that is also against the order of the House. They cannot show playcards displaying numbers ... (Interruptions) They can move a No - Confidence Motion only after your permission and in this regard they can show that number by standing up ... (Interruptions) Madam, the main opposition party Congress has been constantly obstructing the proceedings of the House ... (Interruptions) They have made mockery of the

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9034/16/17

proceedings of the House. We condemn it ...
(Interruptions) This should not happen ... *(Interruptions)*
 We are ready to discussion on No - Motion Confidence
 Motion. We are ready for discussion ones the House
 comes in order ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What is the matter Kharge Ji?
 What happened?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga):
 Madam Speaker, We are ready for discussion ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am unable to hear.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker,
 we are ready for discussion and you should not mention
 about the number regarding No-Confidence Motion ...
(Interruptions) We have counted the number ...
(Interruptions) 80 Members stood up ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPAKER: This is not the way. I am sorry,
 please.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.07 Hrs

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Notices of Motion of No-Confidence.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am speaking
 about No-Confidence Motion. But how can I proceed? I
 am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have received notices of
 Motion of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers
 from Sarvashri Thota Narasimham, Y.V.Subba Reddy,
 Konakalla Narayana Rao, Srinivas Kesineni, N.K.
 Premachandran, Mohd. Salim, P. Karunakaran, P.V.
 Midhun Reddy, P.K.Kunhalikutty, Mallikarjun Kharge,
 M. Srinivasa Rao, Asaduddin Owaisi and Jayadev
 Galla.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am duty bound to bring the
 notices before the House. But unless the House is in

order I will not be in a position to countthe 50 Members.
 How can I count? It is not possible. All of you will have
 to go to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am not able to ascertain as to
 whether the leave has been granted or not. I cannot
 ascertain this.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way. How can I
 count? Please go back to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Everybody is ready to discuss
 No-Confidence Motion. They are also ready, this side is
 also ready, but we cannotproceed like this.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Since the House is not in order,
 I will not be able to bring the notices before the House.
 I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is not the
 way. I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: There is no point in running the
 House in this manner. What are you doing?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I cannot hear anybody.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to
 meet on Monday, the 2nd April, 2018 at 11.00 a.m.

12.11 Hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
 Clock on Monday, April 2, 2018/
 Chaitra 12, 1940 (Saka).*

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	SHRI ADHIKARI, DEEPAK (DEV)	474,
2.	SHRI AZAD, KIRTI	476,
3.	SHRI CHAUHAN, DEVUSINH	467,
4.	SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY	469,
5.	SHRI GAJANAN, KIRTIKAR	468,
6.	SHRI GUPTA, SUDHEER	468,
7.	SHRI KAUSHALENDRA, KUMAR	466,
8.	SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI, GEETHA	461,
9.	SHRI KUMAR, B. VINOD	479,
10.	SHRI KUNDARIYA MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI	471,
11.	SHRI LOKHANDE, SADASHIV	462,
12.	ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR	478,
13.	SHRI MAHATO, BIDYUT BARAN	480,
14.	SHRI MEENA, HARISH	475,
15.	SHRI PALA, VINCENT H.	477,
16.	SHRI REDDY J.C. DIVAKAR	461,
17.	SHRI SHEWALE, RAHUL	469,
18.	DR. SHYAL, BHARATIBEN D.	476,
19.	SHRI SINGH GANESH	473,
20.	SHRI SINGH, DUSHYANT	464,
21.	KW. SINGH, KUNWAR HARIBANSH	480,
22.	SHRI SINGH, SUSHIL KUMAR	465,
23.	SHRIMATI SINGH, PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI	472,
24.	DR. VENUGOPAL P.	463,
25.	SHRIMATI VERMA, REKHA	470,

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	SHRI ADHIKARI, DIBYENDU	5381,
2.	DR. SHARMA, RAGHU	5486,
3.	DR. "NISHANK", RAMESH POKHRIYAL	5432,
4.	SHRI ADHALRAO, PATIL SHIVAJIRAO	5320, 5330, 5370, 5433, 5500,
5.	SHRI ADSUL ANANDRAO	5320, 5330, 5370, 5433, 5500,
6.	SHRI AGRAWAL, RAJENDRA	5471,
7.	SHRIMATI AHLAWAT, SANTOSH	5336, 5337,
8.	SHRI AJMAL, BADRUDDIN	5358,
9.	SHRI ANTO ANTONY	5305,
10.	SHRI ANWAR, TARIQ	5426,
11.	SHRI ARUNMOZHITHEVAN, A.	5321,
12.	SHRI ASHOK KUMAR K.	5334,
13.	SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR	5313, 5511,
14.	SHRI AZAD, KIRTI	5496,
15.	SHRI B.SENGUTTUVAN	5349,
16.	SHRI B. SRIRAMULU	5309, 5491,
17.	SHRIMATI BALA, ANJU	5351, 5491,
18.	SHRI BALKA, SUMAN	5466,
19.	SHRI BARNE, SHRIRANG APPA	5320, 5330, 5433, 5447,
20.	SHRI BASHEER MOHAMMED E.T.	5297, 5496,
21.	SHRI BHARATHI, MOHAN R.K.	5333, 5396, 5493, 5494,
22.	SHRIMATI BHATT, RANJANBEN	5382, 5431,

1	2	3
23.	DR. BIJU P.K.	5301,
24.	SHRI BIRLA, OM	5389,
25.	SHRI BISWAS, RADHESHYAM	5409,
26.	SHRI BOHRA, RAM CHARAN	5446,
27.	DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN	5349, 5477,
28.	SHRI CHAND, NIHAL	5431,
29.	SHRI CHANDEL, KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH	5292,
30.	SHRI CHANDRAKASI, M.	5325, 5389, 5489,
31.	SHRI CHANDRAPPA, B.N.	5353,
32.	SHRI CHAUDHARY, PANKAJ	5474,
33.	SHRI CHAUDHURY, JITENDRA	5468,
34.	SHRI CHAUHAN, DEVUSINH	5512,
35.	SHRI CHAUTALA, DUSHYANT	5316, 5514,
36.	SHRI CHAVAN, ,ASHOK SHANKARRAO	5329,
37.	SHRI CHAVAN, HARISHCHANDRA	5325, 5392, 5404,
38.	SHRI CHAVDA, VINOD LAKHAMASHI	5465,
39.	SHRI CHOUDHARY, RAM TAHAL	5414,
40.	SHRI CHUDASAMA, RAJESHBHAI	5299, 5307, 5331,
41.	SHRI DEO, KALIKESH N. SINGH	5385,
42.	SHRIMATI DEVI RAMA	5319, 5515,
43.	SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY	5497,
44.	SHRI DHRUVA NARAYANA, R.	5463, 5492,
45.	SHRIMATI DHURVE, JYOTI	5473,
46.	SHRI DIWAKER, RAJESH KUMAR	5467,
47.	SHRI DUBEY NISHIKANT	5394,

1	2	3
48.	SHRI DUBEY, SATISH CHANDRA	5438,
49.	SHRI ERING, NINONG	5458,
50.	PROF GAIKWAD, RAVINDRA VISHWANATH	5306,
51.	SHRI GAJANAN, KIRTIKAR	5488, 5489, 5490
52.	SHRI GALLA, JAYADEV	5291,
53.	SHRI GANDHI, DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL	5336,
54.	DR. GAVIT, HEENA VIJAYKUMAR	5308, 5326, 5346, 5371, 5487,
55.	ADV. GEORGE, JOICE	5428,
56.	SHRI GILUWA, LAXMAN	5392,
57.	SHRI GOGOI, GAURAV	5454,
58.	DR. GOPAL, K.	5387,
59.	DR. GOUD, BOORA NARSAIAH	5348,
60.	SHRI GUPTA, SUDHEER	5488, 5489, 5490,
61.	SHRI HANSDAK, VIJAY KUMAR	5381, 5436,
62.	SHRI HARI, G.	5367,
63.	SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI	5296,
64.	DR. HAZRA, ANUPAM	5450,
65.	SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI	5453,
66.	SHRI JADHAV, SANJAY HARIBHAU	5405,
67.	DR. AISWAL, SANJAY	5425,
68.	SHRIMATI JARDOSH, DARSHANA VIKRAM	5402,
69.	SHRI JAUNAPURIA, SUKHBIR SINGH	5482, 5486,
70.	DR. JAYAVARDHAN, J.	5308, 5326, 5346, 5371, 5487,

1	2	3
71.	SHRI JENA, RABINDRA KUMAR	5419,
72.	SHRI JOSHI, CHANDRA PRAKASH	5378, 5384, 5499,
73.	SHRI KACHHADIYA, NARANBHAI	5488, 5489, 5490,
74.	KM. KARANDLAJE, SHOBHA	5295, 5503,
75.	SHRI KASWAN, RAHUL	5366,
76.	SHRI KATARIA, RATTAN LAL	5476,
77.	SHRI KATEEL, NALIN KUMAR	5412,
78.	SHRI KAUSHAL, KISHORE	5332,
79.	SHRI KAUSHALENDRA, KUMAR	5516,
80.	SHRI KAUSHIK, RAMESH CHANDER	5496,
81.	SHRIMATI KHADSE, RAKSHATAI	5395,
82.	SHRI KHAIRE CHANDRAKANT	5424,
83.	SHRI KHAN, MD. BADARUDDOZA	5293, 5294, 5479,
84.	SHRIMATI KHER, KIRRON	5460,
85.	SHRI KODIKUNNIL, SURESH	5451,
86.	SHRI KOTHA, PRABHAKAR REDDY	5340,
87.	SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI, GEETHA	5507,
88.	SHRI KUMAR, SANTOSH	5380,
89.	SHRI KUMAR, P.	5328, 5519,
90.	SHRI KUNDARIYA MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI	5486, 5495,
91.	SHRI KUNHALIKUTIY, P.K.	5398,
92.	KUNWAR, BHARATENDRA	5420,
93.	SHRI LOKHANDE, SADASHIV	5491, 5505,
94.	SHRIMATI MAADAM, POONAMBEN	5455,

1	2	3
95.	SHRI MAHADIK, DHANANJAY	5308, 5326, 5346, 5371, 5487,
96.	DR. MAHATO, BANSHILAL	5416,
97.	SHRI MAHATO, BIDYUT BARAN	5488, 5489, 5490,
98.	SHRI MAHENDRAN, C.	5377,
99.	SHRI MAHTAB, BHARTRUHARI	5497,
100.	SHRI MAJHI, BALASHADRA	5459,
101.	SHRI MALUKARJUN, KHARGE	5470,
102.	SHRI MANI JOSE K.	5376,
103.	SHRI MANJHI, HARI	5481,
104.	SHRIMATI KARAGATHAM, K.	5388,
105.	SHRI MEENA, ARJUN LAL	5520,
106.	DR. MEINYA, THOKCHOM	5469,
107.	SHRI MISHRA, BHAIRON PRASAD	5379, 5486,
108.	SHRI MISHRA, ANOOP	5361, 5369,
109.	SHRI MISRA, PINAKI	5449,
110.	SHRI MOHAN P.c.	5339,
111.	SHRI MOHAN, M. MURALI	5293, 5501,
112.	SHRI MONDAL, SUNIL KUMAR	5462,
113.	SHRI MUDDAHANUMEGOWDA, S.P.	5307,
114.	SHRI MUKHERJEE, ABHIJIT	5294, 5502,
115.	SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN	5378, 5400,
116.	DR. MUNDE, PRITAM GOPINATH	5320, 5330, 5433, 5447, 5500,
117.	SHRI NAGAR, RODMAL	5317,
118.	SHRI NAGARAJAN, P.	5349, 5356,
119.	SHRI NAIK, B.V.	5322,
120.	SHRI SRINIWAS, KESINENI	5478,
121.	SHRI NATH KAMAL	5417, 5498,

1	2	3
122.	SHRI NATTERJEE, J.J.T.	5375,
123.	SHRI NETE, ASHOK MAHADEORAO	5302,
124.	SHRI NINAMA, MANSHANKAR	5299, 5485,
125.	SHRI NISHAD, AJAY	5368, 5440,
126.	SHRI NISHAD, RAMCHARITRA	5357,
127.	SHRIMATI NOOR, MAUSAM	5452, 5491,
128.	SHRI OWAISI, ASADUDDIN	5310, 5509,
129.	SHRIMATI PAATLE, KAMLA DEVI	5406,
130.	SHRI PAL, JAGDAMBIKA	5348, 5407,
131.	SHRI PANDAY, HARI OM	5341, 5380,
132.	SHRI PANDEY RAVINDRA KUMAR	5311,
133.	SHRI PANDEY, RAJESH	5495,
134.	SHRI PARASURAMAN, K.	5393,
135.	SHRI PARTHIPAN, R.	5350,
136.	SHRI PATEL, DEVJI M.	5368,
137.	SHRI PATEL, PRAHLAD SINGH	5293, 5399,
138.	SHRI PATIL A.T. NANA	5391,
139.	SHRIMATI PATIL, BHAVANA GAWALI	5441, 5448,
140.	SHRI PATIL, C.R.	5347,
141.	SHRI PATIL, KAPIL MORESHWAR	5437,
142.	SHRI PRABAKARAN, K.R.P.	5338,
143.	DR. PRATAP, KRISHAN	5303,
144.	SHRI PREMACHANDRAN N.K.	5427,
145.	SHRI RAAJHAA, A. ANWHAR	5488, 5489, 5490,
146.	SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN, T.	5488, 5489, 5490,
147.	SHRI RAI, PREM DAS	5355,
148.	DR. RAJ, UDIT	5344,
149.	SHRI RAJAN, VICHARE	5354,

1	2	3
150.	SHRI RAJESH, M.B.	5318,
151.	DR. RAJORIA, MANOJ	5423,
152.	SHRI RAJU, C.S. PUTTA	5383, 5477,
153.	SHRI RAM, JANAK	5361, 5418,
154.	SHRI RAM, VISHNU DAYAL	5421,
155.	SHRI RAMACHANDRAN, K.N.	5396, 5493, 5494,
156.	SHRI RAO, MUTHAMSETII SRINIVASA (AVANTHI)	5475,
157.	SHRI RAO, RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA	5430,
158.	SHRI RATHOD, D.S.	5465, 5480,
159.	SHRI RATHWA, RAMSINH	5363,
160.	DR. RATNA, DE(NAG)	5341, 5380,
161.	SHRI RAUT, VINAYAK BHAURAO	5320, 5370, 5433, 5500,
162.	SHRI RAY, PARTHA PRATIM	5410,
163.	DR. RAY, RAVINDRA KUMAR	5314,
164.	SHRI REDDY, A.P. JITHENDER	5342, 5491,
165.	SHRI REDDY, Y.V. SUBBA	5343,
166.	SHRI REDDY, CH. MALLA	5483,
167.	SHRI REDDY, KONDA VISHWESHWAR	5300, 5506,
168.	SHRI REDDY, P.V. MIDHUN	5472,
169.	SHRI REDDY, PONGULETI SRINIVASA	5312, 5510,
170.	SHRI REDDY, Y. S. AVINASH	5315, 5513,
171.	SHRIMATI RENUKA, BUTTA	5443, 5444,
172.	PROF. ROY, SAUGATA	5352,
173.	SHRI RUDY, RAJIV PRATAP	5461,
174.	SHRI SAHU, LAKHAN LAL	5411,
175.	SHRI SAHU, CHANDU LAL	5368, 5397,
176.	SHRI SAINI, ,RAJKUMAR	5361,
177.	DR. SAMAL, KULAMANI	5372,
178.	DR. SANGHAMITA, MAMTAZ	5380,

1	2	3
179.	SHRI SANJAR, ALOK	5327, 5518,
180.	SHRI SATAV, RAJEEV	5326, 5346, 5371, 5487,
181.	SHRI SAWANT, ARVIND	5441,
182.	SHRI SCINDIA, JYOTIRADITYA M.	5417, 5454, 5498,
183.	SHRI SENTHIL NATHAN, PR.	5333, 5396,
184.	SHRI SHANKARRAO, MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH	5308, 5326, 5346, 5371, 5487,
185.	SHRI SHARMA, RAM KUMAR	5456,
186.	SHRI SHETTY RAJU	5386,
187.	SHRI SHETTY, GOPAL	5335,
188.	SHRI SHEWALE, RAHUL	5497,
189.	DR. SHINDE, SHRIKANT EKNATH	5320, 5370, 5433, 5500,
190.	SHRI SIDDESHWARA, G.M.	5359,
191.	SHRI SIGRIWAL, JANARDAN SINGH	5365,
192.	SHRI SIMHA, PRATAP	5324, 5517,
193.	SHRI SINGH, RAKESH	5298,
194.	SHRI SINGH, BHARAT	5361, 5492,
195.	SINGH, KUNWAR HARIBANSH	5488, 5489, 5490,
196.	SHRI SINGH, PARVESH SAHIB	5297, 5504,
197.	PROF. SINGH, SADHU	5422,
198.	DR SINGH, PRABHAS KUMAR	5390,
199.	SHRI SINGH, SUNIL KUMAR	5368, 5415,
200.	SHRI. SINGH, UDAY PRATAP	5457,
201.	DR. SOMAIYA, KIRIT	5408,
202.	SHRI SONKAR, VINOD KUMAR	5304, 5508,
203.	SHRIMATI SONKER, NEELAM	5330, 5445,
204.	SHRI SRIRAM, MALYADRI	5439,
205.	SHRIMATI SULE, SUPRIYA	5308, 5326, 5346, 5371, 5487,

1	2	3
206.	SHRI SUNDARAM, P.R.	5326, 5346, 5371, 5373, 5487,
207.	SHRI SURESH, D.K.	5360,
208.	SHRI TADAS, RAMDAS C.	5378, 5384, 5499,
209.	SHRI TANWAR, KANWAR SINGH	5374,
210.	SHRIMATI TARAI, RITA	5323,
211.	SHRIMATI TEACHER, P.K. SREEMATHI	5362, 5437,
212.	SHRI TENI, AJAY MISRA	5361, 5492,
213.	DR. THAROOR, SHASHI	5401,
214.	PROF THOMAS, KV. THOMAS	5442,
215.	SHRI TIWARI, MANOJ	5341,
216.	SHRI TUKARAM, GODSE HEMANT	5384,
217.	SHRI TUMANE, KRUPAL BALAJI	5429,
218.	SHRI UDASI, SHIVKUMAR	5345,
219.	SHRI USENDI, VIKRAM	5443,
220.	SHRI V. ELUMALAI	5364,
221.	SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA	5333, 5396, 5493, 5494,
222.	SHRIMATI VASANTHI, M.	5434,
223.	SHRI VASAVA, MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI	5325, 5484,
224.	SHRI VENKATESH, BABU T.G.	5403,
225.	SHRI VENUGOPAL, K.C.	5413,
226.	SHRI VERMA, ANSHUL	5435,
227.	SHRI VIJAKUMAR, S.R.	5488, 5489, 5490,
228.	SHRI YADAV, DHARMENDRA	5320, 5433,
229.	SHRI YADAV, TEJ PRATAP SINGH	5351, 5491,
230.	SHRI YADAV, LAXMI NARAYAN	5317, 5464,

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

Prime Minister	:	
Atomic Energy	:	
Coal	:	
Communications	:	461, 463
Defence	:	466, 478
Development of North Eastern Region	:	474
Earth Sciences	:	
Electronics and Information Technology	:	464
External Affairs	:	462, 468
Law and Justice	:	
Minority Affairs	:	
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	
Planning	:	473
Railways	:	465, 467, 470, 471, 472, 475, 476, 477, 479, 480
Science and Technology	:	469
Space	:	
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Prime Minister	:	
Atomic Energy	:	5318, 5356, 5377, 5418, 5441, 5452, 5477, 5514
Coal	:	5309, 5331, 5363, 5364, 5384, 5390, 5419, 5420, 5438, 5440, 5487, 5497, 5499
Communications	:	5304, 5305, 5315, 5317, 5321, 5322, 5340, 5343, 5349, 5365, 5374, 5393, 5394, 5397, 5408, 5451, 5454, 5470, 5478, 5489
Defence	:	5299, 5300, 5313, 5333, 5354, 5368, 5376, 5383, 5387, 5391, 5396, 5401, 5424, 5431, 5434, 5449, 5471, 5472, 5475, 5485, 5492, 5493, 5494, 5495, 5498, 5502, 5506, 5511, 5516
Development of North Eastern Region	:	5458
Earth Sciences	:	5303, 5307, 5425
Electronics and Information Technology	:	5291, 5297, 5298, 5316, 5336, 5352, 5395, 5411, 5417, 5439, 5507, 5513

External Affairs	: 5359, 5375, 5407, 5414, 5422, 5428, 5430, 5435, 5448, 5459, 5465, 5518
Law and Justice	: 5312, 5332, 5338, 5341, 5353, 5378, 5409, 5416, 5437, 5445, 5450, 5467, 5468, 5469, 5488, 5504, 5508, 5519
Minority Affairs	: 5306, 5310, 5326, 5346, 5386, 5412, 5423, 5463, 5480, 5503, 5509
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: 5339, 5342, 5344, 5373, 5381, 5385, 5389, 5392, 5402, 5421, 5436, 5484, 5486, 5491
Planning	: 5325, 5348, 5432, 5474, 5481, 5501
Railways	: 5293, 5294, 5295, 5301, 5311, 5314, 5319, 5320, 5323, 5324, 5327, 5328, 5329, 5330, 5334, 5335, 5345, 5347, 5350, 5357, 5358, 5362, 5366, 5367, 5370, 5372, 5379, 5380, 5382, 5398, 5399, 5400, 5403, 5404, 5405, 5406, 5410, 5413, 5415, 5429, 5433, 5442, 5443, 5444, 5447, 5453, 5457, 5460, 5461, 5462, 5464, 5466, 5473, 5476, 5479, 5482, 5483, 5496, 5500, 5505, 5510, 5512, 5515, 5520
Science and Technology	: 5302, 5308, 5351, 5371, 5427, 5456, 5490, 5517
Space	: 5337, 5360, 5388
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: 5292, 5296, 5355, 5361, 5369, 5426, 5446, 5455.
