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Fourteenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 21, 2018/Phalguna 30, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER : Question hour, Q. 361 - Sh. P. Kumar.

11.01 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati V. Sathyabama, Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the table.

...(Interruptions)

11.1½ hrs

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[English]

HON. SPEAKER : Question No. 361, Is Shri P. Kumar there?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, please lay the answer on the Table of the house.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

Growth of IT Companies

*361. SHRI P. KUMAR : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of Information Technology (IT) companies has been affected adversely due to the policy changes in the United States of America under the present administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said policy changes are likely to reduce the jobs in IT sector; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Madam. As on date, seven H-1B/L-1 visa related bills have been introduced in the 115th U.S. Congress that seek to revise the various provisions of the H-1B and L-1 visa programmes. They have yet to go through the full legislative process i.e., to be passed in both Houses and finally assented to by the President. In the previous congress too, similar Bills were introduced but did not become law.

The Software Services revenue (including Hardware) was USD 132 Billion and USD 143 Billion in FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 respectively; it crossed USD 150 Billion in the FY 2016-17 and reached USD 154 Billion. It is estimated to reach USD 167 Billion in the current FY 2017-18. The export of software and services is estimated to reach USD 126 Billion in the current FY. It is the largest export sector for the country comprising 24% of total exports. Further, the software and services exports are projected to grow at 7% to 9% and reach nearly USD 135-137 Billion in the FY 2018-19.

India's Digital Economy has received a tremendous boost through various Government Initiatives such as Digital India covering e-Government Services, Common Service Centres, BPO Promotion Schemes, Digital Payments, Electronic Manufacturing, and Digital Saksharta Abhiyan; e-Commerce, GST Network, Make in India, Start-up India-Health, Smart Cities, and e-Agriculture Market Place/Digital Mandis. These initiatives 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.

(c) and (d) Estimation of expected reduction in jobs is conjectural at this stage as various legislative changes proposed are at discussion stage and not yet become law. Government of India remains closely engaged with the U.S. Administration and the Congress on all issues relating to movement of Indian professionals including

under the H-1B visa programme. 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 U.S. economy and have helped the U.S. retain its competitive edge and innovation advantage.

As regards the employment in 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 and technology jobs in related sectors are expected to grow faster with continuous focus on re-skilling. According to N.A.S.S.C.O.M., It is estimated that the I.T.-B.P.M. 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.

The Government initiatives such as Common Service Centres (CSC's) 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. India is becoming a promising centre of mobile manufacturing. In 2014, there were only 2 factories ; since this Government has come to power, now 118 factories are manufacturing mobiles and accessories, including some of the best global brands.

Another programm of B.P.O. in small towns of this Government with due incentives is also finding great support. Many B.P.O's have started operating in small towns in North East, J & K, UP, Bihar, Maharashtra and Southern States. This is creating good employment locally for young people including women.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Digital Payments

*362. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS :
SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :

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

(a) whether there has been a noticeable increase in use of digital payments in the country since demonetization and if so, the details thereof along with the volume and percentage of digital transactions during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether this growth meets the expectations of the Government and if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether there has been a comparative study on the digital transactions carried across the world and if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for ensuring that digital transactions are safe and secure; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken to incentivise digital transaction and promote digital economy/literacy, especially in rural regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Madam. There has been a noticeable increase in use of digital payments in the country since demonetization. This increase is visible in the growth seen in the number of daily transactions by various digital payment modes as given in the table below:

No. of Transactions per day	8th November, 2016	8th February, 2018	Growth
U.P.I. (B.H.I.M. & U.S.S.D.)	3694 (Actual)	58.54 lakh	158373%
Debit Card (RuPay)	3.85 lakh	22.39 lakh	482%
Immediate Payment System (I.M.P.S.)	13.94 lakh	37.49 lakh	169%
Aadhaar Enabled Payment System	9.94 lakh	33.75 lakh	240%

Data Source NPCI

The details of Digital Payment transactions by volume and value for last five years using various digital payment modes (RTGS, EFT/NEFT, IMPS, Credit Card/

Debit Card usage at POS, m-Wallet, PPI Cards, UPI, AEPS, NETC, BBPS, NACH) is placed in the enclosed statement-I. The summary of the same tabulated below :

Digital Transactions over the last five years

Year/Modes	FY 2013-14	Fy 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18*
Volume of Transactions (In Cr)	210.52	317.60	577.75	1012.58	1605.30
Value of Transactions (in Lakh Cr)	951.62	994.24	1128.71	1393.21	1462.6

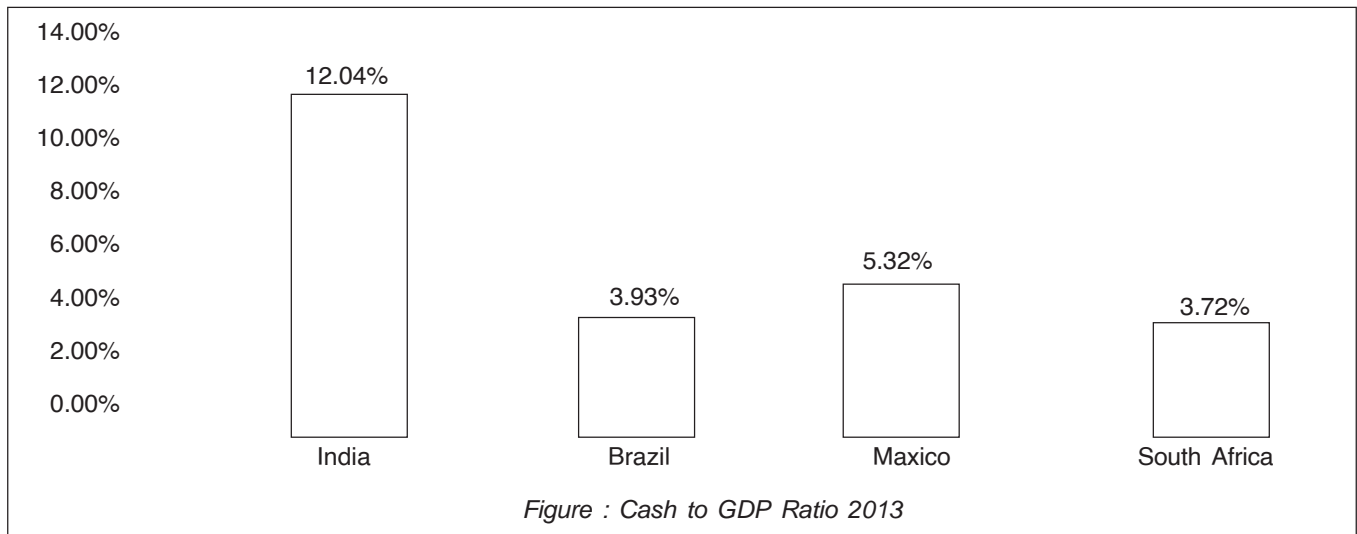
*Data for 2017-18 is till January, 2017-18. * Data obtained from RBI, Banks and PPI.

(b) The growth in digital payments by value and volume since demonetization is given in the enclosed Statement-II(a) and (b) respectively and it is phenomenal. This growth is largely to the satisfaction of Government.

Ministry of Finance gave its report in November 2016 (available at http://finance.du.ac.in/du-finance/uploads/pdf/Reports/watal_report271216.pdf.) In the report cash to GDP ratio (as a proxy for digitalization) of certain countries has been brought out as given below:

(c) The Ratan P. Watal Committee set up by the

Cash to GDP Ratio 2013



(d) RBI and CERT-In have been regularly issuing circulars and advisories to banks and all payment system providers to ensure the safety and security in digital payment transactions. The listing of such instructions issued by RBI & CERT-In are kept in the enclosed Statement-III (a) and (b) respectively.

(e) The Government has incentivized the usage of BHIM App for making digital transactions. With effect from 1.1.2018 MDR on debit card transactions of value upto Rs. 2000 is to be reimbursed to the banks by the Government in order to bring such transactions on par with cash. Besides Ministries and departments such as Railways, Petroleum & Natural gas etc are offering

incentives to promote digital payments. A list of such incentives is kept at the enclosed Statement-IV. Through the programme of **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan** (PMGDISHA) measures are afoot to train six crore persons in rural areas, across States/UT's in various aspects of digital literacy including digital financial literacy, covering one member from every eligible household in about 40% of rural households by 31st March, 2019. Besides there are 2,92,406 number of Community Service Centres (CSC's) of which 1,83,005 number are operating in rural area and these CSC's play crucial role in enabling and facilitating digital transactions.

Statement-I*Mode-wise digital payment transaction data for last 5 years*

Year/Modes	FY 2013-14		FY 2014-15		FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17		FY 2017-18*	
	Vol. (in Cr)	Val. (in Lakh Cr)	Vol. (in Cr)	Val. (in Lakh Cr)	Vol. (in Cr)	Val. (in Lakh Cr)	Vol. (in Cr)	Val. (in Lakh Cr)	Vol. (in Cr)	Val. (in Lakh Cr)
RTGS	8.11	904.97	9.28	929.33	9.83	1035.55	10.79	1253.65	10.11	1194.53
EFT/NEFT	66.10	43.79	92.75	59.80	125.29	83.27	162.21	120.04	156.88	134.84
IMPS	1.54	0.10	7.84	0.58	22.08	1.62	50.67	4.11	80.04	7.00
Credit Card usage at POS	50.91	1.54	61.51	1.90	78.57	2.41	108.71	3.28	116.31	3.77
Debit Card usage at POS	61.91	0.95	80.81	1.21	117.36	1.59	239.93	3.30	271.40	3.78
m-Wallet	10.75	0.03	25.50	0.08	60.40	0.21	163.00	0.53	244.72	0.85
PPI Cards	0.56	0.03	5.89	0.11	14.35	0.25	33.31	0.28	37.25	0.28
NACH	8.65	0.21	34.02	1.22	140.41	3.80	205.73	7.92	207.60	8.48
Ape's	-	-	-	-	9.47	0.00	34.45	0.02	78.29	0.19
BHIM UPI/USSD	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.75	0.07	56.58	0.67
NETC	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.03	0.01	9.78	0.03
BBPS	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.00	1.38	0.01
Internet Banking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	113.96	89.56
Mobile Banking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48.55	2.09
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66.46	16.48
Closed Loop	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105.99	0.02
Transactions	210.52	951.62	317.60	994.24	577.75	1128.71	1012.58	1393.21	1605.30	1462.58

Data for 2017-18 is till January, 2017-18.

*Data obtained from RBI, Banks and PPI. "n/a" data not available.

The month-on-month growth of various Digital Payment modes since demonetization is as follows-

Statement-II (a)

Digital Payment Volume (In Crores)

Mode of Digital	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17
RTGS	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.3	1	1	1
EFT/NEFT	12	17	16	15	19	14	16	15
IMPS	4	5	6	6	7	7	7	7
Credit Card at PoS	10	12	11	9	11	11	12	11
Debit Usage at PoS	24	42	33	25	27	27	26	25
m-Wallet	14	21	26	25	31	32	24	22
PPI Cards	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	3
Mobile Banking	9	11	11	10	11	11	11	12
UPI (Incl. BHIM/USSD)	0	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1
NACH	16	21	17	16	19	22	20	21
AEPS Total	3	4	4	4	5	6	7	8
BBPS	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
NETC	-	0	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8
Total	95	138	130	115	136	134	129	127

Mode of Digital	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18
RTGS	0.9	0.9	1	1	1.1	1.1	1.1
EFT/NEFT	15	15	16	16	16	17	17
IMPS	7	8	8	9	9	10	10
Credit Card at PoS	11	12	11	12	12	12	13
Debit Usage at PoS	26	27	27	28	27	29	30
m-Wallet	24	23	20	20	19	29	33
PPI Cards	3	4	4	4	5	3	3
Mobile Banking	10	10	11	15	18	25	27
UPI (Incl. BHIM/USSD)	1.2	1.7	3.1	7.7	10.5	14.6	15.2
NACH	21	21	19	20	21	20	22
AEPS Total	8	8	8	8	8	9	9
BBPS	0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
NETC	0.9	1	1	1	1.1	1.2	1.3
Total	128	130	129	142	148	171	182

From nearly 94 crore Digital Transaction in No-16 to approximately 182 crore transactions in Jan-18, there has been a nearly 93% growth in volume of Digital Payments.

Statement-II (b)*Digital Payment Value (In Rs. thousand Crores)*

Mode of Digital	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17
RTGS	10,189	11,098	10,060	9,527	15,409	11,174	11,331	11,620
EFT/NEFT	881	1,154	1,136	1,088	1,629	1,216	1,241	1,269
IMPS	32	43	49	48	56	56	59	60
Credit Card at PoS	27	31	33	29	33	33	36	35
Debit Usage at PoS	32	58	49	36	36	37	37	38
m-Wallet	3.3	7.4	8.4	6.9	7.3	7.4	7.2	5.3
PPI Cards	1.5	2.1	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.7	3.3	3
Mobile Banking	137	150	138	128	173	161	213	181
UPI (Incl. BHIM/USSD)	0.1	0.7	1.7	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.8	3.1
NACH	68	70	60	65	90	97	76	81
AEPS Total	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.3
BBPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NETC	-	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	11,371	12,614	11,538	10,933	17,441	12,789	13,008	13,297

Mode of Digital	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18
RTGS	11,056	11,383	12,773	11,581	12,358	12,810	13,367
EFT/NEFT	1,201	1,250	1,418	1,385	1,388	1,578	1,537
IMPS	60	65	72	75	78	87	88
Credit Card at PoS	34	36	37	42	39	42	41
Debit Usage at PoS	35	35	37	41	37	41	41
m-Wallet	6.9	7.3	8.2	8.7	9.4	12.6	12.6
PPI Cards	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.8	1.6	2.1
Mobile Banking	81	81	86	92	105	112	122
UPI (Incl. BHIM/USSD)	3.4	4.2	5.3	7.1	9.7	13.2	15.6
NACH	84	82	71	99	94	81	82
AEPS Total	1.4	1.7	2	2.5	2.6	2.6	3.3
BBPS	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
NETC	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	12,567	12,949	14,513	13,335	14,126	14,780	15,313

The corresponding numbers for BHIM/UPI are as follows-

BHIM/UPI volume month on month in Cr.

Mode of Digital Payment	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17
BHIM/UPI	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0

Mode of Digital	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18
BHIM/UPI	1.1	1.7	3.1	7.7	10.5	14.5	15.2

Volume (in Cr.)

0.0	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.7	3.1	7.7	10.5	14.5	15.2
N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J

BHIM/UPI value month on month in Cr.

Mode of Digital	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17
BHIM/UPI	101	700	1659	1902	2391	2241	2765	3067

Mode of Digital	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18
BHIM/UPI	3381	4127	5293	7028	9641	13144	15542

Value (in Cr.)

101	700	1659	1902	2391	2241	2765	3067	3381	4127	5293	7028	9641	13144	15542
N..	D..	J..	F..	M..	A..	M..	J..	J..	A..	S..	O..	N..	D..	J..

Statement-III (a)

Guidelines & Circulars issued by RBI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues the regulations related to cyber security guidelines and periodically reviews the cyber security developments and threats on an ongoing basis and necessary measures are taken to strengthen the cyber resilience of banks. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is taking adequate measures for **Risk Mitigation for Online Payments.**

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
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

(DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16) covers best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security.

Team (CERT-In), conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks in 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.
9. For Non-Banks 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.CO.OSD.No.2374/06.11.001/2010-2011 dated April 15, 2011 (copy is available on http://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notifications.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).
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 http://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notifications.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. Limited liability of Customers: Guidelines on Limited liability of customers in Unauthorized Electronic Banking Transactions (RBI Circular Number DBR.No.Leg.BC.78/09.07.005/2017-18 dated 06.07.2016) are available at the RBI website link: <http://www.rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notifications/PDFsNOTI15D620D2C4D2CA33AABC928CA6204B19.PDF>.
12. 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.449/02.14.003/2015-2016).
- (c) Card Not Present transactions - Relaxation in additional factor of Authentication for payment upto 2000/- for card network provided authentication solutions dated December 6, 2016 (DPSS.CO.PD.No.1431/02.14.003/2016-2017).
- (d) Master Direction on Issuance & 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).

Statement-III (b)

Steps taken by CERT-In to ensure safe and secure digital transactions

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 mock drills 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 Services Providers and Industry.
- (8) MeitY has organised 2 workshops for banks, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) issuing entities regarding security of digital payments systems.
- (9) Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance; and is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for CISOs of Government and critical sector organisations, in addition to Information Technology (IT)/cyber security professionals, to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures.

Statement-IV

Measures taken/being taken to incentivize digital transactions and promote digital economy/literacy especially in rural regions of the country

The Incentives being offered by Ministries/Departments including MeitY are as below:

I. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

- (i) On 14th April 2017] Government of India introduced the following promotional schemes to encourage the usage of digital payments (through BHIM and *99#) at the grass root level.

(a) BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) Referral Bonus Scheme for Individuals

This scheme is to incentivize an existing

users of BHIM to bring new users on the BHIM platform. The bonus will be paid to both the referrer and the new user of BHIM (referee). The referral will be considered successful on completion of minimum 3 unique successful financial transactions totaling to Rs. 50 (to the valid UPI user - "valid receiver") performed by the referee.

(b) BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) Cashback Scheme for Merchants

The scheme is to incentivize users for receiving payments on BHIM App or *99# from their customers. The merchant will receive cash back on completion of minimum 50 credit transaction of which at least 20 transactions is from valid UPI unique customers including that of BHIM users.

(c) BHIM Aadhaar Merchant Incentive Scheme

The scheme aims to incentivize not just one-time adoption of BHIM Aadhaar by merchants, but should also increase the ease of transactions for all citizens as it uses the Aadhaar for digital transactions. The objective of the scheme are twofold, viz:

- Increase in number of merchants registered on BHIM Aadhaar
- Increase in number of payment transactions using BHIM Aadhaar

- (ii) MeitY issued a Gazette Notification dated 28th December 2017 regarding reimbursement of MDR charges on Debit Cards/BHIMUPI/AePS transactions of value less than or equal to Rs. 2000.00 to promote digital transactions.

Additionally, MeitY has requested all other Ministries/Departments to start incentivizing digital payments by offering visible discount on digital payment *vis-a-vis* cash.

II. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)

MoRTH is offering incentive of 7.5% to toll road users on electronically paid fee for the FY 2017-18. 5% for 2018-19 and 2.5% in 2019-20

III. Ministry of Railways

- (i) Provision of 5% discount in online payment of booking of Retiring Room etc.
- (ii) Withdrawal of service charge of Rs. 30 applicable against Credit and Debit cards for purchasing journey tickets at UTS and PRS counters.
- (iii) Exemption on payment of service charge on e-ticket/i-ticket extended till 31st March 2018 or review of the exemption if advised earlier.
- (iv) Discount of 0.5% to customers of suburban section on booking of season tickets till 31st March 2018 or any change whichever is earlier.
- (v) Provision of 5% discount for digital payment of catering services on IR.
- (vi) Extension of free cost of accidental insurance cover of upto Rs 10 lakh to confirmed/RAC Railway passengers buying their journey tickets online through IRCTC.

IV. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

- (i) (0.75%) discount is being given to consumer on the purchase of fuel at the Petrol Pumps of the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The discount is being given in the form of cash back in the bank account of the consumers.
- (ii) MDR or any other charges on all debit card transactions at the retail outlets is not levied to either Dealers or Customers. MDR for debit card transactions are being settled by the OMCs to Banks on the debit cards transactions w.e.f. 16.01.2017.
- (iii) OMCs are offering an incentive of Rs. 5/- (i.e. an upfront discount of Rs. 5/-) on each online refill of LPG payment made by a customer through credit/debit cards or internet banking w.e.f. 01.01.2017.
- (iv) Loyalty programs are currently being run by all OMCs that provide earning of loyalty points on purchase of fuel.

Mobile Towers in Naxal Affected Areas

*363. SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places identified by the Government for installation of mobile towers in naxal affected areas of Chhattisgarh;

(b) the number of places where such mobile towers have already been installed so far;

(c) the number of identified places where such towers have not been installed along with the reasons therefore; and

(d) 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) A total of 532 places were identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India for installation of mobile towers in Naxal affected areas of Chhattisgarh under the scheme to provide mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas (LWE, Phase-I).

For LWE Phase-II, further 1028 places have been identified by MHA for installation of mobile towers in Chhattisgarh. Accordingly, the LWE Phase II project to set up 4072 mobile towers in 10 LWE affected States has been prepared and recommended by Telecom Commission (TC) for consideration of the Cabinet.

(b) In Chhattisgarh, mobile towers at 521 places have been installed.

(c) and (d) Mobile towers at 11 places have not been installed. The details are as follows:

- (i) Seven towers could not be installed due to extreme Naxal activities.
- (ii) Three towers are under installation.
- (iii) One tower site not finalized by the State Government.

The Department is constantly monitoring and pursuing with the Implementing Agency to complete the work. Licensed Service Area (LSA) of the concerned State has been assigned the task of monitoring the Project.

Electronic Voting Machines

*364. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/Election Commission is

aware of the rampant cases of malfunctioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) being highlighted at various polling stations in different elections across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government/Election Commission thereto;

(c) the details with regard to the cases of malfunctioning of EVMs found in the country during the last three years;

(d) the details of private agencies involved in the maintenance of EVMs during the last five years, year and State-wise; and

(e) the action plan to ensure higher security of EVMs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Election Commission has informed that a small percentage of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) get defective during the poll process, which are replaced immediately without causing any disruption of the poll process. The Commission as further informed that between January, 2016 and upto State Assembly elections to Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura in 2018, a total of 4,61,587 Ballot Units and 4,05,478 Control Units were used in various elections, out of which 14,452 machines failed, averaging about 1.6%. This too was immediately replaced without affecting the election process. The Commission has also informed that no private agency is involved in maintenance of EVMs. Comprehensive technical and administrative safeguards have been put in place by the Commission to ensure the security of the EVMs.

INS Chakra

*365. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether INS Chakra, a nuclear-powered submarine which was leased from Russia, has suffered extensive damage and has been dry docked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the damage has been assessed and if so, the extent thereof; and

(d) the estimated cost of repairs and the time by which the submarine is likely to be made ready for sail?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) The information cannot be divulged in the interest of National Security.

Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project

*366. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL :
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project;

(b) whether India and France have signed/propose to sign a framework agreement for expediting the said project and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether France is seeking an assurance over the liability clauses under the Civil Liability of Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government is facing any opposition from various organizations and inhabitants of the area around the project site and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to revisit the decision of setting up the above project in view of the said opposition, if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issues and address the concerns of the inhabitants of the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Jaitapur site was accorded 'in principle' approval for setting up six Light Water Reactors of 1650 MW each in cooperation with France. Pre-project activities comprising of land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R. & R.) obtaining statutory clearances, site investigations and site infrastructure development were taken up. Land for the project and residential township has been acquired.

Agreement for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R. & R.) package was signed between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (N.P.C.I.L.) and the state government which is being implemented. Statutory Environmental and C.R.Z. clearances have been obtained from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (M.o.E.F. & C.C.). Site infrastructure and technology independent site investigation works are in progress at various stages.

An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on cooperation in nuclear energy between India & France signed in 2008. Several MoUs/Agreements were signed with M/s Areva thereafter. Following *Electricite de France* (E.D.F.) taking over control of Areva in 2016, An MoU was signed with E.D.F. followed by the latest Industrial Way Forward Agreement (IWFA) between N.P.C.I.L. and E.D.F., France signed during the visit of the President of France in March 10, 2018. This agreement prescribes a way forward for the implementation of the Jaitapur nuclear power project.

(c) No, Madam. The I.W.F.A. mentions that E.D.F. and N.P.C.I.L. shall comply with the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (C.L.N.D.) Act 2010 and C.L.N.D. Rules, 2011.

(d) There have been sporadic protests by a section of the locals against setting up of the nuclear power plant at Jaitapur. Groups ideologically opposed to nuclear power have also protested against the setting up of the plant.

The protests have mainly been on account of issues related to Rehabilitation and apprehensions about loss of traditional means of livelihood & safety of the plant.

(e) No, Madam. A structured ongoing public outreach programme based on a multipronged approach is implemented to address the apprehensions of the people about safety of nuclear power and related issues and allay their fears in a credible manner. Several studies by expert agencies have concluded that the project will not adversely affect the agriculture, horticulture, fishing and other traditional means of livelihood pursued by the local people.

The issues related to rehabilitation are being addressed in association with the State Government. In this regard, in addition to compensation for land awarded, an *ex gratia* of Rs. 211.05 crore at Rs. 22.5 lakh per

hectare was also implemented. So far out of total of 2236 Khatedars (land owners), 1844 have accepted the compensation and 1820, the *ex gratia* payments.

Procurement of Fighter Aircraft

*367. SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether question have been raised on the Government's claims of adopting transparency in the procurement of Rafale combat fighter aircraft deal and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a scam is brewing in the procurement of fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force, and if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has been adopting diversionary tactics on the Rafale deal and also violating the mandatory defence procurement procedure and keeping in abeyance the Inter-Governmental Agreement with France; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the views of the Government on the above questions/issues?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) In the acquisition of 36 Rafale aircraft, all relevant procedure as laid down in Defence Procurement Procedure were followed to ensure that due transparency existed in the entire acquisition process.

To meet the critical operational necessity of the I.A.F., 36 Rafale aircraft procurement is through Intergovernmental Agreement (I.G.A.) route. The I.G.A. was signed between the Government of India and Government of French Republic on 23rd September, 2016 after the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security (C.C.S.) on 24th August, 2016. The I.G.A. for 36 Rafale is at implementation stage and deliveries of aircraft are scheduled from September 2019 to April, 2022.

Rehabilitation of Families

*368. DR. SHASHI THAROOR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the 400 families that were displaced due to the creation of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre;

(b) whether ISRO had promised to recommend special recruitment of local people or provide alternative housing facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these promises have been acted upon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Rehabilitation is a subject matter of State, but ISRO has made *ex-gratia* payment to Kerala State Government as per procedure, for rehabilitation of the displaced families.

(b) ISRO has not promised any special recruitment and housing facility is a subject matter of State.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) ISRO has acted upon the commitment made.

(e) ISRO has acted upon its responsibilities by means of compensation and *ex-gratia* payment done through State and offered preferential consideration upto 3rd generation for the evicted families.

[Translation]

Review of Decisions Taken by TRAI

*369. SHRI RAMA KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any review of the decisions taken by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) with regard to elimination of call drop problem and expansion of communication services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the ongoing/pending projects pertaining to expansion of telephone and mobile services during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the funds allocated and spent on each of the said projects, 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) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) established under T.R.A.I. Act 1997 as amended, has been entrusted under section 11(1) (b) (v) of the Act to "lay down the standards of quality of services to be provided by the service providers and ensure the quality of service and conduct the periodical survey of such service provided by the service providers so as to protect interest of the consumers of telecommunications service".

Section 36 empowers T.R.A.I. to make regulations consistent with the Act. Hence, T.R.A.I. has notified various Quality of Service Regulations, under Section 36 of the Act, to lay down the standards of quality of service to be provided by Telecommunications Service Provider (T.S.Ps) from time to time.

In accordance with Section 37 of the Act, every rule and every regulation made under the Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session.

TRAI is an independent regulatory body established to regulate the telecommunications services and to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector.

The Government does not conduct any review of the decisions taken by TRAI.

(c) The Government is making all efforts for expansion of telephone and mobile services to provide affordable tele-connectivity through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) as detailed below:

- (i) BharatNet Project is being implemented in a phased manner to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) by broadband in the country. This infrastructure is accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide affordable broadband services to citizens and institutions in rural areas, in partnership with States and the private sector.

As on 11.03.2018, a total of 1,12,677 Gram

Panchayats (GPs) have been connected by laying 2,67,394 km Optical Fiber Cable (OFC). The number of Service Ready GPs is 1,04,548. The remaining GPs are planned in phase-II through State Governments, public and private sectors by using an optimal mix of media by March, 2019. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with 08 States namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Odisha have already been signed and mobilisation advance of Rupees 877.57 Crore has been released to the States.

- (ii) Scheme for Mobile Communication Services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Areas in 10 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Phase-I of the scheme has been executed by M/s BSNL. As on date, 2329 mobile towers out of 2355 planned towers are radiating.

Telecom Commission has considered and recommended the proposal of installing 4072 mobile towers at locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in LWE affected area with a viability gap funding of Rs. 7330 crores from USOF on 21 December 2017 which is being put up for consideration of the Cabinet.

- (iii) In order to provide internet services in rural areas, B.S.N.L. is also setting up Public Wi-Fi hotspots at 25,000 exchanges in rural areas of the country. As on 23.02.2018, Wi-Fi hotspots have been set-up/installed in 2306 exchanges and service delivery commenced in 2138 exchanges. Remaining shall be installed progressively.
- (iv) Further, Common Service Centre - Special Purpose Vehicle (C.S.C.-S.P.V.), under the Ministry of Electronics & I.T., is also setting up 'Wi-Fi Choupals' in 5000 GPs of the country by using BharatNet infrastructure, 'Wi-Fi Choupals' have been setup/installed and service delivery has commenced in 1833 GPs as on 31.12.2017.
- (v) The Government has approved a "Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan" for North Eastern Region (NER).

Agreements have been signed with M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited to install 2,004 mobile towers for providing for mobile coverage in 2,128 villages lying in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, parts of Assam and National Highways in North-Eastern States with an estimated cost of Rs. 1,656 Crore. An agreement with M/s BSNL to install 2,817 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 4,119 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam with an estimated cost of Rs. 2,258 Crore has been signed.

A scheme for Optical Fibre Cable (O.F.C.) network augmentation between the Block Headquarter (HQ) and Districts HQ for creation of OFC is being implemented to provide sufficient back-haul capacity to integrate the voice and data traffic from the access network in the rural areas to their core network.

- (vi) Under "Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan" for Andaman & Nicobar Island, satellite bandwidth for Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been augmented from 260 Mbps to 1320 Mbps by B.S.N.L. On 21.09.2016, the Government approved a proposal for providing O.F.C. connectivity from mainland India (Chennai) to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The estimated cost for Capital Expenditure is Rs. 880.03 Crore and to be funded by U.S.O.F. The Operational Expenditure is Rs. 44.47 Crore per annum and to be funded by Andaman & Nicobar Islands and U.T. Administration/MHA. Subsequently decision has been taken on 22.08.2017 to connect Rangat

Island via Long Island from Havelock Island on submarine O.F.C. in addition to Six Islands. 321 km Intra Island O.F.C. is being laid in Andaman & Nicobar by BSNL on nomination basis to augment bandwidth for enhancing the capacity of the network and providing O.F.C. in ring configuration. The estimated project cost is Rs. 35.35 Crore. On 09.01.2018, Telecom Commission approved a proposal for providing mobile services in 2G+4G technology in 172 uncovered villages and entire 129 km of National Highway (NH 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The estimated cost including C.A.P.E.X. & O.P.E.X. and project management charges is Rs. 342.40 Crore.

- (vii) A "Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan" for Lakshadweep Islands is being implemented to augment satellite bandwidth from 102 Mbps to 318 Mbps by BSNL. Bandwidth has been augmented from 102 Mbps to 282 Mbps by B.S.N.L.. On 14.12.2016, Telecom Commission approved a proposal for installation of 10 new B.T.Ss to improve the quality of service (QoS) in Lakshadweep Islands. The estimated cost of project is Rs. 10.1 Crore, funded by U.S.O.F.
- (viii) Under Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme, a total of 8,88,832 broadband connections and 28,672 kiosks have been envisaged of which 6,56,345 broadband connection and 15,670 kiosks have been set-up.

(d) Disbursement of subsidy is made project-wise instead of State/UT wise. The details of U.S.O.F. subsidy reimbursed for the schemes in last three years and the current year given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The status of disbursement of subsidy under USOF Schemes is given below:

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl.No.	Activity	Subsidy Disbursed			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 as on date
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	BharatNet (Previously NOFN)	1351.86	2415.10	5600.00	4350.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas	596.51	617.05	280.68	446.84
3.	Setting up of 25000 public Wi-Fi hotspots at rural block exchanges	0	0	0	187.50
4.	'Wi-Fi Choupal' at 5,000 Gram Panchayats by CSC	0	0	35.70	68.16
5.	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	8.10	0	0
6.	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Lakshadweep	0	0	4.65	0
7.	Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) infrastructure in Assam	31.40	0.00	0	0
8.	OFC NE-I		3.95	14.48	0
9.	OFC NE-II		0.00	13.04	0
10.	Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme	80.54	48.66	21.09	10.60
Grand Total		2060.31	3092.86	5969.64	5063.10

[English]

H1B Visa Rules

*370. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Administration/US citizenship and Immigration Services has recently issued an Order/Memorandum which tightens H1B visa rules for Indian companies as well as individuals;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the implications thereof;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with NASSCOM in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) There are proposals under consideration in the U.S. to reform the H-1B visa programmes. However, so far, no comprehensive changes have been made.

In the current (115th) Congress, seven Bills relating

to H-1B Visa programmes have been introduced by individual Congressmen and Senators. However, so far, none of these Bills have been passed.

On the Executive side, on April 18, 2017, president Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) titled "Buy American and Hire American", which requires different arms of the U.S. Administration to suggest reforms to the H-1B visa programme. This process is still underway. The U.S. Administration has also taken some steps towards stricter enforcement and prevention of abuse of the work visa programmes.

Most recently, on 22 February 2018, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services published a policy memorandum titled, "Contracts and Itineraries Requirements for H-1B Petitions Involving Third-Party Worksites". This policy memorandum establishes the burden on the petitioner to demonstrate that the beneficiary is employed for a specific assignment in a specialty occupation under an employer-employee relationship in a third-party worksite. The memorandum does not specifically target Indian companies but applies to all companies that engage in third-party placement.

Government of India is in close consultation with all stakeholders including NASSCOM in this matter.

Government of India remains closely engaged with the U.S. Administration and the congress on all issues relating to movement of Indian professionals including under the H-1B visa programme. In our engagements, we have emphasized that this has been a mutually-beneficial partnership which should be nurtured. Indian skilled professional have contributed to the growth and development of the U.S. economy and have helped the U.S. retain its competitive edge and innovation advantage. They are a big stakeholder in India-U.S. relations and their backward linkages to India have helped U.S. businesses.

Salary/Pension to Retired Employees

*371. SHRI PARESH RAVAL :
SHRI DEVUSINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any rule to give any salary/pension to the Government employees after their retirement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Government civil servants appointed before 1.1.2004 are governed by the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. In accordance with Rule 49 of these rules, on retirement after completing a qualifying service of not less than 10 years, a Government servant is entitled to a pension calculated @ 50% of his last drawn pay or 50% of the average of last 10 months' pay, whichever is more beneficial to him, subject to a minimum of Rs. 9,000/- per month and a maximum pf Rs. 1,25,000/- per month.

A Government servant appointed on or after 1.1.2004 if governed by National Pension System. Under this system, a Government servant is required to mandatorily

contribute during service 10% of his pay and dearness allowance is contributed by the Government to the employee's pension account. On retirement on superannuation, the retiring Government employee is mandatorily required to invest at least 40% of the accumulated pension wealth to purchase an annuity from an insurance company regulated by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) and a maximum of 60% of the accumulated pension wealth is given to the individual in lump sum.

On retirement, all Government servants are entitled to a retirement gratuity based on their qualifying service subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 lakh.

Cancer Institute in Assam

*372. SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Assam for taking over Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has taken steps for taking over this hospital and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said institute is the only cancer hospital in the North-Eastern Region with advanced facilities and is in need of Government support in larger public interest and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time frame fixed by the Government for taking over this Institute?

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. A proposal for taking over of the Institute Dr. Bhubaneswar Barooah Cancer Institute (BBCI) was received from Chief Minister of Assam on 04/10/2013.

(b) The Department of Atomic Energy forwarded a proposal of Taking over of BBCI under the administrative

control of Tata Memorial Centre (T.M.C.)' to the Cabinet Committee on Security (C.C.S.) for its approval. C.C.S. in its meeting held on 7th June 2017 approved the proposal of taking over of Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati under the administrative control of Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai.

(c) Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute is the prominent Cancer Hospital in North Eastern Region equipped with advanced facilities and requires the Government support in larger public interest. However, there are some other Cancer Hospitals with limited facilities as listed below :-

- (i) Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal (R.C.C.), Manipur
- (ii) R.C.C. - Agartala, Tripura
- (iii) R.C.C.-Aizwal, Mizoram
- (iv) Civil Hospital, Shillong, Meghalaya
- (v) Eden Hospital, Dimapur, Nagaland (private)
- (vi) Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, Assam
- (vii) Silchar Medical College, Cachar, Assam
- (viii) Cachar Cancer Hospital, Silchar, Assam (private)
- (ix) North East Cancer Hospital, Jorabat, Guwahati, Assam (private)
- (x) State Cancer Institute, Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati, Assam
- (xi) NEIGRIHMS, Shillong, Meghalaya (under construction) Health City, Guwahati, Assam (private)
- (xii) Naga Hospital Authority, Kohima, Nagaland (Tertiary Cancer Care Centre scheme, already approved by Centre)

(d) Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati was taken over by Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India on 27.11.2017.

Allocation of Fund to C.S.I.R.

*373. SHRI PREM DAS RAI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage hike in allocation to C.S.I.R. under the Union Budget 2018;

(b) whether the budgetary allocation to C.S.I.R. is sufficient to fund the research in new drugs for kala-azar, filaria, leprosy and tuberculosis;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the manner in which the Government proposes to fund and support such research; and

(d) the achievements made by C.S.I.R. in making affordable drug for the above diseases?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Madam, the council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.) has been allocated Rs. 4734.71 crore (Budget Estimate) for the Financial Year (FY) 2018-19. The budget for FY 2017-18 was Rs. 4582.12 crore (Revised Estimate). This corresponds to a budgetary hike of 3.33% compared to that in 2017-18

(b) to (d) Yes, Madam, considering the spectrum and quantum of R. & D. activities being pursued by the C.S.I.R. constituent laboratories which range from studies that lead to better understanding of molecular mechanisms to identifying potential drug targets to new disease diagnostics to drug molecules and new formulations.

C.S.I.R. laboratories carry out focused R. & D. efforts in the infectious disease area, particularly tuberculosis and leishmaniasis (kala-azar), and to a smaller extent in the area of filariasis.

An important intervention developed for tuberculosis by C.S.I.R. jointly with Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Ahmedabad, is a drug named Risorine. It is a novel formulation of Rifampicin with piperine, the bio-enhancer based on knowledge derived from Ayurveda. The drug is marketed by Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ahmedabad since 2009. The cost of a single day dose of Risorine kit (Rifampicin-200mg, Isoniazid-300mg, Piperine-10 mg, Ethambutol-800mg, Pyrazinamid-750mg) is Rs. 14.50. The annual sales (2015 and 2016) of RISORINE CAP 10X6 CAP and RISORINE KIT 30X1 KIT is about Rs. 100 lakhs, each.

Under the C.S.I.R.-NMITLI programme, a battery operated hand held micro P.C.R. for diagnosis of various diseases have been developed. The diseases which can

be diagnosed are: Tuberculosis, Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Hepatitis B and H1N1. The product is available in Indian and Global markets.

An anti-leishmanial lead compound 96/261 has been identified for further development.

No new drug candidate for filariasis is currently being pursued by the C.S.I.R.

Some key achievements of C.S.I.R. in the areas related to tuberculosis, leishmaniasis from recent past are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Key achievements of C.S.I.R. in the area related to tuberculosis, leishmaniasis and filariasis from recent past.

• **Tuberculosis:**

- Developed a metabolite (non-nucleic acid) biomarker based novel TB diagnostic kit for sensitive *M. tuberculosis* (can detect Mtb missed by smear microscopy) and specific (to Mtb in sputum samples). The technology has been licensed to a start-up company (Annweshan SciTech Pvt. Ltd.) for further development;
- Developed a viable new process for Bedaquiline, a drug for treating multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB);
- Identified novel-protein-protein-interactions essential for virulence re-regulation of Mtb which can be pursued as unique targets of anti-mycobacterial drugs/entities;
- Shown that (a) biofilm harbours a population of phenotypically drug-resistant Mtb and (b) cellulose is a major component of the Mtb biofilms;
- Generated fusion constructs expressing reporter protein along with virulence factors for tuberculosis;
- Identified MiRNA and cytokine signatures in body fluids for TB diagnostics; and
- Identified new hits/leads:
 - ✓ Nano-molar MmpL3 transporter protein inhibitors: NDS-100244 and NDS-100529;
 - ✓ 10-*a/b*-D-arabinofuranosyl-undecenes based nanomolar cell-wall synthesis inhibitor;
 - ✓ 11 leads (IICT-1 to IICT-11) - pursuing 3 leads

(IICT-3, IICT-4, and IICT-8) for further investigations;

- ✓ IIIM/019-Dinitroimidazole derivative for treatment of MDR tuberculosis;
- ✓ IIIM/1132+rifampicin combination for improved bioefficacy;

• **Leishmaniasis:**

- Developed serum and urine-based kits for diagnosis for human and canine visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and post kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL);
 - ✓ A colloidal gold-based LFT for detecting serum and urine antibodies specific to *L.donovani* purified antigen, Lag has been developed. The LFTs are undergoing validation in the clinical settings;
 - Identified new hits/leads:
 - ✓ Identified anti-leishmanial lead compound 96/261: has potent activity against *Leishmania donovani* both in *vitro* and *in vivo*. Dose-dependent response in the hamster - *L. donovani* model has been seen and pharmacokinetic analysis has been carried out. Early toxicity studies indicate a high tolerated dose suggesting a good safety margin.
 - ✓ Anti-leishmanial lyophilized liposomal amphotericin B (AmB) formulation: detailed toxicity, immunomodulation and anti-leishmanial studies need to be carried out;
 - Identification and development of META1 as a druggable target against leishmaniasis: Possibly essential for *Leishmania* survival; Potential virulence factor; Role in deciding which tissue to infect/modulates secretory process and reversible changes in leishmania morphology;
 - Generated a clear understanding of the virulence of leishmaniasis through regulation of parasite genes; and
 - Developed a novel liposomal adjuvant formulation for induction of long term protective response in leishmaniasis;
- #### • **Filariasis:**
- Mapped the genome (draft) of parasitic nematode, *Setaria digitata* (*filariasis*).

[Translation]

Development of Naxal/Maoist Affected Area

*374. SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared or proposes to prepare any Action Plan for the development of naxal/maoist affected areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount released and utilised across the country, particularly in Chhattisgarh under the said plan/scheme during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has identified certain new districts under the Integrated Action Plan (I.A.P.); and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam. The Government of India has a strategy and action plan to deal with the problem of Maoist insurgency with balanced and holistic multi-pronged interventions in the areas of security & development.

(b) Detail of the interventions are placed in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) As stated above, Government of India has been assisting the State Governments to address the problem of left wing extremism through various initiatives which include supporting the States by way of Central Armed Forces, Helicopter support, technical equipments, etc. In addition, it is meeting security related expenditure (S.R.E.), assisting the States through special intervention of creation of fortified Police Force and strengthening of Task Forces. Since rapid economic development is one of the proven strategies to reduce influence of L.W.E., different Ministries of Government of India have special focus in these districts.

In addition, Government of India has launched a programme of rapid transformation of such districts which have shown relatively lesser progress in key socio-economic development indicators. 35 districts affected by Left Wing extremism are included in this programme for which special provisions have been made as special

central assistance. Detail of fund for these interventions including funds made available to Chhattisgarh are placed in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) To provide further impetus to development of the 35 worst affected districts the Government has approved "Special Central Assistance Scheme" to fill critical gaps related to Public Infrastructure and Services, which are of emergent nature. The Scheme has approved for a period of 03 years, i.e. from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with total outlay of Rs. 3000 Cr @ Rs. 1000 crore per annum.

In addition, these 35 districts have been included in the recently launched programme of "Aspirational Districts". Under this programme, Centre and State Governments would work as a team to make all concerted efforts to improve key performance indicators of these districts. Government of India has appointed Joint Secretary/ Additional secretary level officers as central Prabhari officers in these districts. Similarly, State Government has appointed nodal officers for this programme. The strategy includes identification of key performance indicators, setting up of real time monitoring mechanism and convergence of Schemes of Central and State Governments. List of these 35 districts is placed in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Detail of major interventions of Government of India for assisting States to counter problems of Left Wing extremists

Security Interventions

M.H.A. is supporting the State Governments extensively by way of Central Armed Police Force, Helicopter support, India Reserve Battalions etc. As part of capacity building of the State Police Forces, funds are being provided under different schemes including Security Related Expenditure (S.R.E.), Modernisation of Police Forces (M.P.F.) and Special Infrastructure Schemes (S.I.S.). Training assistance and intelligence sharing is also being carried out.

Development related interventions

Development interventions are made through provision of resources and focused implementation of

scheme of the various Ministries of the Govt. of India that supplements the State initiatives. These include Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well as Central Sector Scheme. Several important initiatives have been undertaken for development of L.W.E. areas. These initiatives include:

(a) Road Requirement Plan (R.R.P-I)

Construction of 5,422 km roads in 34 L.W.E. affected districts.

4,537 km roads completed

(b) Road Connectivity Project for L.W.E. Affected Areas (R.R.P-II)

Construction of 5,412 km roads envisaged in 44 L.W.E. affected districts with estimated cost of Rs. 11,725 crore.

Sanction conveyed to States - 2467.18 km.

(c) Skill development scheme in 47 L.W.E. affected districts

47 I.T.I.s and 68 Skill Development Centres envisaged.

15 I.T.I.s is and 43 S.D.C.s established.

(d) K.V.s - 11 out of 35 most L.W.E. affected districts did not have K.V.s.

08 new K.V.s sanctioned.

Of these 07 K.V.s are functional.

03 K.V.s are likely to be sanctioned shortly.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas - 05 most L.W.E. affected district did not have J.N.V.s.

05 new J.N.V.s sanctioned.

All of these are functional now.

(e) Mobile tower connectivity

2329 mobile towers are installed in phase-I.

4072 towers are under consideration in phase-II. Cabinet Note is under circulation.

(f) Financial inclusion

Department of Financial Services: 428 new bank branches & 1045 A.T.Ms opened in 35 most L.W.E. affected Districts in 31 months between 01.04.2015 and 31.12.2017.

Department of Post - 1789 **Post Offices** in 32

most L.W.E. affected districts approved. 565 Post Offices already opened.

Special Central Assistance and Aspirational District programme

To provide further impetus to development of the 35 worst affected districts the Government has approved "Special Central Assistance Scheme" to fill critical gaps related to Public Infrastructure and Services, which are of emergent nature. In addition, these 35 districts have been included in the recently launched programme of "Aspirational Districts". Under this programme, Centre and State Government would work as a team to make all concerted efforts to improve key performance indicators in these districts. Government of India has appointed Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary level officers as central Prabhari officers in these districts. Similarly, State Governments have appointed nodal officers for this programme. The strategy includes identification of key performance indicators, setting up of real time monitoring mechanism and convergence of Schemes of Central and State Governments.

Statement-II

Fund released to State Governments

The Government of India is assisting through different interventions - security related as well as development related to address problems, as per details given below:-

1. Special Infrastructure Scheme (S.I.S.)

The scheme is implemented to strengthen the security apparatus and capacity building of States in the funding Pattern: 60(Centre):40(State) with the annual outlay of Rs. 1048 crore (Rs. 628.8 crore as Central share) for the following:

- Construction of 250 fortified police stations in three years between 2017-2020 @ Rs. 2.5 crore per F.P.S.
- For strengthening of S.I.B.s/S.T.F.s in the States. Rs. 2 crore per most affected L.W.E. district per annum and Rs. 1 crore per district per annum for other L.W.E. affected districts.

Earlier there was a separate scheme of **Fortified Police Stations** in 10 L.W.E. affected States for

construction of 400 Fortified Police Station which was approved in June, 2010. Under the scheme 66 Police Station were constructed till May, 2014. Fortified Police Stations have been completed, thus taking the figure of completed Police Stations to 386 (Rs. 623.89 crore).

2. Security Related Expenditure (S.R.E.) Scheme

Under the Security Related Expenditure (S.R.E.) Scheme, assistance is provided to 106 L.W.E. affected districts in 10 States for recurring expenditure relating to operational and training needs of security forces which also include the expenditure incurred by the states for the rehabilitation of the surrendered L.W.E. cadres etc.

The releases made as under:

Rs. 575.22 crore released between 2011-14.

Rs. 675.73 crore released between 2014-17.

Rs. 445 crore released in the year 2017-18.

3. Special Central Assistance

Under this scheme, there is a provision for three years period i.e. from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with total outlay of Rs. 3000 Cr @ Rs. 1000 crore per annum.

Rs. 175 crore has been released to the States during

2017-18 for 35 most affected L.W.E. districts @ Rs. 5 crore per district. Rs. 28.57 Cr. per district will be released to States in 2018-19.

In Chhattisgarh 16 districts are considered to be L.W.E. affected. Of these following 8 districts are considered as most affected L.W.E. districts:

1. Bijapur,
2. Sukma,
3. Baster,
4. Dantewada,
5. Kanker,
6. Narayanpur,
7. Rajnandgaon,
8. Kondagaon

Rs. 40 crore has been released to Chhattisgarh during 2017-18 for these 8 most affected L.W.E. districts @ Rs. 5 crore per district to fill critical gap related to Public Infrastructure and Services, which are of emergent nature. Provision has been made in the current budget to provide money to the Districts under this scheme in Financial Year 2018-19.

4. Fund released under Modernisation of Police forces in States affected by Left Wing Extremism:

Name of State	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Allocation	Released*	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released
Andhra Pradesh	102.81	54.17	22.68	32.56	22.68	41.1	29.87	21.074
Bihar	67.70	49.08	25.62	26.57	25.62	19.15	33.73	2.262
Chhattisgarh	23.82	37.36	9.01	14.24	9.01	1.73	11.87	0.798
Jharkhand	22.56	34.52	8.54	22.44	8.54	1.64	11.24	0.756
Madhya Pradesh	66.45	58.18	25.14	26.8	25.14	21.86	33.11	27.06
Maharashtra	115.47	76.65	43.69	50.88	43.69	12.8	57.54	3.858
Odisha	38.24	42.92	14.47	19.46	14.47	26.22	19.05	16.558
Telangana	0.00	68.13	16.22	16.32	16.22	29.4	21.35	20.404
Uttar Pradesh	154.87	169.23	58.59	69.99	58.59	35.8	77.16	5.172
West Bengal	70.84	47.4	26.80	35.52	26.80	12.31	35.3	47.36
Total	662.76	637.64	250.76	314.78	250.76	202.01	330.22	145.302

(In Rs. Cr.)

Statement-III

List of 35 districts which have been included in 'Aspirational District Programme'

State	M.H.A. 35 L.W.E. Districts
Andhra Pradesh	1. Vishakhapatnam
Bihar	2. Aurangabad
Bihar	3. Banka
Bihar	4. Gaya
Bihar	5. Jamui
Bihar	6. Muzaffarpur
Bihar	7. Nawada
Chhattisgarh	8. Baster
Chhattisgarh	9. Bijapur
Chhattisgarh	10. Dantewada
Chhattisgarh	11. Kanker
Chhattisgarh	12. Kondagaon
Chhattisgarh	13. Narayanpur
Chhattisgarh	14. Rajnandgaon
Chhattisgarh	15. Sukma
Jharkhand	16. Latehar
Jharkhand	17. Lohardaga
Jharkhand	18. Palamu
Jharkhand	19. Purbi Singhbhum
Jharkhand	20. Ramgarh
Jharkhand	21. Ranchi
Jharkhand	22. Simdega
Jharkhand	23. West Singhbhum
Jharkhand	24. Bokaro
Jharkhand	25. Chatra
Jharkhand	26. Dumka
Jharkhand	27. Garhwa
Jharkhand	28. Girdih
Jharkhand	29. Gumla

State	M.H.A. 35 L.W.E. Districts
Jharkhand	30. Hazaribagh
Jharkhand	31. Khunti
Maharashtra	32. Gadchiroli
Odisha	33. Koraput
Odisha	34. Malkangiri
Telangana	35. Khammam
Total	35

[English]

Import of Weapons

*375. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become the world's largest importer of weapons and military equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of weapons and military equipment imported during the last three years along with the value/cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) No authoritative and official information on India being the largest importer of defence equipment is available as no country officially reveals information on the import of defence equipment. However, in the report published in February 2017 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (S.I.P.R.I.), India has been shown as the largest importer of defence equipment for the years 2012-16.

Capital procurement of defence equipment is undertaken from various domestic as well as foreign vendors, based on threat perception, operational challenges and technological changes and to keep the Armed Forces in a state of readiness to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges.

During the last three years, 96 contracts have been signed with Indian vendors and 58 contracts have been signed with foreign vendors for capital procurement of

defence equipment for Armed Forces. The major defence equipment imported include missiles, aircraft, artillery guns, radars, rockets, helicopters, weapons and simulators.

Deaths of Soldiers

*376. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers who have died in Siachen Glacier and other such Super High Altitude Areas along with the cause of their death in the last one decade;

(b) the number of soldiers who have died due to reasons other than battle wound in such areas during the above period;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for reducing deaths of soldiers occurring due to reasons other than battle wound in these areas; and

(d) the results achieved from these steps?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) Casualty data maintained is as per the notified operational areas. Details regarding death of soldiers in Siachen Glacier during last one decade are as under:-

Year	Casualty	
	Officers	J.C.O.s/O.R.s
2008	-	09
2009	-	13
2010	-	50
2011	02	22
2012	01	11
2013	-	11
2014	01	07
2015	01	10
2016	01	19
2017	-	05
2018	-	-

Causes of death in Siachen Glacier and other Super High Altitude Areas range from those directly related to high altitude like High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema (H.A.P.O.), High Altitude Cerebral Oedema (H.A.C.O.) and Pulmonary Thrombo Embolism (P.T.E.) to other general causes.

(c) and (d) Indian Army soldiers deployed in extremely harsh terrain and weather conditions are suitably equipped and properly trained to undertake operational challenges and carry out their mandated tasks. The soldiers deployed at Siachen Glacier are provided with best quality winter clothing including 'Extreme Cold Climate' clothing. Besides, they are provided with prefabricated insulated shelters due to technical difficulties, insulated tents are provided which can withstand low temperatures upto -50° Celsius.

H1B and L1 Visas

*377. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America (U.S.A.) has agreed to look into India's concerns with regard to the increase in fee for H1B and L1 visas and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Indian corporations raised the issue at the India-U.S.A. C.E.O. Forum saying that the move will hurt the Indian I.T. firms, which are the main users of these non-immigrant temporary work visas meant for professionals, if so, the details thereof and the outcomes thereof;

(c) whether India has already taken up the issue with the World Trade Organisation (W.T.O.), stating that it is discriminatory against the Indian firms and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Government of India remains closely engaged with the U.S. Administration and the Congress on all issues relating to movement of Indian professionals under the H-1B and L-1 visa programmes, including in regard to 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 U.S. economy and have helped the U.S. retain its competitive edge and innovational advantage. They are a big stakeholder in India-U.S. relations and their backward linkage to India have helped U.S. businesses.

On December 18, 2015, the U.S. 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.

Issues relating to H-1B and L-1 visa programmes, including the increase in visa fee, were discussed in the meeting of the India-U.S. C.E.O. Forum, held in new Delhi on August, 2016. The participants *inter alia* emphasized the need to ensure that the visa programmes do not include discriminatory provisions that distinguish based upon business model or country of origin.

The matter on U.S. visa fee hike has been raised by India at the World Trade Organisation (W.T.O.), Geneva. India held consultations with the United States on 11-12 May, 2016 at the W.T.O., 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.

Nai Manzil Scheme

*378. SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN :
SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Nai Manzil Scheme launched for the welfare of the minorities;

(b) the details of progress and achievement6s made under the scheme so far;

(c) the funds allocated/released/spent to implement

the scheme since its inception, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government has invited proposals from the project implementing agencies under the said scheme and if so, the details of the proposals received, State/UT-wise; and

(e) whether the Government has signed any Agreement with international agencies for financing the projects under the scheme and if so, the details including the terms and conditions thereof and the receipt of credit by India till date in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The focus of the Government is to enhance the skill and education level of minority communities for their grainful employment, thereby leading to improvement in the overall condition of minorities. Under the Nai Manzil scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs (M.o M.A.), which is an integrated education and livelihood initiative of the present Government that was launched in 2015-16 and rolled out in 2016-17, benefits are provided to the minority youths who do not have a formal school leaving certificate, i.e., those in the category of school drop-outs or educated in the community education institutions like the Madarasas. This is done in order to provide them formal education (through National Institute of Open Schooling/State Institute of Open Schooling) followed by skill training, and enable them to seek better employment in the organized sector and thus to equip them for better lives. Salient features of this scheme are as under:

- Provide education bridge programme to eligible minority youth, to obtain open schooling certificate of class 8ty/10th.
- Impart high quality skill training including soft skills leading to productive employment.
- Provide job placement support to assist sustainable employment to those students who opt to the labour market.

(b) and (c) State/UT-wise details of progress and achievements under Nai Manzil; including details of funds allocated/released/spent, as available, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) Yes Madam. State/UT-wise details of proposals,

received by the Ministry from the Project Implementing Agencies (P.I.As) under this scheme, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Yes Madam. The Government has signed an agreement with the International Development Association of the World Bank Group for funding of the project under Nai Manzil to the tune of U.S.D. 50 million. Till date, the receipt of credit by India for financing the projects is Rs. 25.829 crore. The details of the agreement are available at <http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/Finance%20agreement.pdf>.

Statement-I

S.No.	State	Fund released (Rs. in crore)
1.	Assam	1.64
2.	Bihar	16.44
3.	Chhattisgarh	3.29
4.	Delhi	6.58
5.	Gujarat	4.93
6.	Haryana	4.93
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.64
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	13.15
9.	Jharkhand	8.22
10.	Karnataka	3.29
11.	Madhya Pradesh	4.93
12.	Maharashtra	1.64
13.	Manipur	1.64
14.	Meghalaya	3.29
15.	Punjab	6.58
16.	Rajasthan	3.29
17.	Tamil Nadu	4.93
18.	Telangana	6.58
19.	Tripura	1.64
20.	Uttar Pradesh	11.51
21.	Uttarakhand	1.64
22.	West Bengal	6.58
Total		118.38

Statement-II

S.No.	State	Number of proposals received
1.	Andhra Pradesh	06
2.	Assam	03
3.	Bihar	16
4.	Chandigarh	03
5.	Chhattisgarh	02
6.	Delhi	38
7.	Gujarat	02
8.	Haryana	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	01
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12
11.	Jharkhand	05
12.	Karnataka	05
13.	Kerala	02
14.	Madhya Pradesh	32
15.	Maharashtra	07
16.	Manipur	02
17.	Meghalaya	01
18.	Mizoram	01
19.	Odisha	04
20.	Puducherry	01
21.	Punjab	05
22.	Rajasthan	10
23.	Tamil Nadu	05
24.	Telangana	16
25.	Uttar Pradesh	36
26.	Uttarakhand	02
27.	West Bengal	12
Total		240

[*Translation*]

Supply of Equipment to Railways

*379. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the cartelisation in supply of equipment to the Railways and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to ban/blacklist such firms from supplying equipment to the Railways;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the extant policy and incorporate the required policy changes in the present system of equipment procurement by the Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Madam. Railways has suspected cartel in some cases of procurement of equipment. Three of the cases of suspected cartel were forwarded to the Competition Commission of India (C.C.I.). However, competent authority has not found sufficient evidence to prove cartel in all these cases.

(b) Doses not arise.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Railways has issued suitable directives from time to time on the said subject, suggesting steps to be taken in such cases including reporting the matter to the Competition Commission of India. Instructions in this regard have been issued to all concerned vide Ministry of Railways' letters dated 05.08.2002, 03.05.2005, 19.10.2006, 17.11.2006, 12.12.2006 and 28.03.2014.

[*English*]

Temple in Abu Dhabi

*380. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN :
DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to build a Temple in Abu Dhabi and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Prime Minister has laid the

foundation stone for the same during his recent visit to Abu Dhabi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including its cost along with its source of funding and the time frame for the completion of the said temple?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Madam.

(b) At an Indian Community function held in Dubai on 11.2.2018, Prime Minister witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony of a temple being constructed in Abu Dhabi through live feed and unveiled a replica of temple complex.

(c) At the request of the Indian Community in the United Arab Emirates, the host Government has allotted a plot of land near Abu Dhabi for construction of a temple. The decisions on designs, cost estimates and time-frame of construction of the building are being taken by the Indian Community, which is financing the project.

Study of Nuclear Power Plants

4141. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by the Government with regard to cost effectiveness and the health hazards from the nuclear power plants *vis-a-vis* renewable source of energy like solar, wind, etc.;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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) Nuclear power is a base load source of electricity generation (available 24x7). The renewable energy sources like solar, wind etc are intermittent and also location specific. A detailed analysis of the economic viability of each nuclear power project is

carried out as a part of the project proposal while seeking project financial sanction from the Government. The tariffs of nuclear power are competitive to other base load technologies for generation of electricity in the region.

An independent Environmental Survey Laboratory (E.S.L.) is set up at each of the nuclear power plant site several years before setting up of the plant, which regularly analyses environmental matrices like air, water, soil, vegetation, crops, milk, fish, etc. around each of the nuclear power plant (N.P.P.) site. The data collected, over the years, has established that there is negligible change in radioactivity and radiation levels in the environment/environmental matrices due to operation of the nuclear power plants.

In addition, epidemiological survey for health assessment in respect of employees working in the nuclear power plants and their families, who stay in the nearby township and villages, have been carried out for the nuclear power plant sites by reputed local medical colleges and the analysis has been carried out by Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, the premier cancer research centre of the country. All these studies have established that there are no adverse effects of the operation of the nuclear power plants on the people living in and around the plants.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nuclear power is clean with lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions comparable to renewables and has huge potential which can provide long term energy security to the country in a sustainable manner. In view of this, as a long term plan, nuclear power is pursued.

[*Translation*]

Obscene Advertisements/Videos on Web

4142. PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the obscene advertisements/videos being circulated through mobile and internet; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb such obscene advertisements/videos?

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) The cyber world is anonymous and universally available. With increasing usage of Internet and proliferation of smart-phone, vast amount of information/data is available for entertainment, information sharing, education programmes, communication, etc. However, the same can also be misused by people by circulating obscene advertisement/videos through mobile and internet. Any act of publishing or transmission of obscene advertisements/videos is considered cyber crime under the Information Technology (I.T.) Act, 2000 and such instances can be brought to knowledge of law enforcement agencies for appropriate action.

(b) The I.T. Act, 2000 together with the Indian Penal Code (I.P.C.), 1860 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (P.O.C.S.O.) Act, 2012 provides legal framework for dealing with online obscene material including child sexual abuse. Sections 67, 67A and 67B of the I.T. Act, 2000 provide punishment and fine for publishing or transmission of obscene material in electronic form.

In addition, Section 79 of the I.T. Act, 2000 provides for certain due diligence to be followed by Intermediaries failing which they would be liable. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act, *inter alia*, specifies that the intermediaries shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is grossly harmful, harms minor in any way; violates any law for the time being in force; etc.

Further, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in their license terms and conditions to Telecom Service Providers (T.S.Ps) have *inter-alia* mandated that carriage of objectionable, obscene, unauthorized or any other, content, messages or communications infringing copyright and intellectual property rights etc. in any form, in the network is not permitted as per established laws of the country. Once specific instances of such infringement are reported to the Licensee by the enforcement agencies/Licensors, the Licensee shall take necessary measures to

prevent carriage of such messages in its network immediately.

In addition, Government has taken the following steps to Curb Child Pornography/Online Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM):

- (i) Government periodically blocks the websites containing extreme child sexual abuse material based on INTERPOL's "worst of list" received through Central Bureau of Investigation (C.B.I.) which is the national nodal agency for INTERPOL in India. Department of Telecom (DoT) periodically instructs blocking of such websites. As on date a total of 4934 websites have been ordered for blocking through Internet Service Providers (I.S.Ps).
- (ii) The Government has issued an order to concerned I.S.Ps to adopt Internet Watch Foundation (I.W.F.) list of C.S.A.M. websites/webpages and block access to child pornography webpages/websites at gateway level. This list is dynamic and is updated everyday.
- (iii) DoT has communicated to all I.S.Ps requesting them to make suitable arrangement to spread awareness among their subscribers about the use of Parental Control filters in the end-user machines through messages of email, invoices, S.M.S., website, etc.
- (iv) Ministry of Home Affairs (M.H.A.) is implementing a comprehensive central sector scheme, namely "Centre for Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (C.C.P.W.C.)" to handle all issues related to check cyber-crime against women and children including child pornography.
- (v) P.O.C.S.O. E-box portal by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (N.C.P.C.R.) was opened for reporting of cyber crime targeting children. N.C.P.C.R. has now enhanced the scope of P.O.C.S.O. E-box to also handle cyber bullying, cyber stalking, morphing of images and child pornography. The E-Box is also available as Mobile app at Google/Apple Play Store.
- (vi) Further Hon'ble Supreme Court is already hearing a

petition on banning/curbing of pornography on Internet in India.

[English]

Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project

4143. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has offered land to the Railways to build Mumbai-Ahmedabad rail network;
- (b) if so, the purpose for which the land was acquired and its costs;
- (c) whether the Government has received any recognition in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has made any research and/or asked for technical feasibility report to set up alongside high-speed rail and roadways; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Total land requirement for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor (M.A.H.S.R.) project has been estimated as 1415.8 hectare out of which 302.2 hectare is Government and forest land. Requisition for the total land requirement including Government land has been submitted to the district authorities in Gujarat and Maharashtra. Estimated cost of total land is Rs. 9000 crore approximately. The cost of Government land separately cannot be given at this stage.

(d) and (e) The technical feasibility study for the M.A.H.S.R. project was conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (J.I.C.A.). The project's alignment is based on the feasibility report.

Sanitary Pad Vending Machine at Railway Stations

4144. SHRI GEORGE BAKER :
 PROF. RICHARD HAY :
 SHRI ANIL SHIROLE :
 SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to install

Sanitary Pad Vending Machines at all or many of the Railway Stations across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the funds likely to be sanctioned for this purpose and the time by which the same are likely to be installed;

(d) whether the Railways has tied up with the Ministry of Women & Child Development in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has installed such machine recently at any of the Railway Stations across the country, if so, the details thereof along with the response of passengers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) The feasibility of installing Sanitary Pad Vending Machines is presently being examined through trial basis. Sanitary Pad Vending machines have been installed at several stations as a charitable measure, on no-profit-no-loss basis, by Railway Women's Welfare Central Organization on trial. Depending on the success, further proliferation will be done.

[Translation]

Pension to Divorced Daughters of Army Personnel

4145. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to provide relief in granting pension to divorced daughters of those Armed Force Personnel who have passed away in cases where the divorce proceedings have been initiated in court during the lifetime of their parents;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken the said decision in view of the lengthy court proceedings;

(c) if so, whether family pension is likely to be provided from the date of divorce; 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) Ministry of Defence vide letter dated 17.11.2017 has

issued orders for grant of family pension to a divorced daughter in case where the divorce proceedings had been filed in a competent court during the life time of the employee/pensioner or his/her spouse but divorce took place after their death, provided the claimant fulfils all other conditions necessary for grant of family pension. In such cases, the family pension shall commence from the date of divorce.

[English]

Cashless India Theory

4146. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cashless India theory is being imposed on people despite the fact that the country still needs to build up infrastructure for going digital specially in rural areas;

(b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken/being taken to convert India specially rural areas into digital by empowering India; and

(d) the details of the preventive steps taken to protect people from online cheating and fraud cases while adopting cashless way?

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) 'Cashless India' is a journey towards a less cash economy by upscaling the national infrastructure and creating awareness among citizens to adopt digital payments. It is constant endeavour to engage with all the key stakeholders and to enable and create a robust 'digital payment' acceptance infrastructure across the nation integrating all the citizens within the digital payments.

(c) The steps taken by the Government so far to create digitally empowered India, specially rural area, are broadly as mentioned below:

(1) Digital Finance for Rural India : Creating Awareness and Access through C.S.C.'s:

(i) Creating Awareness and Access through

Common Service Centres (C.S.Cs) under the Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (D.I.S.H.A.).

- (ii) Objectives of the Digital Financial Inclusion Awareness and Access (Digital Jagriti) or D.F.I.A.A. project are as under:
- A. To enable the C.S.Cs to become Digital Financial Education Hubs, by hosting awareness sessions focussed in their community and Panchayat.
 - B. To inform rural citizens about government policies and about digital financial options available to them.
 - C. To enable citizens to access and use electronic payment system (E.P.S.) such as I.M.P.S., U.P.I., Bank PoS machines etc.
 - D. To sensitize and enable merchants at Panchayat level to use Electronic Payment System.
 - E. Create awareness in rural India through workshops and awareness drives.
- (2) On-boarding of self-organized small and medium business/traders on digital payment initiatives:
- (i) The project has been approved for implementation by National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (N.I.E.L.I.T.).
 - (ii) Under this project 5 regional workshops at Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and 30 State workshops and 100 DigiDhan camps are to be organized with the objective to enable about 13500 traders to adopt simplified digital payment mechanisms like U.P.I., U.S.S.D., B.B.I.S., A.E.P.S. etc. So far more than 74 workshops/camps have been organized and more than 8500 traders/merchants have been trained.
- (3) Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (P.M.G.D.I.S.H.A.) Scheme:
- (i) The scheme is aimed at empowering the citizens by providing them access to

information knowledge and skills for operating computers/digital access devices. As the thrust of the Government is on cashless transactions through mobile phones, the course content include Digital Wallets, Mobile Banking, Unified Payment Interface (U.P.I.), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (U.S.S.D.) and Aadhaar Enabled Payment Scheme (A.E.P.S.), etc.

- (ii) The implementation of the Scheme is being carried out by C.S.C. e-Governance Services India Ltd. (C.S.C.-S.P.V.) under the overall supervision of Ministry of Electronics and I.T. in active collaboration with States/UTs, District e-Governance Society (DeGS), etc.
 - (iii) Training Content (Learning hours : Total: 20 Hrs.): The training content consists of five modules Viz. (i) Introduction to Digital Devices, (ii) Operating Digital Devices, (iii) Introduction to the Internet, (iv) Communications using the Internet, (v) Application of the Internet (includes Citizen centric services) and Use of financial tools for undertaking digital cashless transactions.
 - (iv) To ensure equitable geographical reach, an average of 200-300 candidates would be registered from each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats. Attempts are being made to provide full Digital Literacy to the villagers covered under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana.
 - (v) The Panchayats which are part of urban agglomerations shall not be funded under from the scheme. The urban agglomerations would be covered by the C.S.R. activities of Industries/Organisations using C.S.R. funds.
- (4) DigiShala: Free Doordarshan D.T.H. educational channel available in Hindi, English and regional languages for creating awareness regarding various forms of electronic payment. DigiShala is available through G.S.A.T.15 (D.D. Direct D.T.H.), 93.5 degree East, Receive frequency: 11590 M.H.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (R.B.I.) issues the regulations related to cyber security guidelines and periodically reviews the cyber security developments and threats on an ongoing basis and necessary measures are taken to strengthen the cyber resilience of banks. Reserve Bank of India (R.B.I.) is taking adequate measures for Risk Mitigation for Online Payments.

Some of the measures taken by R.B.I. are as follows-

1. A comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks issued on June 2, 2016 (D.B.S.C.O./C.S.I.T.E./B.C.11/33.01.001/2015-16) covers best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security.
2. R.B.I. 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 R.B.I., with the help of Indian - Computer Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.-In), conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios.
4. R.B.I. 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. R.B.I. set up a Cyber Security and I.T. Examination (C.S.I.T.E.) cell in 2015 and carries out Information Technology (I.T.) 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 (V.A.)/ Penetration Testing (P.T.) etc. and their follow up action.
6. An inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security at R.B.I., reviews the threats

inherent in the existing/emerging technology and suggests appropriate policy interventions to strengthen cyber security and resilience.

7. R.B.I. has set up an Information Technology (I.T.) Subsidiary, which would focus, among other things, on cyber security within R.B.I. 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, R.B.I. circular dated February 18, 2009 (R.B.I./D.P.S.S. No. 1501/02.14.003/2008-2009) and March 29, 2011 (D.P.S.S. C.O. P.D. 2224/02.14.003/2010-2011).
 - (b) Banks have been advised vide, circular February 18] 2009 (R.B.I./D.P.S.S. No. 1501/02.14.003/2008-2009) and December 31, 2010 (D.P.S.S. Co. No. 1503/02.14.003/2010-2011) to put in place a system of providing additional factor of authentication (2F.A.) for all card not present transactions using the information which is not available on the card.
 - (c) Banks have also been advised vide circular dated February 28, 2013 (D.P.S.S. (C.O.) P.D. No. 1462/02.14.003/2012-2013) and June 24, 2013 (D.P.S.S. (C.O.) P.D. No. 2377/02.14.003/2012-2013) for securing electronic (online and e-banking) transactions, to introduce **additional security measures**.
9. For Non-Banking Entities operating Payment System 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, R.B.I. has, vide circular D.P.S.S. A.D. No. 1206/02.27.005/2009-2010 dated December 7, 2009

and D.P.S.S. 1444/06.11.001/2010-2011 dated December 27, 2010, which was subsequently amended vide circular D.P.S.S. C.O. O.S.D. No. 2374/06.11.001/2010-2011 dated April 15, 2011 (copy is available on http://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 (C.I.S.A.), registered with Information Systems Audit and Control Association (I.S.A.C.A.) or by a holder of a Diploma in Information System Audit (D.I.S.A.) qualification of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (I.C.A.I.).

10. With a view to address the issue of cyber resilience, R.B.I. had, vide circular D.P.S.S. C.O. O.S.D. No. 1485/06.08.005/2016-17 dated December 9, 2016 (copy is available on http://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 P.P.I. transactions, are available in section 'Security, Fraud prevention and Risk Management Framework' of the Master Directions for P.P.I. issued by R.B.I. (D.P.S.S. C.O. P.D. No. 1164/02.14.006/2017-18).

11. Limited liability of customers: Guidelines on limited liability of customers in Unauthorized Electronic Banking Transactions (R.B.I. Circular Number D.B.R. No. Leg.BC.78/09.07.005/2017-18 dated 06.07.2016) are available at the R.B.I. website link: <http://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/NOT115D620D2C4D2CA4A33AABC928CA6204B19.PDF>.
12. R.B.I. 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 (D.P.S.S. C.O. P.D. No. 2163/02.14.003/2014-2015).

- (b) Cash Withdrawal at Point-of-Sale (P.O.S.) - Enhanced limit at Tier III to VI Centres dated August 27, 2015 (D.P.S.S. C.O. P.D. 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 (D.P.S.S. C.O. P.D. No. 1431/02.14.003/2016-17).
- (d) Master direction on issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments dated October 11, 2017 (D.P.S.S. C.O. P.D. 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 Bank dated June 2, 2016 (DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16).

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 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 mock drills 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, I.T./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. MeitY has organised 2 workshops for banks, Internet Service Providers (I.S.Ps) and Prepaid Payment Instruments (P.P.Is) issuing entities regarding security of digital payment systems.
9. Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (C.I.S.Os) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance; and is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for C.I.S.Os of Government and critical sector organisations, in addition to Information Technology (I.T.)/cyber security professionals, to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures.

Panic Button in Mobile Phones

4147. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to make it mandatory for the mobile phones to have panic buttons to protect the women and children in distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Communications in this regard; and

(d) 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) to (d) The Government has mandated that mobile phones sold in India will come with a dedicated panic button that can be used to send out a signal by a person in distress. Department of Telecommunications has issued a Gazette Notification dated 22nd April, 2016 for inclusion of panic button in all new mobile phones handsets with effect from 1st January, 2017. The implementation date was subsequently extended to 28th February, 2017.

Digital Payment

4148. SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government expects digital payments to gain traction again on its initiatives, such as unified payments interface and evolution of technology and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that there has been marginal decline in digital transaction which had peaked in the aftermath of demonetisation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

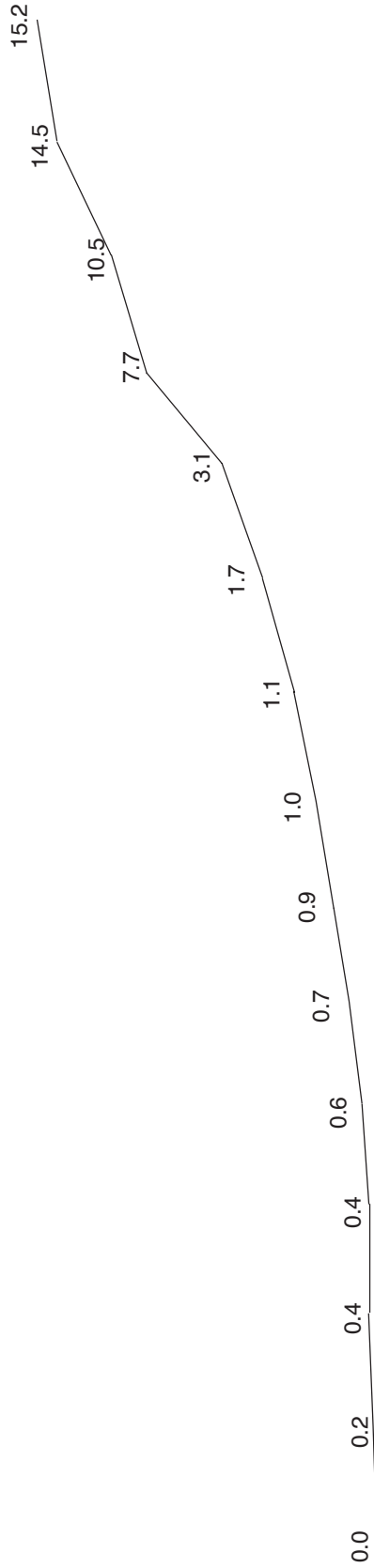
THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) Yes, Madam. Ever since unified payment interface (U.P.I.) platform/B.H.I.M. platform has been initiated in Aug. 2016, there has been sustained growth in Digital payment transactions as can be seen from table & chart at the enclosed Statement-I. It is seen that more and more entities are onboarding U.P.I./B.H.I.M. platform since demonetization as can be made from the following table & chart given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

The corresponding numbers for U.P.I./B.H.I.M. are as follows:
U.P.I./B.H.I.M. volume month on month in Cr.

Mode of Digital Patyment	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18
BHIM/UIPI	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.7	3.1	7.7	10.5	14.5	15.2

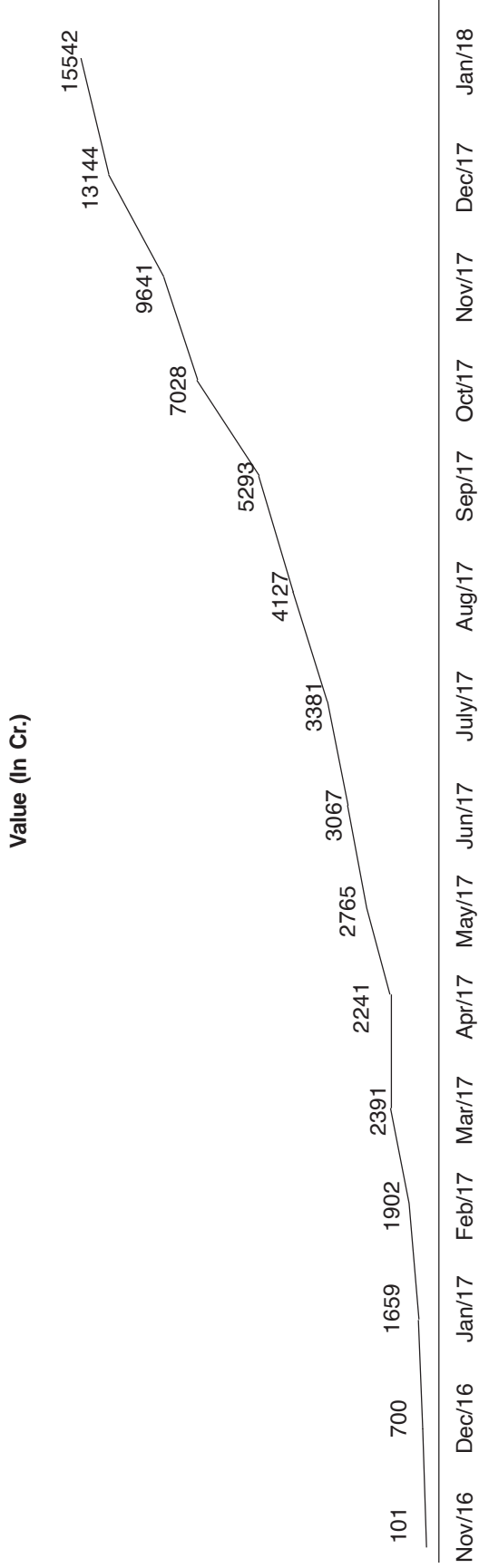
Volume (In Cr.)



Statement-II

U.P.I./B.H.I.M. value month on month in Cr.

Mode of Digital Patyment	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	July-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18
BHIM/UIPI	101	700	1659	1902	2391	2241	2765	3067	3381	4127	5293	7028	9641	13144	15542



'BHIM UPI Payment Service

4149. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE :
ADV. JOICE GEORGE :
SHRI R. PARTHIPAN

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

(a) whether the Government has allowed Facebook-owned WhatsApp to beta test its BHIM UPI beta payments service recently and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all the banks are participating in this and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this will offer advantages such as transaction load distribution between banks and helps to integrate popular apps easily with BHIM UPI and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether this move will increase the burden of participating banks and 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) No, Madam. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which owns the BHIM UPI platform and was set up with the guidance and support of the Reserve Bank of India (R.B.I.) and Indian Banks Association (I.B.A.) has an existing internal onboarding process for enabling new members on the platform. WhatsApp (Facebook) has also been on boarded through a similar process. WhatsApp beta launch was done on 6th February 2018. The beta version is to be available to 1 million customers till 31st March 2018.

(b) Customers of all the banks that are currently offering BHIM UPI services shall be able to use the payment functionality in the WhatsApp application. Currently 86 banks (as on 1st of March) are offering BHIM UPI services.

(c) WhatsApp is an addition to existing 3rd party apps and shall only be providing an interface. However the actual banking transactions - like in case of any other app- shall be done between the banks. In other words, any WhatsApp user (currently over 250 million) shall be able to get the benefit of BHIM UPI services, provided

their bank is live on BHIM UPI. Considering that WhatsApp is one of the most used & popular mobile application, it is expected to facilitate the expansion of digital financial inclusion through adoption of BHIM UPI service and also help in our endeavor to move towards a less cash society. Like any other BHIM UPI APP, WhatsApp does not have to integrate with any other app, however for other apps to offer BHIM UPI service, integration with BHIM UPI is required.

(d) Government's initiatives are directed towards encouraging more digital transactions in the payment system. The entry of new entities such as WhatsApp in the payment ecosystem through integration with BHIM UPI will help in accelerating the pace of digitalization in the country. The participant banks on BHIM UPI will require to have necessary infrastructure to handle the increased volume. Since the volume enhancement is a continuous process and is a desired outcome, banks are constantly engaged in improving their infrastructure as well their other system level capabilities.

Committee on Digital Payments

4150. SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each of the recommendation made by the Chief Minister's Panel on Digital Payments;

(b) the status of implementation of each of the recommendation made by the Committee, recommendation-wise;

(c) whether the committee recommended to reimpose the banking cash transaction tax if the amount is more than Rs. 50,000 and if so, the reason therefor; and

(d) the steps taken 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) The interim report on recommendations made by the Chief Minister's Panel on Digital Payments is available online at the following URL. http://niti.gov.in/writerreaddata/files/new_initiatives/Digi%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf.

(b) The status of implementation of each of the recommendation made by the committee recommendation-wise is enclosed herewith as the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Madam. The actual recommendation is reproduced herewith. Levying a nominal 'cash handling fee' on cash withdrawals from current account above a

threshold, say Rs 50,000 per day, may be considered. The fee should not be confused with the Banking Cash Transaction Tax that was levied in 2005 by the then UPA Government with the objective of generating revenues for the Government.

(d) In view of (c), the question do not arise.

Statement

Recommendation	Status
9.1 Setting target for value/volume of digital payments (MoF/R.B.I.)	Target of 2500 Crore transactions set in Budget through specified 5 modes (R.B.I.)
9.2 Online Real-time G.I.S. dashboard with heat maps for all transaction points MoF/R.B.I.)	R.B.I. has indicated that G.I.S. dashboard may not be feasible to implement due to Infrastructural limitations, increased customer touchpoints and ever increasing payment channels (R.B.I.)
9.3 Constitution of Standing Committee at Central level for review (NITI Ayog)	Work was subsequently transferred to MeitY by Niti Ayog. Digidhan Mission has been set up at Meity for the same. (MoF/R.B.I.)
9.4 Constitution of the standing committee at State Level under the chairmanship of Chief Minister and State Finance Minister (State Government)	MeitY has been following up with Chief Secretaries and IT Secretaries of all States/UTs for taking suitable action.
10.1 Currently the country has 600 million phones including both feature and smartphones and in the initial phase steps need to be taken that make mobile phones (with inbuilt or external STQC certified FP biometric/Iris sensors) the default payment device. (Action: MeitY)	BHIM/UPI based digital payment transactions are growing exponentially. Based on this, QR code (BHIM/UPI QR and BHARAt QR Code) based digital payment promotion activities are being carried out. This makes mobile phone as default payment device. In these circumstances the above recommendations do not arise. (Action: MeitY)
10.2 Aadhaar seeding of all accounts and relevant policy changes (R.B.I./D.F.S.)	As on date 80.7% Bank Accounts have been Aadhaar seeded and 80.4% have been mobile seeded. (R.B.I.)
10.3 Incentives for data usage for digital payments (DoT)	The T.R.A.I. recommendation for providing free data of 1 MB per month per user is under examination (Department of Telecommunications)

	Recommendation	Status
10.4	Subsidy of Rs 1000/- may be provided for smart phones for non-income tax assesses and small merchants (Meity)	Various financial inclusive Digital Payment modes such as USSD2.0, AEPS and Aadhaar Pay are available for consumers who cannot afford to buy smartphones. Therefore, it has been decided that subsidy of Rs. 1,000/- may not be required on Smartphone exclusively for promoting digital payments to non-income tax assesses and small merchants.
11.1	Extending technological infrastructure to RRbs/ Cooperative Banks (R.B.I./D.F.S.)	Public Sector Banks have extended support to RRBs in terms of technology and infrastructure for enabling RRBs to participate in A.E.P.S., U.P.I. and U.S.S.D.
11.2	All payment Banks to be made interoperable on A.E.P.S. (R.B.I.)	Public Sector Banks have extended support to other Banks in terms of technology and infrastructure for enabling A.E.P.S., U.P.I. and U.S.S.D.
11.3	All BCs to be made interoperable on A.E.P.S. (R.B.I.)	Interoperability at B.C. level is already permitted through regulation, including retail outlets or sub-agents of BCs.
11.4	Deployment of 1 million PoS/MicroATMs at merchants (Meity)	Target achieved with the addition of 1.25 million card accepting PoS.
11.5	Deployment digital payment infrastructure in post offices (Department of Posts)	To reach remote areas, the infrastructure of all 1,29,469 Branch Post Offices are being leveraged by completing installation of inter operable Aadhaar-enabled micro ATMs (R.I.C.T. devices) by March 2018. The status of such installation as on 6.6.17 is 26053 Branch Post Offices. The C.B.S. transactions are being carried out in these Branch Post Offices through the installed R.I.C.T. devices.
11.6	Creation of fund from savings generated through cashless transactions for incentivizing acceptance infrastructure in semi-urban, rural areas. (Dept. of Expenditure/MoF)	Financial inclusive Fund (F.I.F.) has been provided with N.A.B.A.R.D. for promotion of BHIMAadhaar Pay Devices.
11.7	Extension of fiscal incentives to Micro-ATMs and biometric sensors (Meity)	N.A.B.A.R.D. has come out with a Promotional scheme for support under Financial inclusive Fund (F.I.F.) for deployment of B.H.I.M. Aadhaar Pay Devices. Banks deploying B.H.I.M. Aadhaar Pay devices including merchant on-boarding for merchant transactions will be supported maximum of Rs 1800/- per device as incentive.
12.1	Rollout of Aadhaar Pay by all banks	Banks have rolled out B.H.I.M. Aadhaar Pay successfully.
& 12.10	(D.F.S.)	
12.2	Allowing white-label agent for A.E.P.S. (R.B.I.)	R.B.I. has mentioned that it is not advisable to allow any unregulated entity to access the payment system directly.

	Recommendation	Status
12.3	Enabling interoperable iris authentication on A.E.P.S. (N.P.C.I.)	N.P.C.I. is currently ready with interoperable IRIS Authentication on AePS.
12.4	A.E.P.S. daily reconciliation and reduction in technical decline (N.P.C.I.)	N.P.C.I. is continuously monitoring and informing the uptime to Banks. Weekly T.D./B.D. is sent to Banks for their analysis on declines. N.P.C.I. is sending a weekly report to Banks not logging-in to the Dispute Management System of A.E.P.S.
12.5	Interoperable Aadhaar seeding in MicroATMs * ATMs (N.P.C.I.)	Already available on A.T.M. N.P.C.I. is in the process of implementing the same on MicroATMs. This will be aligned with new switch deployment as current one is end of life.
12.6	Extend incentive charges rate for OFF-US transactions & interbank settlement charges to A.E.P.S. based merchant transactions (R.B.I./D.F.S.)	As per R.B.I. Interchange is applicable only in case of OFF-US transactions done at interoperable B.C. point. B.C. commission, on the other hand, is paid for both O.N.-U.S. and O.F.-U.S. B.C. transactions (not merchant payments) done through A.E.P.S. The issues pertaining to A.E.P.S. interchange and B.C. remuneration have already been resolved at the industry level through A.E.P.S. Steering Committee. On incentivizing merchants for A.E.P.S., an incentive scheme has already been put in place for B.H.I.M. Aadhaar Pay by N.A.B.A.R.D.
12.7	Aadhaar authentication facility at all ATMs/PoS (R.B.I.)	As on date 2.6 Lakh B.H.I.M. AadhaarPoS have been deployed.
12.8, 24.3, 24.4.	Mandate inter-bank transactions at all BCs, encouraging BCs by enhancing their income (R.B.I.)	R.B.I. has issued guidelines for engaging BCs which permit banks to use BCs to provide range of other services such as submission of application, follow up recovery (insurance, pension products) etc.
12.9	Incentivizing A.E.P.S. by not levying M.D.R. (R.B.I./D.F.S.)	As decided by 18th S.C. Aadhaar Pay M.D.R. is being nullified by way of 0.5% (Min 1, Max 10) as an incentive via N.A.B.A.R.D. F.I.F. to be equally divided between acquirer bank and merchant. Government has decided to waive off M.D.R. charges for transactions less than or equal to Rs 2000/- in value on Debit Card, B.H.I.M U.P.I. or AADHAR Pay Transactions. The scheme is valid w.e.f. 1st January 2018 for a period of two years.
12.10	Rollout of Aadhaar Pay app with targets and adoption by all banks (R.B.I./D.F.S.)	Same as 12.1

Recommendation	Status
12.11 A.E.P.S. system uptime and reconciliation teams in place (N.P.C.I.)	N.P.C.I. is continuously monitoring and informing the uptime to Banks. Weekly T.D./B.D. is sent to Banks for their analysis on declines. N.P.C.I. is sending a weekly report to Banks not logging-in to the Dispute Management System of A.E.P.S.
12.12 Patent of A.E.P.S. and Aadhaar Pay technologies (U.I.D.A.I.)	The design and Architecture of AePS was developed by N.P.C.I. It is owned and currently operated by N.P.C.I. N.P.C.I. assumes the responsibility of taking a patent on the technology and bring it to a logical closure.
13.1, 18.4 Aadhaar/e-K.Y.C. facility at all bank branches/ BCs and small merchants for opening paperless savings/current accounts (R.B.I.)	Already in place. The instructions on K.Y.C. by R.B.I. already enable the use of Aadhaar including Aadhaar based e-K.Y.C. (both biometric and O.T.P. authentication).
14.1 Interoperability of all banks and their PPIs on U.P.I. (R.B.I.)	Revised P.P.I. guidelines have been issued by R.B.I. and updated on 29th December 2017. Interoperability related guidelines have been issued and shall be enabled in phases.
14.2 Contactless (N.F.C.) payments modes in all public transport (Ministry of Urban Development/Niti Ayog)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry has taken action to Implement National Common Mobility Cards (N.C.M.C.). • States have been advised to take further steps to implement the N.C.M.C. programme. • Smart Card Facility has been proposed in multiple cities so far.
14.3 Common eToll systems for State Highways/ fuel stations. (N.H.A.I./MoPNG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 408 out of 460 National Highways Toll Plazas are now E.T.C. enabled. • Till date F.A.S. Tags have grown to 7.5 Crores. This has resulted in an e-toll collection <i>via</i> digital transaction of 190.15 crores of net revenue per month. • N.H.A.I. is currently in the process of extending acceptance R.F.I.D. tags to new use cases such as State Highways, city entry points, parking lots to boost E.T.C. user penetration. • B.H.I.M., Q.R. Code and N.F.C. Cards are being encouraged for electronic payments. PoC in progress.
15.1 Common inter-operable Q.R. code for U.P.I. (N.P.C.I.)	Common inter-operable Q.R. code for U.P.I. has been introduced by N.P.C.I.
15.2 Payment to Aadhaar number to be enabled in B.H.I.M. (N.P.C.I.)	This has been enabled by N.P.C.I.

	Recommendation	Status
15.3	Banks to enable seeding of mobile number to bank accounts across all channels (N.P.C.I.)	As on date 80.7% Bank Accounts have been Aadhaar seeded and 80.4% have been Mobile seeded.
15.4	Aadhaar Pay to be integrated on B.H.I.M. (N.P.C.I.)	Both the applications are intended for different user segment (B.H.I.M. for end customer & B.H.I.M. Aadhaar for merchants). It is not desirable to integrate both.
16.1	Lowering of usage barriers for U.S.S.D. (DoT)	U.S.S.D. rates have been reduced to 0.50 paisa and non-response time has already been increased to 30 seconds by most of the service providers.
16.2	Presently only 51 banks are on U.S.S.D. platforms. Remaining Banks including RRBs and Commercial Banks should also be on boarded on U.S.S.D.	Till date 72 banks are live on U.S.S.D.
16.3	Integrated system of S.M.S. alerts and M.M.I.D. generation (N.P.C.I./D.F.S.)	N.P.C.I. has stated that in U.P.I., B.H.I.M. and U.S.S.D. 2.0 (new version of *99#), M.M.I.D. is not required. Payment can be done using V.P.A. (user can generate on his/her own), mobile number (within B.H.I.M. only) or account +IFSC.SMS are sent by respective partner banks where the accounts are held.
17.1	Increased backend infrastructure capability for 1 bn transactions (D.F.S./R.B.I./N.P.C.I./DoT)	The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have the necessary backend instructions capacity to support requests from Banks/R.B.I./N.P.C.I. on mutually agreed commercial terms.
17.2	Security audit on a quarterly basis (R.B.I./D.F.S.)	R.B.I. has indicated that as per their earlier circular dated 29th April, 2011, instructions to the banks on the matter of Information Security, Technology Risks, S.L.As to be included in outsourcing has already been issued. R.B.I. has mentioned that Board of Directors for each Bank need to ensure the scaling up of the infrastructure if needed.
17.3	Increased Internet coverage in rural areas (DoT)	The Rollout of Bharat net (N.O.F.N.) is closely being monitored.
17.4	All modes of digital payment in regional languages (N.P.C.I./DoT)	Both B.H.I.M. & *99# are available in 12 languages. B.H.I.M. Aadhaar to launch with English. More languages will be added in future. U.P.I. will be 13 language with addition of Urdu language in B.H.I.M. 1.4.
18.1	Review of M.D.R. regime (R.B.I.)	R.B.I. has issued the M.D.R. Rationalization Notification. R.B.I. recently has come out with rationalization of M.D.R. vide circular dated 06th December 2017. Recently, Government of India has come out with M.D.R.

Recommendation	Status
18.2 Review of P2P mobile based transactions (R.B.I.)	subsidy scheme. As per the notification dated 27 Dec. 2017, government will bear the merchant discount rate (M.D.R.) charges on transactions up to Rs 2,000 made through debit cards, B.H.I.M. united payment interface (U.P.I.) or Aadhaar-enabled payment systems to promote digital transactions. The proposal is valid w.e.f. 1st January 2018 for a period of two years.
18.3 Incentives for small merchants in taxation and (R.B.I.)	B.H.I.M., U.P.I. has been launched by N.P.C.I. to promote mobile based P2P transactions. R.B.I. has stated that concerned banks may decide regarding on-boarding of merchants as per their board approved policy. Government has decided waive off M.D.R. charges for transactions less than or equal to 2000 in value on Debit Card, B.H.I.M. U.P.I. or AADHAR Pay Transactions. The scheme is valid w.e.f. 1st January 2018 for a period of two years.
18.4 Aadhar/e-K.Y.C. facility at all bank branches/BCs and small merchants for opening paperless savings/current accounts (R.B.I.)	Same as 13.1
19.1 Tax relief for PoS/MicroATMs (Ministry of Finance)	Matter has been directed to Ministry of Finance for suitable action.
19.2 Ramping up domestic production of Micro A.T.M./PoS Devices (D.I.P.P.)	Relevant steps are being taken by D.I.P.P.
19.3 Aadhar as primary I.D. for K.Y.C. and P.M.L.A. amendments (moF/R.B.I.)	P.M.L.A. amendment has been issued on June1, 2017
20.1 Liveraging Institution with rural footprint (State Government)	Secretary, MeitY held a video conference with I.T. Secretaries of States in the month of September, 2017 for promotion of digital Payments by States. Secretary MeitY also held a meeting with HODs and State information Officers (SIOs) of N.I.C., in the month of December, 2017, to promote enablement of digital payments in States.
20.2 Accreditation system for districts/blocks/GPs (Niti Ayog)	Third party accreditation system for townships was developed which have been adopted for the states as well.

	Recommendation	Status
20.3	Benefits of Digital payments in school curriculum (M.H.R.D./State Governments)	The matter has been referred to D/o School Education & Literacy for further consideration. (M.H.R.D.)
21.1	Large scale public awareness campaign using mass celebrities (Niti Ayog)	Large scale public awareness campaign covering print, audio and visual media was launched. DigidhanMela in 100 different cities over 100 days was completed. Lucky Grahak Yojana and DigiDhanVyapar Yojana was successfully completed. After the transfer of digital payments subsequently to MeitY, this work is being undertaken by MeitY.
21.2	Educational hoardings at main locations in rural areas (State Governments)	The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (P.M.G.D.I.S.H.A.) under Digital India Programme would cover 6 crore households in rural areas to make them digitally literate. The training includes carrying out cashless transactions using digital financial tools (U.S.S.D./U.P.I./eWallet/A.E.P.S./Card/PoS).
22.1	Creation of a single helpline for consumer queries (DoT)	DoT :- DoT has already provide 5 digit code '14444' which is accessible from all over India. For accessing this short code, a call center should be set up. The number of agents in the call centers need to be reviewed by N.A.S.S.C.O.M. in order to meet the traffic and a proposal has to be submitted to the Niti Ayog. MeitY:- N.C.H. of MoCA is being upgraded as helpline for addressing Digital payment related Grievances and queries. D.F.S. has been requested to issue necessary instructions to on board all major Banks, Payment Bank and P.P.I. (Pre Paid Instrument). Service providers in the National Consumer Helpline (N.C.H.) platform for becoming as convergence partners. N.P.C.I. has also integrated as a convergence partner in National Consumer Helpline (N.C.H.) platform.
23.1	Cash-back incentives on digital payment modes (Govt. of India/MoF)	Incentive schemes like B.H.I.M. Referral Scheme, B.H.I.M. cash back scheme and B.H.I.M. Aadhaar provide incentives on use of B.H.I.M. for digital payments.
23.2	Tax refunds for consumers on digital payments (C.B.D.T./DoR/MoF)	C.B.D.T. has mentioned that incentives in the form of rebate shall not be in line with the Governments Taxation Policy.
24.1	Relief in prospective taxes on digital transactions (C.B.D.T./DoR/MoF)	No change in the currently existing policies by C.B.D.T. C.B.D.T. has stated that the benefit of lower rate of Income Tax on digital turnover for small businesses is a huge incentive in itself for promoting digital/banking transactions.

	Recommendation	Status
24.2	Integration of billing and tax filing in U.P.I. app for merchants (N.P.C.I.)	U.P.I. does not limit it, respective P.S.P. apps can do it. Billing and tax filing is not aligned with the core objective of N.P.C.I., which is that of creating various interoperable payment services. It is always envisaged that different sector specific solution providers will integrate N.P.C.I. payment options into their solutions.
24.3	Mandate inter-bank transactions at all BCs, encouraging BCs by ensuring minimum income (N.P.C.I./C.B.D.T./C.E.C.)	Same as 12.8
24.4	Mandate inter-bank transactions at all BCs, encouraging BCs by ensuring minimum income (C.B.D.T./DoR/MoF)	Same as 12.8
24.5	Incentives for Banking Correspondents. No T.D.S. up to Rs. 3 lakhs (C.B.D.T./DoR/MoF)	C.B.D.T. is not in accord to provide incentives to BCs. C.B.D.T. has stated that the levy of T.D.S. in the case of payment to resident is only a collection and reporting mechanism and does not result into any additional tax liability. Hence, there is no rationale for providing exemption to the BCs from T.D.S. as their incomes taxable and tax deduction only results in advance payment of tax.
25.1 & 25.2	Curbing high usage of cash (M.O.F.)	D.E.A. had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of former Finance Secretary and Principal Advisor NITI Aayog Shri R.P. Watal to suggest the medium terms measures to strengthen the Digital Payments Eco-system. Committee had submitted 13 recommendations. The activities are under implementation by the different Ministries/Departments.
26.1	Standing Committee formed under the chairmanship of Secretary Meity (Meity)	Under chairmanship of Meity secretary a committee on digital security is formed in which Head-Risk N.P.C.I. is a member.
26.2	Insurance scheme to cover for digital frauds (D.F.S.)	Scheme is under consideration by D.F.S. The coverage of losses incurred in digital transactions on account of fraud, etc by way of insurance, is indeed desirable to increase confidence of general public in adopting digital modes of payments. Presently, several credit and debit card companies insure consumers from losses on account of fraud.
26.3	Separate authority for regulation of digital (M.O.F.)	The Finance Minister in his budget speech has proposed for Payment Regulatory Board (P.R.B.) in the Reserve Bank of India (R.B.I.) and review of P.S.S. Act, 2007. D.E.A. is reviewing of P.S.S. Act, 2007.

	Recommendation	Status
27.1	Incentives for payment of premium in insurance sector (D.F.S.)	Public sector insurance company have provided incentives by way of discount or credit up to 10% of the premium in general insurance policies & 8% in new life policies of L.I.C. sold through the customer portals, in case payment is made through digital means.
27.2	Digitization of payments in educational institutions (M.H.R.D.)	As per the National Digital Payment Mission, a target of 100 crore transactions for this Ministry has been adopted and advisories have been issued to the regulatory organizations like U.G.C., A.I.C.T.E., K.V.S., N.V.S., C.B.S.E., N.I.O.S. etc to ensure digital payments in r/o their own Receipts & Payments as well as promote the same in the campuses, canteens, store etc. Of the total target of Rs. 100 crore for M.H.R.D., Department of S.E. & L. has been given the target of 14 crore transactions for the year.
27.3	Reducing cash usage in fertilizer distribution (Department of Fertilizers)	The department is in the process of making PoS machines compatible with A.E.P.S. The PoS machines will be upgraded in due course to enable digital payments also.
27.4	A.E.P.S./Rupay based Cashless P.D.S. (Department of Food & Distribution)	Recommendations of the committee have been sent to all States/UTs for compliance.
27.5	Inducting U.P.I. collect/Aadhaar Pay for L.P.G. bookings of households by I.V.R.S. (MoPNG)	In order to promote digital payments O.M.Cs have have provisioned for an option on their website for making online payments towards refill cost by customer. Industry is also looking forward to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement payment option through N.P.O.S. devices for credit/debit cards and Q.R. code or wallets. • The feasibility of integrating payment option with I.V.R.S. is also being investigated. • H.P.C.L. is working with N.P.C.I. to get few banks on boarded with customized U.P.I. merchant application for facilitating multiple Q.R. codes linked to distinct mobile phone but common bank account. • O.M.Cs are in the process of development and customization of B.H.I.M. Mobile App. for L.P.G. customers.
27.6	Usage of U.P.I. by all Govt. Institutions (Various Ministries/all State Governments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MeitY has also written letters to N.I.C. for technical support to enable B.H.I.M. in Government online payment systems. • Customers booking tickets online through I.R.C.T.C., can use U.P.I./B.H.I.M. facility for paying for e-tickets.

Recommendation	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.S.E.S. based electricity payments has now been made possible using U.P.I. Efforts are being made to make the usage of U.P.I. available across all Government/Government P.S.U. digital payment interfaces.
27.7 Government should negotiate for a lower/zero M.D.R. for all digital payment made to the government entities (Ministry of Finance)	A scheme has been introduced by D.E.A. wherein for all government specific digital transaction D.E.A. is reimbursing all M.D.R. charges upto rupees 1 lakh.

[Translation]

Cases of Cyber Crimes

4151. SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of cases of cyber crimes registered by the Government, State-wise; and

(b) whether any action has been taken in the cases of cyber crimes so far and if so, the details thereof State-wise?

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 data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (N.C.R.B.), a total of 9622, 11592 and 12,317 cyber crime cases were registered during the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. State/Union Territory wise cases registered and persons arrested under Information Technology Act, 2000 and cyber crime related sections of I.P.C. during 2014-2016 are enclosed at the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State/UT-wise Cases Registered (C.R.), Cases Charge Sheeted (C.C.S.), cases Convicted (C.O.N.), Persons Arrested (P.A.R.), Persons Charge Sheeted (P.C.S.) and Persons Convicted (P.C.V.) under Total Cyber Crimes during 2014-2016

S.No.	State/U.T.	2014					
		CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	282	90	9	236	116	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	0	0	2	0	0
3.	Assam	379	22	1	351	22	1
4.	Bihar	114	15	1	111	17	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	123	58	0	105	83	0
6.	Goa	62	5	1	14	9	2
7.	Gujarat	227	71	0	174	109	0
8.	Haryana	151	62	3	121	101	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	38	14	0	16	36	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37	3	0	4	3	0
11.	Jharkhand	93	24	0	57	29	0
12.	Karnataka	1020	118	2	372	177	2
13.	Kerala	450	168	12	283	209	13
14.	Madhya Pradesh	289	237	6	386	386	15
15.	Maharashtra	1879	445	3	942	641	3
16.	Manipur	13	1	0	3	1	0
17.	Meghalaya	60	11	0	12	12	0
18.	Mizoram	22	4	0	4	4	0
19.	Nagaland	0	1	0	0	1	0
20.	Odisha	124	17	0	17	17	0
21.	Punjab	226	62	7	159	73	7
22.	Rajasthan	697	161	7	248	248	8
23.	Sikkim	4	0	0	2	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	172	23	3	120	28	5
25.	Telangana	703	61	1	429	80	1
26.	Tripura	5	0	0	1	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1737	267	7	1223	383	8
28.	Uttarakhand	42	21	0	39	37	0
29.	West Bengal	355	79	2	212	90	2
	Total State(s)	9322	2040	65	5643	2912	82
30.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	13	2	0	5	3	0
31.	Chandigarh	55	24	6	45	24	8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	0	0	1	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	1	1	0	2	2	0
34.	Delhi U.T.	226	49	5	56	57	5
35.	Lakshdweep	1	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Total U.T.(s)	300	76	11	109	86	13
	Total (All India)	9622	2116	76	5752	2998	95

S.No.	State/U.T.	2015					
		CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	536	139	19	522	197	23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	5	0	4	4	0
3.	Assam	483	84	11	457	83	11
4.	Bihar	242	59	1	1567	116	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	103	93	19	99	115	29
6.	Goa	17	5	0	5	3	0
7.	Gujarat	242	119	0	272	310	0
8.	Haryana	224	87	2	205	189	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	50	26	1	38	28	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	34	7	0	12	9	0
11.	Jharkhand	180	37	3	172	41	5
12.	Karnataka	1447	186	3	293	264	3
13.	Kerala	290	219	8	191	267	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	231	143	4	230	221	5
15.	Maharashtra	2195	438	2	825	720	4
16.	Manipur	6	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	56	17	1	20	18	2
18.	Mizoram	8	11	8	18	11	10
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	386	65	0	110	90	0
21.	Punjab	149	64	17	136	95	24
22.	Rajasthan	949	185	10	295	280	11
23.	Sikkim	1	1	0	1	1	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	142	77	6	125	88	8
25.	Telangana	687	105	15	430	136	25
26.	Tripura	13	0	0	8	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2208	789	89	1699	1375	112
28.	Uttarakhand	48	15	5	23	16	7
29.	West Bengal	398	154	0	287	170	0
	Total State(s)	11331	3130	224	8044	4847	291

1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
30.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	6	4	0	2	4	0
31.	Chandigarh	77	17	4	22	20	4
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	1	0	0	1	0
33.	Daman and Diu	1	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Delhi U.T.	177	53	3	53	55	3
35.	Lakshdweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	1	3	0	1	4
	Total U.T.(s)	261	76	10	77	81	11
	Total (All India)	11592	3206	234	8121	4928	302

S.No.	State/U.T.	2016					
		CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	616	144	15	307	177	18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	1	0	1	1	0
3.	Assam	696	114	3	699	117	3
4.	Bihar	309	105	1	285	110	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	90	77	18	105	96	19
6.	Goa	31	9	0	18	14	0
7.	Gujarat	362	146	0	298	231	0
8.	Haryana	401	98	12	148	113	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	31	8	0	15	9	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	28	11	0	21	18	0
11.	Jharkhand	259	103	22	288	121	22
12.	Karnataka	1101	199	7	318	271	7
13.	Kerala	283	160	3	227	176	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	258	144	12	261	242	14
15.	Maharashtra	2380	502	6	1009	768	12
16.	Manipur	11	6	0	10	6	0
17.	Meghalaya	39	6	0	1	6	0

1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20
18.	Mizoram	1	2	2	2	2	2
19.	Nagaland	2	0	0	1	0	0
20.	Odisha	317	135	4	150	151	7
21.	Punjab	102	67	15	137	102	21
22.	Rajasthan	941	117	6	226	189	10
23.	Sikkim	1	0	0	1	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	144	53	2	96	77	2
25.	Telangana	593	182	0	451	211	0
26.	Tripura	8	4	0	8	4	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2639	1094	58	2374	1439	80
28.	Uttarakhand	62	15	14	40	37	18
29.	West Bengal	478	133	0	416	154	0
	Total State(s)	12187	3645	200	7913	4842	253
30.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	3	1	0	1	1	0
31.	Chandigarh	26	23	1	26	23	1
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3	0	3	3	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Delhi U.T.	98	35	0	47	40	0
35.	Lakshdweep	0	1	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	2	4	0	0	4	0
	Total U.T.(s)	130	67	1	77	71	1
	Total (All India)	12317	3712	201	7990	4913	254

Opening of Office on Holidays

4152. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding opening of any Government offices on the public holidays announced by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the provision of taking action on such incidents; and

(c) the procedure in which a person can register complaints in case any Government/private office remains open on public holidays?

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) No, Madam. As per Fundamental Rules (F.R.) No. 11, the whole time of a Government servant is at the disposal of the Government which pays him, he may be employed in any manner required by proper authority without claim for additional remuneration.

Sometimes with a view to meeting the exigencies of work such as when a Government business has to be transacted immediately or a deadline is to be met, the Head of Office can, in the interests of public service, take a decision to keep the offices open fully or partially even on public holidays. The staff who are deployed on official duty on public holidays are, however, compensated by granting them compensatory leave.

Need for laying down procedure for registering complaints in case of any Government/private office remaining open on public holidays has not been felt.

[English]

Authentication of Data

4153. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has decided to introduce face recognition security feature for authentication of data; 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) Unique Identification Authority of India (U.I.D.A.I.) vide its circular dated 15th January, 2018 has decided to introduce facial authentication. Face authentication by itself will not be used for identity verification, instead it is meant for inclusive authentication and it shall be used in combination with other mode of authentication like finger/iris or O.T.P. as a second factor of authentication. The details are given in U.I.D.A.I. circular dated 15th January, 2018, which is available on U.I.D.A.I. website.

Indian Science Congress

4154. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV :
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK :
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO :
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM :
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT :

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

(a) whether the Government has held 105th Indian Science Congress in Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the main theme of the Congress;

(c) the number of delegates who participated and issued deliberated in the said Congress;

(d) the outcome of the issues deliberated;

(e) the achievements made through organising such Indian Science Congress; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government for translational science for promoting affordable sustainable innovation?

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) The 105th Annual session of the Indian Science Congress (I.S.C.) is being held at Manipur University during March 16th to 20th, 2018. The Focal Theme of 105th Indian Science Congress is "Reaching the unreached through Science and Technology". The 105th Session was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

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

Railway Projects in Kerala

4155. SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new railway development projects sanctioned for Kerala in the Union Budget 2018-19; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for new

suburban rail transit project in Kerala and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJESH GOHAIN): (a) Projects for construction of 3rd line on Shoranur-Ernakulam (107 km), Railway Electrification of Shoranur-Nilambur (66 km), Kollam-Punalur (44 km) and Pollachi-Podanur (40 km) sections and satellite depot at Palakkad Town under Southern Railway have been included as new work in the Budget 2018-19 for development of rail infrastructure in Kerala.

(b) There is no proposal for new Suburban Rail Transport Project in Kerala.

[Translation]

Wassenaar Arrangement

4156. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently India has become member country of Wassenaar Arrangement;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof;

(c) whether the membership in Wassenaar would strengthen India's claim for membership in Nuclear Suppliers Group (N.S.G.); 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) India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement (W.A.) as its 42nd Participating State on 8th December 2017, through a consensus decision, following the completion of internal procedures for joining the Group. India's W.A. membership is expected to facilitate high technology tie-ups with the Indian industry and ease access to high-tech items for our defence and space programmes. India's entry into the W.A. would further contribute to international security and non-proliferation objectives.

(c) and (d) The W.A. and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (N.S.G.) are two distinct export control regimes. India remains engaged with all N.S.G. members at the

relevant levels in the context of its application for membership.

[English]

Imparting Education to Students by Scientists

4157. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK :
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV :
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE :
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN :
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO :
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM :
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT :

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to impart education to students of various schools and colleges in the country by the highly accomplished scientists working under different departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of scientists selected for imparting such education, department-wise;

(d) the financial allocation for this purpose;

(e) the number of students and schools which have already been benefited by this proposal

(f) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) No, Madam. There is no proposal in C.S.I.R. for imparting education to students of various schools and colleges in the country. However, C.S.I.R. jointly with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (K.V.S.) has launched student-scientist connect programme. JIGYASA for inculcating scientific temper amongst school children.

(b) Launched in July, 2017 with an aim towards connecting students of 1151 K.V. schools with 38 C.S.I.R. laboratories. The initial target of Jigyasa is 100,000 school students and 1000 teachers through following scientists-students connectivity models:

- Student Apprenticeship programme
- Learning while doing
- Science and Maths Club
- Scientists as Teachers and Teachers as Scientists
- Teachers' Workshop
- Student Residential Programme
- Summer Vacation Programmes
- Popular Lecture Series
- Visits of Scientists to Schools
- Lab specific activities/Onsite experiments and many more.

(c) All scientists/researchers of C.S.I.R. are expected to be involved in this student-scientist connect programme.

(d) No separate allocation has been earmarked by C.S.I.R. for the programme. The expenditures are to be borne by C.S.I.R. laboratories as part of their 'Scientific Social Responsibilities'.

(e) Nearly 250 K.V. Schools benefited targeting 16500 students.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Implementation already started.

Budget Allocation

4158. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Budget allocation and actual expenditure towards defence modernisation during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the percentage share of the total defence budget allocated towards modernisation during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received proposals from the Armed Forces requesting for modern ammunition and equipment and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard; 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) The details of Budget Allocation and Actual Expenditure towards Defence Modernisation and Budget allocated for modernisation as percentage of total Defence Budget during the last three years and the current year is as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Allocation	Capital Acquisition (Modernisation) Expenditure	Total Defence Budget	Capital Acquisition as % of Total Defence Budget
2014-15	75,148.03	65,862.38	2,29,000.00	32.82
2015-16	77,406.69	62,235.54	2,46,727.00	31.37
2016-17	70,000.00	69,396.69	2,49,099.00	28.10
2017-18	69,473.41	68,654.37*	2,59,261.90	26.80

*Expenditure upto February, 2018.

(c) to (e) Funds under modernisation are utilized for induction of new equipment and technological upgradation of Capabilities identified through a comprehensive planning process, to keep the Armed Forces in a state of readiness to meet various security challenges.

Financial Assistance to Minority Students

4159. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide financial assistance for the education of children of minorities living in rural areas if the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether minority students have been given scholarships during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details of the minority students getting the scholarships, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The ministry of Minority Affairs implements nine schemes throughout the country, including the rural areas, for educational empowerment of six notified minority communities namely Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi (Zoroastrians). The schemes are as under:

- (i) Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme (for Class I to X);
- (ii) Post-matric Scholarship Scheme (for Class XI to Ph.D.);
- (iii) Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme (for professional and Technical courses);
- (iv) Naya Savera - Free Coaching & Allied Scheme (for Competitive Examination of Professional Courses and Government jobs);
- (v) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (for M.Phil & Ph.D.);

(vi) Nai Udaan - Support for Minorities candidates clearing prelims exam conducted by Union Public Service Commission (U.P.S.C.), Staff Selection Commission (S.S.C.) and State Public Service Commissions (S.P.S.Cs);

(vii) Padho Pardesh - Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies at Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. Level;

(viii) Nai Manzil; and

(ix) Begam Hajrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to Minorities - (Implemented by Maulana Azad Educational Foundation (M.A.E.F.) (for minority girls studying in Class XI and XII Standard).

The details of first eight Schemes are available on the website of this Ministry i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in and the 9th Scheme is available on www.maef.nic.in.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The details of minority students benefited under the Schemes [S.No. (i) to (iii) and (ix)] during the last three years, State/UT-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

State/UT-wise Scholarship sanctioned under Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Schemes for students belonging to the minority communities during the last three years and the current year i.e. 2014-15 to 2017-18 (as on 15.03.2018)

S.No.	State/UTs	Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*	2017-18*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131069	155058	126750	108436
2.	Telangana	176178	214661	158873	134695
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	132981	61325	137493	162246
5.	Bihar	122883	23210	60399	107077
6.	Chhattisgarh	19953	13363	7329	7056
7.	Goa	3350	2127	1414	

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Gujarat	353933	208176	113666	107857
9.	Haryana	0	1174	2419	
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3196	2477	1665	1414
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	389420	0	54135	92485
12.	Jharkhand	28465	25797	18933	7216
13.	Karnataka	435369	467890	418486	327234
14.	Kerala	845465	521109	498360	422072
15.	Madhya Pradesh	104819	77054	71285	71582
16.	Maharashtra	717896	511996	444286	465027
17.	Manipur	19364	2120	3382	
18.	Meghalaya	22327	1879	8470	
19.	Mizoram	141210	52149	47423	27757
20.	Nagaland	42836	34507	16717	24084
21.	Odisha	39610	2976	14771	
22.	Punjab	417001	428583	379711	
23.	Rajasthan	253433	145135	117787	105922
24.	Sikkim	4443	2291	1026	666
25.	Tamil Nadu	461376	406136	330596	283475
26.	Tripura	9193	6478	1	3754
27.	Uttar Pradesh	859667	515410	422084	497644
28.	Uttarakhand	54051	6666	14478	18374
29.	West Bengal	1690039	1285719	675218	662590
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	845	0	15	
31.	Chandigarh	3319	1715	2394	329866
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	225	78	63	
33.	Daman and Diu	728	0	0	
34.	Delhi	9301	78	3	
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
36.	Puducherry	2648	1442	1645	1724

S.No.	State/UTs	Post-matric Scholarship Scheme			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*	2017-18*
1	2	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5176	10743	11998	11487
2.	Telangana	11580	15421	15008	14602
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	29893	29600	28303	29439
5.	Bihar	42248	44162	45577	44626
6.	Chhattisgarh	2657	2204	2001	2039
7.	Goa	93	177	239	
8.	Gujarat	40574	24017	18254	18407
9.	Haryana	721	2739	3409	
10.	Himachal Pradesh	337	510	503	520
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	15977	20602	23639	20673
12.	Jharkhand	12281	12173	12929	13148
13.	Karnataka	85830	51775	41690	31764
14.	Kerala	94460	46703	54608	57189
15.	Madhya Pradesh	10009	14309	15293	16197
16.	Maharashtra	56984	49766	44066	46095
17.	Manipur	7085	2647	2830	2237
18.	Meghalaya	313	4498	4951	5617
19.	Mizoram	389	586	1331	1290
20.	Nagaland	198	797	3673	5199
21.	Odisha	3921	3430	3179	
22.	Punjab	83415	63801	58812	
23.	Rajasthan	39098	28437	24604	20584
24.	Sikkim	184	539	205	103
25.	Tamil Nadu	67385	41880	38403	30403
26.	Tripura	757	1050	909	909
27.	Uttar Pradesh	99852	98184	74633	89846
28.	Uttarakhand	1076	2221	2918	3507
29.	West Bengal	192267	92122	87798	77818

1	2	7	8	9	10
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	5	
31.	Chandigarh	222	257	259	52076
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	19	26	
33.	Daman and Diu	0	34	39	
34.	Delhi	522	1226	528	3881
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
36.	Puducherry	116	211	280	367

S.No.	State/UTs	Merit-cum Means Scholarship Scheme			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*	2017-18*
1	2	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	526	1174	1922	1160
2.	Telangana	1238	1917	2437	2383
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	3886	4698	3999	4583
5.	Bihar	13393	11107	10923	9969
6.	Chhattisgarh	614	550	565	448
7.	Goa	163	167	114	
8.	Gujarat	4821	4386	3996	3098
9.	Haryana	1109	1240	1224	
10.	Himachal Pradesh	129	99	78	63
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6519	5784	5162	2595
12.	Jharkhand	1498	2066	2204	1099
13.	Karnataka	19814	14728	12897	6553
14.	Kerala	25844	22876	20864	16287
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2954	2704	2794	2070
16.	Maharashtra	5230	6526	5165	2348
17.	Manipur	437	395	345	27
18.	Meghalaya	884	1068	1125	1043
19.	Mizoram	0	96	247	164

1	2	11	12	13	14
20.	Nagaland	1160	1279	1222	652
21.	Odisha	550	550	596	
22.	Punjab	10367	9008	6923	
23.	Rajasthan	2783	4133	3972	3360
24.	Sikkim	78	83	22	9
25.	Tamil Nadu	5747	5294	5459	4772
26.	Tripura	115	185	155	66
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16861	17449	12380	9964
28.	Uttarakhand	577	690	646	243
29.	West Bengal	10696	12190	12114	12231
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	4	0	
31.	Chandigarh	40	33	25	985
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	2	7	
33.	Daman and Diu	4	4	10	
34.	Delhi	693	1042	509	107
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
36.	Puducherry	40	55	57	56

*Provisional Data, Disbursement of Scholarship for 2017-18 continues.

Note: 1. The achievement showing in UT of Chandigarh during 2017-18 are includes States of Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab.

2. Total No. of Scholarships reduced due to implementation of Schemes through National Scholarship Portal (N.S.P.) and disbursement made under Direct Benefit Transfer mode.

Statement-II

State/UT-wise Physical Achievements under Begam Hajrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belong to Minorities (erstwhile Maulana Azad National Scholarship for Meritotious Girl Students), implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation during 2014-15 to 2016-17 and current year

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	2	9	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2394	1388	601	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	2	15	
4.	Assam	2457	2332	1136	
5.	Bihar	4563	4514	1109	

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
6.	Chandigarh	11	9	1	
7.	Chhattisgarh	17	18	10	
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	
10.	Delhi	546	552	434	
11.	Goa	5	10	3	
12.	Gujarat	1517	1570	318	
13.	Haryana	85	32	16	
14.	Himachal Pradesh	7	2	3	
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	103	466	931	
16.	Jharkhand	1312	1109	514	
17.	Karnataka	2681	2729	4367	
18.	Kerala	5899	6827	5944	
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	1	
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1266	1062	372	
21.	Maharashtra	4151	4001	4090	
22.	Manipur	199	62	100	
23.	Meghalaya	16	170	8	
24.	Mizoram	0	1	0	
25.	Nagaland	21	2	26	
26.	Odisha	253	301	171	
27.	Puducherry	26	16	39	
28.	Punjab	253	250	129	
29.	Rajasthan	1089	1343	794	
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0	
31.	Tamil Nadu	3200	4077	961	
32.	Telangana	0	891	2385	
33.	Tripura	0	1	3	
34.	Uttar Pradesh	10434	11181	7979	
35.	Uttarakhand	282	433	319	
36.	West Bengal	2631	2647	693	

Process of Disbursement started.

**Subsidy on Educational Loan for
Overseas Studies**

4160. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK :
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN :
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE :
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO :
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT :

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any schemes to provide subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies to the students of minority communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the criteria for selection of beneficiaries and the implementing agencies designated for the purpose;

(c) the number of applications received under the schemes during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(d) the funds allocated and released for the purpose and the number of students benefitted during the above period;

(e) whether the Government proposes to enhance the loan amount and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government for the welfare of the students from minority communities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Ministry is implementing a Scheme of "*Padho Pardesh - Interest Subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies*" with the objective to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker section of notified minority communities to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability.

The scheme has been revised w.e.f. 29.9.2017 and as per revised scheme guidelines physical target of 400

has been fixed for Financial Years 2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20. State-wise and community-wise quota has been allocated which is inter-transferable in case of non-availability of students in a state or community. 35% seats are also earmarked for girl students.

The scheme is being implemented through a nodal bank namely Canara Bank on the basis of a MoU signed between Minority Affairs and the Bank.

As per the revised scheme guidelines, for availing of the benefit under the scheme the candidates should fulfill following criteria along-with other terms and conditions prescribed in the scheme guidelines:

- (i) The student should have secured admission in the approved courses at Masters, M.Phil or Ph.D levels abroad for the courses mentioned in the scheme guidelines.
- (ii) He/She should have availed loan from a scheduled bank under the Education Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks Association (I.B.A.) for the purpose.
- (iii) Total income from sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians in case of unemployed candidate shall not exceed Rs. 6.00 lakh per annum.
- (iv) The interest subsidy under the scheme is available to the eligible students only once, either for masters M.Phil or Ph.D level.

Selection of candidates is made by a Selection Committee constituted for the purpose and chaired by Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary of the Ministry. Detailed scheme guideline is available on the website of this Ministry i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

(c) As per data available, details of number of applications received (State/UT-wise) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The details of fund allocated and released along with students benefitted under the scheme during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

Year	Fund Allocated (Rs. in crore)	Fund Released (Rs. in crore)	Students Benefitted (Fresh+Renewals)
2014-15	3.50	3.50	573
2015-16	4.19	4.15	815
2016-17	4.00	4.00	727
2017-18 (as on 28.02.2018)	17.00	6.52	736

(e) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry.

(f) Apart from Padho Pardesh scheme, this Ministry is also implementing following schemes for Educational Empowerment of students belonging to the six notified minority communities:

- (i) Pre-matric scholarship scheme
- (ii) Post-matric scholarship scheme
- (iii) Merit-cum -Means based scholarship scheme

(iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (M.A.N.F.)

(v) Naya Savera - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme

(vi) Nai Udaan - Support for students for preparation of Main Examination who clear Prelims conducted by U.P.S.C./S.S.C., State Public Service Commission (P.S.C.) etc.

Details of all these schemes are available on the website of Ministry i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

Statement

Details of number of applications received (State/UT-wise) regarding subsidy on Educational Loan for overseas studies

S.No.	State	Number of Application received			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1	0	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	93	132	99	
3.	Assam	8	9	7	
4.	Bihar	3	4	4	
5.	Chandigarh	7	7	5	
6.	Chhattisgarh	3	10	6	Under
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	0	Process
8.	Delhi	4	12	12	
9.	Goa	2	7	9	
10.	Gujarat	22	68	53	
11.	Haryana	17	20	15	
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	26	41	36	

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Jharkhand	1	1	2	
14.	Karnataka	87	131	123	
15.	Kerala	408	671	633	
16.	Madhya Pradesh	30	70	71	
17.	Maharashtra	59	152	192	
18.	Manipur	4	1	0	
19.	Meghalaya	5	5	4	
20.	Mizoram	2	1	1	
21.	Odisha	0	1	1	
22.	Puducherry	5	7	2	
23.	Punjab	109	125	77	
24.	Rajasthan	14	23	26	
25.	Tamil Nadu	98	129	113	
26.	Telangana	3	57	73	
27.	Uttar Pradesh	15	33	33	
28.	Uttarakhand	4	11	7	
29.	West Bengal	5	7	5	

Digi Gaon Project

4161. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented Digital Village (Digi Gaon) pilot project;

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

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats identified for the said project in Delhi, District-wise?

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) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India has approved a Pilot Project called 'DigiGaon' and is being implemented in 1050 Gram Panchayats (G.Ps) spread across 30 States/UTs. However, after assessment of the readiness of the States/UTs, and recommendations of the Empowered Group of DigiGaon, the project is being piloted in three States out of the following five states, viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The 'DigiGaon' project envisages providing telemedicine, tele-education, L.E.D. lightings, Wi-Fi hotspots and skill development in the selected Gram Panchayats (GPs).

(c) No Gram Panchayat have been identified in Delhi for DigiGaon pilot project.

New Humsafar Train

4162. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has started a Humsafar Express train between Tirupathi and Jammu Tawi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Railways has received some representations regarding provision of stoppages at important railway stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Mada. 22705/22706 Jammu Tawi-Tirupati Express (Weekly) has been introduced w.e.f. 27.06.2017.

(c) Yes, Madam. Request for provision of stoppage of this train at Cuddapah and Razampeta has been made by Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

Probation of Offenders Act

4163. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to strengthen the implementation of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of persons benefited under Section 3 and 4 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, State-wise; and

(d) the details of sanctioned and filled posts of probation officers, State-wise?

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.

Disposal of Pending Cases

4164. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the ministries have been asked to provide a list of long pending or important cases so that they can be taken up for quick disposal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the communication gap between the ministries or with the Law and Justice Ministry has often resulted in delays in filling affidavits; 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) The Ministry of Law and Justice has suggested to various Government Departments and Organisations and other related bodies to explore options for settlement of their disputes through alternate methods, like mediation, arbitration, conciliation etc. either online or otherwise. For the purpose, the information about Agencies/Institutions/Organisations working in the field of such alternate methods of dispute resolution has been made available on the website of the Department of Justice. The relevant Government Ministries were requested in April, 2017 to take necessary action for reducing number of court cases in which Government is a party. It was followed by a series of meetings held with various Ministries and Departments in the month of June and August 2017 requesting them to review their pending cases with a view to reduce number of litigation and to consider contempt cases in particular so as to weed out vexatious and unnecessary litigation pending in courts. All the Central Government Ministries and Departments have been asked to update data on pending litigation involving them on the web-portal created by Department of Legal Affairs, namely, Legal Information Management and Breifing System (L.I.M.B.S.).

(c) and (d) Every effort is made to file the affidavit in time after due consultation with Ministries/Departments concerned, wherever necessary. However, no such information regarding delay in filing affidavit on account of communication gap between the Ministries or with the Ministry of Law and Justice, is maintained centrally.

Revenue Generated by C.S.I.R.

4165. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV :
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU :

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

(a) whether Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.) generates revenue by undertaking various research projects;

(b) if so, the details of projects undertaken and revenue generated during the last four years, lab-wise;

(c) whether royalties received from projects have not been distributed among investigators for several years resulting into resentment, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of royalties received, and distributed during the last four years, lab-wise including Indian Institute of Petroleum;

(e) the time by which all pending royalties will be distributed among investigators;

(f) whether there is any guideline for distributing royalties within a timeframe and mechanism for avoiding delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of projects undertaken and revenue generated during the last four years, lab-wise are provided at the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) The details of royalties received and distributed during the last four years, lab-wise are provided at the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) C.S.I.R. has a well set process of honoraria/royalty distribution in place. The laboratories have already been directed to take up the cases of distribution on priority and ensure that guidelines are complied with.

(f) and (g) C.S.I.R. has a well formulated guidelines entitled "C.S.I.R. guidelines for technology transfer and utilization of knowledgebase-2017" for distributing royalties among investigators that has been implemented effective September 2017. Steps and timeframe involved in royalty/money/fees distribution are as follows:

Step	Producers(s)	Time Frame/Mechanism for appeal
1.	Royalty/money/fees distribution recommendation submission to Standing Committee (S.C.)	
2.	Notification of recommendations of S.C. for consideration of Management Council (M.C.) of the concerned laboratory	Appeal can be made within 15 days of Notification.
3.	Notification of Decision by M.C.	Appeal can be made to D.G., C.S.I.R. through Director of the concerned lab within 30 days of notification.
4.	Royalties/money/fees distribution is carried out after proper resolution of appeal/representation (if any).	

Statement-I

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sr.No.	Name of the labs		No. of Projects undertaken last 4 years	Total Revenue generated
1	2	3	4	5
1.	4P.I.	Fourth Paradigm Institute	15	1053.06
2.	A.M.P.R.I.	Advanced Materials and Processed Research Institute	29	1491.01
3.	C.B.R.I.	Central Building Research Institute	294	3392.67
4.	C.C.M.B.	Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology	1	4.00
5.	C.D.R.I.	Central Drug Research Institute	20	305.74
6.	C.E.C.R.I.	Central Electrochemical Research Institute	145	1673.25
7.	C.E.E.R.I.	Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute	57	14788.81
8.	C.F.T.R.I.	Central Food Technological Research Institute	64	495.96
9.	C.G.C.R.I.	Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute	115	7377.11
10.	C.I.M.A.P.	Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	98	2655.47
11.	C.I.M.F.R.	Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research	1200	29952.62
12.	C.L.R.I.	Central Leather Research Institute	255	5121.19
13.	C.M.E.R.I.	Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute	20	936.69
14.	C.R.R.I.	Central Road Research Institute	8	606.36
15.	C.S.I.O.	Central Scientific Instruments Organisation	35	1490.26
16.	C.S.M.C.R.I.	Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute	12	115.20
17.	I.G.I.B.	Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology	50	6154.06
18.	I.H.B.T.	Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology	25	220.25
19.	I.I.C.B.	Indian Institute of Chemical Biology	363	13333.70
20.	I.I.C.T.	Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	784	11821.95
21.	I.I.I.M.	Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine	52	1760.63
22.	I.I.P.	Indian Institute of Petroleum	272	3853.86
23.	I.I.T.R.	Indian Institute of Toxicological Research	80	956.55
24.	I.M.M.T.	Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology	143	7303.28
25.	I.M.T.	Institute of Microbial Technology	6	211.31
26.	N.A.L.	National Aerospace Laboratories	300	30781.00

1	2	3	4	5
27.	N.B.R.I.	National Botanical Research Institute	141	2774.83
28.	N.C.L.	National Chemical Laboratory	258	10873.00
29.	N.E.E.R.I.	National Environmental Engineering Research Institute	10	721.03
30.	N.E.I.S.T.	North-East Institute of Science & Technology	47	1173.35
31.	N.G.R.I.	National Geophysical Research Institute	101	6897.93
32.	N.I.I.S.T.	National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology	54	235.59
33.	N.I.O.	National Institute of Oceanography	326	6494.08
34.	N.I.S.C.A.I.R.	National Institute of Science & Communication & Information Resources	0	0
35.	N.I.S.T.A.D.S.	National Institute of Science Technology & Development Studies	0	0
36.	N.M.L.	National Metallurgical Laboratory	302	11156.51
37.	N.P.L.	National Physical Laboratory	22	175.47
38.	S.E.R.C.	Structural Engineering Research Centre	253	3469.72

Statement-II

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sr.No.	Name of the lab	Details of Royalties Received	Details of Royalties Distributed	Details of Royalties Pending	
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	4P.I.	Fourth Paradigm Institute			
2.	A.M.P.R.I.	Advanced Materials and Processed Research Institute			
3.	C.B.R.I.	Central Building Research Institute	356.81	356.81	75.12
4.	C.C.M.B.	Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology			
5.	C.D.R.I.	Central Drug Research Institute	1.20	0.00	1.20
6.	C.E.C.R.I.	Central Electrochemical Research Institute	33.03	66.06	21.83
7.	C.E.E.R.I.	Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute	62.2	20.28	11.50
8.	C.F.T.R.I.	Central Food Technological Research Institute			

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	C.G.C.R.I.	Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute	68.3		
10.	C.I.M.A.P.	Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants			
11.	C.I.M.F.R.	Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research	26.93		
12.	C.L.R.I.	Central Leather Research Institute	796.14	485.18	Nil
13.	C.M.E.R.I.	Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute			
14.	C.R.R.I.	Central Road Research Institute			
15.	C.S.I.O.	Central Scientific Instruments Organisation	37.68		49.73
16.	C.S.M.C.R.I.	Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute	10.00	Royalty yet to be distributed	10.00
17.	I.G.I.B.	Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology	23.15	0.00	0.00
18.	I.H.B.T.	Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology			
19.	I.I.C.B.	Indian Institute of Chemical Biology	15.49	7.16	8.32
20.	I.I.C.T.	Indian Institute of Chemical Technology	1.86		
21.	I.I.I.M.	Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine			
22.	I.I.P.	Indian Institute of Petroleum	178.91	24.50	154.41
23.	I.I.T.R.	Indian Institute of Toxicological Research			
24.	I.M.M.T.	Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology	50	Not distributed	5.00
25.	I.M.T.	Institute of Microbial Technology	20.64		18.00
26.	N.A.L.	National Aerospace Laboratories			
27.	N.B.R.I.	National Botanical Research Institute			
28.	N.C.L.	National Chemical Laboratory	187.16	65.49	
29.	N.E.E.R.I.	National Environmental Engineering Research Institute	41.3		
30.	N.E.I.S.T.	North-East Institute of Science & Technology	0.72	0.50	
31.	N.G.R.I.	National Geophysical Research Institute	2.69		2.69
32.	N.I.I.S.T.	National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology			1.00
33.	N.I.O.	National Institute of Oceanography			

1	2	3	4	5	6
34.	N.I.S.C.A.I.R.	National Institute of Science & Communication & Information Resources			
35.	N.I.S.T.A.D.S.	National Institute of Science Technology & Development Studies			
36.	N.M.L.	National Metallurgical Laboratory	393.60	393.60	
37.	N.P.L.	National Physical Laboratory			
38.	S.E.R.C.	Structural Engineering Research Centre	0.72	0.5	

[Translation]

Skill Training

4166. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NITI Aayog proposes to find out the requirements of skill development and shortcomings in training programmes in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified for the purpose;

(c) whether more than 10 crore workforce are likely to enter the labour market by the year 2022 and require skill training as per the 68th round of the National Sample Survey; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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) NITI Aayog constituted three Sub-Groups for identifying the skill requirements/gaps in the infrastructure sectors of Power and Energy, Transport and Telecommunication alongwith the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Subsequently, this activity was taken up as part of the Skill Plan exercise by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship which included the above infrastructure sectors also.

(c) and (d) Based on the 68th Round National Sample Survey on Employment-Unemployment, the National Policy on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, 2015 estimated that 10.4 crore fresh entrants will be

entering the labour market during the period 2015 to 2022. To improve the employable skill of the new entrants, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship is implementing flagship schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (P.M.K.V.Y.), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (P.M.K.K.) and Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana (P.M.-YUVA) on a pan-India basis. Under P.M.K.V.Y. 2016-20, Ministry has developed and designed dynamic and demand driven curriculum & standard through industry led bodies - Sector Skill Council. These curriculums are aligned with latest National Occupational Standard (N.O.S.)/Qualification Packs (QPs). Industries are encouraged to participate as training providers through appropriate accreditation and affiliation. The schemes run across 252 jobs roles related to 35 Sector Skill Councils.

Model Skill Centres called Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Kendras (P.M.K.Ks) have been set up in districts. So far, 526 P.M.K.Ks have been allocated to 485 districts throughout the country.

Industrial Training Institutes (I.T.Is) infrastructure has also been strengthened to impart long term training. Currently, there are 13912 I.T.Is in India with a seating capacity of 29.6 lakh.

P.K. YUVA aims to create an enabling ecosystem for Entrepreneurship Development through entrepreneurship education and training across the country in select Institutes of Higher Learning (Universities, Colleges and Premier Institutes), schools, Industrial Training Centres (I.T.Is) and Entrepreneurship Development Centres (E.D.Cs), over a period of five years (2017-18 to 2021-22). Till now, 239 Institutes of Higher Learning have been empanelled to impart entrepreneurship education.

*[English]***Fuel Supply Agreement**

4167. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA :
 SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN :
 SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA :
 SHRI S.R. VIJAYKUMAR :
 SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO :
 KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH :
 SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA :
 SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average price realisation of coal sold by Coal India Limited (C.I.L.) through the fuel supply agreement (F.S.A.) route has fallen quarter-on-quarter basis;

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

(c) whether the C.I.L. has also missed its production target in first nine months of current financial year as compared to the previous year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same;

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve its coal production target; and

(f) whether C.I.L. has taken steps to curtail its expenses and increase its profit and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Average price realization of coal sold by Coal India Limited (C.I.L.) through Fuel Supply Agreement (F.S.A.) for the quarters ended 31st Dec. 2017 and 30th Sept. 2017 is as follows:

Quarter periods (2017-18)	July '17 to Sept. '17	Oct. '17 to Dec. '17	Decrease (in %)
Average Realisation for F.S.A. Sales (in Rs. per tonne)	1224	1182	-3.4%

The sales realization per tonne may vary with the grade mix of quality dispatched to regulated and non-

regulated sectors, dispatch ratio of higher and lower grades of coal etc.

(c) to (e) As per Annual Plan 2017-18, the production target of Coal India Limited (C.I.L.) was fixed as 600 Million Tonnes (M.T.). During April-December, 2017 C.I.L. has produced 383.93 M.T. which is a growth of 1.6% over the production of 377.77 M.T. in the corresponding period of 2016-17. Owing to less demand of coal from January to July, 2017 which has resulted into accumulation of coal stock in the pithead of C.I.L., the production was restricted in the early part of 2017-18. However, the offtake of coas has registered a growth of 8% during April-December, 2017 over the production include expediting Environment Clearances & Forest Clearances, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinating with Railways for movement of coal. A roadmap has been prepared by C.I.L. to substantially enhance production of coal by 2019-20. This includes capacity addition from new projects, use of mass production technologies and identification of existing on-going projects with growth potential.

(f) Some of the measures taken by C.I.L. to curtail its expenses and increase its profit include the following:

- (i) introduction of e-tendering with reverse auction in procurement of high value goods and services including explosives.
- (ii) Planning for high capacity mines with introduction of large sized H.E.M.Ms with emphasis on surface Miners in suitable mining conditions.
- (iii) Up-gradation of H.E.M.Ms in existing O.C. mines with an aim to introduce high capacity equipment with standardized configuration.
- (iv) Planning for high capacity U.G. mines with introduction of Mass production technology.
- (v) Converting the existing unsafe U.G. mines into O.C. mines to extract the balance reserves, wherever feasible.
- (vi) Staggering of rest days of employees to reduce the adverse impact of Sunday wages on salary and wages cost.
- (vii) Introduction of G.P.S./G.P.R.S. based vehicle

tracking system to check the pilferage of coal during transportation.

[Translation]

Pending Court Cases

4168. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL :
SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA :

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

(a) whether cases as old as 20 years are still pending in High Courts and Supreme Court of the country and if so, the facts in this regard;

(b) the number of such cases which have been lying pending for more than 20 years in each of the High Courts of the country;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to dispose of the said cases on priority bases and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of cases pending at present in Gujarat High Court and the number of cases which are pending for more than 15 years out of these;

(e) whether the people of Gujarat are unable to get justice due to long pendency of cases in the State and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the number of judges working in Gujarat High Court during each of the last three years and number of vacancies of judges in the 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) to (e) Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per information available on the web portal of National Judicial Data Grid (N.J.D.G.), details of cases pending for more than 10 years in various High Courts including Gujarat High Court are given in an enclosed Statement. A total of 1,09,709 cases are pending in Gujarat High Court, out of which 17,032 cases are pending for more than 10 years.

Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of

the judiciary. In pursuance of resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, 23 High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years, except Sikkim High Court where there is no pendency of more than five year old cases. The Arrear Committees have chalked out action Plans to reduce pendencies in their respective jurisdictions. 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.

Government on its part has taken several measures to facilitate early disposal of cases. In order to expedite the trial of court cases, legislative changes have been made in procedural laws which include provisions for limiting adjournments of court proceedings in criminal and civil matters as contained in Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Order XVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Further, The Government has set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms to achieve twin goals of (i) increasing access to justice by reducing delays and arrears; and (ii) enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and improving capacities. The Mission has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration by providing support for better court infrastructure including computerisation, encouraging increase in the strength of subordinate judiciary and recommending policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and suggesting re-engineering of court procedures for quick disposal of cases. The challenges posed by huge backlog and pendency of cases in the judicial system cannot be met without the active involvement of judiciary. The Chief Justice of India, after consulting the Minister of Law and Justice established the National Court Management Systems (NCMS) in May, 2012. The 'Policy and Action Plan' document to implement NCMS was released by the Chief Justice of India on 27.09.2012. NCMS is responsible for preparing a policy guideline for developing a National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE) to set measurable

Prefomance Standards for Indian Court to address issues of quality, responsiveness and timely delivery of justice. All High Courts have constituted State Court Manangement System (SCMS) to do similar exercise at the State Level. The Minister of State for Law and Justice vide letter dated 7th February 2017, addressed the Chief Justice of all the high courts requesting them to speed up the process of implementation of e-Courts Project for actualising the objectives of the Project. The number of computerised District and Subordinate Courts in the country has increased from 13,672 to 16,089. The Department of Justice has requested Chief Secretaries of all State Governments to utilise the various tools available like the National Judicial Data Grid (N.J.D.G.) database, accessible through <http://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdg/index.php>. The N.J.D.G's query builder and management tools functionality enables culling out of information and reports on Act wise, Litigant wise, Date wise, City wise, District wise, Court Establishment/Court wise and Judge wise legal pendency in both civil and criminal matters. This can be used to look into state and/or department specific pendencies and enable steps to be taken at the government's end to reduce such pendencies.

(f) As per available information, 28, 31 and 31 Judges were working in Gujarat High Court at the end of the calender years 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

In so far as the District and Subordinate Courts in Gujarat are concerned, the information (as provided by the Gujarat High Court) as on 28.02.2018 is as follows:

Sanctioned Strength : 1496
Working Strength : 1116
Vacancies : 380

Statement

Pending Cases in various High Courts for more than 10 years

S.No.	High Court Name	Total
1.	Allahabad High Court	2,67,713
2.	High Court of Bombay	1,45,425
3.	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	1,08,807
4.	Calcutta High Court	93,251
5.	High Court of Rajasthan	70,412

S.No.	High Court Name	Total
6.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	65,681
7.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh High Court	51,585
8.	Madras High Court	51,044
9.	Orissa High Court	39,464
10.	Patna High Court	23,736
11.	High Court of Kerala	20,218
12.	High Court of Gujarat	17,032
13.	High Court of Jharkhand	15,413
14.	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	9,344
15.	High Court of Delhi	8,880
16.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	7,011
17.	High Court of Uttarakhand	6,422
18.	High Court of Karnataka	6,288
19.	High Court of Manipur	4,524
20.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	1,814
21.	Gauhati High Court	286
22.	High Court of Tripura	3
23.	High Court of Meghalaya	1
Total cases pending in various High Courts for more than 10 years		10,14,354

Naval Aircraft

4169. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT :
DR. K. GOPAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase or to make double the aircraft fleet of Indian Navy;

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

(c) whether a number of ships and submarines are under construction in various shipyards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) There is a plan to increase the number of aircraft in

the Indian Navy which is undertaken in accordance with the Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (M.C.P.P.) and Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (L.T.I.P.P.).

(c) and (d) 33 ships and submarines are presently being constructed at various Indian shipyards.

[English]

Artificial Intelligence

4170. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU :
DR. NARAMALLI SIVA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use artificial intelligence/machine learning for strengthening the defence of the country;

(b) if so, the details of applications in this regard;

(c) whether any researches have been undertaken for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, the Government believes that Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) has the potential to have transformative impact on security and has constituted a Task Force, headed by Shri N. Chandrasekaran, (Chairman, Tata Sons) to study the strategic implementation of A.I. application on national security and defence needs; to study the status of development & use of A.I. by other leading Countries and policy initiatives in various Government agencies; to identify the key priorities for A.I. and to make appropriate recommendations. A.I. has the potential to contribute in various applications like Unmanned Aerial Systems (U.A.Ss), Robotics, Decision Support Systems and Operational LOGistics.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam, various projects have been undertaken for research, like:

- (i) A.I. for Net Centric Operations (A.I.N.C.O.),
- (ii) Image and Video Processing Technologies for Network Centric Operations (I.V.P.T.N.C.O.).
- (iii) CVerify Organize Maintain Analyze (V.Y.O.M.A.) systems, to facilitate intelligence report management and summary generation.

(iv) Multi Agent Robotic System (M.A.R.S.).

Participation in construction of Rail Link

4171. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is participating in the construction of the rail link between the Mediterranean and Red Sea Coasts;

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

(c) the benefits that India's State-owned companies will receive through participation in the project;

(d) whether this rail link can be used for future gas exports from Israel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) to (e) There have been no official discussions held by Government of India on this matter with any country in the region.

Research Publication in Earth Science

4172. SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is two fold rise in research publications on earth sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the same further in future?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) As per MoES sponsored "Bibliometric analysis of research in the field of Earth Science" using Web of Science database there is nearly two fold rise of Indian research publications between two time period 1996-2005 and 2006-2015. A total number of 19938 research publications were published during 2006-2015 in comparison with 8753 research publications during 1996-2005.

(b) Quantum of Research publications represent

amount of research and development our country is doing in the field of Earth System Science and the position of India in International landscape. It will also provide an opportunity to realize our strengths and weaknesses better and tap the opportunities in right earnest.

(c) Scientists in MoES are encouraged and motivated to carry out more research in Earth sciences by providing opportunities and required infra-structure including the high performance computers. In addition, MoES regularly funds extramural projects in universities and academic institutions to increase quantum of research publications in earth system science.

Institution Funded by D.A.E.

4173. SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the institutions funded by the Department of Atomic Energy and the amount of plan and non-plan funds allocated to them during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the details of achievements made by each of such institutions during the said period, institution-wise and year-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) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

The Aided Institutions under D.A.E. are:

1. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (T.I.F.R.), Mumbai
2. Tata Memorial Centre (T.M.C.), Mumbai
3. Institute of Mathematical Sciences (I.M.Sc), Chennai
4. National Institute of Science, Education and Research (N.I.S.E.R.), Bhubaneswar
5. Institute for Plasma Research (I.P.R.), Gandinagar
6. Uarish Chandra Research Institute (H.R.I.), Allahabad
7. Institute of Physics (IoP), Bhubaneswar
8. Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (S.I.N.P.), Kolkata
9. Homi Bhabha National Institute (H.B.N.I.), Mumbai
10. Atomic Energy Education Society (A.E.E.S.), Mumbai

Details of Funds allocated to the Institutions under D.A.E. for the period from 2014-15 to 2017-18

(Rs. in crores)

Institute	2014-15			2015-16		
	Plan	Non-plan	Total	Plan	Non-plan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
T.I.F.R.	285.00	265.91	550.91	350.00	316.00	666.00
T.M.C.	315.00	210.00	525.00	315.00	225.00	540.00
I.M.Sc.	18.00	35.33	53.33	15.00	34.00	49.00
N.I.S.E.R.	50.00	45.45	95.45	50.00	41.00	91.00
I.P.R.	550.00	69.23	619.23	550.00	80.00	630.00
H.R.I.	15.00	21.86	36.86	15.00	24.00	39.00
IoP.	10.00	24.68	34.68	10.00	26.00	36.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
S.I.N.P.	35.00	70.28	105.28	35.00	84.00	119.00
H.B.N.I.	-	-	-	-	4.00	4.00
A.E.E.S.	8.00	46.92	54.92	10.00	62.00	72.00
Total	1,286.00	789.66	2,075.66	1,350.00	896.00	2,246.00

Institute	2014-15			2015-16 (upto Feb. 2018)		
	Capital	Revenue	Total	Capital	Revenue	Total
T.I.F.R.	269.15	381.32	650.47	161.00	393.80	554.80
T.M.C.	181.00	289.00	470.00	100.00	286.36	386.36
I.M.Sc.	11.05	46.41	57.46	11.99	41.50	53.49
N.I.S.E.R.	100.00	85.64	185.64	50.00	83.62	133.62
I.P.R.	406.72	105.46	512.18	420.00	130.35	550.35
H.R.I.	3.56	30.15	33.71	7.70	28.17	35.87
IoP.	10.30	26.81	37.11	9.00	24.46	33.46
S.I.N.P.	30.00	88.51	118.51	16.57	98.86	115.43
H.B.N.I.	-	-	-	-	-	-
A.E.E.S.	9.40	60.00	69.40	5.00	79.23	84.23
Total	1,021.18	1,113.30	2,134.48	781.26	1166.35	1,947.61

Statement-II

The details of achievements made by each of such Institutions during the last three years and the current year Institution-wise and year-wise

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (T.I.F.R.), Mumbai

The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (T.I.F.R.), Mumbai, an autonomous institution under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (D.A.E.) is engaged in fundamental research in the area of astronomy, biology, chemical sciences, computer science, mathematics, physics and science education.

The programmes of research were carried forward vigorously in the above fields/areas, both in the main

campus in Mumbai and in the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (N.C.R.A.), Pune; National Centre for Biological Sciences (N.C.B.S.), Bengaluru; Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (H.B.C.S.E.), Mumbai; The Centre for Applicable Mathematics (C.A.M.), Bengaluru; Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences (T.C.I.S.) in Hyderabad; and the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (I.C.T.S.), Bengaluru. T.I.F.R. is also the host institute for the multi-institutional mega science project, the India-based Neutrino Observatory (I.N.O.).

Some highlights of the work done during the following years in each of these areas of T.I.F.R. are short listed as below:

Year 2014-15

In the School of Mathematics, investigations in number

theory showed substantial progress in the third degree of the Lindel of hypothesis.

(A) The School of Natural Sciences comprises of various departments:-

- In the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, three major payloads for the satellite based ASTROSAT experiment were developed at T.I.F.R.
- In the Department of Biological Sciences, a breakthrough was made in understanding how a tug of war between opposing motor complexes regulates the transport of cellular cargo.
- In the Department of Chemical Sciences, a novel combination of spectroscopies was used to study amyloid-beta peptide oligomers throwing light on the origin of Alzheimer's disease.
- In the Department of Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science, progress was made in the study of strongly correlated electron systems, nanophysics, optoelectronics and soft matter.
- In the Department of High Energy Physics, the Indian Neutrino Observatory (I.N.O.), a multi-institution project, was sanctioned by the Government of India. T.I.F.R. will play a key role in executing this mega science, project. The large Hadron Collider, at C.E.R.N., resumed operation after a hiatus during which it was upgraded. T.I.F.R. has contributed to improving the Outer Hadron Calorimeter, a part of the C.M.S. detector
- In the Department of Nuclear and Atomic Physics, High spin states in nuclei close to closed shells were studied to understand the shell model better.
- In the Department of Theoretical Physics, a fast supercomputer was installed in the National Balloon Facility at Hyderabad. This machine will help on-going studies of Quantum Chromodynamics (Q.C.D.).
- Research in the School of Technology and Computer Science included contributions addressing important problems in the areas of Complexity of Approximation, Matching Theory, Information and Communication Theory and Formal Methods.

(B) National Centre for Biological Sciences -

At N.C.B.S. advances were made in the chemical ecology and wildlife biology and conservation programmes, that show great potential given India's biodiversity. Research continued in other well established fields including neuroscience, where it was shown how a single gene, acting in a single stem cell, controls the functional wiring of neural circuits in the brain.

(C) Centre for Applicable Mathematics (C.A.M.) -

At the C.A.M., important contributions were made to the study of partial differential equations in hyperbolic space.

(D) International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (I.C.T.S.), Bengaluru

At I.C.T.S., an interesting result was a possible resolution to some deep puzzles tied to the black hole information question. Advances were also made in studying (a) signals for the detection of gravity waves and (b) dynamical systems.

(E) T.I.F.R. Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences (T.C.I.S.), Hyderabad

At T.C.I.S., work was carried out on the reversible formation and isolation of difgermene with two remote functionalities. A phase transition in which flocking behaviour appears dramatically was found by studying little pins placed on a vibrating surface, amidst a sea of tiny beads. This offers new possibilities for collective transport in industry or biology.

(F) Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (H.B.C.S.E.) -

At H.B.C.S.E. studies on socio-scientific and development issues in science education looked beyond factual and discipline based knowledge to identify ideological biases in textbooks and patterns of fallacious reasoning in students. A massive open online course (M.O.O.C.) platform was developed and used to deliver a course on digital literacy to over 7000 students, in collaboration with other organizations. H.B.C.S.E. is also the nodal center in the country for training Indian participants in the science and mathematics Olympiads. Out of the total 30 students team members for the International Olympiads in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Astronomy and Junior Science, 28 bagged medals, including 9 gold medals.

(G) National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (N.C.R.A.), Pune -

A major upgrade of the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (G.M.R.T.) operated by N.C.R.A. is underway. This upgrade will keep the instrument at the forefront among radio telescopes for the next decade or so. A millisecond pulsar was discovered by G.M.R.T. this year throwing light on a transition from a low-mass X-ray Binary to a Redback Millisecond pulsar.

(H) National Balloon Facility, Hyderabad -

Balloon developed by the National Balloon Facility, Hyderabad was used to set a record for a manned balloon flight, along with a jump from an altitude of 41.4 km.

- Total 40 officers of the institute have received different awards and distinctions in different categories during the year 2014-15.

Year 2015-16

The year 2015-16 has been a fruitful one for T.F.R. Important scientific findings have been made, several key results have been obtained, and some new areas of research have opened up.

- In Astronomy and Astrophysics a major achievement was the successful launch of ASTROSAT satellite in September 2015, carrying five science payloads on board. The T.I.F.R. Balloon Facility designed and fabricated a two-ton balloon for carrying a heavy payload up to an altitude of 11 km.
- In Condensed Matter Physics, detailed experimental evidence for a new class of materials, which can be termed as a "Composite Nanoglass" has been established.
- In High Energy Physics, T.I.F.R. has significantly contributed to the C.M.S. experiment going on at the Large Hadron Collider (L.H.C.) by analysing data to confirm the presence of the standard model Higgs boson which was discovered earlier. Under the Indian Neutrino Observatory (I.N.O.) project, the industrial production of 2m×2m glass Resistive Plate Chamber (R.P.C.) gaps for the 600 ton engineering prototype of the Iron Calorimeter (I.C.A.L.) detector has begun.
- In Chemistry, novel complexes involving hydrogen bonds were characterized by zero kinetic photoelectron

spectroscopy. Identification and characterization of unconventional hydrogen bonded system was achieved, and novel hybrid materials were synthesized by methods involving efficient carbon dioxide capture.

- In Biology, the study on malaria parasite has led to important progress in the identification of an epitope with the potential to emerge as a broad spectrum multistage malaria vaccine candidate. Research has also resulted in new findings in the fields of Metabolism, Skin and Embryonic development, Spermatogenesis. Quantitative genetics and Lipid transport.
- In Mathematics, at the main campus in Colaba, research has been carried out in the fields of Algebra and Algebraic Geometry, Differential Geometry, Number Theory and Combinatorics, and some significant results have been obtained. At the centre for Applicable Mathematics (C.A.M.), Bengaluru, key findings have been made in the study of partial differential equations and stochastic differential equations. The School of Technology and Computer Science (S.T.C.S.) has pursued the study of important topics in the areas of computer science as well as systems science.
- The Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (H.B.C.S.E.), is the nodal centre in the country for the International Olympiads. This year, of the 30 students who represented India in the International Olympiads, 27 bagged medals including 10 gold. The open house at H.B.C.S.E. on National Science Day (N.S.D.) witnessed over 2000 visitors.
- A major science discovery in the world this year was the first direct detection of gravitational waves, predicted by Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, and the first observation of a binary black hole merger. This was achieved by the two detectors of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (L.I.G.O.). T.I.F.R. scientists, both at the main campus in Colaba and at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (I.C.T.S.) have played an important role in these discoveries. At the I.C.T.S., the group working on Astrophysical Relativity made direct contributions to the recent discovery of Gravitational

waves by L.I.G.O. to establish the consistency of the observed signal with a binary black hole merger predicted by general relativity.

- Total 47 officers of the Institute have received different awards and distinctions in different categories during the year 2015-16.

Year 2016-17

The year 2016-17 has progressed well in terms of research in crucial areas of science. Astronomy and Astrophysics achievements include setting up of ASTROSAT Paload Operation Centre (P.O.C.). The laboratory model of the I.R.S.I.S. satellite experiment has been extensively tested in the lab. The T.A.N.S.P.E.C. spectrometer is expected to be commissioned by December 2017 on 3.6-meter Devasthal Optical Telescope. T.I.F.R. Balloon Facility at Hyderabad has upgraded the present S-Band tracking system with 70 M.Hz Tracking Receiver and Down Converter and tested this new system in three balloon flights (Lab Rats, B.A.T.A.L. and T.I.F.R. Engineering Test Flight) with improved payload tracking accuracy with better gain margin.

- In Biological Sciences an important study on Malaria parasites has shown that Circumsporozoite protein (C.S.P.), a malaria antigen used in the only vaccine against the disease on trial (R.T.S., S.), provides the cell flexibility and pliability, possibly by providing a lubrication capacity required for its long and penetrating journey through tissue layers during early infection.
- In Chemical Sciences crucial research is being done on BiVO₄-n-type semiconductor having photo and electrochemical storage properties.
- In High Energy Physics members participating in C.M.S. and Belle experiments are analysing the data collected over the past years and have published several important physics results which include various searches related to the Higgs boson, in particular, the Higgs decays to two tau leptons. The C.M.S. collaboration has published a total of almost 600 scientific results based on the collision data since 2009. T.I.F.R. has built electronics in collaboration with Indian industry using radiation hard material.

GRAPES-III has published new results on the earth's magnetic field. On 16 January 2017, India has become an Associate Member State of C.E.R.N. The initial signing ceremony was held on November 21, 2016 by the Atomic Energy Commission Chairman, Dr. Sekhar Basu and the Director-General of C.E.R.N., Dr. Fabiola Gianotti.

- In Nuclear and Atomic Physics innovative use of intense 5 fs duration laser pulses has enabled demonstration of ultrafast intramolecular proton migration and bond-selective dissociation of small molecules for the first time. An optical trapping method has been developed that enables assessment of the differentiation status of cancerous cells by determining the minimum time required for cell-cell adhesion to occur.
- In Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Sciences an important research has found evidence for bulk superconductivity in pure bismuth single crystals at ambient pressure. This discovery also makes Bi as the superconductor with the lowest carrier density thus, breaking the record held by doped SrTiO₃ for nearly 50 years.
- In Theoretical Physics under Cosmology and Astroparticles Physics a novel analytic model was constructed of the X-Ray AGN-halo occupation distribution and prospects of constraining the AGN-halo connection with upcoming eROSITA satellite was demonstrated. Under Condensed Matter and Statistical Physics a novel superconductor driven by resonant tunnelling was predicted in the Ionic Hubbard model.
- Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education work with visually disabled students learning mathematics, from the perspective of Ableism indicated their mathematical capabilities and inventiveness. This was the first year since India's participation at the international science Olympiads that every student participant from India received either a Gold or a Silver medal.
- National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Pune have succeeded in detecting emission from singly ionized carbon as well as dust-continuum emission at sub-mm wavelengths from two galaxies associated with two such absorbers at a red shift of $z \sim 4$. Results

obtained from G.M.R.T. observations (in conjunction with observations from other telescopes) were featured on the cover of the first issue of *Nature Astronomy*.

- At National Centre of Biological Sciences (N.C.B.S.), Bangalore, a study from Ecology and Evolution group revealed how deep valleys in the Western Ghats Mountains influence the species and biodiversity there, resulting in the new and unique species of birds. A new study showed how a single instance of severe stress can lead to delayed and long-term psychological trauma.
- International Centre of Theoretical Sciences, Bangalore made contributions to the detection of a second gravitational wave event by L.I.G.O., from a binary black hole system, announced in June, 2016. In Fluid Dynamics and Turbulence significant progress was made in understanding the role of triadic interactions in the intermittent fluctuation of velocity field in turbulent flows.
- T.I.F.R.-Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Hyderabad under Biological Sciences a group working on cancer cell biology has devised a novel image-analysis based assay for the detection of cell cycle stage - this has led to unprecedented insight into D.N.A. damage responses at the single cell level.
- In School of Technology and Computer Science, in the area of algorithms new voting mechanisms were analyzed. Algorithms for non-linear congestion functions were studied for the first time in congestion games.
- In Mathematics evidence was established of a Homotopy and Commutativity Principle for special linear, symplectic and orthogonal automorphisms. The techniques of Euler Class groups were used to prove that certain unimodular rows of length three over a class of rings are completable. A new proof of Suslins 1-factorial theorem on unimodular rows was obtained.
- Under Interdisciplinary Mathematics study is being carried out on how dumbbells, placed inside a little hollow cylindrical drum that rotates slowly around its axis, climb uphill by forming dynamically stable pairs, seemingly against the pull of gravity. Another study introduced a hierarchy of phase spaces for static friction,

which give a graphical way to systematically quantify the directional dependence in static friction via subregions of the phase spaces.

- Total 43 officers of the Institute have received different awards and distinctions in different categories during the year 2016-17.

Tata Memorial Centre (T.M.C.), Mumbai

The Tata Memorial Centre (T.M.C.) is an autonomous research institute under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy.

The achievements of T.M.C. in the last three years are as follows:

Year 2014-15

- The research carried out in T.M.C. over the last 15 years has been helpful in developing a Low cost screening modality by (V.I.A.) visual inspection of cervix using ascetic acid, which has resulted in 31% reduction in deaths in women. The conventional method of screening is by carrying out pap smear test which is carried out in a hospital setting by a qualified medical practitioner. Persons who have completed their H.S.C. are trained to carry out this test by going to the different places. This technology and the procedure of training trainers has been shared with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for national implementation. This is also being implemented by countries across the globe.
- Research trials have shown that a low cost injection given prior to surgery of breast cancer could save 28% of patients who would have otherwise died of the disease.
- The Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital in Sangrur District Punjab has become operational.
- A randomized clinical trials of "elective vs therapeutic neck lymph node dissection in newly diagnosed patients with non metastatic oral cancer" was presented at the plenary session of 2015 American Society of Clinical meeting in Chicago in May 2015. The study was to carry out a trial to establish the superiority of elective neck dissection with an overall survival benefit of 12.5% and disease-free survival benefit of 23.6%. This translated into prevention of 1

in 8 deaths and 1 in 4 recurrences by performing an elective neck dissection.

Year 2015-16

- The first study questioning the need for surgery in breast cancer was presented at the plenary of ASCO in 2015 and published in *Lancet Oncology* (2016).
- The Tata Memorial Centre has excelled in providing outreach in cancer care by spreading its wings to far and remote areas of India. Sangrur a peripheral spoke in Punjab is fully functional with a state of art Surgery, Radiotherapy and Medical Oncology. It has treated more than 10000 patients by now. The Registry started in 2013 and 1st Yearly report released on 2016 and it available on website.

Year 2016-17

- The research carried out in T.M.C. over the last 15 years has been helpful in developing a low cost screening modality by (V.I.A.) visual inspection of cervix using ascetic acid, which has resulted in 31% reduction in deaths in women. The conventional method of screening is by carrying out pap smear test which is carried out in a hospital setting by a qualified medical practitioner. Persons who have completed their H.S.C. are trained to carry out this test by going to the different places. This technology and procedure of training trainers has been shared with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for national implementation. This is also being implemented by countries across the globe.
- Research trials have shown that a low cost injection given prior to surgery of breast cancer could save 28% of patients who would have otherwise died of the disease.
- The Centre for Cancer Epidemiology which is the first in the country has been set up with a dedicated facility in Advanced Centre for Treatment Research & Education in Cancer, Khargar campus, resulting in major insights into breast, cervical, colorectal & gall bladder cancer.
- The Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital in Sangrur District Punjab has become functional. More than 3000 patients are registered annually. This is the joint

successful demonstration of a spoke in Dist. Gen. Hospital for delivery of healthcare in every state.

- A randomized clinical trials of "elective vs therapeutic neck lymph node dissection in newly diagnosed patients with non metastatic oral cancer" was presented at the plenary session of 2015 American Society of Clinical meeting in Chicago in May 2015. The study was to carry out a trial to establish the superiority of elective neck dissection with an overall survival benefit of 12.5% and disease-free survival benefit of 23.6%. This translated into prevention of 1 in 8 deaths and 1 in 4 recurrences by performing an elective neck dissection.
- T.M.C. has successfully conducted initial imaging studies in radioisotope tagged monoclonal antibodies for breast cancer and lymphoma. These radioisotope tagged monoclonal antibodies will be proven for therapeutic use in the next 3 years.
- There are a number of ongoing studies in breast (using yoga), cervix and thoracic cancers which will establish new treatments for these cancers.
- The first study questioning the need for surgery in breast cancer was presented at the plenary session of A.S.C.O. in 2015 and published in *Lancet Oncology* (2016).
- The National Cancer Grid (N.C.G.) is a large network of 82 major cancer centres, funded by the Govt. of India through the Department of Atomic Energy. The N.C.G. has been thought of for uniform cancer care in India, seamless integration of documentation & registration of cancer and run research of national importance.
- The Tata Memorial Centre has excelled in providing outreach in cancer care by spreading its wings to far and remote areas of India. Sangrur a peripheral spoke in Punjab is fully functional with a state of art Surgery, Radiotherapy and Medical Oncology. It has treated more than 10000 patients by now.
- The Tata Memorial Centre has trained and graduated over 100 qualified professionals in various specialities of cancer including surgery, radiation and medical oncology, pathology, radiology and anesthesiology in the past two years. This would initiate students into

oncology to look after cancer patients for the next 30 years.

- Indigenous Bhabhatron Machine was given to 20 centres in the last two years and these machines by now have treated close 100000 patients.
- B.H.U. Varanasi 250 bedded Cancer Hospital the significant progress in the project:

(i) A comprehensive M.O.U. is signed on September 21, 2017, between T.M.C., B.H.U. Varanasi and Tata Trust with common focus towards improving cancer care in Varanasi and its catchment regions, assigning obligations and responsibilities on D.A.E. (T.M.C.), B.H.U. and Tata Trust, is a major landmark in the future progress of the project.

(ii) The notable progress in the work on ground activities is taken up at B.H.U. by the construction of Boundary Wall and Gate for Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya Cancer Centre at B.H.U., Varanasi by C.P.W.D., for which T.M.C. has entered into M.O.U. with C.P.W.D. to construct Compound Wall and Gate along with Residential Quarters.

- Indian Railway Cancer Research Institute, Varanasi 100 Bedded Facility of North Eastern Railway transferred to D.A.E.(T.M.C.).

Vacant possession of Railway Cancer Institute building has been taken over and the further processes for commissioning hospital activities from January, 2018 have been initiated on fast track with Tata Trust for commissioning the necessary Medical and Laboratory Equipments. The refurbishment of existing civil structure has begun and is expected to be completed in 3-4 months.

- The results of research trials in T.M.H. have captured plenary slots in international meeting E.S.M.O. 2017 and ASTRO 2017. These research results will change the way cancer treatment is practiced globally.

(a) Dr. Sudeep Gupta presented N.A.C.T. trial at the plenary session of ESMO 2017 Conference on 10th September, 2017.

(b) T.M.C. was the leading contributor for I.A.E.A. H.D.R. fractionation study that was presented

at ASTRO Plenary in San Diego, September, 2017.

- (c) Dr. Supriya Sastri (Chopra) won U.I.C.C. - Young Leader Programme Award 2017, and appointed as Asia Pacific regional lead by U.I.C.C. 2017.

Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute became a grant-in-aid Institute of Department of Atomic Energy, Govet. of India, a unit under umbrella of Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai on 27th November, 2017.

Institute of Mathematical Sciences (I.M.Sc.), Chennai

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (I.M.Sc.), Chennai is an autonomous research institution under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (D.A.E.), engaged in research work in Computational Biology, Mathematics, theoretical Physics and Theoretical Computer Science.

The qualified thesis work is submitted to the Homi Bhabha National Institute, which is a deemed to be University of which I.M.Sc. is a part, for award of Ph.D degrees.

Year 2014-15

- 6 students were awarded Ph.D degree and 5 students have submitted their Ph.D thesis. One student was also awarded M.Phil Degree. In addition, 5 students were awarded M.Sc. (by Research) and one submitted the thesis. A total of 51 courses/lecture series were taught at I.M.Sc. during this period, in addition 3 lecture courses were given at Chennai Mathematical Institute for their National Undergraduate Programme.
- There is a vibrant visitor's programme with the Institute hosting a large number of short and long term visitors from all over the world. About 253 scientists visited the institute this year.
- Contribution of national and international publications in academic journals by the members of the institute accounts to about 172 articles this year.also 7 books were authored by the members,during this period.
- Institute members are also involved in joint projects with colleagues from other national and international institutes. At present there are 13 ongoing projects in progress in I.M.Sc.

- Apart from this regular activity, I.M.Sc. also offers the opportunity of learning for a few students during the summer vacation period. About 56 students availed these opportunities this year.
- The institute has conducted about 28 conferences/workshops and 263 seminars during the academic year 2014-2015.

Year 2015-16

- There are 130 visitors visited the institute during the reporting period. Institute members are also involved in joint projects with colleagues from other national and international institutes.
- There are many ongoing projects in progress in I.M.Sc. Institute members interact extensively with their colleges in the universities and this interaction taken place via (i) Faculty Association Programme (ii) Refresher Courses for College Teachers (iii) Science Popularisation programme.
- The institute has conducted various conferences and workshops in addition to 288 seminars during this academic year.

Year 2016-17

- The Institute has conducted various Conferences and workshops in addition to 313 seminars during the academic year 2016-2017. The Institute has also conducted outreach activities and annual activities.
- The peak performance of the Hybrid H.P.C. system is over 85TeraFLOPS with 55TB Parallel file system for storage. It was developed in-house for the use of parallel computing, Serial computing and G.P.U. computing.
- The Institute is contributing significantly and extensively to the D.A.E. mandate for supporting basic sciences in the area of Theoretical Physics, Theoretical Computer Science, Mathematics and Computational Biology.
- About 5 awards and honours were bestowed on the

faculty of the Institute during this period.

National Institute of Science Education and Research (N.I.S.E.R.), Bhubaneswar

National Institute of Science Education and Research (N.I.S.E.R.), Bhubaneswar is fully funded by the Department of Atomic Energy. N.I.S.E.R. strives to be recognized as a Centre of Excellence in Education and Research in Basic Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics) and in related areas. The aim of this Institute is to nurture world class scientists for the country who will take up challenging research and teaching assignments in universities, R. & D. laboratories and various industries. The important activity of N.I.S.E.R. is high quality teaching for both undergraduate and post graduate students.

Year 2014-15

Among the major achievements of N.I.S.E.R. during the period under review, the stand out one was the 3rd graduation ceremony held on 9.6.2014. Two Ph.D Scholars and 37 M.Sc. integrated programme students graduated in the third convocation ceremony. Offers for doctoral programmes poured in from reputed universities in Paris, Texas, Michigan, Wisconsin-Madison, Maryland, Stony Brook, Louisiana, Houston, Toulouse, Connecticut, Cologne and South Dakota, besides the IITs, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the National Institute of Immunology in the home country

The following programmes have been organized by the Institute during 2014-15:-

- (i) Public Outreach Programme
- (ii) Public awareness of Plantation and go-green
- (iii) Vigilance Awareness Week
- (iv) Sadbhavna Diwas
- (v) Official Language Implementation.

The details of publications, Conference/Seminar/Workshop and Invited Talks/Lectures made/conducted by the schools of the N.I.S.E.R. are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the School	No. of Publications	No. of Conference/ Seminar/Workshop organized or attended	No. of Invited Talks/Lectures
1.	Biological Sciences	32	26	06
2.	Chemical Sciences	43	06	00
3.	Mathematical Sciences	11	53	11
4.	Physical Sciences	105	19	26

The institute have received the following Awards and Honours during this period:

- i. The following paper, " Observation of the rare B0s to mu+ mu- decay from the combined analysis of C.M.S. and L.H.Cb data' has been accepted for publication in Nature, arguably the most prestigious scientific journal N.I.S.E.R. was one of the primary authors (specifically N.I.S.E.R.-C.M.S. contributed to the paper of background, data-mc validation and other related study). The N.I.S.E.R.-C.M.S. team was ,ed by Dr. Sanjay Swain.
- ii. The first paper with N.I.S.E.R. Jatni has been accepted for publication in Physical Review C (American Physical Society journal). "Selecting specific initial configurations using spectator neutrons in U + U collisions" by Vipul Bairathi, Md. Rihan Haque, and Bedangadas Mohanty.

Year 2015-16

- Among the major achievements of N.I.S.E.R. during the period under review, the stand out one was Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi formally dedicated N.I.S.E.R. permanent campus at Jatni, to the nation on 07.02.2016. On this occasion, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Minister of State for Atomic Energy in the

Prime Minister's Pffice, Secretary D.A.E. and many more dignitaries were present. Among other programmms, the 4th graduation ceremony held on 06 June, 2015. Chairman, A.E.C. was the Chief Guest on this historic occasion. 50(fifty nine) 5 year integrated M.Sc. students and 03 (three) Ph.D students graduated this year. Offers for doctoral programme poured in from reputed universities in Paris, Texas, Michigan, Wiscosin-Madison, Maryland, Stony Brook, Louisiana, Houston, Toulluse, Connecticut, Cologne and South Dakota, besides the I.I.Ts, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and I.I.S.C., Bangalore in the home country.

- The following programmes have been organized by the Institute during 2015-16:-
 - a. Public Outreach Programme.
 - b. Public awareness on Plantatin and go-green
 - c. Vigilance Awareness Week
 - d. Sadbhavna Diwas
 - e. Official Language Implementation.

The details of publications, Coference/Seminar/Workshop organized orattended and Invited Talks/Lectures made/ conducted by different schools of the N.I.S.E.R. are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the School	No. of Publications	No. of Conference/ Seminar/Workshop organized or attended	No. of Invited Talks/Lectures
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Biological Sciences	59	04	00
2.	Chemical Sciences	77	15	00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Mathematical Sciences	40	67	01
4.	Physical Sciences	163	10	43
5.	Humanities and Social Sciences	05	05	02

- The Institute has received the following Awards and Honours during this period:

- Prof. T.K. Chandrashekar, Senior Professor in the School of Chemical Sciences received SASTRA - CNR RAO Award for the Year 2016.
- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Physical Sciences, 2015 was awarded to Dr. Bedangadas Mohanty of the School of Physical Sciences.
- Mr. Ashutosh Kumar received "Oral Presentation Award" in YUVA ISAR Conference held by Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction from 8th-9th August 2015.
- Mr. Arijit Ghosh, M.Sc. student in S.B.S. received Second poster award in 1st International Conference on Translational Research: From Basic Science to Clinical Application, at K.I.I.T. University, Bhubaneswar, India. 5-7th February, 2015.
- Dr. Colin Benjamin was awarded DAAD, Germany Research stay at RWTH Aachen University.
- Dr. Praful Singru was selected as a Member, Executive Council, Society for Evolutionary and integrative Biology (S.E.I.B.), India. 2014-15.
- Dr. Debasmita Alone was elected as a member, Executive Council (2015-2017) of All India Society for Cell Biology, India.
- Dr. Chandan Goswami has been selected as editorial member (2015) for PeerJ.
- Dr. Kishore C. Panigrahi has been selected as

editorial member for "Frontiers in Bioscience".

- From Social Welfare point of view, the social service club of N.I.S.E.R. has been actively taking measure to address some major societal issues which include education of children residing in the slums opposite to N.I.S.E.R. campus, donation of clothes to the needy and cleanliness drives. Students at N.I.S.E.R. have given an expression of their compassionate minds by forming an organisation named "Zariya" to serve a medium for translating their concern and feeling for their fellow beings.

Year 2016-17

- The Institute received the prestigious Vishwakarma Award for best construction/design by Construction Industry Development Council (C.I.D.C.), New Delhi.
- The following programmes have been organized by the Institute during 2016-17:-
 - Public Outreach Programme.
 - Mimamsa Quiz
 - Training Program in Mathematics (T.P.M.-2016)
 - Summer Outreach Program in Mathematics (S.O.P.M.-2016)
 - Discussion Meeting on Automorphic Forms-2016
 - School & Workshop on Modular Forms & Black Holes-2017

The details of publications, Conference/Seminar/Workshop organized or attended and Invited Talks/Lectures made/conducted by different schools of the N.I.S.E.R. are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the School	No. of Publications	No. of Conference/ Seminar/Workshop organized or attended	No. of Invited Talks/Lectures
1.	Biological Sciences	46	33	07
2.	Chemical Sciences	105	31	01
3.	Mathematical Sciences	32	42	00
4.	Physical Sciences	162	02	54
5.	Humanities and Social Sciences	03	05	08
6.	Earth and Planetary Sciences	05	00	02

The Institute has received the following Awards and Honours during this period:

- (a) Dr. Palok Aich has become Member of DBT TASK Force for Biotechnology Ignition Grant (B.I.G.) of the Department of Biotechnology (D.B.T.)-Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (B.I.R.A.C.), Government of India (Gol.), since June 2016.
- (b) Dr. Chandan Goswami served as a jury member of "Monitoring meeting of P.A.C. in Health Sciences, D.S.T.-S.E.R.B." on 7th-8th Feb., 2017.
- (c) Dr. C. Gunanathan received "E.C.R.P. Award-2016.
- (d) Dr. Deepak Dalai has received the Best paper Award at the 6th International Conference on Sensor Networks, SENSORNETS 2017 held in Porto-Portugal February 19-21, 2017.
- (e) Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty - Got elected as a Fellow of Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.
- (f) Prof. Bedangadas Mohanty - Got elected as a Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.
- (g) "Special Jury presentation award" to Mr. Manoj Yadav. 2nd International Conference on Translational Research: Applications in Human Health and Agriculture. 14-16th Oct. 2016, Bhubaneswar.
- (h) "Best Poster award" to Md. Khurshidul Hassan. 10th year celebration of excellence in science at I.I.S.E.R. Kolkata "Advances in Life Sciences" during January 13-15, 2017.

- From Social Welfare point of view, the social service club of N.I.S.E.R. has been actively taking measure to address some major societal issues which include education of children residing in the slums opposite to N.I.S.E.R. campus, donation of clothes to the needy and cleanliness drives. Students at N.I.S.E.R. have given an expression of their compassionate minds by forming an organisation named "Zariya" to serve a medium for translating their concern and feeling for their fellow beings.

Institute for Plasma Research (I.P.R.), Gandhinagar

Institute for Plasma Research (I.P.R.), Gandhinagar, a grant-in-ad institution under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (D.A.E.), Mumbai is carrying out experimental and theoretical research in plasma physics with emphasis on the physics of magnetically confined hot plasmas and non-linear plasma phenomena. The scientific and technological programmes of the Institute can broadly be categorised into four main areas viz., (1) Fusion Plasma Experiments, (2) Fusion Technology Developments, (3) Basic Plasma Experiments; and (4) Theoretical, Modelling & Computational Plasma Physics.

Some of the highlights of the work done/achievements during the following years are appended below:-

Year 2014-15

- Year 2014-15 has been a year of 'up-gradation' in the Institute. After giving consistent operating performance, in its silver jubilee year, it was decided that ADITYA (the first indigenously designed and build

tokamak of India) will be up graded to have a shaped plasma cross section. An additional set of coils and the vacuum vessel are being changed to achieve this.

- In the Superconducting Steady-state Tokamak-1 (S.S.T.-1) maximum plasma current of 75000 A at a Toroidal magnetic field of 1.5 T at the plasma centre assisted with Electron Cyclotron (E.C.) pre-ionization at the fundamental mode was achieved. These Mega Joule toroidal magnetic field were also operated upto 2.0T. All the diagnostics have also been upgraded with some new diagnostics in place. First successful launching of Lower Hybrid Current Drive waves has been conducted.
- To fulfil the commitment of delivering the Test Blanket Module (T.B.M.) to I.T.E.R. project, various small experimental set ups like liquid metal heat transfer loop, experimental Helium Cooling Loop etc. are being done to understand and develop the required technologies. For the remote handling and robotics technology, various prototypes are being made and tested. A laboratory scale hydrogen isotope removal system (H.I.R.S.) for Helium purge gas to validate design concepts for tritium extraction is being developed.
- Exploration of societal benefits from plasma technologies is continued vigorously at Facilitation Centre for Industrial Plasma Technology (F.C.I.P.T.). The projects cover various areas such as bio-medics, conventional and green power, textiles, waste management, nano-technology. F.C.I.P.T. is working on developing Plasma Pyrolysis system (on proof of concept basis) for plastic and paper waste disposal at G.I.F.T. (Gujarat International Finance Tech) City - a smart city that is being developed near Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Year 2015-16

- For I.T.E.R.-India, most of the procurement packages entered into the factory testing phase. Manufacturing and factory testing are being done following international quality assurance and control standards, as is necessary for the I.T.E.R. project.
- At the Centre of Plasma Physics, Guwahati the commission of the C.P.P.-I.P.R. Magnetized plasma Experiment for Plasma Surface interaction (C.I.M.P.L.E.-P.S.I.) has been successfully completed. The objective is to create I.T.E.R. Divertor like plasma with extreme hot ion flux to be used for plasma material interaction experiments. Theory and simulation works in the centre are catering to other experimental activities as C.P.P.-I.P.R.
- For the development of superconducting magnet technology, a dedicated facility has been established. Efforts are being continued in developing materials & fabrication technologies for Plasma Facing Components (P.F.Cs). After successful demonstration of a prototype pellet injector in the laboratory, a single barrel pellet (L.L.C.B.) blanket and its associated ancillary systems to I.T.E.R. projects, many small experiments have been set up. A Virtual and Augmented Reality Integrated Development Lab (V.V.A.R.I.D.-L.A.B.) is being set up).

Tear 2016-17

- During the year 2016-17, Institute continued its activities in fusion research, Technology development, Industrial and Societal applications and experimental & theoretical investigations of fundamental plasma physics, apart from deliveries to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (I.T.E.R.) project.
- Academic programs like Summer School (46 students), Technical Training and Doctoral programs (42 students) of the institute were continued as usual. The institute had 217 publications in peer reviewed journals apart from 88 Research Reports and 48 Technical Reports published during the year.

Harish Chandra Research Institute

The focus of H.R.I. is on theoretical physics and Mathematics. The contribution can be assessed in terms of four indicators:

1. **Research Output:** The academic members of H.R.I. publish about 120 papers in a year in peer reviewed international publications. Major contributions are in string theory, high energy physics and quantum information, condensed matter and mathematics.
2. **Peer Recognition#** H.R.I. faculty and students have received awards and fellowships of academies based on their research achievement.

- H.R.I. contributes to the high quality manpower to meet academic need of the country. The students who complete Ph.D finally join the science establishments in the country as teachers and researchers.
- M.Sc. programme significantly widen institutions reach and provide research exposure to students in our country.

Year-wise details of publications, graduated students etc. is as under:

Particulars	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Publications	128	154	125
Awards	5	8	5
No. of students graduated	8	6	8
No. of students completed Ph.D	6	14	11

Institute of Physics (IoP), Bhubaneswar

The Institute of Physics (IoP) is an autonomous research institution under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (D.A.E.), Mumbai engaged in research and development activities in the frontier areas of physics and allied sciences.

Some highlights of the work done/achievements during the following years are appended below:

Year 2014-15

- 120 papers were published in various national, international refereed journals, while 40 more papers are under review for publication. Institute members have delivered large number of lectures, colloquia, seminars, etc to promote science and there research work within & outside the country More than 120 lectures were delivered by various eminent scientists & young researchers at IoP.
- Institute of Physics is a major hub for scientific activities & discussions in the Eastern part of the country.
- The laboratory houses equipment for conducting research in several frontier areas on thin films and nano-materials. Using the facilities existing here,

samples can be prepared under sensitive and controlled conditions and can be investigated for their morphological, magnetic, optical vibrational properties.

- The Institute is also actively involved in popularizing science. A Science outreach program has been organized in different schools of Odisha with collaboration of S.C.A.A. Night sky viewing session was organised using telescope and binoculars at Machhuati, Salipur, Odisha (Coastal Odisha) on 21st February, 2015.

Year 2015-16

- 140 papers were published in the international Peer Reviewed Journals. Besides, the faculty members and research scholars of the Institute have received many academic accolades like distinguished faculty award from Homi Bhabha National Institute (H.B.N.I.), Ramanujan Fellow, best thesis award from H.B.N.I. and best poster award at different conferences.
- A Max-Planck Partner Group in the field of high energy physics is also set up at Institute of Physics. Institute members have delivered large number of lectures, colloquia, seminars, etc to promote science and there research work within & outside the country.
- Institute of Physics is a major hub for scientific activities & discussions in the Eastern part of the country.
- More than 20 colloquia, 86 seminars lectures were delivered by various eminent scientists and young researchers at our Institute.

Year 2016-17

- The faculty members and research scholars of Institute have received many academic accolades like distinguished faculty award from Indian Academy of Sciences, Indian National Science Academy Award, M.R.S.I. Medal in Materials, N.A.S.I. Scopus Young Scientists Award, best ORAL presentation Award etc. Institute members have delivered a large number of lectures, colloquia, seminars, etc to promote science and research work within and outside the country.
- 117 papers were published in the International Peer Reviewed Journals.
- Around 9 colloquia, 116 seminars and lectures were

delivered by various eminent scientists and young researchers at the Institute.

- Year-long academic programmes and scientific events like social outreach, popular talks, telescope making workshop for high school children, conferences, meetings, workshops, and activities related to recharging of school teachers were organized during the year.
- Eminent national/international scientists were invited to visit Institute on short term basis, to initiate collaboration with the faculty members of the institute.
- During the year Institute organized programmes like Awareness-cum-Seminar on "Role of Atomic Energy & Nuclear Power in the Service of Mankind" conducted at Soro, Balasore, Public Awareness conducted at Gopabandhu Vidyamandir, Po-sailo Badabil, Distt. - Cuttack and Public Awareness Programme conducted at Ekalavya Model Residential School, Mahasingi, Kandhamal, Odisha for early college students.

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (S.I.N.P.), Kolkata

The Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (S.I.N.P.) is an autonomous institute for basic research under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (D.A.E.). The Institute is engaged in research classified in the five major areas viz. (a) Biophysical Science including Chemistry (b) Condensed Matter Physics including Surface Physics and Nano Science (c) Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics, (d) Plasma Physics; and (e) Theoretical and Mathematical Physics.

Year 2014-15

- Altogether 446 research publications have been credited during the period with about 30 theses awarded for Ph.D degree. About 70 publications in high impact journals with impact factor more than 6 in Journals like Physical Review Letters, Reviews in Modern Physics, Journal of High Energy Physics, Journal of Cosmology & Astroparticles Physics, *kCell* earth & Disease and R.N.A. biology to name a few.
- International Collaboration with C.E.R.N. in ALLICE and CMS experiments and with S.N.O. Lab in PICASSO experiment for Dark Matter Search. Outreach programs conducted from the Centre for Advanced

Research & Education (C.A.R.E.) both in and outside S.I.N.P., going to remote places of Sundarban to district school in Hoogly and Birbhum, have been successful with overwhelming response from students of high school on science and related area of contemporary interest.

During the year 4 faculty members of S.I.N.P. have received the awards/fellowships and distinctions.

Year 2015-16

- Altogether 415 research publication have been credited during the period and about 55 theses awarded for Ph.D degree. About 90 publications in high impact (IF>6.0) journals like Physics Letters B, Journal of High Energy Physics, Astrophysical Journal & Carcinogenesis.
- The successful operation of the Indian Beam Line at Photon Factory (K.E.K.) at Tsukuba has been recognized as a flagship cooperative activity by the honourable Prime Minister of India.

During the year 2 faculty members of the S.I.N.P. have received the awards/fellowships and distinctions of International Importance.

Year 2016-17

- Altogether 438 research publications have been credited during the period and about 56 theses awarded for Ph.D degree. And 62 scientific articles published in high impact (I.F. \geq 6) journals like Nature, Science, ACS Catalysis, Nucleic Acids Research, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Chemistry of Materials, Physical Review Letters, ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, Chemsuschem, Cancer Letters, Acta Biomaterialia, Chemical Engineering Journal and Journal of High Energy Physics, etc.
- A.L.I.C.E. and C.M.S. experiments at C.E.R.N., PICASSO experiment at S.N.O. Lab.
- Experiments at Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (D.E.S.Y.), Hamburg through the Indo-German Collaboration in Synchrotron research.
- Successful operation of the Indian Beam Line at Photon Factory (KEK) at Tsukuba, Japan has been

recognized as a flagship cooperative activity by the honorable Prime Minister of India.

- The Institute has organised several outreach programs through the CARE unit (Centre for Advanced Research & Education) both inside and outside S.I.N.P. and received overwhelming response from the participants.

During the year 1 faculty member received a prestigious fellowship.

Homi Bhabha National Institute (H.B.N.I.), Mumbai

The Homi Bhabha National Institute (H.B.N.I.), Department of Atomic Energy (D.A.E.) is a Deemed to be University under Section-3 of the U.G.C. act 1956 as notified by the Ministry of Human Resources Development in 2005. H.B.N.I. has been set up to provide higher education in science, to promote development of science and technology with the help of Research & Development Centres and Grant-in-Aid Institutions under D.A.E. H.B.N.I. is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act 1870 and has its own Memorandum of Association and Rules.

The H.B.N.I. offers a range of academic programmes. Various programmes offered are Ph.D., M.Tech. in engineering sciences and M.Phil. in physical sciences, chemical sciences and life science, M.Sc. (Engg), Integrated M.Sc. of five-year duration at National Institute for Science Education and Research (N.I.S.E.R.), Bhubaneswar, Super Speciality Courses at Tata Memorial Centre (T.M.C.), Mumbai Post Graduate Courses at T.M.C., D.R.M. (Diploma in Radiation Medicine) at B.A.R.C., M.Sc. (Nursing) at T.M.C., M.Sc. (Clinical Research) at T.M.C., Dip. R.P. (Diploma in Radiological Physics) at B.A.R.C., D.M.R.I.T. (Diploma in Medical Radio Isotope Techniques) at B.A.R.C., D.F.I.T. (Diploma in Fusion Imaging Technology) at T.M.C. Around 1590 students are currently pursuing Ph.D. in various disciplines.

H.B.N.I. has the following as its constituents Institutions (C.Is).

- Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (B.A.R.C.), Mumbai
- Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (I.G.C.A.R.), Kalpakkam

- Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (R.R.C.A.T.), Indore
- Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (V.E.C.C.), Kolkata
- Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (S.I.N.P.), Kolkata
- Institute for Plasma Research (I.P.R.), Gandhinagar
- Institute of Physics (I.O.P.), Bhubaneswar
- Harish-Chandra Research Institute (H.R.I.), Allahabad
- Institute of Mathematical Sciences (I.M.Sc.), Chennai, and
- Tata Memorial Centre (T.M.C.), Mumbai.

Year 2014-15

- Two new courses namely Diploma in Fusion Imaging Technology (D.F.I.T.) and M.Sc. in Clinical Research were started during the year 2014-15 by T.M.C.
- In this academic year, 762 students were admitted to various programmes being conducted under H.B.N.I. by various C.Is and 566 Degrees/Diplomas were awarded.

Year 2015-16

- During 2015-16, 888 students were admitted in different programs. H.B.N.I. has also awarded 200 Ph.D., 165 M.Tech., 3 M.Sc. (Engg.), 79 M.Sc., 70 Post Graduate medical degrees M.D., D.M. and M.Ch., 5 M.Sc. (Nursing) and 40 P.G. diplomas in radiation protection (D.Ip.R.P.), medical radioisotope technology (D.M.R.I.T.), radiation medicine (D.R.M.) and fusion imaging technology (D.F.I.T.). Around 1590 students are currently pursuing Ph.D. in various disciplines.
- The Government of India launched National Institutional Ranking Framework (N.I.R.F.) for educational institutions from the year 2015-16 for various disciplines, viz. Engineering (Teaching & Research), Engineering (Teaching), Management, Pharmacy, Architecture and Colleges (U.G.C.). H.B.N.I. participated in the ranking framework and provided information as per desired format. India Rankings 2016 were released on April 4, 2016 by then M.H.R.D.

Minister. H.B.N.I. was ranked 17th out of the 233 universities participated in this category.

Year 2016-17

- A Strategic Studies program has also been identified to ensure availability of adequate qualified human resources to address issues pertaining to nuclear law, economics of nuclear power, nuclear security, nuclear proliferation, intellectual property rights etc.
- During 2016-17, 914 students were admitted in different programs, out of which 353 students re for Ph.D. Program. H.B.N.I. has awarded 218 Ph.D., 106 M.Tech., 10 M.Sc. (Engg), 73 M.Sc., 107 Post graduate medical degrees, 6 M.Sc. (Nursing) and 42 P.G. diplomas in radiation protection (Dip.R.P.) medical radioisotope technology (D.M.R.I.T.), radiation medicine (D.R.M.) and fusion imaging technology (D.F.I.T.).
- The following major development has taken place during this year:-
 - (a) Memorandum of Association (MoA) of the H.B.N.I. are amended in compliance with U.G.C. (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) regulations 2016;
 - (b) H.B.N.I. has received 21st Rank in University category and 35th rank in overall category (among a total 3319 participants);
 - (c) H.B.N.I. has signed eleven Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with reputed Universities/ Institutes at National and International level for Academic collaborations; and
 - (d) In order to have better employment opportunities to the students pursuing Ph.D. programmes under 'Board of Strategic Studies' and also to enhance its mandate, the 'Board of Strategic Studies' has been renamed to 'Board of Study for Applied System Analysis'.

Atomic Energy Education Society (A.E.E.S.)

The Atomic Energy Education Society (A.E.E.S.), Mumbai an autonomous institution under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy (D.A.E.), is established to provide education to the children of the employees of the Department of Atomic Energy

and its constituent units. At present, A.E.E.S. administers 30 Schools/Junior Colleges at 16 centres located all over the country and provides education to over 27,000 students.

Year 2014-15

- A.E.E.S. has launched several long-term key projects such as Application of Science and Technology for Educational Reforms (A.S.T.E.R.) for the development of the complete personalities of its students through modern and technical education infrastructure.
- A.E.E.S. has established the Satellite Interactive Terminal at all centers under which a hub and video recording studio have been set up at Anushaktinagar in Mumbai.
- During the year 2014-15, A.E.E.S. has undertaken the following academic activities for further improvement/development of the students of the A.E.E.S.:-
 - (a) A.E.E.S. Junior Science and Mathematics Olympiad (in collaboration with (H.B.C.S.E.)).
 - (b) All India Inter A.E.C.S./A.E.J.C. Science, Social Science, Mathematics & Teaching Aids Exhibition-2014.
 - (c) Inter A.E.C.S. Hindi Vigyan Prashna Manch.
 - (d) Talent Nurture Programme [The Societal Enrichment & Education Programme (S.E.E.P.)].
 - (e) Non-scholastic Activities - Sports, N.C.C. and Art.
 - (f) Application of Science and Technology in Educational Reforms (A.S.T.E.R.) Programme.
- More than 156 students of A.E.E.S. have secured admission in reputed professional colleges of Engineering (including I.I.Ts and N.I.Ts) and Medicine.
- In the All India Secondary School Examination [A.I.S.S.E.] (C.B.S.E. held in March 2015, the pass percentage was 98.17. In the Higher Secondary Examination, the pass percentage was 93.51.
- A.E.E.S. institutes a healthy competition amongst all A.E.S. schools to bring out the best of every child as well as teacher and administrator to achieve brilliance in over all development. The following trophies are awarded to A.E.C. Schools and Junior Colleges for remarkable achievements in different areas:-

- (i) Dr. Homi Bhabha Rolling Trophy for the best overall performance for Schools and Junior College.
- (ii) Dr. Vikram Sarabhai Rolling Trophy for the best academic performance among Schools and Junior Colleges.
- (iii) Dr. Raja Ramanna Trophy for the best Co-scholastic Activities Among Schools and Junior Colleges.
- (iv) Dr. Homi Sethna Trophy for the Sports achievements among Schools and Junior colleges.

Year 2015-16

- The Constitution of India gives the right to free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years, as a Fundamental Right. The same was implemented in A.E.E.S., in the year 2015-16 and 433 students from various centres were inducted in A.E.E.S. under R.T.E.
- In the All India Secondary School Examination held in March 2016, the average pass percentage was 98.49. In the Higher Secondary Examination, the average pass percentage was 92.29%. More than 200 students of A.E.E.S. have secured admission to reputed professional colleges for Engineering, Medicine, etc.
- It is important that the children of the country understand the necessity of cleanliness. All A.E.C. schools and Junior colleges took part in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan this year also with great enthusiasm and the message was conveyed to the students about keeping the surroundings clean and tidy for a healthy atmosphere.
- Shri Madan Rao, Principal, A.E.C.S.-1, Tarapur and Smt. Usha Chaturvedi, Headmistress, A.E.C.S.-5, Mumbai were bestowed upon with the National Award for Teachers for the year 2015, conferred by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Year 2016-17

- The All India Junior Science and Mathematics Olympiad as well as the A.E.E.S. Science, Mathematics, Social Science and Teaching Aides Exhibitions are organized every year to motivate and

nurture the students as well as teachers. Selected exhibits are sent to the Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environmental Exhibition conducted by N.C.E.R.T.

- A.E.E.S. believes in the all round development of the children. Keeping this in mind, A.E.E.S. in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy Sports and cultural sports and Cultural Council organizes Summer Sports coaching camp for school children in various sports.
- A.E.E.S. institutes a healthy competition amongst all A.E.C. schools to bring out the best of every child as well as teacher and administrator to achieve brilliance in overall development.
- Shri B.S.K. Raju, Principal of A.E.C.S.-3, Rawatbhata and Shri S.R. Mohanta, Head Master of A.E.C.S.-2, Tarapur were bestowed upon with the prestigious National Award for Teachers for the year 2016, conferred by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Ongoing Projects under South Central Railway

4174. SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railway recently held a meeting with MPs of Andhra Pradesh State in Amaravati to review the present ongoing railway projects and to finalize the new routes;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that it is a customary to hold such meetings before the budget every year and the priority projects are not included in the budget; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A meeting was held by General Manager, South Central Railway with Hon'ble M.Ps of Andhra Pradesh State at Vijayawada on 09.01.2018. During the meeting various issues including ongoing Railway Projects and new routes were discussed. Action on the issues discussed is taken at appropriate level viz. division, zone and Railway Board level.

(c) and (d) Meetings are held at various levels and projects are included depending upon the overall operational requirement, financial viability, last mile connectivity and considering the throwforward of ongoing projects. During the budget 2018-19 one doubling work of Pennukonda to Dharmavaram of length 41.50 km amounting Rs. 294.5 crore has been included in Pinkbook 2018-19. In Budget 2017-18 one new line work of Vijayawada-Guntur via Amravati was included.

Toilets and C.C.T.V.

4175. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided thousands of crores of rupees to the Railways for installation of bio-toilets in trains and C.C.T.V. cameras at railway stations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the name of trains which have been fitted with bio-toilets and the railway stations which have been provided with C.C.T.V. cameras, as of now, zone-wise; and

(c) the target set for completion of installation of bio-toilets in all the trains and C.C.T.V. cameras at all the railway stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The Government has provided Rs. 608 crores in current fiscal towards installation of bio-toilets in coaches. Provision of C.C.T.V. surveillance cameras is a sanctioned work of Indian Railways at 202 stations under Integrated Security System project at a cost of Rs. 101 crores. Under Nirbhaya Fund, work at additional 983 stations at a cost of about Rs. 500 crores is also sanctioned for Video Surveillance System.

(b) As of now, approximately 60% of the total passenger carrying coaches over Indian Railways have been installed with bio-toilets and there are 394 Railway Stations, where C.C.T.V. cameras have been provided. The zone-wise details of some of the trains having coaches equipped with bio-toilets are appended as Statement-I and zone-wise details of Railway Stations where C.C.T.V. cameras have been provided are appended as Statement-II.

(c) The earlier plan to install bio-toilets in the entire

fleet of coaches by the year 2021-22 has been advanced to the year 2019 and target for provision of C.C.T.V. cameras at all identified stations is March, 2019.

Statement-I

Zone-wise details of some of the trains having coaches equipped with bio-toilets

Zonal Railways	Trains
Central	22135/36 Nagpur-Rewa Superfast Express, 22119/20 Mumbai CSTM-Karmali Tejas Express, 22131/32 Dadar-Sai Nagar Shirdi Express.
East Coast	18401/02 Puri-Okha Express, 18496/95 Bhubaneswar-Rameshwaram Express, 12898/97 Bhubaneswar-Pondicherry Express.
East Central	55575/76 Darbhanga-Biraul Passenger, 13241/42 Banka-Rajendra Nagar Intercity Express, 12355/56 Rajendra Nagar-Jammu Tawi Archana Express.
Eastern	12343/44 Darjeeling Mail, 12377/78 Padatik Express, 12345/46 Saraighat Express.
North Central	22431/32 Allahabad-Udhampur Express, 12417/18 Prayagraj Express, 11107/08 Bundelkhand Express.
North Eastern	15045/46 Gorakhpur-Okha Express, 15119/20 Manduadih-Rameshwaram Express, 12595/96 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminal Hamsafar Express

Zonal Railways	Trains
Northeast Frontier	15635/36 Okha-Guwahati Express, 15647/48 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Guwahati Express, 15717/18 Guwahati-Mariani Intercity Express.
Northern	14611/12 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Ghazipur City Express, 14609/10 Hemkunt Express, 12471/72 Swaraj Express.
North Western	22497/98 Shri Ganganagar-Tiruchchirappalli Humsafar Express, 14889/90 Bhagat Ki Kothi-Munabao Thar Express, 14811/12 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Sikar Express.
South Central	12757/58 Secunderabad-Sirpur Kaghaznagar Express, 17019/20 Hyderabad-Jaipur Express, 12721/22 Hyderabad-Nizamuddin Dakshin Express.
South East Central	18241/42 Durg-Ambikapur Express, 18247/48 Bilaspur-Rewa Express, 58219/20 Bilaspur-Chirmiri Express.
South Eastern	18007/08 Shalimar-Vanapur Intercity Express, 22877/78 Howrah-Ernakulam Antyodaya Express, 22887/88 Howrah-Yesvantpur Humsafar Express.
Southern	12635/36 Chennai Egmore-Madurai Vaigai Express, 12605/06 Chennai Egmore-Karaikudi Pallavan Express, 22661/62 Chennai Egmore-Rameswaram Sethu Express.

Zonal Railways	Trains
South Western	16589/90 Rani Channamma Express, 12627/28 Karnataka Express, 16501/02 Ahmedabad-Yesvantpur Express.
West Central	12121/22 Madhya Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express, 11449/50 Jabalpur-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express, 12193/94 Jabalpur-Yesvantpur Express.
Western	22969/70 Okha-Varanasi Express, 19573/74 Okha-Jaipur Express, 19565/66 Okha-Dehradun Uttaranchal Express.

Statement-II

Zone-wise details of Railway Stations where C.C.T.V. cameras have been provided

Zonal Railways	Railway Stations
Central	CSTM, Masjid, Sandhurst Road, Byculla, Chichpokli, Currey Road, Parel, Dadar, Matunga, Sion, Kurla, LTT, Vidyavihar, Ghatkopar, Vikroli, KanjurMarg, Bhandup, Nahur, Mulund, Thane, Kalwa, Mumbra, Diva, Kopar, Dombivali, Thakurli, Kalyan, Vittalwadi, Ulhasnagar, Ambernath, Badlapur, Shelu, Neral, Karjat, Khandala, Lonavala, Shahad, Ambivali, Titwala, Khadavali, Vashind, Asangaon, Atgaon, Kasara, Igatpuri, Dockyard, Ray Road, Cotton Green, Sewri, Vadala Road, Kings Circle, GTBN, Chunabhatti, Tilaknagar, Chembur, Govandi, Mankhurd, Vashi, Sanpada, Juinagar, Seawood, Nerul, Belapur, Kharghar, Mansarovar, Khandeshwar, Panvel, Airoli, Rabale, Ghansoli, Koparkhairne, Turbhe, Nasik Road, Manmad, Jalgaon,

Zonal Railways	Railway Stations
	Bhusawal, Khandwa, Nagpur, Betul, Solapur, Shirdi, Pune, Miraj, Shivajinagar, Khardi, Vagani, Bhivpuri Road, Roha, Bhiwandi, Kolapur, Kemran Road
East Coast	Bhubaneswar, Puri, Vishakhapatnam, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Titilagarh, Kesinga, Kantabanji, Harishankar Road, Nuapada, Mahasmud.
East Central	Patna, Dhanbad, Gomo, Koderma, Daltonganj, Sonpur, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Madubani, Jainagar, Sitamadhi, Raxaul, Narkatiyaganj, Betia, Sugauli, Motihari, Saharsa.
Eastern	Howrah, Sealdah, Kolkata Terminus, Asansol, Malda, Bhagalpur, Merjherhat.
North Central	Allahabad, Kanpur, Aligarh, Jhansi, Gwalior, Chitrakoot Dham, Agra Cantt., Agra Fort, Mathura, Raja ki Mandi, Morena.
North Eastern	Lucknow Jn., Gorakhpur, Manduadih, Varanasi City, Chappara.
Northeast Frontier	Katihar Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaigudi Jn., Siliguri Jn., New Alipurduar, New Coochbehar, Alipurduar Jn., Guwahati, Lumding, Dimapur, Dibrugarh, New Tinsukia.
Northern	New Delhi, Delhi Main, H. Nizamuddin, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt., Anand Vihar Terminal, Ghaziabad, Delhi Shahdara, Tilak Bridge, Shivaji Brigade, Kurukshetra, Delhi Safdarjung, Ambala, Chandigarh, Saharanpur, Jammu Tawi, Attari, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Jawalapur, Lucknow, Varanasi.
North Western	Ajmer, Udaipur City, Bikaner, Bhiwani, Hisar, Jaipur, Rewari, Jodhpur, Bhagat

Zonal Railways	Railway Stations
	ki Kothi, Munabao, Jaiselmer, Ramdevra.
South Central	Hyderabad, Bidar, Vikarabad, Kazipet, Warangal, Khammam, Secunderabad, Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar, Kacheguda, Rajahmundry, Ongole, Vijaywada, Guntakal Chittoor, Raichur, Kadapa, Anantapur, Yadgir, Adoni, Dhoni, Gooty, Dharmavaram, Renigunta, Srikalahasti, Tirupati, Guntur, Nandyal, Nalgonda, Aurangabad, Nanded, Anakapalle, Kakinda(T), Kakinda (P), Tadepalliguden, Eluru, Bhimabaram, Tendi Jn., Chirala, Nellore, Gudur Jn., Cuddapah.
South East Central	Bilaspur, Raigarh, Champa, Korba, Shahdol, Raipur, Durg, Itwari, Kamptee, Tumsar Road, Bhandraroad, Gondia, Balaghat, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon, Howbagh, Chhindwada.
South Eastern	Midnapur, Kharagpur, Santragachi, Tatanagar, Chradharapur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Adra, Purulia, Bokaro Steel City, Ranchi, Muri, Salson, Gondapiasal, Goikera, Monoharpur, Jerkela, Sardhia, Gidhni, Bhalulata.
Southern	Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Chennai Beach, Tiruvallur, Ambalam, Tambaram, Basin Bridge, Trichy, Madurai, Coimbtore, Angalore, Calicut, Ernakulam, Trivendrum Central, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Arakkonam Junction, Quilon, Trissur, Moore Market Complex (Chennai Central).
South Western	Bengaluru, Yeshwanthpur, Mysore, Hubballi, Vasco-da-Gama, Belagavi, Londa, Hospet, Bellary, Castle-rock, Koppal.
West Central	Itarsi, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Kota, Sawaimadhopur, Habibganj, Bina, Guna, Vidisha.

Zonal Railways	Railway Stations
Western	Churchgate, Marine Lines, Charni Road, Grant Road, Mumbai Central (L), Mumbai Central (M), Mahalakshmi, Lower Parel, Elphinstone, Dadar, Matunga Road, Mahim, Bandra (L), Bandra Terminus, Khar Road, Santacruz, Vile Parle, Andheri, Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Malad, Kandivali, Borivali, Dahisar, Mira Road, Bhayandar Naigaon, Vasai Road, Nalasopara, Virar, Surat, Vadodra, Godhra, Anand, Nadiad, Bharuch, Ankleshwar, Ahmedabad, Ratlam, Ujjain, Indore, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Okha, Bhaktinagar, Dwarka, Surendernagar.

Readjustment of Manpower in Army

4176. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to readjust manpower in the Army and if so, the manpower saving likely to be achieved as result thereof;

(b) whether the decision is likely to impact provision of services to soldiers and their morale and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Sahayak system from the Army has been discontinued in peace stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the necessity of continuance of Sahayak system in peace stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Committee of Experts in May 2016 to recommend measures to enhance Combat Capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces. The recommendations of the Committee as accepted by the Government in September 2017 envisages to optimize 26,000 combatant posts and 31,000

civilian posts. No adverse impact is visualised in the implementation of recommendations of the Committee.

(c) and (d) The Sahayak system from the Army has not been discontinued in peace stations. A Sahayak in the Indian Army has clearly defined military duties and forms an integral part of the organisational structure of a unit and has specific functions during war and peaces. A Sahayak, in addition to his normal soldier's tasks, provides essential support to Officers/J.C.Os both in peace and war which enables them to fully attend to their assigned duties.

[Translation]

Solar Energy Driven Mobile Towers

4177. DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make all the mobile towers of B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L. run on solar energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L. mobile towers which are powered by solar energy, 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) to (d) At present, there is no proposal to run all mobile towers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (B.S.N.L.) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (M.T.N.L.) on solar energy. As part of J.N.N.S.M. (Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission) and L.W.E. (Left Wing Extremism) projects, B.S.N.L. has powered 2003 mobile towers through solar energy. No Mobile towers of M.T.N.L. is being run on solar energy. B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L. have informed that huge capital expenditure (CAPEX) and limitation of space in urban sites are the main constraints for installation of solar panel at all mobile sites.

The state/circle-wise details of mobile towers of B.S.N.L., run on solar energy is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Number of B.S.N.L. Towers which are powered by Solar Energy*

S.No.	Name of Circles/State	No. of Towers powered by S.P.V.		
		Under J.N.N.S.M.	At U.S.O.F. sites	Under L.W.E. Project
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	57
2.	Bihar	0	1	250
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	1	177
4.	Gujarat	0	1	0
5.	Himachal Pradesh	18	1	0
6.	Haryana	3	1	0
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	15	1	0
8.	Jharkhand	0	1	816
9.	Kerala	8	0	0
10.	Karnataka	3	1	0
11.	Maharashtra	0	1	62
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	16
13.	North East	15	4	0
14.	Odisha	0	1	256
15.	Punjab	3	1	0
16.	Rajasthan	4	1	0
17.	Tamil Nadu	3	1	0
18.	Telangana	0	0	171
19.	Uttar Pradesh	6	0	78
20.	Uttarakhand	25	1	0
21.	West Bengal	2	1	96
Total		105	19	1979

J.N.N.S.M. : Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission.

S.P.V. : Solar Photo Voltaic

U.S.O.F. : Universal Service Obligation Fund

L.W.E. : Left Wing Extremism.

*In other States/Circles, no tower of B.S.N.L. is running on solar energy.

[English]

Roadmap for Artificial Intelligence

4178. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a road map on innovation in artificial intelligence in the country if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is planning to set up committees in this regard; and

(c) 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) Yes Madam, Technology relating to Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) such as Machine Learning, Data Analytics etc. is involving and they can be very useful to improve services delivery in government and private sectors. An essential requirement for development of such technologies is availability of large volumes of data on which the A.I. engines can work and thereafter develop applications. The Government is cognizant of the fact that data within government with various departments and data available with the private entities will help development of A.I. applications. Four committees comprising of representatives from industry, academia and government agencies has been constituted to recommend steps to be taken to enable the availability of data from various sources for A.I. keeping in mind the requirements of privacy and data protection and other measures to be taken to promote A.I. initiatives.

(c) A copy of the constitution of committees for promoting A.I. is kept in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

No. 4(8)/2017-ITEA

Government of India

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Electronics Niketan, 6 C.G.O. Complex

(Emerging Technologies Division)

New Delhi-110003

Dated: 07.02.2018

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject :- Constitution of four Committees for promoting Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) initiatives and developing a policy framework.

The undersigned is directed to say that in order to promote emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and to develop a policy framework, it has been decided to constitute four committees to propose action in the areas of Platform and Data for A.I., Leveraging A.I. for identifying National Missions in Key Sectors, Mapping Technological capabilities key policy enablers required across sectors, skilling and re-skilling R. & D. and Cyber Security, Safety, Legal & Ethical Issues.

2. The constitution of the four Committees and Terms of Reference (ToR) are as below:

A. **Committee on Platforms and Data for A.I.** - The focus of this committee will be on building models/frameworks/platforms for collaborative work:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| (i) Prof. P.P. Chakraborty, I.I.T. Kharagpur | Chairman |
| (ii) Ms. Neeta Verma, D.G., N.I.C. | Member |
| (iii) Prof. Anupam Basu, Dir N.I.T. Durgapur | Member |
| (iv) Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharya, Dir I.I.T. Patna | Member |
| (v) Rep. from D.S.T. | Member |
| (vi) Rep. from (Google) | Member |
| (vii) Shri Gautam Shroff (T.C.S.) | Member |
| (viii) Shri Ganesh Mahabala (N.V.I.D.I.A.) | Member |
| (ix) Ahri Anant Maheshwari, Microsoft | Member |
| (x) Rep. from NASSCOM | Member |
| (xi) Dr. S.K. Srivastava, Scientist 'G', MeitY | Member |
| (xii) Ms. Kavita Bhatia, Scientist 'F' MeitY | Member |
| | Convener |

B. **Committee on Leverging A.I. for identifying National Missions in Key Sectors:**

- | | |
|---|----------|
| (i) Prof. Rajeev Sangal, I.I.T. (B.H.U.) | Chairman |
| (ii) Prof. Santanu Chaudhury, Dir C.E.E.R.I. Pilani | Member |

(iii) Prof. Hema Murthy, I.I.T. Madras	Member
(iv) Prof. Anil Gupta, I.I.M.A. and Sristy	Member
(v) Prof. C.V. Jawahar, I.I.T. Hyderabad	Member
(vi) Dr. Narendra Ahuja, D.I.C.	Member
(vii) Shri Sanjay Sinha, I.B.M. Watson	Member
(viii) Prof. B. Yegnanarayana, I.I.T. Hyderabad	Member
(ix) Rep. from NASSCOM	Member
(x) Rep. of NeGD	Member
(xi) Dr. B.K. Murthy, G.C. R.&D. in I.T.	Member Convener

C. Committee on Mapping Technological capabilities, Key Policy enables required across sectors. Skilling and Re-skilling, R. & D. :

(i) Shri R. Chandrasekhar, President NASSCOM	Chairman
(ii) Prof. u.b. Desai, I.I.T. Hyderabad	Member
(iii) Prof. Pankaj Jalote, I.I.T. Delhi	Member
(iv) Prof. Kamakoti, I.I.T. Madras	Member
(v) Shri Vishal Dhupar, N.V.I.D.I.A.	Member
(vi) Shri Shasi Kumar, C-D.A.C. Mumbai	Member
(vii) Dr. B.K. Murthy, G.C. R. & D. in I.T.	Member Convener

D. Committee on Cyber Security, Safety, Legal and Ethical Issues:

(i) Prof. Rajat Moona, Director I.I.T. Bhilai	Chairman
(ii) Shri A.S. Ramasastri, Director I.R.D.B.T.	Member
(iii) Prof. S.V. Raghavan	Member
(iv) Dr. Sanjay Bahl, D.G. Cert In	Member
(v) Dr. S.K. Srivastava, Scientist 'G', MeitY	Member
(vi) Shri Ashish Ghosh, I.S.I. Kolkata	Member
(vii) Prof. PonnurangamKumaraguru, I.I.T. Delhi	Member
(viii) Rep. from N.I.C.	Member
(ix) Rep. from D.S.C.I., NASSCOM	Member

(x) Rep. of Symantec	Member
(xi) Ms. Kavita Bhatia, Scientist 'F' MeitY	Member Convener

Terms of Reference of the Committees for A.I. Initiatives:

- (i) The committee shall identify key areas of applications for A.I. Technologies and make suitable recommendation/suggestions for the faster adoption of A.I. in these areas.
 - (ii) The committee would also identify areas in Government systems where A.I. techniques can be deployed to lower cost and improved service.
 - (iii) The committee would also suggest technical framework/platform for A.I. This would also address data availability resources.
 - (iv) The committee should recommend policy relating to legal framework, data privacy and Cyber Security issues.
 - (v) Suggest ways to address/concern about use of A.I. employability, skilling and Re-Skilling challenges.
 - (vi) The committee will recommend R. & D. framework for promoting research in the A.I. areas and setting up of Centre of Excellence (CoE) in these areas.
3. The Chairman of the committee can co-opt/invite experts to the committee as and when required. T.A./D.A. for non-official members would be borne by MeitY as per Government norms.
 4. This issues with the approval of Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

(Rajesh Suri)

Deputy Director

1. Chairman, Members and Member Convenors of the Committee.
2. P.A.O., MeitY/D.D.O., MeitY
3. J.S.(G.S.)/G.C.(B.L.M.)/Dir(K.B.)
4. O.S.D. to Secretary, MeitY.

[Translation]

5G Network

4179. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch 5G network in the country very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 5G network facility is likely to be very cheap as compared to the other countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The radio spectrum and the telecom licenses, being awarded by the Government are technology neutral and ready to facilitate deployment of any network/services across the country, including 5G network/services, within the licensing framework using the liberalised spectrum. To harness the benefit of emerging new technologies, particularly the 5G technologies and its adoption, the Department of Telecommunications will support establishment of an indigenous 5G Test Bed at Indian Institute of Technology (I.I.T.), Chennai.

(c) and (d) Pricing is decided by Telecom Service Providers based on demand and competition from time to time.

Railway Schools

4180. SHRI VIKRAM USENDI :
DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway schools across the country including Chhattisgarh at present;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of teachers in some of the said schools;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said vacant posts are likely to be filled; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of education in the said schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways is running 121 Railway schools in the country including 6 schools in Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) Certain vacancies of teachers exist in

Railway schools. However, occurrence of vacancies and recruitment is a continuous process for which indents are placed on Railway Recruitment Boards by the concerned Zonal Railways.

(d) To improve the quality of education in Railway schools, trainings are organized for Railway school teachers from time to time. Also, emphasis is laid on improving the infrastructure in Railway schools. Besides, engagement of contract teachers is allowed pending regular filling up of vacancies.

Retirement Age

4181. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the retirement age of Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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) No Madam.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

[English]

R. & D. Activities in Science and Technology

4182. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds made for R. & D. activities in Science and Technology for the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of the researches undertaken during the said period;

(c) the steps being taken for the promotion of study of science and technology in the State; and

(d) the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The Ministry of Science and Technology do not have any provision for making State-wise allocations for funds. However, the Ministry is implementing various Research and Development (R. & D.) schemes/projects with S. & T. institutions, Universities

and Non-Governmental Organizations (N.G.Os) in the country including in the State of Assam through competitive grant mechanism.

The table below gives the details of funds provided by the Ministry of Science & Technology in the State of Assam to carry out R. & D. activities during the last three years:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Organization	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total
Ministry of Science & Technology, G.O.I. including D.S.T., D.B.T. and D.S.I.R.	451991.29	549505.87	718196.71	1719693.87

(b) The Department of Science and Technology (D.S.T.) is supporting projects in R. & D. through its various programmes & schemes. These include Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (I.N.S.P.I.R.E.), R. & D. support through Science and Engineering Research Board (S.E.R.B.), Young Scientist Support, Fund for Improvement of S. & T. Infrastructure in Universities and other Higher Educational Institutions (F.I.S.T.), North Eastern Special Package-F.I.S.T./Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (P.U.R.S.E.), State Science and Technology (S.S.T.P.) Programme, and Patent Facilitation Cell (P.F.C.) Programme, NanoTechnology, Water Technology Initiative (W.T.I.), Clean Energy Research Initiative (C.E.R.I.), National S. & T. Entrepreneurship Development Board (N.S.T.E.D.B.), National Council for S. & T. Communication (N.C.S.T.C.), Mission for Geo Spatial Applications, Infrastructure Development Programme (I.D.P.) etc.

All these schemes are open for the stake holders of the State of Assam also.

(c) The following steps were taken by the Ministry through its Constituents Departments to increase the pace of development of Science and Technology in the State of Assam:-

Department of Biotechnology provides 10% of its budgetary support for the N.E. region. Department of Biotechnology (D.B.T.) implements schemes such as D.B.T.-N.E.R. Twinning Programme, D.B.T's e-Library Consortia (N.E.R.-DeLCON), Overseas Fellowship/ Associateship for N.E.R. Scientists, Biotech Hubs, Development/Upgradation infrastructure in medical colleges, D.B.T. centre for agriculture biotechnology, Centre of Excellence at College of Fisheries etc. the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is implementing scheme such as Techno entrepreneur Promotion Programme (TeP.P.), and National Laboratories Scheme of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

1. Establishment of D.B.T.-N.E.R. Centre for "Advanced Animal Diagnostics and Services on Animal Health and Diseases (A.D.S.A.H.D.)" at College of Veterinary Sciences, Assam Agricultural University, Assam and stake holders from all N.E.R. States.
2. Establishment of a Regional "D.B.T. Animal House Facility for Biotechnology Research in North-Eastern Region", Dibrugarh, Assam.
3. D.B.T. - Assam Agricultural University (A.A.U.) Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology (Centres of Excellence) has been established and fully functional at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.
4. A D.B.T.-N.E.R. Centre for "Advance Animal Disease Diagnostic & Management Consortium (A.D.MaC.)" is being established in N.E.R. and B.S.L.-III laboratory at College of Veterinary Sciences, A.A.U.-Guwahati.
5. Establishment of X-ray crystallography facility for the N.E.R. at I.I.T. Guwahati.
6. Establishment of a Comprehensive Facility for

Diagnosis and Management of Genetic Disorders at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, Assam.

7. Setting up of State Level Biotech Hub at College of Veterinary Sciences, Assam Agricultural University, Guwahati.
8. Setting up of Biotech Laboratories at Senior Secondary Schools (B.LiS.S.).
9. Support to more than 250 R. & D. projects under D.B.T's Twinning Programme, D.S.T. and D.S.I.R. programme at various S. & T. Institutions in the State of Assam like Assam Agricultural University, Tezpur University, Assam University, Guwahati University, I.I.T. Guwahati, L.A.S.S.T., N.E.I.S.T., Dibrugarh University in collaboration with I.I.Sc, I.I.Ts, I.C.G.E.B., A.I.I.M.S. Delhi University, I.A.R.I., J.N.U., were undertaken.
10. Increasing the umbrella of support of grant under scheme of S.E.R.B.-Empowerment and Equity Opportunities for Excellence in Science to ensure participation of weaker sections of the Society in R. & D.
11. Increasing the grant in aid support to D.S.T. - Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility at Guwahati University.
12. Increasing the support under D.S.T. - F.I.S.T. programme to create Infrastructure of R. & D. in the universities Science and Engineering Department.
13. Supporting State S. & T. Council in Assam to carry out S. & T.

(d) In the State of Assam, the Ministry through its constituent Department of Science and Technology has supported 30 National Post doctoral fellowship at a total cost of 561 lakhs, 12 opportunities provided to Scientists of weaker sections under scheme of Empowerment and Equity Opportunities for Excellence in Science for R. & D. at a total cost of Rs. 3.61 Crore. 22 Departments of 4 Universities/Institutions supported for creating R. & D. Infrastructure to the tune of Rs. 4409.00 Lakh

Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility at Guwahati university was provided financial support of Rs. 230.98, An additional grant of Rs. 50.0 lakhs was provided to Assam State Council for Science and Technology for development of S. & T. proposal on location specific challenges for the State.

The Department of Biotechnology has established 6 biotech facilities/regional centres, 62 Institutional Level Biotech Hubs, 52 Biotech Laboratories at Senior Secondary Schools (B.LiS.S.), 9 Units of Excellence (U-Excel) in Biotechnology, A Bio Tech Park was also established at Guwahati. 8 colleges were given Star college status, Bioinformatics facility have been created in 11 Institutions of Assam. 52 Scientists/faculty have been provided Overseas Associateship from Assam. In addition D.B.Ts e-Library facility was extended to Guwahati University, Tezpur University, Assam Agricultural University, I.I.T. Guwahati and nearby Colleges.

Ministry has undertaken around 150 R. & D. projects in D.B.Ts Twinning Programme for N.E.R. at various institutions like Assam Agricultural University, Tezpur University, Assam University, Guwahati University, I.I.T. Guwahati, I.A.S.S.T., N.E.I.S.T., Dibrugarh University in collaboration with Institutions of national importance.

[Translation]

All India Judicial Services

4183. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of All India Judicial Service for subordinate judiciary;

(b) the details of various opinions given by the State Governments ad courts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has completed the consultation process in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove the objections raised by various High Courts 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 (e) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of All India Judicial Service (A.I.J.S.) which was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held in April, 2013 wherein it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the state Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. While some State Governments and High Courts were not in favour of creation of All India Judicial Service, some other State Governments and High Courts wanted changes in the proposal formulated by the Central Government.

Only High Courts of Sikkim and Tripura have concurred with the proposal approved by Committee of Secretaries for formation of All India Judicial Service. High Courts of Allahabad, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh have suggested changes in age at induction level, qualifications, training and quota of vacancies to be filled through All India Judicial Service. Rest of High Courts have not favoured the idea. Most of the High Courts want the administrative control over the Subordinate Judiciary to remain with the respective High Courts. The High Courts of Jharkhand and Rajasthan have indicated that the matter regarding creation of A.I.J.S. is pending consideration. No response has been received as yet from the High Courts of Calcutta, Jammu and Kashmir and Gauhati.

The State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Punjab do not favour the formation of A.I.J.S.. The State Government of Maharashtra wants the recruitment to be done at Judicial Magistrate First Class (J.M.F.C.) level which is not in consonance with the provisions of A.I.J.S. as included in the Constitution of India. The State Governments of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Odisha and Uttarakhand want changes in the proposal formulated by the Central

Government. The State Government of Haryana has stated that the proposal seems to be justified. The State Government of Mizoram has supported creation of A.I.J.S. on the lines of I.A.S., I.P.S. and other Central Services. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has mentioned that provisions of Constitution of India for formation of A.I.J.S. incorporated in the Constitution by 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 are not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. No response has yet been received from rest of the states.

The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 05th April, 2015. However, no progress was made on the subject. The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges/judicial officers at all level was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference, which was held on 03rd and 04th April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously.

However, keeping in view the divergence of opinion among the stakeholders on constitution of All India Judicial Service, the Government has undertaken the consultative process to arrive at a common ground.

Gauge Conversion

4184. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether entire network of Railways is being brought under broad-gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the number of projects pending for over two years out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) To ensure smooth and uninterrupted movement of passengers and goods, Railways has decided to convert the existing Meter Gauge/Narrow Gauge Lines into Broad Gauge Lines except heritage Lines and Lines having dead ends. At present 57 projects having balance length of 4683 km have been taken up for gauge conversion. Presently 33 projects of gauge conversion are in progress which were included prior to budget 2016-17 and completion of a Railway Projects require a number of clearances/ approvals including Land Acquisition, forestry, provision of underpasses and road over bridges etc.

Passenger Amenities

4185. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and utilised for the passenger amenities/facilities at railway stations and in trains during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(b) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding shortage of passenger amenities at railway stations and in trains during the said period, zone-wise; and

(c) the details of the follow-up action taken by the Government, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Funds allocated and utilised for planhead Passenger Amenities from Budgetary sources during the last three years and the current year; zone-wise are as under -

(Rs. in Cr.)

Railway zones	RE 2014-2015	Actual 2014-2015	RE 2015-2016	Actual 2015-2016	RE 2016-2017	Actual 2016-2017	RE 2017-2018	Exp. end Feb' 18
Central	77.00	67.88	85.10	78.74	73.93	74.07	141.53	115.09
Eastern	91.42	70.71	67.22	62.97	51.85	48.41	85.21	38.07
Northern	125.80	85.46	128.30	109.33	78.15	94.93	174.12	140.72
North Eastern	41.96	22.34	55.00	71.94	107.69	109.84	92.81	79.56
Northeast Frontier	50.48	44.71	53.17	54.09	50.75	45.81	56.83	20.64
Southern	62.58	69.87	107.77	95.91	61.18	70.68	148.52	79.94
South Central	104.24	77.33	101.65	94.82	64.41	68.56	90.96	51.98
South Eastern	56.37	53.22	72.12	65.60	47.46	60.08	80.25	66.05
Western	58.62	42.65	52.21	49.61	48.73	47.96	126.50	95.73
East Central	53.17	44.89	82.53	63.75	52.78	65.76	72.03	67.05
East Coast	55.00	40.53	59.66	57.47	47.78	56.42	75.09	48.69
North Central	90.22	74.96	81.46	52.62	56.87	60.34	105.53	59.44
North Western	42.18	35.58	60.31	66.07	53.42	55.59	57.87	65.11
South East Central	39.57	36.12	48.71	31.38	29.55	31.50	32.60	20.73
South Western	35.82	31.88	69.61	60.22	42.63	41.93	64.19	41.5
West Central	49.92	54.65	71.31	63.50	45.29	43.78	58.55	39.23
Metro Rly/Kolkata	11.56	5.83	3.99	3.19	5.44	5.58	8.20	3.02
Total	1045.91	858.61	1200.12	1081.21	917.91	981.24	1470.79	1032.55

(b)

(b) A statement of zone-wise complaints regarding shortage of passenger amenities is given below:

S.No.	Railway	2015-16 (1.4.15 to 31.3.16)	2016-17 (1.4.16 to 31.3.17)	2017-18 1.4.17 to 28.2.18
1.	Central	2010	4158	4093
2.	Eastern	645	1283	1470
3.	Northern	3335	7986	9109
4.	North Eastern	388	1013	1355
5.	Northeast Frontier	1014	2136	2213
6.	Southern	2185	4045	3429
7.	South Central	1039	2336	2876
8.	South Eastern	960	1581	1742
9.	Western	1628	3078	3124
10.	East Central	1247	1938	2516
11.	East Coast	892	1671	1605
12.	North Central	1016	1950	1976
13.	North Western	789	1534	1385
14.	South East Central	241	454	575
15.	South Western	1169	1940	1879
16.	West Central	681	1536	1725
Total		19239	38639	41072

(c) These complaints are forwarded to concerned authorities for prompt redressal.

[English]

C.I.C. Directions

4186. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Information Commission (C.I.C.) has issued directions to public authorities from time to time for greater transparency while deciding the cases of appeals and complaints;

(b) if so, whether any compilation has been made of such directions, till date;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any mechanism has been established for monitoring compliance with the C.I.C.'s directions by the central public authorities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) Central Information Commission (C.I.C.) from time to time issues directions or advice to the specific public authority while hearing of

the second Appeals/Complaints cases of that public authority.

No Compilation of such directions has been made.

(d) and (e) The Central Information Commission (C.I.C.), based on complaints and also on its own, looks into non-compliance of its orders in accordance with the provisions of the R.T.I. Act.

[Translation]

Digital India Programme

4187. PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of Digital India Programme, the target fixed under the same and the status of Madhya Pradesh with regard to the said programme so far;

(b) the details of the share of registered companies under the said Digital India campaign;

(c) whether the Government has identified new sectors for which urgent digital initiative is required and whether the Digital India Programme has been introduced by the Government at the district level;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the new initiatives taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make all districts digitally connected and the time frame earmarked for the same?

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) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India has initiated the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments & States/UTs and is being coordinated by MeitY. Each project has its own budgetary requirement and accordingly project-plan has been charted out by the implementing departments.

The present status of some of the key initiatives undertaken under Digital India programme is as follows:

Pillar 1 : Broadband Highways

- Under National Optical Fibre Network (N.O.F.N.)/ BharatNet project, 2.67 lakh KMs of optical fibre pulled for 1,13,467 GPs and 1,04,548 GPs have been connected so far till 11.03.2018. In Madhya Pradesh, as on 11.03.2018, by laying a total length of 37583 km Optical Fibre Cable (O.F.C.), 12,231 GPs have been connected, out of which 11,102 GPs have been made Service Ready.

Pillar 2 : Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity

- Rural Tele-density is 56.54% (as on 30th November, 2017).

Pillar 3 : Public Internet Access Programme

- **Common Service Centres** are taking digital services to every corner of India. Till February, 2018, there are 2,92,481 Common Service Centres (C.S.Cs) functioning across the country, of which, 1,83,184 C.S.Cs are at Gram Panchayat (G.P.) level. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, there are 20,835 Common Service Centres (C.S.Cs) functioning across the State, of which, 14,976 C.S.Cs are at Gram Panchayat (G.P.) level.

Pillar 4 : E-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology (as on 28th February, 2018)

- **Aadhaar** : Aadhaar provides 12 digit biometric and demographic based identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable. Further to give statutory backing to Aadhaar 'The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016' was notified. Over 120+ crore residents have been enrolled. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, over 7.49 crore residents have been enrolled.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (D.B.T.):** 432 schemes of 56 Ministries/Departments are there on D.B.T. platform. An amount of more than Rs. 3.44 lakh crore has been transferred through D.B.T. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, 59 schemes of 11 Ministries/Departments are on-boarded on D.B.T. platform

- **E-Office:** It is a Digital Workplace Solution which aims to usher in efficient, effective and transparent inter-government and intra-government transactions and processes. N.I.C. has implemented e-Office Portal in 149 Central Government (Ministries/Departments) and 122 State Government (Secretaries/District Administrations).

Pillar 5 : eKranti-Electronic delivery of services

- 3541 e-services are being provided through 44 Mission Mode Projects (M.M.Ps) under e-Kranti. More than 3081 crore e-transactions with an average of 252 crore transaction per month were done during the year 2017. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, 145 e-Services have been integrated with eTaal platform and more than 4.36 crore digital transactions since 1st January, 2018.

Pillar 6 : Information for All (as on 28th February, 2018)

- **MyGov Platform:** 45 Ministries are engaged actively on MyGov platform, reaching out to the citizens through the fundamental concepts of Do, Discuss and Disseminate. Presently, 53.26 lakh users are registered with MuGov, participating in various activities hosted on MyGov platform. MyGov activities are structured under 63 groups consisting of 718 tasks, 762 discussions, 243 Polls/Surveys and 166 talks.
- **Open Government Data Platform:** The portal is intended to be used by Government of India Ministries/Departments their organizations to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and applications collected by them for public use. As on 28th February, 2018, over 160,223 dataset resources under 4,239 catalogs contributed by 110 Ministries/Departments (85 Central and 25 States). 1,344 Visualizations created, 3617-Application Programming Interfaces (A.P.Is) created, 115 Chief Data Officers. O.G.D. India has 15.13 million times viewed and 5.53 million datasets have been downloaded.

Pillar 7 : Electronics Manufacturing - Target NET ZERO Imports (as on 28th February, 2018)

- 242 Investment proposals under Modified Specific Incentive Programmes (M.S.I.Ps) having a proposed

investment of Rs. 91,642 crore have been so far received. 107 proposals with proposed investments of Rs. 21,494 crore have been approved.

- 21 Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (18 Greenfield E.M.Cs and 3 Common Facility Centre (C.F.C.) in Brownfield E.M.C.) have been granted final approval and are under implementation.
- Electronic Development Fund has been launched and 22 daughter funds have been approved with a commitment of Rs. 1,227 crore involving a total targeted corpus of Rs. 10,900 crore.

Pillar 8 : I.T. for Jobs (as on 28th February, 2018)

- 48,300 seats have been approved under India B.P.O. scheme and over 31,732 seats have been allocated across 20 States and 2 U.Ts. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, 3200 seats have been approved out of which 900 seats have been allocated.
- 5000 seats have been approved for B.P.Os in North East and 1,610 seats have been allocated across 5 States in N.E.R.
- Under National Digital Literacy Mission/Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (N.D.L.M./D.I.S.H.A.), 53.67 lakh have been trained. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (P.M.G.D.I.S.H.A.) has been launched in October, 2017.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (P.M.G.D.I.S.H.A.):** The scheme is aimed at empowering the citizens by providing them access to information, knowledge and skills for operating computers/digital access devices. Under the Scheme, a total of more than 1.18 crore candidates have been registered out of which more than 55.50 lakh candidates have been duly certified. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, under P.M.G.D.I.S.H.A. Scheme 7,48,491 persons have been registered under the scheme out of which 3,51,875 have been duly certified.
- **Information Security Education and Awareness (I.S.E.A.) Project Phase-II:** The Information Security Education and Awareness (I.S.E.A.) Project Phase-II was approved with an objective of capacity building in the area of Information Security, training of

Government personnel and creation of mass Information Security awareness. So far, 28,069 candidates have been trained in various formal/non-formal courses and 4,457 Government officials have been trained in various short term courses in the area of Information Security. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, so far, 1,177 candidates have been trained and 96 Government officials have been trained. Besides this, 10 half day general awareness workshops on Information Security have been organized for various user groups covering 2,629 participants.

Pillr 9 : Early Harvest Programme (as on 28th February, 2018)

- Over 107 lakh Digital Lockers have been opened. About 139 lakh documents have been self-uploaded. 42 Issuers and 18 Requester Organizations have been on-boarded. Digital Locker Authority has been constituted and Digital Locker rules have been notified.
 - **e-Hospital/Online Registration System (O.R.S.)** : It has been operational in 142 hospitals and more than 13 lakh appointments have been taken online. In the State of Madhya Pradesh, e-Hospital has been implemented in 10 hospitals.
 - **Public Wi-Fi hotspots** : Wi-Fi services have been provided at 90 tourist sites across the country.
 - **The National Scholarship Portal (N.S.P.)** has been developed as a one-stop solution to implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries. The process includes student registration, application, approval and disbursement. It has enabled nearly 1.66 crore students to submit application on a single portal for 52 different scholarship schemes.
 - **National Centre for Geo-Informatics (N.CoG.)** provides Geographical Information System (G.I.S.) based services to Government Ministries/Departments for sharing collaboration, location based analytics and decision support system (D.S.S.) for various organizations. So far, 25 applications across various domains are operational.
 - Rapid Assessment System has been integrated with 947 e-Services of 178 departments in 28 States/UTs.
 - **Jeevan Pramaan** is an Aadhaar enabled biometric Digital Life Certificate for pensioners. More than 159 lakh pensioners have registered themselves to avail of this facility for their life certificates.
 - **eSign - Online Electronic Signature Service:** eSign is an initiative for easy, efficient, and secure signing of electronic documents by an Aadhaar holder. Five agencies namely EMudhra Ltd., C-D.A.C., (n)Code Solutions, N.S.D.L., e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd. and Capricorn have been empaneled to offer e-Sign Services. Over 4.70+ crore eSigns have been issued.
- (b) Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments & States/UTs and is being implemented by concern Ministry/Department. Each Ministry/Department and States/UTs have their own agreement with registered companies/agencies.
- (c) and (d) The Government has identified several new areas and the details of some of the new initiatives undertaken are as follows:
- **Unified App for New-age Governance (UMANG):** UMANG is an initiative to build a common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate single point of access for government services through mobile. Through the application, citizens can access high impact pan India e-Gov services from the Central Government, State Governments, local bodies and their agencies and, even those from private sector. At present, 196 services from 38 departments and 4 States are available on UMANG.
 - **Government e-Marketplace (GeM):** To facilitate online procurement of Goods & Services required by the various Government Departments/Organizations/P.S.U.s. GeM will enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It will also provide the tools of e-bidding and reverse e-auction as well as demand aggregation to facilitate efficient procurement. Presently, GeM is being used by 16,471 Organisations of Central Govt and States/UTs. 46,804 Sellers and Service providers are registered on the portal

- **National Centre of Geo-informatics (N.CoG):** It provides Geographical Information system (G.I.S.) based services to Government Ministries/Departments for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and decision support system (D.S.S.) for various organizations. So far, 25 applications across various domains are operational.
- **eSign - Online Electronic Signature Service:** eSign is an initiative for easy, efficient and secure signing of electronic documents by an Aadhaar holder. Five agencies namely eMudhra Ltd., C-D.A.C., (n)Code Solutions, N.S.D.L. e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd. and Capricorn have been empaneled to offer e-Sign Services.
- **Digital Locker :** Digital Locker System serves as a platform to enable citizens to securely store and share their document with service providers who can directly access them electronically. Over 107 lakh Digital Lockers have been opened. About 139 lakh documents have been self-uploaded. 42 Issuers and 18 Requester Organizations have been on-boarded.
- **e-Hospital/Online Registration System (O.R.S.) :** It includes online appointment and registration by new patients, viewing of lab reports, checking the status of blood availability and integration with payment gateway (PayGov). Online Registration System (O.R.S.) has been made operational in 142 hospitals and more than 13 lakh appointments have been taken online.
- **Rapid Assessment System (R.A.S.) :** R.A.S. is a continuous feedback system for e-services delivered through various Digital India platforms and various e-Gov applications. Rapid Assessment System has been integrated with 947 e-Services of 178 departments in 28 States/UTs.
- **Digital Literacy :** The Government has initiated a scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan" (P.M.G. DISHA) for ushering in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households.
 - (e) MeitY is implementing following schemes to make all districts digitally connected.
- **State Wide Area Network (S.W.A.N.):** Under this scheme, technical and financial assistance are being provided to the States/UTs for establishing S.W.A.Ns to connect all State/U.T. Headquarters up to the Block level via District/sub-Divisional Headquarters, in a vertical hierarchical structure with a minimum bandwidth of 2 Mbps per link. Presently, S.W.A.Ns have been made operational in 34 States/UTs.
- **e-District :** e-District is a Mission Mode project (M.M.P.) that aims at electronic delivery of identified high volume citizen centric services at the district or sub-district level. The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India (GoI) is the nodal Ministry for e-District M.M.P. This M.M.P. is being implemented by State Governments/ U.T. Administrations through their designated agencies. Presently, e-District services have been launched in 649 districts across 32 States/UTs.
- National Informatics Centre (N.I.C.), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has its District Centres at the District level and all the districts are digitally connected. N.I.C. district centres provide I.T. support to the district Administration.

[English]

Gadwal-Macherla Rail Line

4188. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is in receipt of any fresh representation seeking approval for Gadwal-Macherla Railway Line and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of the project as on date; and

(c) the steps being taken for early completion of the railway line as considerable delay has already been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. Fresh representation was received from one of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

(b) and (c) Survey for Gadwal-Macherla New Line (184.20) km completed in year 2010 with a cost of Rs. 920 cr. with R.O.R. of (-) 3.98% with 13% cost sharing by

State Govt. and (-) 1.87% with 50% cost sharing by State Govt.

After bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh State, Govt. of Telangana was requested for sharing cost of the project but no response was received.

Gadwal-Macherla new railway line project has been included in Capital Investment programme of 2016-17 in anticipation of State Govt. coming forward for cost sharing. J.V. agreement is yet to be signed by Govt. of Telangana.

Management of Defence Land

4189. KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:
PROF. SAUGATA ROY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of defence land under encroachment in the country, location and State-wise including in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for such encroachment along with irregularities and illegalities in the management of defence lands noticed;

(c) whether the encroachments are allegedly with the help of concerned State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to do away with irregularities and illegalities and retrieve the encroached Defence land of the country including in Bundelkhand region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) A total of 9980.1185 acres of defence land is under encroachment in the country. The details of defence land under encroachment in the country, state-wise is enclosed as Statement. Out of this, 90.472 acres of defence land is under encroachment in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The main reasons for encroachments, unauthorized occupation and problems in the management of defence land are given below:-

(i) Defence land is spread all over the country and have not been completely fenced.

(ii) Lack of survey and demarcation of defence land in the past.

(iii) Non completion of mutation of land in records of State Government in favour of Ministry of Defence in some cases.

(iv) Increased pressure on land due to urbanization and slums.

(v) Land under expired agricultural leases continues to remain under the occupation of ex-lessees in some cases.

(vi) In some cases, defence lands have been occupied by the State Government authorities for various public infrastructure and utility projects and vacation of such lands has not been possible as such and efforts are being made to regularize their occupation.

(c) and (d) As such State Governments have not abetted in encroaching defence lands but for occupying of some defence land for their own offices and public utilities.

(e) Detection, prevention and removal of encroachment is a continuous exercise. Action for removal of encroachments on defence land are taken under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 as well as under the cantonment Act, 2006. Cases are also taken up with State or Municipal authorities for resolution of the problem. The Government has undertaken the following steps to check encroachments:-

(i) Strengthening of defence land management by way of digitisation of land records, Survey, demarcation and verification of defence lands and land audit.

(ii) Issue of detailed instructions by the Government emphasizing the need for ensuring vigilance, detection and prevention of new encroachments.

(iii) The process of defence land audit has been institutionalized from 2011-12 as a continuing process.

(iv) Court cases are being pursued to evict encroachers.

- (v) Close Liason is being maintained with revenue and civil police authorities to detect attempt to encroach upon the defence land by encroachers.
- (vi) Defence lands located in isolated locations are being fenced and regular patrolling is being carried out to sageguard the lands from encroachers and unauthorized construction.

Statement

State/U.T.-wise details of Encroachments on Defence Land (as on 30.06.2017)

<i>State</i>	<i>Area (in acres)</i>
Andhra Pradesh	21.97
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25.62
Assam	464.756
Arunachal Pradesh	87.814
Bihar	478.974
Chandigarh	0
Chhattisgarh	165.768
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
Daman and Diu	0
Delhi	111.301
Goa	4.3
Gujarat	164.4572
Haryana	737.446
Himachal Pradesh	60.1571
Jammu and Kashmir	363.6848
Jharkhand	304.932
Karnataka	139.4023
Kerala	2.6839
Lakshadweep	0
Maharashtra	914.713913
Madhya Pradesh	1647.4117
Manipur	6.123
Meghalaya	10.6588

<i>State</i>	<i>Area (in acres)</i>
Mizoram	0
Nagaland	357.53
Odisha	0.27
Puducherry	0
Punjab	240.8314
Rajasthan	484.2085
Sikkim	0.299
Telangana	150.0518
Tamil Nadu	147.1667
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	2276.8759
Uttarakhand	55.1443
West Bengal	554.5672
Total	9980.118513

[Translation]

Political Instability in Nepal

4190. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the frequent change of Government and political instability in the neighbouring country of Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of measures taken by the Government to ensure that the Indians living in border areas are not affected by the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) and (b) In accordance with relevant constitutional provisions and as part of the political transition, Nepal has undergone local body, federal parliament and first-ever provincial elections in the last eleven months. After declaration of election results, a new government in Nepal has been sworn in with Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli as the Prime Minister on 15 February, 2018.

(c) The open border between India and Nepal has facilitated people to people contacts and free movement of citizens of both the countries. A comprehensive institutional bilateral framework is in place to strengthen cross-border cooperation between the two countries. The Government of India is committed to the welfare and safeguarding the interests of Indian Nationals living in border areas.

[English]

Creation of Jobs

4191. DR. P. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to draw a road map for creation of jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is true that a discussion in this regard has been held involving all ministries; and

(d) 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 (d) An Expert Taskforce on Employment and Exports was constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to provide a major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. The Taskforce also had Secretaries from some of the Ministries. The Taskforce has since submitted its report.

The Government of India is undertaking a number of initiatives for creation of jobs and improving access to opportunities for decent employment and entrepreneurship. The major initiatives undertaken include Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana to cover all sectors for payment of Employees Provident Fund (E.P.F.) contribution of new employees for the next three years, implementation of fixed term employment in all sectors, Amendments in Employees Provident Fund Organization (E.P.F.O.) act to reduce contribution of women employees from 12% to 8%; providing credit support, capital and interest support to Micro, Small and Medium enterprises; MUDRA Yojana to make available collateral free easy loan especially to the marginalized section of society viz. women, S.C./S.T. &

O.B.C. The allocation under various employment generation programmes such as Prime Minister Employment generation programme, A.S.P.I.R.E. (A scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and entrepreneurship) has seen an increased trend. The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme focuses on providing hands-on training to the prospective workforce with a provision of stipend support from Government of India to the industry to make the youth job ready.

Telephone Advisory Committee

4192. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Advisory Committee (T.A.C.) meetings are held regularly at circle and Secondary Switching Area (S.S.A.) levels in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/U.T.-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the suggestions made by members of Parliament (M.Ps) and other members of the committee are not implemented, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the current status of the meetings held at the circle level;

(d) whether the M.Ps attend these meetings and if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure their attendance; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government to ensure attendance of MPs in all the S.S.As of the Parliament Constituency of the said M.Ps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Madam, Telephone Advisory Committees (T.A.Cs) are constituted at telecom district level and not at the circle level. T.A.C. meetings are held regularly by B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L. The state-wise details of number of T.A.C. meetings held at S.S.A. level in B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L. are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(b) No Madam, the suggestions made by Hon'ble Members of Parliament (M.Ps) and other members of the Telephone Advisory Committee (T.A.Cs) are being implemented as per feasibility.

(c) Madam, Telephone Advisory Committees (T.A.Cs) are constituted at telecom district level and not at the circle level. However, the state-wise details of number of T.A.C. meetings held at S.S.A. level in B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L. area are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) and (e) Yes Madam, Hon'ble Members of Parliament (M.Ps) attend the T.A.C. meetings. The dates of T.A.C. meetings are decided by B.S.N.L./M.T.N.L. in consultation with Hon'ble M.Ps to ensure their presence in the meetings.

Statement-I

Details of T.A.C. meetings conducted by B.S.N.L. at S.S.A. level in each state during the period 15-11-2016 to 13-3-2018 (T.A.C. Session 2016-18)

Sl.No.	Name of States	No. of T.A.C. meetings conducted at S.S.A. level during the period 15-11-2016 to 13-3-2018
1	2	3
1.	Andman and Nicobar	0*
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26
3.	Asam	8
4.	Bihar	16
5.	Chhatisgarh	12
6.	Gujarat	21
7.	Haryana	18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	8
10.	Jharkhand	9
11.	Karnataka	25
12.	Kerala	25
13.	Madhya Pradesh	62
14.	Maharashtra	51
15.	North East-I	6

1	2	3
16.	North East-II	5
17.	Odisha	25
18.	Punjab	20
19.	Rajasthan	48
20.	Tamil Nadu	27
21.	Telangana	16
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	29
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	27
24.	Uttarakhand	9
25.	West Bengal	8
26.	Kaolkata Telephones	6
27.	Chennai Telephones	7
Total		526

*B.S.N.L. has intimated that T.A.C. meeting could not be conducted in Andaman & Nicobar so far as Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Hon'ble M.P. (Lok Sabha) has been contacted for the date for conducting of T.A.C. meetings, but the date confirmation is awaited from the Hon'ble M.P.

Statement-II

Status of T.A.C. meetings conducted at S.S.A. level in M.T.N.L. area during the period 15-11-2016 to 13-3-2018 (T.A.C. Session 2016-18)

S.No.	Name of M.T.N.L. area	No. of T.A.C. meetings conducted at S.S.A. level during the period 15-11-2016 to 13-3-2018
1.	Delhi	13
2.	Mumbai	17

B.P.L. People

4193. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70 per cent of the total population of people living Below Poverty Line (B.P.L.)

belongs to Scheduled Castes (S.Cs), Scheduled Tribes (S.Ts), Other Backward Classes (O.B.Cs) and Minority communities;

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

(c) whether a number of working groups in their reports have recommended implementation of special programmes to uplift their economic conditions; and

(d) if so, the details of the specific steps/action taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

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 official poverty estimates are based on Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (N.S.S.O.) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by N.S.S.O. in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. Based on this data, the erstwhile Planning Commission estimated poverty lines and poverty ratio in 2011-12 following the extant Tendulkar Committee methodology and released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July, 2013. At present the number of persons living below poverty line in India has been estimated as 27 crore (21.92%) in 2011-12. The estimates of Poverty Ratio among social groups are given below :

Social Groups	Rural (%) 2011-12	Urban (%) 2011-12
Scheduled Tribes	45.3	24.1
Scheduled Castes	31.5	21.7
Other Backward Castes	22.6	15.4
Others	15.5	8.2
All Population	25.7	13.7

The Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the contry through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes viz. Pradhan Manti Awaas Yojana (P.M.A.Y.),

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (M.G.N.A.R.E.G.A.), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (D.A.Y.-N.R.L.M.), Deendayal Antyoday Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission (D.A.Y.-N.U.L.M.), National Social Assistance Programme (N.S.A.P.), Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (P.M.J.D.Y.), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana (D.D.U.-G.K.Y.), Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (S.P.M.R.M.), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (P.M.S.B.Y.), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana etc.

[*Translation*]

Next Generation Technology Loop

4194. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru has developed next generation technology loop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the area in which the said technology is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The loop has been designed to generate the necessary data for future development of super critical carbon dioxide based power plant utilizing both conventional and renewable energy sources and to develop critical components such as the turbine, compressor and heat exchangers that can work at the desired pressure and temperature ranges using appropriate materials.

(c) The technology is for next generation efficient, compact water less super critical carbon di-oxide brayton cycle power plants.

[*English*]

Interoperability among Navy, Army and Air Force

4195. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has completed successfully the exercise to build interoperability among Indian Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard recently and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the exercise tested operational readiness of Indian Navy's Western Command and execution of its operational plans, logistics and administrative plans and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it also rehearsed defence of Indian offshore assets like oil rigs, escort operations of merchant ships and coastal defence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) The Joint Exercise are regularly conducted by the Services and coordination mechanisms are in place.

Joint Special Forces Tri-Services Training Camp (J.S.F.T.C.) is conducted every year since 2015.

Amongst others, the aim is to determine the operational ability of all the three forces including the defences of offshore assets to undertake operations swiftly in a synchronised manner.

International Incoming Call Termination Rates

4196. SHRI V. ELUMALAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) has slashed international incoming call termination rates to 30 paise from 53 paise and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the industry body Cellular Operators Association of India (C.O.A.I.) has opined that the decision will lead to an annual revenue loss of Rs. 2,000 crore which Indian telecom operators earn from foreign telecom service providers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and 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) In order to review Interconnection Usage Charges, T.R.A.I. has issued a Consultation Paper (C.P.) on "Review of Interconnection Usage Charges" on 05.08.2016 wherein, *inter-alia*, issues related to "International Termination Charges" were raised for consultation with stakeholders. The Authority has conducted an Open House Discussion (O.H.D.) on 20.07.2017 in New Delhi, which was attended by many stakeholders. In order to give more deliberation on the issue of International Termination charges, the Authority also conducted a Workshop on "Review of International Termination Charges" on 16.10.2017 in New Delhi. The Workshop was attended by International Long Distance Operators (I.L.D.Os) who carry voice traffic to/from India and Access Service Providers.

After examining comments of stakeholders and due deliberations, T.R.A.I. has issued "The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Fourteenth Amendment) Regulation, 2018" (2 of 2018) on 12.01.2018, which came into force w.e.f. 01.02.2018. Through this regulation, the Authority has reduced the termination charges payable by an Indian I.L.D.O. to the access provider in whose network the call terminates from Rs. 0.53 (paise fifty three only) per minute to Rs. 0.30 (paise thirty only) per minute.

(b) Cellular Operators Association of India (C.O.A.I.) vide its letter dated 25.01.2018 has *inter-alia* opined that the reduction in the International Termination Charges (I.T.C.) would result in an estimated loss of Rs. 2000 crore per annum to the T.S.Ps.

(c) The reasons for the Authority to arrive at such a decision are explained in Para 36 & 37 of the Explanatory Memorandum (E.M.) to the Regulation (Extracts attached). Full text of the Regulation alongwith the E.M. is available on T.R.A.I. website i.e. www.traigov.in.

Extracts of the Explanatory Memorandum to "The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (14th Amendment) Regulation, 2018" dated 12.01.2018

"36. Owing to the twin facts viz. – (a) menace of grey route poses serious security threat to the country

apart from causing significant leakage in the revenue accruable to the country and its T.S.Ps, and, (b) proliferation of O.T.T. route for the carrying international voice traffic has many non-cost factors, the Authority is of the view that, while deciding on the appropriate level of I.T.C. in the country, curbing the menace of grey route should be a more important regulatory priority than facilitating the shift of the international incoming traffic from O.T.T. route to carrier route.

37. Essentially, the players engaged in carrying international incoming voice traffic to India through grey route thrive on the significant arbitrage opportunity presently available between the I.T.C., on one hand, and, tariff for domestic voice call in India plus the cost of running illegal Col.P. Gateway, on the other. At present, while I.T.C. is Rs. 0.53 per minute, the average tariff for voice call¹ is about Rs. 0.23 per minute in the country. Besides, there would be certain cost, albeit small, for running an illegal ColP Gateway. It is expected that if the arbitrage opportunity is plugged or kept to a minimum, the attractiveness of the grey route for carrying international incoming voice traffic would be lost, and thereby, the carrier route for international incoming traffic would witness a legitimate growth. This would not only plug the leakage in the revenue accruable to the country and Indian T.S.Ps, but would also ensure that India continues to earn precious Forex from the International incoming voice traffic business. Accordingly, keeping in view the comments of the stakeholders and the foregoing analysis, the Authority has decided to revise the termination charge for international incoming call to wireline and wireless from Rs. 0.53 per minute to Rs. 0.30 per minute. The

Authority is of the view that, with this revision, the arbitrage opportunity between I.T.C. and domestic call tariffs would become so insignificant that illegal V.O.I.P. Gateway business in India would become unviable; in turn, the grey market for I.L.D. incoming traffic would eventually cease to exist."

Doubling of Rail Lines

4197. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE :

SHRI PRATAP SIMHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling of railway lines from Arasikere-Tumkur, Birur-Shimoga, Hubli-Vasco, Hubli-Chikkajajur, Mangalore-Panambur and Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road;

(b) the time by which the Government proposes to complete these projects in view of very high utilization of line capacity in these sections;

(c) whether adequate funds have been allocated to these projects during the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Southern Western Railway and Southern Railway have utilized the entire allocation during the above period and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) : (a) to (d) Execution /completion of projects depends on a number of factors such as statutory clearances, acquisition of land, forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of various utility services. Therefore, it is not feasible to give fixed time lines for completion of all the projects. Further, adequate funds are provided to Doubling projects mentioned. The details of doubling of Arasikere-Tumkur, Birur-Shimoga, Hubli-Vasco, Hubli-Chikkajajur, Mangalore-Panambur and Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road alongwith present status, expenditure incurred upto March, 2017 and outlay provided during 2017-18 are as under:-

¹As per T.R.A.'s Report titled 'The Indian Telecom Service Performance Indicators (July-September, 2017), the average subscriber outgo per outgoing minute from Home Service Area (H.S.A.) for G.S.M. and L.T.E. Services in Quarter Ending September, 2017 was Rs. 0.23 per minute.

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Project Name	Railway	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2017	Outlay 2017-18	Status
1.	Arsikere-Tumkur	South Western	212.15	140	Earthwork, bridge work, ballast supply etc taken up. State Government of Karnataka to expedite handing over of 29 acre of land to Railways. Arsikere-Karadi section (36 Km) is in advance stage.
2.	Birur-Shimoga	South Western	0.02	2	Project was included in Budget subject to requisite approvals. This project has been deferred in view of low capacity utilization of existing line and reduction in traffic on project section.
3.	Hubli-Vasco (Sanctioned Project is Hospet-Hubli-Londa-Tinaighat-Vasco-da-Gama)	South Western	723.25	250	On this project, 223 Km falls in Karnataka area and 79 Km falls in Goa area. In Karnataka area, Harlapur-Bannikoppa-Bhanapur-Koppol (40 Km), Kambarganvi-Alnavar (12 Km) and Shivthan-Londa-Tinaighat (17 Km) sections have been commissioned. Government of Karnataka has to expedite process for clearance to 9.83 hectare forest land and shifting of utility services to expedite work on balance portion.
4.	Hubli-Chikjajur	South Western	341.45	200	Earthwork, bridgework, ballast supply, etc have been taken up. State Government of Karnataka has to expedite handing over of 36 hectare of land to Railways. Chikjajur-Tolahunse (37 Km) section is in advance stage.
5.	Mangalore-Panambur (Sanctioned project is Kankandi-Pananmbur Doubling)	Southern	117.82	92.8	Panambur-Jokate (6 Km) commissioned. Work on Jokate-Mangalore (13 Km) section is in advance stage.
6.	Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road	South	-	-	Project is not sanctioned.

Rehabilitation Policy for Migrants

4198. SHRI BAIJYANT JAY PANDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to formulate a rehabilitation policy for migrants returning to India so as to enable them to find employment commensurate with their skills;

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

(c) whether the Government has any plans to formulate a policy of assistance to migrant workers who are forced to return to India due to situations such as war, outbreak of diseases, etc. in the countries where they worked; 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 welfare and safety of Indian nationals abroad. At the same time, the responsibility of rehabilitation of returning migrants in India rests mainly with the State Governments. The Government stands ready to work closely with them in this regard. The Government has been sensitizing the State Governments from time to time to generate awareness among the returning migrants about the resettlement, rehabilitation and financial support schemes available with the State governments. In addition, the returnees can also avail various schemes of the central government.

Coal Reserves in C.I.L.

4199. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to allot 11 coal mines to Coal India Limited (C.I.L.), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Coal India Limited is also planning to increase the production capacity by 225 million tonnes, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether C.I.L. had informed the Government that its three subsidiaries do not have adequate coal reserves at present; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Coal India Ltd. (C.I.L. had requested the Government for allotment of additional coal mines so as to make its 3 subsidiaries viz. Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (E.C.L.), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (B.C.C.L.) and Western Coalfields Ltd. (W.C.L.), 100 M.T. plus coal producing subsidiaries as these 3 subsidiaries do not have adequate coal reserves at present. Considering the request of C.I.O.L., 11 coal mines have been allocated to C.I.L. under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the M.M.D.R. Act, 1957. Addition of these 11 coal mines will add about 225 M.T. of coal in its annual production capacity. The details of these 11 coal mines are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Coal Mine	Location	Name of Subsidiary company of C.I.L.
1	2	3	4
1.	Amarkonda Murgadangal	Jharkhand	E.C.L.
2.	Brahmani	Jharkhand	
3.	Chichro Patsimal	Jharkhand	
4.-5.	Rampia and Dip side of Rampia	Odisha	W.C.L.
6.-7.	Ghogharpalli and Dip Extension of Ghogharpalli	Odisha	
8.	Mandar Parvat	Bihar	B.C.C.L.

1	2	3	4
9.	Dhulia North	Jharkhand	
10.	Mirzgaon	Bihar	
11.	Pirpainti - Barahat	Jharkhand	

Acts Enacted by Parliament

4200. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Acts enacted by the Parliament so far;

(b) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to increase awareness of the general public about fundamental and basic laws in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include fundamental and general laws useful to public in the syllabus of schools and colleges and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Constitution and other Central Acts are translated and published in the Scheduled languages; and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) So far, the Parliament has enacted 3,831 Acts (including Appropriation Acts, Railway Appropriation Acts and Amendment Acts). The Ministry of Law and Justice has placed all such Acts which are in force on its website at <http://lawmin.nic.in>.

(c) Keeping in mind the need to inculcate civic responsibility at the school level and to imbue values necessary for a civilized society, N.C.E.R.T. included the basics of fundamental laws and general laws in the textbooks right from the upper primary stage. The Constitution of India is a common theme running through the Political Science Textbooks of Classes VI to XII. Apart from the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, and Fundamental Duties, various

laws enacted by Parliament are mentioned in the relevant context. Examples of such laws are given below:

- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 [as amended in 2016]
- Consumer Protection Act, 1986
- Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013
- Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
- Minimum Wages Act, 1948
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- Right to Information Act, 2005
- Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2007
- Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014

Furthermore, the Class VIII Textbook, Social and Political life-III, introduces the learners to our legal system. The Class IX Textbook, Democratic Politics-I, covers the Judiciary as part of the working of our political institutions. The Class XI Political Science Textbook, Indian Constitution at Work, has a comprehensive chapter on Judiciary.

The syllabi for the programmes conducted by universities and their affiliated colleges is designed and developed by the university concerned in accordance with

the recommendations of its appropriate body (ies) and the guidelines preescribed by the statutory council concerned if any. Further, the U.G.C. has been advising the Universities to implement the Choice Based Ccredit System (C.B.C.S.) under which, the university may offer a bouquet of course to students to choose from, which may also include course in fundamental and general laws.

(d) Yes. The Constitution of India and other Central Acts are translated and published in the Scheduled languages in India. The Constitution of India has been published in 15 languages of English Schedule to the Constitution viz. C, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malyalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Nepali and Konkani and Central Acts are being published in 11 languages of the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution viz. Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malyalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

[*Translation*]

Pace of Development in Science and Technology

4201. SHRI ALOK SANJAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of development in science and technology sector is satisfactory in the country;

(b) if not, the details therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to speed up the pace of development to promote research and development and to speed up the pace of science and technology in the country;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the amount of fund allocated for this sector; 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 (b) Yes Madam.

(c) The Government has been constantly engaged in the promotion and growth of scientific research in the country through various measures such as successive increase in plan allocation for scientific departments, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of Centres of Excellence and Facilities in emerging and frontline areas of S. & T. in academic and national institutions, launching of new fellowships and schemes namely, Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (T.A.R.E.), Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship (O.V.D.F.), and Distinguished Investigator Award (D.I.A.), substantial grant to potential scientists through extramural research funding, scaled up funding in the new areas such as Clean Energy and Water including Energy Efficiency, Clean Coal Technology, Smart Grids, Methanol, Desalination, Genome Engineering Technology etc, promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups grant for young scientists and Funds measures for enhancing the participation of industry in R. & D. etc.

(d) and (e) Yes Madam. The budget allocation of select major scientific agencies has increased by 60% from Rs. 17,406 crores in 2014-15 to Rs. 27,945 crores in 2017-18 and the same has been increased further to Rs. 30,617 crores in 2018-19 as given below:

Agency	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-2018* Actual	2018-2019 Allotted
1	2	3	4	5	6
D.S.T.	2889.84	3835.70	4217.08	4726.71	5114.78
D.S.I.R./C.S.I.R.	3393.53	4020.98	4030.48	4629.70	4795.97
D.B.T.	1346.97	1554.27	1895.50	2260.11	2411.53
D.O.S.	5798.81	6920.01	7988.87	9155.52	10783.42

1	2	3	4	5	6
D.A.E. (R. & D. Sector)	2683.08	4891.13	5073.79	5575.83	5712.16
MoE.S.	1293.87	1292.45	1361.28	1597.69	1800.00
Total	17406.10	22514.54	24567.00	27945.56	30617.86

Source: Demands for Grants of Central Government, Expenditure Budget, GoI (various years)

Note: Total funds includes plan+non plan figures.

*Revised Estimates figure; allotted figures available for current year 2018-19

1. D.S.T. - Deptt. of Science & Technology.

2. D.S.I.R./C.S.I.R. - Deptt. of Scientific and Industrial Research/Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

3. D.B.T. - Deptt. of Biotechnology.

4. - D.O.S. - Deptt. of Space.

5. D.A.E. - Deptt. of Atomic Energy.

6. MoE.S. - Ministry of Earth Sciences formerly Deptt. of Ocean Development.

[English]

Vacant Posts

4202. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE :
 DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE :
 SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV :
 SHRI ARVIND SAWANT :
 SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:
 SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE :
 SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR :
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts falling vacant on retirement of employees are not being filled up in the Railways;

(b) if so, the total posts of various categories lying vacant in the Indian Railways as on February, 2018;

(c) whether it is correct that close to 1.2 lakh jobs are left vacant in the Railways, many of which are ground-level positions that play a crucial role in the safety of passengers and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the manner and extent in which the Railways will be able to provide required, better facilitate and safety to their passengers with the shortage of workforce;

(e) whether following the recent train accident, the railways has decided for filling up of these vacancies to boost safety and better facilities to the passengers and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Railways has initiated any special drive to fill up these vacant posts at the earliest, if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Occurance and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process in the Railways. The policy of the Government is to fill up the vacancies as per operational requirements. The total posts in various categories lying vacant over Zonal Railways as on 1.2.2018 is around 2.47 lakhs (provisional), which includes around 1.46 lakhs vacancies in safety categories. Sanctioned posts in all categories are more than the actual operational requirements because they include an element of Leave Reserve and Rest Givers. This Leave Reserve varies from 12.5% to 30% in safety categories. Efficiency in operational performance of the Railways is maintained by appropriate manpower planning and there is no compromise in this regard.

(e) and (f) A recruitment process has been initiated to fill up around 90,000 vacancies mainly in safety categories, for which Employment Notices were issued in February 2018.

Rescue of Indians from Kenya

4203. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has rescued many Indians from Kenya who were victims of an organised crime syndicate involved in human trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has shared the details with the respective State Governments so that action can be taken against the agents and the people involved in it; 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) Four Indian girls were rescued in October 2016 and three girls in December 2017 from the crime syndicate involved in human trafficking in Kenya.

(c) and (d) Relevant details have been shared with the Government of Union territory of Chandigarh and State Governments of Punjab and Maharashtra as well as Delhi Police for action against culprits.

Small Contracts in Railways

4204. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to award various departmental small contracts in respect of Railways to unemployed educated engineers/diploma holders so that these youth can start their own business and get enough experience; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) General Financial Rules 2017 do not provide for giving any preferential treatment to unemployed educated engineers/diploma holders in award of contracts.

[Translation]

Rail Coach, Diesel and Electric Engine Factories

4205. SHRI NIHAL CHAND : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rail coach, diesel and electric engine factories functioning in the country at present;

(b) the number of rail coaches, diesel and electric engines manufactured during the last two year;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any

proposal from Rajasthan or other States for setting up rail coach, diesel and electric engine factory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, there are three Coach Production Units and three Diesel/Electric Locomotive Production Units under the Ministry of Railways.

(b) The number of rail coaches, diesel and electric locomotives manufactured by these units during the last two years is as under:-

Type	2015-16	2016-17
Coaches	3978	4280
Diesel Locomotives	341	364
Electric Locomotives	280	294

(c) and (d) One proposal for setting up a factory for manufacture of rail coaches/E.M.U. at Latur, Maharashtra has been received from Central Railway for the year 2018-19, which is under consideration. Another project for setting up of Greenfield M.E.M.U. Manufacturing facility by B.H.E.L. at Bhilwara, Rajasthan was included in Rail Budget 2013-14. The requirement of coach factory at Bhillwara was reviewed and decided that there is no need of setting up of additional M.E.M.U. manufacturing facility at present, as the manufacturing capacity already available and those sanctioned is considered adequate as of now.

Setting up of P.S.K.S.

4206. SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU :
SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to set up 250 Passport Seva Kendras across the country including Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan by the year 2018 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether police verification is required for

issuance of passport under the Tatkal Scheme and if so, the details thereof and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said procedure becomes easier after verification of documents by Secretary level gazetted officer and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is very difficult for the common people to get their documents verified by Secretary level officer in remote areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to facilitate the said procedure by allowing verification by local public representative like Member of Parliament for the convenience of people residing in remote areas of the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure access to passport services in remote and rural areas of the country including Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) At present, 93 Passport Seva Kendras (P.S.K.) are operating across the country as extended arms of the 37 Passport Offices thus providing extended reach to passport applicants. There is one P.S.K. in Chhattisgarh at Raipur. There are four P.S.K. in Rajasthan at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar and Udaipur. The list of 93 P.S.K. in the country is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The Ministry in association with the Department of Posts has decided to open 251 Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (H.P.O.)/Post Offices (P.O.) in the country including in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (P.O.P.S.K.). The list

of these 251 P.O.P.S.K. is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

168 P.O.P.S.K. are functional as on 15 March, 2018. The list of functional P.O.P.S.K. is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

There are four P.O.P.S.K. functional at Bilaspur, Durg, Rajnandgaon and Surguja in Chhattisgarh.

There are fifteen P.O.P.S.K. functional at Ajmer, Alwar, Barmer, Chittorgarh, Churu, Karauli-Dhollpur, Kota, Bikaner, Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Nagaur, Pali and Sriganganagar. The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the operationalization of the remaining P.O.P.S.K. at Dungarpur and Banswada in Rajasthan by 31 March, 2018.

(b) Under Tatkal scheme, Police Verification is carried out after the issue of the Passport.

(c) to (e) Under the revised Tatkal scheme announced by the Ministry, no Verification Certificate signed by any Gazetted Officer is required for issue of passport.

(f) The Ministry has eased the passport issuing process and has made it an online procedure including getting appointments for submission of documents for passports. Effective technical infrastructure is in place to ensure that the Passport Seva system is available for access at all times from any location. The passport rules have also been simplified to make it easier for the citizens to get passports. Opening of P.O.P.S.K. is aimed at ensuring access to passport services in remote and rural areas of the country including in Rajasthan.

Statement-I

State-wise List of Passport Seva Kendras (P.S.Ks)

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of P.S.Ks	Location of P.S.K.s
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Bhimavaram
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Itanagar
3.	Assam*	1	Guwahati
4.	Bihar	2	Patna, Darbhanga
5.	Chandigarh U.T.**	1	Chandigarh
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of P.S.Ks	Location of P.S.K.s
7.	Delhi N.C.T.***	3	Herald House, Shalimar Place, Bhikaji Cama Place
8.	Goa	1	Panaji
9.	Gujarat	5	Ahmedabad I & II, Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat
10.	Haryana	2	Ambala, Gurgaon
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	Jammu, Srinagar
13.	Jharkhand	1	Ranchi
14.	Karnataka	5	Bangalore I & II, Hubli, Mangalore, Kalaburagi
15.	Kerala	13	Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvananthapuram (Rural), Kollam, Cochin, Ernakulam Rural, Alapujha, Kottayam, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kojhikode I & II, Kannur I & II
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Bhopal, Indore
17.	Maharashtra	8	Mumbai I, II & III, Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik, Solapur
18.	Manipur	1	Imphal
19.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
20.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal
21.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
22.	Odisha	1	Bhubaneswar
23.	Puducherry	1	Puducherry
24.	Punjab	5	Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar I & II, Hoshiarpur
25.	Rajasthan	4	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar, Udaipur
26.	Sikkim	1	Gangtok
27.	Tamil Nadu	8	Chennai I, II and III, Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbtore
28.	Telangana	5	Hyderabad I, II and III, Nizamabad, Karimnagar
29.	Tripura	1	Agartala
30.	Uttar Pradesh	6	Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Ghaziabad
31.	Uttarakhand	1	Dehradun
32.	West Bengal	3	Kolkata, Berhampore, Siliguri
Total		93	

*R.P.O. Guwahato covers five other North-Eastern States also at present.

**R.P.O. Chandigarh covers parts of Punjab and Haryana.

***R.P.O. Delhi covers parts of Haryana.

@R.P.O. Kolkata covers Sikkim and Tripura.

Statement-II*List of 251 Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (P.O.P.S.K.)*

S.No.	Location	State/U.T.	Passport Office
1.	Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
2.	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
3.	Krishna	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
4.	Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
5.	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
6.	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
7.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
8.	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
9.	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
10.	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
11.	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
12.	Changlang	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
13.	Tirap	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
14.	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
15.	Dhubri	Assam	Guwahati
16.	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
17.	Goalpara	Assam	Guwahati
18.	Karbi Anglong	Assam	Guwahati
19.	Kokrajhar	Assam	Guwahati
20.	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
21.	North Lakhimpur	Assam	Guwahati
22.	Sonitpur	Assam	Guwahati
23.	Tinsukia	Assam	Guwahati
24.	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
25.	Gopalganj	Bihar	Patna
26.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
27.	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
28.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
30.	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
31.	Begusarai	Bihar	Patna

S.No.	Location	State/U.T.	Passport Office
32.	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
33.	East Champaran	Bihar	Patna
34.	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
35.	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna
36.	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
37.	Supaul	Bihar	Patna
38.	Munger	Bihar	Patna
39.	Navada	Bihar	Patna
40.	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
41.	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
42.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
43.	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
44.	Silvasa	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Mumbai
45.	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
46.	North West Delhi	Delhi	Delhi
47.	Janak Puri	Delhi	Delhi
48.	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi
49.	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
50.	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi
51.	Krishna Nagar	Delhi	Delhi
52.	Lodi Road	Delhi	Delhi
53.	Saket	Delhi	Delhi
54.	South Goa	Goa	Panaji
55.	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
56.	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
57.	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
58.	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
59.	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
60.	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
61.	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
62.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
63.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad

S.No.	Location	State/U.T.	Passport Office
64.	Junagarh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
65.	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
66.	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
67.	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat
68.	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
69.	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
70.	Bhiwani	Haryana	Chandigarh
71.	Kaithal	Haryana	Chandigarh
72.	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
73.	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
74.	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
75.	Narnaul	Haryana	Delhi
76.	Rohtak	Haryana	Delhi
77.	Sonipat	Haryana	Delhi
78.	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
79.	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
80.	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
81.	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
82.	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
83.	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
84.	Anantnag	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
85.	Baramulla	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
86.	Kathua	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
87.	Rajouri	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
88.	Udhampur	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
89.	Leh	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
90.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
91.	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
92.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi
93.	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
94.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
95.	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi

S.No.	Location	State/U.T.	Passport Office
96.	Medininagar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
97.	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
98.	Bellary	Karnataka	Bengaluru
99.	Bidar	Karnataka	Bengaluru
100.	Gadag	Karnataka	Bengaluru
101.	Raichur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
102.	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
103.	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
104.	Udupi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
105.	Vijayapur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
106.	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
107.	Devangere	Karnataka	Bengaluru
108.	Hassan	Karnataka	Bengaluru
109.	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
110.	Idukki	Kerala	Cochin
111.	Kasargod	Kerala	Kojhikode
112.	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivendrum
113.	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
114.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
115.	Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
116.	Shivpuri	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
117.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
118.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
119.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
120.	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
121.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
122.	Damoh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
123.	Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
124.	Sehore	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
125.	Sidhi	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
126.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
127.	Betul	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal

S.No.	Location	State/U.T.	Passport Office
128.	Shivni	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
129.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
130.	Sindhudurg	Maharashtra	Mumbai
131.	Wardha	Maharashtra	Mumbai
132.	Jalna	Maharashtra	Nagpur
133.	Latur	Maharashtra	Nagpur
134.	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	Pune
135.	Pandharpur	Maharashtra	Pune
136.	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
137.	Satara	Maharashtra	Pune
138.	Beed	Maharashtra	Mumbai
139.	Mumbai North Central	Maharashtra	Mumbai
140.	Mumbai South Central	Maharashtra	Mumbai
141.	Ghatkopar	Maharashtra	Mumbai
142.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
143.	Navi Mumbai		
144.	Dombivali	Maharashtra	Mumbai
145.	Panvel	Maharashtra	Mumbai
146.	Nanded (N)	Maharashtra	Nagpur
147.	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
148.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
149.	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	Thane
150.	Baghmara	Meghalaya	Guwahati
151.	Tura	Meghalaya	Guwahati
152.	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
153.	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
154.	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
155.	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
156.	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
157.	Berhampur (Ganjam)	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
158.	Bhawanipatna (Kalahandi)	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
159.	Karaikal	Puducherry	Chennai

S.No.	Location	State/U.T.	Passport Office
160.	Tarn Taran	Punjab	Amritsar
161.	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
162.	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
163.	Sangrur	Punjab	Chandigarh
164.	Gurdaspur	Punjab	Jalandhar
165.	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
166.	S.B.S. Nagar (Nawan Shahar)	Punjab	Jalandhar
167.	Phagwara	Punjab	Jalandhar
168.	Kota	Rajasthan	Jaipur
169.	Bikaner	Rajasthan	Jaipur
170.	Barmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
171.	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
172.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
173.	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
174.	Ajmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
175.	Churu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
176.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
177.	Hanumangarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
178.	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
179.	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
180.	Sriganganagar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
181.	Alwar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
182.	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
183.	Banswada	Rajasthan	Jaipur
184.	Pali	Rajasthan	Jaipur
185.	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
186.	Salem	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
187.	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
188.	Namakkal	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
189.	Tiruppur	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
190.	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
191.	Ramanathapuram	Tamil Nadu	Madurai

S.No.	Location	State/U.T.	Passport Office
192.	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
193.	Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
194.	Sivaganga	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
195.	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
196.	Kanyakumari (N)	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
197.	Perambalur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli
198.	Pudukkottai	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli
199.	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
200.	Warangal	Telangana	Hyderabad
201.	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
202.	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
203.	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
204.	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
205.	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
206.	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
207.	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
208.	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
209.	Rampur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
210.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
211.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
212.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
213.	Gautam Budh Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
214.	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
215.	Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
216.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
217.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
218.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
219.	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
220.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
221.	Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
222.	Ayodhya/Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
223.	Amethi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow

S.No.	Location	State/U.T.	Passport Office
224.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
225.	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
226.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
227.	Balrampur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
228.	Barabanki	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
229.	Basti	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
230.	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
231.	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
232.	Kushi Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
233.	Mau	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
234.	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
235.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
236.	RaeBareli	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
237.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
238.	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
239.	Haldwani/ Kathgodam	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
240.	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
241.	Pauri	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
242.	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
243.	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
244.	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	West Bengal	Kolkata
245.	North Kolkata (Beacon Street)	West Bengal	Kolkata
246.	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
247.	Raiganj	West Bengal	Kolkata
248.	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
249.	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata
250.	Darjeeling	West Bengal	Kolkata
251.	Malda	West Bengal	Kolkata

Statement-III*List of Functional P.O.P.S.K. as on 15th March, 2018*

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
1.	Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
2.	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
3.	Krishna-Gudivada	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
4.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
5.	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
6.	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
7.	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
8.	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
9.	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
10.	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
11.	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
12.	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
13.	Sonitpur (Tezpur)	Assam	Guwahati
14.	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
15.	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
16.	East Champaran	Bihar	Patna
17.	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
18.	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna
19.	Munger	Bihar	Patna
20.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
21.	Navada	Bihar	Patna
22.	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
23.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
24.	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
25.	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
26.	Bettiah	Bihar	Patna
27.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
28.	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
29.	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
30.	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
31.	Silvasa	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Mumbai

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
32.	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
33.	Janakpuri	Delhi	Delhi
34.	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi
35.	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
36.	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi
37.	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
38.	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
39.	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
40.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
41.	Junagadh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
42.	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
43.	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
44.	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
45.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
46.	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
47.	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
48.	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
49.	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat
50.	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
51.	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
52.	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
53.	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
54.	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
55.	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
56.	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
57.	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
58.	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
59.	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
60.	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
61.	Kathua	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
62.	Rajouri	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
63.	Anantnagh	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
64.	Baramulla	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
65.	Udhampur	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
66.	Leh	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
67.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
68.	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi
69.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi
70.	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
71.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
72.	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
73.	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bangalore
74.	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bangaluru
75.	Bellary	Karnataka	Bangaluru
76.	Devangere	Karnataka	Bangaluru
77.	Gadag	Karnataka	Bangaluru
78.	Hassan	Karnataka	Bangaluru
79.	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bangaluru
80.	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bangaluru
81.	Udupi	Karnataka	Bangaluru
82.	Vijayapur	Karnataka	Bangaluru
83.	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
84.	Idukki (Kattappana)	Kerala	Cochin
85.	Kasargod	Kerala	Kojhikode
86.	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivendrum
87.	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
88.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
89.	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
90.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
91.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
92.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
93.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
94.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
95.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
96.	Ghatkopar/Vikhroli	Maharashtra	Mumbai
97.	Wardha	Maharashtra	Nagpur

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
98.	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
99.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
100.	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
101.	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
102.	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
103.	Berhampur	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
104.	Bhawanipatna	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
105.	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
106.	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
107.	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
108.	Karaikal	Puducherry	Tiruchirapalli
109.	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
110.	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
111.	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
112.	Ajmer	Rajsthan	Jaipur
113.	Alwar	Rajsthan	Jaipur
114.	Barmer	Rajsthan	Jaipur
115.	Chittorgarh	Rajsthan	Jaipur
116.	Churu	Rajsthan	Jaipur
117.	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajsthan	Jaipur
118.	Kota	Rajsthan	Jaipur
119.	Bikaner	Rajsthan	Jaipur
120.	Hanumangarh	Rajsthan	Jaipur
121.	Jhunjhunu	Rajsthan	Jaipur
122.	Jaisalmer	Rajsthan	Jaipur
123.	Jhalawar	Rajsthan	Jaipur
124.	Nagaur	Rajsthan	Jaipur
125.	Pali	Rajsthan	Jaipur
126.	Sriganganagar	Rajsthan	Jaipur
127.	Cuddalore	Tamil nadu	Chennai
128.	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil nadu	Chennai
129.	Vellore	Tamil nadu	Chennai
130.	Viluppuram	Tamil nadu	Chennai

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
131.	Salem	Tamil nadu	Coimbatore
132.	Kanyakumari	Tamil nadu	Madurai
133.	Virudhunagar	Tamil nadu	Madurai
134.	Perambalur	Tamil nadu	Tiruchirapalli
135.	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
136.	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
137.	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
138.	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
139.	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
140.	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
141.	Warangal (Hanamkonda)	Telangana	Hyderabad
142.	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
143.	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
144.	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
145.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
146.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
147.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
148.	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
149.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
150.	Ayodhya/Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
151.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
152.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
153.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
154.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
155.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
156.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
157.	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
158.	Haldwani (Kathgodam)	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
159.	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
160.	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
161.	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
162.	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
163.	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
164.	Raiganj (North Dinajpur)	West Bengal	Kolkata
165.	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	West Bengal	Kolkata
166.	North Kolkata (Beacon Street)	West Bengal	Kolkata
167.	Malda	West Bengal	Kolkata
168.	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata

[English]

Labour Force Survey

4207. SHRI ANOOP MISHRA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the recommendation of the National Statistical Commission, the periodic Labour Force Survey is being conducted to measure labour force participation and gauge the impact of economic policies on domestic labour market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the N.S.S.O. has carried out a survey at all India level as well as for the rural economy and if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years; and

(d) whether the Government is maintaining any data of rural employment growth and if so, the measures taken by the Government to bridge the deficit in the country's statistical bank?

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.

(b) On the recommendation of the National Statistical Commission (N.S.C.) for conducting all India Periodic Labour Force Survey (P.L.F.S.), a nation-wide P.L.F.S. has

been launched by N.S.S.O. from April, 2017 on continuous basis with the objective to measure quarterly changes of key labour force indicators [such as Labour Force Participation Rate (L.F.P.R.), Worker Population Ratio (W.P.R.) & Unemployment Rate (U.R.)] in urban areas as well as to generate the annual estimates of labour force indicators, both Current Weekly Status (C.W.S.) and Usual Activity Status (U.S.) approach are followed.

In P.L.F.S., a rotational panel sampling design used in urban area. In this sampling system, for the urban areas, 25% of the sample First Stage Units (F.S.U.s) i.e., Urban Frame Survey blocks will be replaced in every subsequent quarter with a new panel of F.S.U.s. The panel will be of two years duration to accommodate the changes in the urban frame. For urban areas, each of the sample households will be visited 4 times, once in a quarter. For rural areas, fresh sample F.S.U.s (i.e. villages) will be selected before commencement of survey for 8 quarters of each two-year period. In rural areas, in each quarter, 25% F.S.U.s of annual allocation will be surveyed, There will not be any revisit in the rural samples households.

Annual sample size for the P.L.F.S. is 7024 F.S.U.s in the rural areas and 5776 F.S.U.s in the urban areas. From each of the sample F.S.U.s, 8 households (S.S.U.s) are to be surveyed.

(c) Details relating to the Socio-Economic Surveys conducted by the N.S.S.O. at all India level including rural economy during the last two years is as under:

Subject covered under the survey	Period	Estimates/Data relating to
Unincorporated non-agricultural Enterprises (excluding construction)	N.S.S. 73rd round (July 2015-June 2016)	Various operational and economic characteristics of the unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises in manufacturing, trade and other services (excluding construction)
Survey of Services Sector	N.S.S. 74th round (July 2016-June 2017)	enterprise focussed survey on services sector including establishments with ten or more workers; proprietary, partnership, limited liability companies, Non-Government companies, Co-operative Societies, Non-profit Institutions, Trusts
(i) Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure	N.S.S. 75th round (July 2017-June 2018)	(i) household consumption data, which is the prime source of statistical indicators of level of living, social consumption and well-being, and inequalities therein.
(ii) Survey on Household Social Consumption: Health and Education		(ii) Prevalence of diseases, use of health services, medical care received as in-patient, use of hospitals and the expenditure on treatment, etc. Participation in education, use of educational infrastructure, educational facilities and incentives, expenditure on education, etc.

(d) The Government is not maintaining any data of rural employment growth. However, from 1972-73 onwards, N.S.S.O. has been conducting quinquennial employment-unemployment surveys in rural as well as urban areas of the country to measure employment-unemployment related indicators and periodical change therein. The last such survey (9th in the series) was conducted by N.S.S.O. during its 68th round (July 2011-June 2012).

Haj Embarkation

4208. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to restart Haj embarkation centre at Karippur, Calicut in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) In the wake of removal of subsidy on air travel of Haj pilgrims, The Haj Policy Review Committee (H.P.R.C.) recommended to reduce the number of embarkation points from the existing 21 to 9 namely Delhi, Lucknow, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Cochin to bring down the fares to reasonable levels for all pilgrims. However, considering the demands raised from various sectors for retention of the existing embarkation points, it has been decided for Haj 2018 to give choice to the pilgrims to choose either their designated embarkation point of the nearest economical embarkation point on the basis of actual airfare of previous year. On the basis of H.P.R.C. recommendations to retain the Cochin embarkation point, the same has been continued for Haj pilgrims of Kerala.

UIDAI's MOU with CSC's

4209. SHRI JOSE K. MANI : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to complaints of corruption and enrolment process violations against Aadhaar centers, the U.I.D.A.I. has decided against renewing its memorandum of understanding with the Common Service Centres (C.S.Cs), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the mechanism that will replace the existing C.S.Cs to provide the Aadhaar enrolment and data updation services;

(c) whether in the absence of C.S.Cs, considering the substantial and constant demand for updating personal details of Aadhaar, it will be difficult to service the requests in time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and corrective action taken/proposed to be taken 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) Government has decided to shift Aadhaar enrolment centres to State Government premises, banks and Post Offices. Accordingly, after expiry of MoU with C.S.C. e-Gov. in December, 2017 C.S.C. e-Gov. has been asked to process its exit from UIDAI enrolment system in a phased manner. Various instances of process violations and corrupt practices were also reported against C.S.C. e-Gov. operators.

(b) to (d) Scheduled Commercial Banks have been mandated to setup enrolment & update centres at their designated branches across the country. India Post as U.I.D.A.I. Registrar has also been mandated to set up Aadhaar enrolment & update centres at designated post offices across the country. In addition, State Government also have setup their Aadhaar Centres. These centres will be able to cater to the demand for enrolment & update.

Setting up of Innovation Fund by C.S.I.R.

4210. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA :

SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU 3 :

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

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial

Research (C.S.I.R.) is in the process of setting up an innovation fund, worth Rs. 400-500 crore to invest in early stage startups and pro-innovations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether C.S.I.R. is grappling with a crisis of trying to generate more revenues from its portfolio of inventions as well as encouraging its staff scientists to become entrepreneurs and start companies of their own;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the innovation fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Governing Body, C.S.I.R. had approved setting up an Innovation Fund with about Rs. 400 crore from its external earnings to support early stage start-ups.

(c) and (d) C.S.I.R. always endeavours to generate more revenues from its knowledgebase including its portfolio of innovations and it is a continuing effort.

Union Cabinet has approved a scheme in 2009, permitting the researchers to have an equity stake in scientific enterprises/spin offs while in professional employment with their research and academic organizations (Universities, academic and research institutions). C.S.I.R. is implementing the scheme. C.S.I.R. is not making any additional efforts to encourage its scientists to start companies.

(e) C.S.I.R. had constituted an expert committee to develop the rules and regulations as well as guidelines for expending the funds. The Committee had recommended to divide the fund into two equal components to support (i) early stage start-ups and (ii) nurturing of early stage ideas. The committee further recommended to set up separate independent company (ies) to professionally manage the fund. C.S.I.R. is examining the finer details of setting up such companies including other alternative mechanisms to utilize the funds. Based on the final decision, the proposal shall be processed for appropriate approvals. It would take about 6 months to operationalize the funds.

Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P.) on R. & D.

4211. DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India spent only 0.5% of its Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P.) on research and development in 2015;

(b) whether owing to the strength of India's economy and growing anti immigrant atmosphere in some Western countries, India has an opportunity to attract back more scientists as there are more than 100,000 people with Ph.Ds, who were born in India but now live and work outside and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to control brain-drain and to increase R. & D. infrastructure in various sectors?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) As per the latest available statistics, India spent 0.69% of Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P.) on R. & D. during the year 2014-15.

(b) Government has taken noticeable efforts to attract overseas scientists of Indian origin and bring them back to work in India. The Ramanujan Fellowship Scheme and the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme of Department of Science and Technology (D.S.T.) and Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship Scheme of Department of Biotechnology (D.B.T.) provide attractive avenues and opportunities to Indian researchers of high calibre, who are residing in foreign, to work in Indian Institutes/Universities of their respective interest and domain. In addition to assured fellowship and research grant for a period of five years for the scientists, provisions to seek for other competitive research grant of Government made these schemes more attractive and popular. V.A.J.R.A. (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty Scheme is a recent initiative of D.S.T. to bring overseas scientists and academicians including Non-resident Indians (N.R.I.) and Overseas Citizens of India (O.C.I.) to India to work as adjunct/ visiting faculty for a specific period of time in public funded academic and research institutions. The growing strength of India's economy, the propitious policy frameworks adopted by the Government and sophisticated research facilities

available in our academic and research institutions attract more Indian scientists to return and work in India.

(c) Government has taken several steps to encourage scientific community and motivate them to continue their research work in the country. This includes launching of new programmes/schemes and interfacing with other Ministries/Departments and Industries to leverage their resources and expertise in undertaking research of national relevance and thereby enhancing the share of scientific research in G.D.P. Schemes like Funds for improvement of S. & T. infrastructure in universities and higher educational institutions (F.I.S.T.) to build research infrastructure for enhancing research capabilities, Core Research Grant, Start-Up Grant for Young Scientists in the form of Early Career Research Award and National Postdoctoral Fellowship, Research Fellowships such as J.C. Bose and Swarnajayanti are targeted at practicing scientists to contain brain-drain and strengthen R. & D. infrastructure in various sectors.

Baal Aadhaar Card

4212. ADV. JOICE GEORGE :
SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE :
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH :
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA :
SHRI SUDHIR GUPTA :
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR :
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN :
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN :
SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA :
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHTO :
SHRI S.R. VIJAYKUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Unique Identification Authority of India (U.I.D.A.I.) has decided to introduce a Baal Aadhaar card for children below the age of five years;

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

(c) the details of the features of Baal Aadhaar card along with its validity;

(d) whether it is mandatory for each and every child below the age of five years and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it will be linked with one of the parent's Aadhaar card and no biometric details will be captured

and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the circulation of fake Aadhaar cards in the country?

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 (c) As per Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, Unique Identification Authority of India (U.I.D.A.I.) has been mandated to issue Aadhaar to all residents of the country. There is no age bar for enrolment for Aadhaar. The Aadhaar may be accepted as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder valid for life time.

'**Baal Aadhaar**', printed in blue coloured letter for communicating Aadhaar number to children below five years, has been introduced by U.I.D.A.I. The letter informs the Aadhaar holder (Parents) to update the Aadhaar details with biometric on attaining age of five years failing which Aadhaar will be deactivated and will not be valid. Blue coloured letter has been introduced to visibly distinguish the letter for children, for ease of mass communication to people to get the biometrics of their children updated on attaining the age of five years.

(d) As per Section 3(1) of Aadhaar Act, 2016, every resident is entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number including children by submitting his demographic information and biometric information by undergoing process of enrolment.

(e) For enrolment of child below 5 years, biometric information is not collected, only demographic and photograph is collected. Aadhaar number of the child is linked with either of the parent's Aadhaar.

(f) As per subsection (3) of Section 4 of Aadhaar Act, 2016, "*an Aadhaar number, in physical or electronic form subject to authentication and other conditions as may be specified by regulations, may be accepted as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder for any purpose.*" Hence, question of fake Aadhaar, if used as per above provisions, does not arise.

U.I.D.A.I. has provided online authentication facility whereby any Aadhaar can be authenticated anywhere anytime. Further, an online facility has been provided for

verifying an Aadhaar available at <http://resident.uidai.gov.in/aadhaarverification>.

Skill Development in Telecom Sector

4213. SHRI RAJESH PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to accelerate skill development in the telecom sector and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the target and success of these programmes so far; and

(c) the details of the specific domains of telecom sector in which the skill development is being provided and the demand and supply gap for skill development in telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Madam. Government of India has taken numerous measures to accelerate the skill development in telecom sector. The Telecom Sector Skill Council (T.S.S.C.) along with industry partners is providing training for different job roles in the telecom sector under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (P.M.K.V.Y.) and various other schemes of GoI.

In addition to this the P.S.Us of DoT are also conducting skill development training under their various schemes. Skill development has been a key focus area of I.T.I. Limited. The emphasis is on developing the skills through a systematic training, so that the skill development training programmes become more industry relevant, self sustainable and to create employment opportunities for youth in Telecom Sector. I.T.I. has taken many measures to accelerate skill development in telecom sector.

Further the P.S.Us have registered and are in the process of registering their training centers with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (M.S.D.E.) and start skill development under the P.M.K.V.Y. scheme of M.S.D.E. to meet the demand for human resources in the telecom sector.

(b) The targets and success rate in respect of the scheme where T.S.S.C. is carrying out skill training for different job roles in the telecom sector are as given below:

Scheme	Target	Enrolled	Success rate
1	2	3	4
P.M.K.V.Y. (FY 16-17 & 17-18 years)	184,196	123,062	67%
N.S.K.F.D.C.* (FY 17-18)	500	369	73.8%

1	2	3	4
N.B.C.F.D.C.** (FY 17-18)	300	300	100%

*National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation

**National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation

The number of candidates so far trained by the P.S.U.s of DoT is as under:

P.S.U.	Total Candidates Trained	Remarks
B.S.N.L.	14949	This includes 9451 B.S.N.L. employees who have been successfully trained, assessed and evaluated under Recognition of Prior Learning (R.P.L.) against an internal target of 10000, 602 I.T.I. holders under apprenticeship training against a target of 3089 and 4896 candidates provided by various State Governments.
M.T.N.L.	13333	This does not include training given to M.T.N.L. employees.
I.T.I.	5722	No specific targets were allocated to P.S.U.s by N.S.D.C./M.S.D.E. under P.M.K.V.Y. However, internal targets stipulated by I.T.I., as a performance indicator have been fully achieved.

(c) The four segments/domain under which T.S.S.C. is carrying out skill training are as under:

- Network Segment
- Service Segment
- Handset Segment (includes manufacturing)
- Passive Infra Segment

M.T.N.L. is providing skill development in Telecom Sector in various topics like Industrial Training, Fiber to the Home (F.T.T.H.), Computer Familiarization, Personality Development, Broadband Basics, O.F.C. & Splicing Practices etc.

I.T.I. is doing training for optical fiber splicer & optical fiber technicians (which include training of candidates as well as trainers i.e. T.O.T.), B.S.S. support engineers, P.C.B. manufacturing, Pick & Place operator, Solar module

technician, specialized trade skills for I.T.I. Trade Certificate training to adopted I.T.I. apprenticeship etc by I.T.I. The details of specific sectors - Qualification Packs (Q.Ps)/Job Roles of T.S.S.C./E.S.S.C.I. or I.T.I. Modules conducted/being conducted in I.T.I. is placed at the enclosed Statement.

A detailed Skill Gap study was undertaken by M.S.D.E. As per the Environmental Scan Report-2016 of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (M.S.D.E.), assessment of Indian Cellular Association (I.C.A.), Telecom Sector Skill Council (T.S.S.C.), an additional skilled manpower requirement to the tune of 47,75,500 is estimated in telecom sector till the end of financial year 2021-22. The sub-sector wise additional skilled manpower requirement is detailed below:

Sl.No.	Telecom Subsector	Telecom Manpower		Total Additional Requirement
		2016-2017	2021-2022	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Service Providers	8,40,000	13,90,000	5,50,000
2.	Infra Providers	1,40,000	5,20,000	3,80,000

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Network & I.T. providers	5,90,000	9,90,000	4,00,000
4.	Telecom Equipment manufacturers	5,80,000	13,80,000	8,00,000
5.	Retail & Distribution	7,60,000	13,90,000	6,30,000
6.	Mobile Handsets*	10,94,500	31,10,000	20,15,500
Total		40,04,500	87,80,000	47,75,500

1 to 5: Source-K.P.M.G. report of M.S.D.E.

*The Indian Cellular Association (I.C.A.) has assessed a total manpower requirement of 22,15,000 in the period from 2015-16 till 2021-22.

Statement

The details of specific sectors - Qualification Packs (Q.Ps)/Job Roles of T.S.S.C./E.S.S.C.I. or I.T.I. Modules conducted/being conducted in I.T.I.

No. of Course and its duration

Sl.No.	Name of Skill Development Scheme	Job role/Module	Location	Duration
1.	Optical Fibre Splicer - T.S.S.S.C. Q.P.	T.S.S.C.-Q.P.	Bangalore	300 Hrs.
2.	Optical Fibre Technician - T.S.S.S.C. Q.P.	T.S.S.C.-Q.P.	Bangalore	350 hrs.
3.	B.S.S. Support Engineer	T.S.S.C.-Q.P.	Rae Bareli	30 days
4.	Solar Module Assy Operator	E.S.S.C.I.-Q.P.	Naini	15 days
5.	P.C.B. Fabricator	T.S.S.C.-Q.P.	Bangalore	15 days
6.	Circuit Image Operator-P.C.B.	A.S.A.P. (E.S.S.C.I.-Q.P.)	Palakkad	350 Hrs.
7.	Pick and Place Assembly Operator	A.S.A.P. (E.S.S.C.I.-Q.P.)	Palakkad	350 hrs.
8.	Field Technician - Computing and Peripherals	A.S.A.P. (E.S.S.C.I.-Q.P.)	Palakkad	350 hrs.
9.	Specialised Trade Skills for I.T.I. Trade Certificate trainees	I.T.I.L. Module	All I.T.I. Plants	1-3 yrs.
10.	Trg. in Telecom/E. & C. skills for Diploma-Engg.	I.T.I.L. Module	All I.T.I. Plants	1 yr.
11.	Trg. in Telecom/E. & C. skills for skills for Graduate Engineers	I.T.I.L. Module	All I.T.I. Plants	1 yr.
12.	Basic Trg. in Telecom/E. & C. skills (In-plant)	I.T.I.L. Module	All I.T.I. Plants	1 week-3 mths.
13.	Specialised Trg. in Telecom/E.& C. skills for projects	I.T.I.L. Module	All I.T.I. Plants	4-8 weeks
14.	Proficiency/Finish-ing Trg. in Telecom/E. & C. skills	I.T.I.L. Module	Manakpur	2-4 weeks
15.	Specialised Industrial training to Adopted I.T.Is Apprentices	I.T.I.L. Module	Palakkad, Manakpur & Naini	2 days to 1 week

Amendment to Panel Code

4214. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any recommendations to amend the Indian Panel Code of Criminal Procedures and the I.T. Act to curb cases of online harassment and hate speech;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision on these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the status 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.

Progress in Construction of Roads

4215. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

State	Nos. of road	Length in Km.	Work completed		Work in progress	
			Nos. of roads	Length in Km.	Nos. of roads	Length in Km.
Arunachal Pradesh	27	1791.96	16	681.13	11	1110.83
Himachal Pradesh	5	115.63	4	59.63	1	56.00
Jammu and Kashmir	12	1093.14	4	198.70	8	894.44
Uttarakhand	14	354.80	3	33.25	11	321.55
Sikkim	3	61.97	1	8.46	2	53.51
Total	61	3417.50	28	981.17	33*	2436.33

*However connectivity has been achieved in 23 roads out of 33 roads.

(c) The Government has taken following measures to expedite the construction of border roads:-

- (i) State of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have constituted the Empowered Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to B.R.O.
- (ii) Outsourcing has been allowed to augment the capacity of B.R.O.
- (iii) Enhanced financial and administrative powers have been given to the executives of B.R.O.

(a) whether the Border Road Organisation (B.R.O.) has shown sluggish progress in completing the construction of seventy three strategic roads along the Sino-India border, which were approved by the Government in the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the roads constructed so far from the above approved roads; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to intensify the construction of the pending strategic roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Government has identified 73 roads as strategic Indo-China Border Roads (I.C.B.Rs), which were planned to be completed by 2012.

Out of the 73 I.C.B.Rs, 61 I.C.B.Rs of length 3417.50 are entrusted to Border Roads Organization (B.R.O.) for construction/improvement. The present status of 61 I.C.B.Rs state-wise is as under:-

[Translation]

Corruption in Transportation of Coal and Fertilizers

4216. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any information regarding corruption in transportation of coal and fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years, zone-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Gates at Railway Crossings

4217. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of people die in absence of gates at railway crossings in Maharashtra every year;

(b) if so, the total number of unmanned railway crossings in Maharashtra at present and the details thereof;

(c) whether the railways has formulated any scheme to decrease the number of unmanned railway crossings in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the funds released for the purpose during the financial year 2016-17 and 2017-18 and the quantum of funds earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The statistics of accidents in Indian Railways are maintained Zonal Railway wise. No consequential train accident has occurred on Unmanned Level Crossing gates during the years 2016-17 and the current year 2017-18 upto 28th February, 2018 on Central Railway, South Central Railway, South East Central Railway, South Western Railway and Western Railway who have jurisdiction in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) As on 01.04.2017, there were 268 Unmanned Level Crossings in Maharashtra . Out of these, 25 have been eliminated upto February, 2018.

(c) The Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge are targeted for elimination by March, 2020. It is the endeavor of Railways to eliminate all Unmanned Level Crossings in a phased manner by either of the following:-

- **Closure** - Closing of Unmanned Level Crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Unit (T.V.U.).
- **Merger** - Merger of Unmanned Level Crossing gate to nearby Manned/Unmanned Level Crossing or subway/Road Under Bridge (R.U.B.)/Road Over Bridge (R.O.B.) by construction of diversion road.

- Provision of Subways/R.U.Bs.

- **Manning** - Phased manning of Unmanned Level Crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means.

(d) There are five Railway Zones in the State of Maharashtra namely Central Railway, South Central Railway, South East Central Railway, South Western Railway and Western Railway. The budget allotment for Plan Head 29 and 30 which deals with Level Crossing and Road over Bridge/Road Under Bridge works including elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings for the above mentioned five Railway Zones, during the financial year 2016-17 and 2017-18 is Rs. 1086.39 crore and Rs. 1250.83 crore respectively.

Railway Development Work

4218. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of F be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a sub-branch office of Hajipur railway zone in Ranchi since the railway development works in Jharkhand are adversely affected;

(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) A divisional headquarter at Ranchi is already there to cater to the developmental works of the area and the present system is working satisfactorily.

[English]

Nationalisation of Property in Myanmar

4219. SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Myanmar had nationalised property of some Indians in Burma;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether compensation for those properties has not been paid yet to the Indians by the Government of Myanmar;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the solution of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) to (e) Yes, in the 1960s, Government of Myanmar had nationalized the property of all foreigners, including those held by the Indian origin community there. This was done on the basis of the Land Nationalization Act (1948 and 1953) as well as the Enterprise Nationalization Law, 1963. As per the Burma Constitution, 1948 and the Myanmar Constitution, 2008, the Union/State is the ultimate owner of all lands in the country. It is understood that in the 1970s, token compensation was offered in certain cases by Government of Myanmar to affected persons who continued to reside in Myanmar.

All cases that are brought to the notice of Government of India in this regard are conveyed to Government of Myanmar for appropriate action.

Telecommunication Infrastructure in Kerala

4220. DR. P.K. BIJU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress of various ongoing projects of the Government for better telecommunication infrastructure in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) the reasons for inadequate pace of implementation of said projects in certain districts of the State;

(c) the estimate of livelihood opportunities made available through new communications infrastructure projects implemented in the State of Kerala after June, 2014; and

(d) the amount spent on communications-related projects implemented in Kerala during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The details of the progress of various ongoing projects for better telecommunication infrastructure in Kerala, district-wise are enclosed at Statement-I.

(b) There is no delay in implementation of projects. Further, Mobile Services, N.G.N. projects, O.F.C. Projects and Wi-Fi projects are being implemented in all districts of Kerala.

(c) Under Bharat Net project, about 52479 Mandays

employment has been made available. In addition, these projects also generate indirect employment, opening up livelihood opportunities for citizens.

(d) The details of the amount spent on communications-related projects implemented in Kerala during the last three years are enclosed at Statement-II.

Statement-I

(a) The details of the project under Universal Service Obligation Fund in Kerala State is as under:

BharatNet Project : BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to create network to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) by broadband in the country including Kerala. This project is under implementation and the infrastructure created will be a national asset, accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to the Service Providers.

In Kerala, BharatNet has been implemented by B.S.N.L. and all the Gram Panchayats (G.Ps) have been provided broadband connectivity under this project. As on 11.02.2018, by laying a total length of 830 km Optical Fibre Cable (O.F.C.) 1,129 G.Ps (including Block Headquarters) have been made Service Ready. The District-wise details are given as under:

District-wise Status of BharatNet in Kerala

S.No.	District Name	No. of G.Ps*	No. of G.Ps Service Ready*
1.	Alappuzha	85	85
2.	Kozhikode	87	87
3.	Wayanad	29	29
4.	Kasargod	44	44
5.	Kannur	92	92
6.	Idukki	60	60
7.	Ernakulam	98	98
8.	Kollam	81	81
9.	Kottayam	84	84
10.	Malappuram	115	115
11.	Palakkad	104	104
12.	Pathanamthitta	62	62
13.	Thrissur	104	104
14.	Thiruvananthapuram	84	84
Total		1129	1129

*includes Block Headquarters.

B.S.N.L.

(b) The various B.S.N.L. projects are in progress in Kerala Circle. The details of district-wise progress are furnished below:

(I) B.S.N.L. Projects of Mobile Services

The Phase VIII.4 G.S.M. project is in progress in Kerala Circle where B.S.N.L. has planned to add approximately 150 2G, 1342 3G and 651 4G B.T.Ss. District-wise breakup is as given below:

District	Phase VIII.4 Site Plan**		
	2G	3G	4G
1	2	3	4
Alappuzha	5	64	0
Ernakulam	15	106	3
Idukki	2	73	82
Kannur	10	140	1
Kasaragod	6	79	55
Kollam	11	99	47
Kottayam	13	129	37
Kozhikode	14	85	0
Malappuram	11	120	73
Palakkad	15	137	41
Pathanamthitta	13	97	0
Thiruvananthapuram	17	94	96
Thrissur	14	119	80
Wayanad	4	0	136
Total	150	1342	651*

*Approximately 330 count is 3G replacement by 4G.

**The overall plan may change based on the availability of spectrum.

(II) N.G.N. Projects

(a) N.G.N. C5 project Phase III - In this project it is proposed to replace 707 T.D.M. switches with N.G.N. equipment.

(b) CDOT MAXNG Project - In this project it is

proposed to upgrade 474 CDOT MAX switches to CDOT MAX NG switches.

The district-wise plan for conversion under N.G.N. C5 & MAXNG projects are given below:

Sl.No.	District/S.S.A.	NGN C5 Project - Ph. III (No. of lines)	CDOT MAXNG Project (No. of lines)
1.	Trivandrum	125600	31215
2.	Kollam	73888	35993
3.	Pathanamthitta	22720	36457
4.	Alappuzha	141088	29412
5.	Kottayam	64000	33310
6.	Ernakulam & Idukki	150464	105038
7.	Thrissur	189440	27632
8.	Palakkad	26048	36492
9.	Malappuram	141088	0
10.	Calicut & Wayanad	102144	26290
11.	Kannur & Kasaragode	194336	70618

(III) N.O.F.N. Project completed in Kerala Circle

Name of the S.S.A.	No. of Blocks	No. of Grama Panchayats/ Block Office	Service ready
Kottayam	11	84	84
Kollam	11	81	81
Kannur & Kasaragode	17	136	136
Ernakulam & Idukki	22	159	159
Alappuzha	12	85	85
Palakkad	13	104	104
Pathanamthitta	8	62	62
Thiruvananthapuram	11	84	84
Thrissur	16	104	104
Kozhikode & Wayanad	16	116	116
Malappuram	15	115	115
Total	152	1130	1130

(IV) Ongoing O.F.C. Projects**(a) Converged Packet Access Network (C.P.A.N.)**

Project: B.S.N.L. Transport network was designed and deployed to carry basically T.D.M. traffic. In the present scenario, as all new network elements are generating I.P. traffic B.S.N.L. planned to introduce Packet Transport Network elements based on M.P.L.S.-T.P. for the reliable and efficient transportation of traffic. 2238 Nos of Converged Packet Access Network (C.P.A.N.) equipments are allotted this year for Kerala Telecom Circle, to upgrade the aggregation network. Kerala Circle has planned to install the equipments in the following business areas and the project is in progress.

C.P.A.N. equipments

District/S.S.A.	A1	A2	B1	B2
Alappuzha	143	2	31	10
Calicut & Wayanad	160	2	30	15
Kannur & Kasaragode	210	6	16	20
Ernakulam & Idukki	280	14	79	76
Kottayam	62	2	36	8
Malappuram	125	2	42	8
Palakkad	131	2	25	4
Pathanamthitta	55	2	18	4
Kollam	95	2	18	5
Trichur	150	6	20	16
Trivendrum	230	4	50	22
Total	1641	44	365	188

(According to the capacity C.P.A.N. equipments are named A1, A2, B1 & B2).

(b) Laying of O.F.C.:-

450 kms of 24F and 615 kms of 48F O.F.C. has also planned for laying in the following business areas.

Business Area	24F O.F.C. in kms	48F O.F.C. in kms
Alappuzha	22	32
Calicut & Wayanad	57	34
Kannur & Kasaragode	14	94
Ernakulam & Idukki	86	174
Kottayam	36	-
Malappuram	35	40
Pathanamthitta	28	24
Kollam	33	56
Trichur	68	44
Trivandrum	14	45
Total	450	615

(V) Wi-Fi Project

(1) Public Wi-Fi 4G services under U.S.O.F. is planned in 1070 rural exchanges in Kerala Circle with backhaul bandwidth of 2mbps & with 1 access point which is having a download limit of 4GB per device per month. Out of which already commissioned locations 139. Work in progress 311 locations. Remaining will be completed on receipt of the WIFI equipment. Cost of the project for Kerala Circle for WIFI PH I: 9.63 Crores. Cost of the project for Kerala for WIFI PH II : 6.13 Crores.

S.S.A.	WIFI PH-I Project		WIFI PH II Project
	Already Commissioned under M.D.O.	Already Commissioned under U.S.O.F.	Work is in progress
1	2	3	4
A.L.P.	11	13	22

1	2	3	4
C.L.T.	24	15	30
C.N.N.	44	11	42
E.N.K.	22	15	37
K.T.M.	2	15	28
M.R.X.	17	12	25
P.G.T.	14	10	29
P.T.A.	3	11	24
Q.L.N.	3	13	23
T.C.R.	11	14	24
T.V.M.	21	10	27
Total	172	139	311

(VI) Broadband Project

Augmentation of broadband core network has been completed in various locations in Kerala by adding various new network elements & new M.N.G.-P.A.N. (M.P.L.S.-T.P._ based Next Generation transport Network - Packet Access Network) for improving the browsing speed of broadband customers. Total cost involved for installing new M.N.G. P.A.N. equipment, P.T.N. switches and augmentation of B.B.Gs is 38.30 Crores. New M.N.G. P.A.N. expansion is also planned at Kozhikode, Kanpur, Palakkad, Trichur & Trivandrum for which the cost expected is Rs. 3.64 crores.

M.P.L.S. (Multi Protocol Label Switching) backbone

also expanded during the year 2016-17 by adding new M.N.G.T. (M.P.L.S. based Next Generation Transport) P.E. routers in all S.S.A. Headquarters in addition to the already existing 10 Routers. One I.G.W. (Internet Gateway Router) chain is also installed and commissioned at Ernakulam co-located with the M.N.G.T. Core at Ernakulam for managing Data traffic. Total cost involved in this work pertaining to Kerala Circle is 5.57 Crores.

(VII) Wi-Fi Services

Public Free WIFI services in 2000 locations including rural areas are being provided by Kerala State I.T. Mission, Kerala State Govt. This work is entrusted to B.S.N.L. Kerala and the work is in progress.

S.No.	State	District	Total Sites planned	Total Live Sites
1.	Kerala	Ernakulam	161	112
2.	Kerala	Trivandrum	120	19
3.	Kerala	Alleppey	61	35
4.	Kerala	Kottayam	118	73
5.	Kerala	Thrissur	91	59
6.	Kerala	Pathanamthitta	40	22
7.	Kerala	Palakkad	61	20

S.No.	State	District	Total Sites planned	Total Live Sites
8.	Kerala	Kozhikode	43	17
9.	Kerala	Kannur	72	12
10.	Kerala	Kasargod	53	20
11.	Kerala	Idukki	22	2
12.	Kerala	Kollam	73	21
13.	Kerala	Wayanad	32	22
14.	Kerala	Malappuram	53	10
Total			1000	444

Year-wise funds disbursed/spent under the various schemes of U.S.O.F. in Kerala
Rs. in crores

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
14.94	21.72	32.17

The amount spent on communications-related projects implemented in Kerala during last three years
Year-wise?

S.No.	Name of the Project	2014-15 (Crores)	2015-16 (Crores)	2016-17 (Crores)
1.	Phase VII	17.863	-	-
2.	Phase VII+	-	0.8	210.71
3.	C.D.O.T. M.A.X. N.G.	-	13.14	-
4.	N.O.F.N.	-	46.61	-
5.	N.G.N.	-	41.41	-
6.	O.F.C. project (material cost only)	0.84	0.42	9.07
7.	Addition of Transmission equipments	2.30	10.40	7.81
8.	Wi-Fi Project	0	0	9.63
9.	Broadband core network expansion	2.688	0.787	32.317
10.	B.N.G. (Broadband Network Gateway) upgradation	2.0356	0.482	0
11.	M.P.L.S. backbone expansion	-	5.57	-
Total		25.7266	119.619	269.537

*[Translation]***F.T.Cs in Jharkhand**

4221. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fast Track Courts (F.T.Cs) have been set up in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the required funds have not been released to ensure overall smooth functioning of the said F.T.Cs;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the funds released for the State of Jharkhand for the said purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per information received from the High Court of Jharkhand, at present, no Fast Track Court (F.T.C.) is functional in the State of Jharkhand. However, 14 Courts with judicial officers of the rank of District & Additional Sessions Judge as Presiding Officers have been designated as F.T.Cs for trial of cases related to witch (dayan) murder/torture, offences against women and rape. Out of these, presently 9 Courts are functional while 5 are not functional. The details of these courts are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Setting up of subordinate courts, which includes F.T.Cs, falls within the domain of the State Governments who set up such Courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

However, the Union Government in its Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission proposed setting up of 50 F.T.Cs in the State of Jharkhand for a period of five years at a cost of Rs. 115.11 crore to deal with all cases of heinous crimes like cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. and urged the State Government to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the form of enhance tax devolution (from 32% to 42%) to meet such requirements.

Statement

Sl.No.	District	Number of Courts
Courts Designated and functional		
1.	Ranchi	2
2.	Dhanbad	3
3.	Bokaro	2
4.	East Singhbhum at Jamshedpur	1
5.	Hazaribagh	1
Courts Designated but nor functional		
1.	Ranchi	1
2.	Singhbhum West at Chaibasa	1
3.	Khunti	1
4.	Palamau	1
5.	Simdega	1

*[English]***Railway Projects in Andhra Pradesh**

4222. SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the funds released for construction of new railway lines, completion of ongoing Railway Projects/lines, road overbridges, road underbridges, etc. in Andhra Pradesh during the period from 2009-14 and 2014-19?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Funds released for projects falling fully/partly in the State of Andhra Pradesh for new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, road overbridges, road underbridges, other infrastructure & safety related works is as under:

Year	Funds released per year (Rs. in crores)
2009-2014	886.40
2014-2019	2830

Asia Africa Growth Corridor

4223. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Asia Africa Growth Corridor (A.A.G.C.) initiative in collaboration with the Government of Japan and if so, the details thereof including the priority areas identified for development cooperation and the benefits accrued/likely to accrue to the country;

(b) whether A.A.G.C. seeks synergy between India's Act East Policy and Japan's Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether A.A.G.C's objectives are aligned with the Government's vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) In the Joint Statement issued during the visit of the Prime Minister of Japan to India in September 2017, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the efforts to explore the development of industrial corridor and industrial network for the growth of Asia and Africa, which will benefit various stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region including Africa.

(b) and (c) In the same Joint Statement, the two Prime Ministers expressed their strong commitment to work together to enhance connectivity in India and with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region including Africa, underlining the importance of all countries ensuring the development and use of connectivity infrastructure in an open, transparent and non-exclusive manner based on international standards and responsible debt financing practices, while ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the rule of law, and the environment. They also reaffirmed the importance of "quality infrastructure" which, among others ensures alignment with local economic and development strategies, safety, resilience, social and environmental impacts, and job

creation as well as capacity building for the local communities. The two Prime Ministers pledged to reinforce their efforts to align Japan's free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy with India's Act East Policy, including through enhancing maritime security cooperation, improving connectivity in the wider Indo-Pacific region, strengthening cooperation with ASEAN, and promoting discussions between strategists and experts of the two countries.

[*Translation*]

Opening of New P.S.Ks

4224. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for opening new Passport Seva Kendras (P.S.Ks) have been received from various States; and

(b) if so, the time by which action will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) and (b) The proposals for opening new Passport Offices (P.O.) are received from various States and more from Member of Parliament. Taking into consideration all these requests, the Ministry in association with the Department of Posts has decided to open 251 Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (H.P.O.)/ Post Offices (P.O.) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). the list of these 251 POPSK is given in the enclosed Statement-I

168 POPSK are functional as on 15 March, 2018. The list of functional POPSK is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the operationalization of the remaining POPSK by 31 March, 2018.

Statement-I

List of 251 Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (P.O.P.S.K.)

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
1.	Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
2.	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
3.	Krishna	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
4.	Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
5.	Chitoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
6.	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
7.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
8.	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
9.	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
10.	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
11.	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
12.	Changlang	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
13.	Tirap	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
14.	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
15.	Dhubri	Assam	Guwahati
16.	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
17.	Goalpara	Assam	Guwahati
18.	Karbi Anglong	Assam	Guwahati
19.	Kokrajhar	Assam	Guwahati
20.	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
21.	North Lakhimpur	Assam	Guwahati
22.	Sonitpur	Assam	Guwahati
23.	Tinsukia	Assam	Guwahati
24.	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
25.	Gopalganj	Bihar	Patna
26.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
27.	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
28.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
30.	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
31.	Begusarai	Bihar	Patna
32.	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
33.	East Champaran	Bihar	Patna
34.	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
35.	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
36.	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
37.	Supaul	Bihar	Patna
38.	Munger	Bihar	Patna
39.	Navada	Bihar	Patna
40.	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
41.	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
42.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
43.	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
44.	Silvasa	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Mumbai
45.	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
46.	North West Delhi	Delhi	Delhi
47.	Janak Puri	Delhi	Delhi
48.	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi
49.	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
50.	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi
51.	Krishna Nagar	Delhi	Delhi
52.	Lodi Road	Delhi	Delhi
53.	Saket	Delhi	Delhi
54.	South Goa	Goa	Panaji
55.	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
56.	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
57.	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
58.	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
59.	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
60.	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
61.	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
62.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
63.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
64.	Junagarh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
65.	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
66.	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
67.	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
68.	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
69.	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
70.	Bhiwani	Haryana	Chandigarh
71.	Kaithal	Haryana	Chandigarh
72.	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
73.	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
74.	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
75.	Narnaul	Haryana	Delhi
76.	Rohtak	Haryana	Delhi
77.	Sonipat	Haryana	Delhi
78.	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
79.	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
80.	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
81.	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
82.	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
83.	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
84.	Anantnag	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
85.	Baramulla	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
86.	Kathua	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
87.	Rajouri	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
88.	Udhampur	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
89.	Leh	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
90.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
91.	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
92.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi
93.	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
94.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
95.	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi
96.	Medininagar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
97.	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
98.	Bellary	Karnataka	Bengaluru
99.	Bidar	Karnataka	Bengaluru

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
100.	Gadag	Karnataka	Bengaluru
101.	Raichur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
102.	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
103.	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
104.	Udupi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
105.	Vijayapur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
106.	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
107.	Devangere	Karnataka	Bengaluru
108.	Hassan	Karnataka	Bengaluru
109.	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
110.	Idukki	Kerala	Cochin
111.	Kasargod	Kerala	Kojhikode
112.	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivendrum
113.	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
114.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
115.	Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
116.	Shivpuri	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
117.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
118.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
119.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
120.	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
121.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
122.	Damoh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
123.	Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
124.	Sehore	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
125.	Sidhi	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
126.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
127.	Betul	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
128.	Shivni	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
129.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
130.	Sindhudurg	Maharashtra	Mumbai
131.	Wardha	Maharashtra	Mumbai

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
132.	Jalna	Maharashtra	Nagpur
133.	Latur	Maharashtra	Nagpur
134.	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	Pune
135.	Pandharpur	Maharashtra	Pune
136.	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
137.	Satara	Maharashtra	Pune
138.	Beed	Maharashtra	Mumbai
139.	Mumbai North Central	Maharashtra	Mumbai
140.	Mumbai South Central	Maharashtra	Mumbai
141.	Ghatkopar	Maharashtra	Mumbai
142.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
143.	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra	Mumbai
144.	Dombivali	Maharashtra	Mumbai
145.	Panvel	Maharashtra	Mumbai
146.	Nanded (N)	Maharashtra	Nagpur
147.	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
148.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
149.	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	Thane
150.	Baghmara	Meghalaya	Guwahati
151.	Tura	Meghalaya	Guwahati
152.	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
153.	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
154.	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
155.	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
156.	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
157.	Berhampur (Ganjam)	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
158.	Bhawanipatna (Kalahandi)	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
159.	Karaikal	Puducherry	Chennai
160.	Tarn Taran	Punjab	Amritsar
161.	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
162.	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
163.	Sangrur	Punjab	Chandigarh

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
164.	Gurdaspur	Punjab	Jalandhar
165.	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
166.	S.B.S. Nagar (Nawan Shahar)	Punjab	Jalandhar
167.	Phagwara	Punjab	Jalandhar
168.	Kota	Rajasthan	Jaipur
169.	Bikaner	Rajasthan	Jaipur
170.	Barmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
171.	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
172.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
173.	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
174.	Ajmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
175.	Churu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
176.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
177.	Hanumangarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
178.	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
179.	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
180.	Sriganganagar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
181.	Alwar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
182.	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
183.	Banswada	Rajasthan	Jaipur
184.	Pali	Rajasthan	Jaipur
185.	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
186.	Salem	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
187.	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
188.	Namakkal	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
189.	Tiruppur	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
190.	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
191.	Ramanathapuram	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
192.	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
193.	Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
194.	Sivaganga	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
195.	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	Madurai

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
196.	Kanyakumari (N)	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
197.	Perambalur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli
198.	Pudukkottai	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli
199.	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
200.	Warangal	Telangana	Hyderabad
201.	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
202.	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
203.	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
204.	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
205.	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
206.	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
207.	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
208.	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
209.	Rampur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
210.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
211.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
212.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
213.	Gautam Budh Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
214.	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
215.	Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
216.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
217.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
218.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
219.	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
220.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
221.	Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
222.	Ayodhya/Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
223.	Amethi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
224.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
225.	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
226.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
227.	Balrampur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
228.	Barabanki	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
229.	Basti	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
230.	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
231.	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
232.	Kushi Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
233.	Mau	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
234.	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
235.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
236.	RaeBareli	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
237.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
238.	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
239.	Haldwani/ Kathgodam	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
240.	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
241.	Pauri	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
242.	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
243.	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
244.	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	West Bengal	Kolkata
245.	North Kolkata (Beadon Street)	West Bengal	Kolkata
246.	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
247.	Raiganj	West Bengal	Kolkata
248.	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
249.	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata
250.	Darjeeling	West Bengal	Kolkata
251.	Malda	West Bengal	Kolkata

Statement-II*List of Functional P.O.P.S.K. as on 15th March, 2018*

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
1.	Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
2.	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada
3.	Krishna-Gudivada	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
4.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
5.	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
6.	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
7.	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
8.	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
9.	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
10.	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
11.	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
12.	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
13.	Sonitpur (Tezpur)	Assam	Guwahati
14.	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
15.	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
16.	East Champaran	Bihar	Patna
17.	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
18.	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna
19.	Munger	Bihar	Patna
20.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
21.	Navada	Bihar	Patna
22.	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
23.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
24.	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
25.	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
26.	Bettiah	Bihar	Patna
27.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
28.	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
29.	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
30.	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
31.	Silvasa	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Mumbai
32.	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
33.	Janakpuri	Delhi	Delhi
34.	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi
35.	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
36.	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
37.	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
38.	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
39.	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
40.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
41.	Junagadh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
42.	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
43.	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
44.	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
45.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
46.	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
47.	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
48.	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
49.	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat
50.	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
51.	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
52.	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
53.	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
54.	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
55.	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
56.	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
57.	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
58.	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
59.	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
60.	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
61.	Kathua	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
62.	Rajouri	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
63.	Anantnagh	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
64.	Baramulla	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
65.	Udhampur	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
66.	Leh	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
67.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
68.	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi
69.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
70.	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
71.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
72.	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
73.	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bangalore
74.	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bangaluru
75.	Bellary	Karnataka	Bangaluru
76.	Devangere	Karnataka	Bangaluru
77.	Gadag	Karnataka	Bangaluru
78.	Hassan	Karnataka	Bangaluru
79.	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bangaluru
80.	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bangaluru
81.	Udupi	Karnataka	Bangaluru
82.	Vijayapur	Karnataka	Bangaluru
83.	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
84.	Idukki (Kattappana)	Kerala	Cochin
85.	Kasargod	Kerala	Kojhikode
86.	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivendrum
87.	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
88.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
89.	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
90.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
91.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
92.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
93.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
94.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
95.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
96.	Ghatkopar/Vikhroli	Maharashtra	Mumbai
97.	Wardha	Maharashtra	Nagpur
98.	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
99.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
100.	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
101.	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
102.	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
103.	Berhampur	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
104.	Bhawanipatna	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
105.	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
106.	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
107.	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
108.	Karaikal	Puducherry	Tiruchirapalli
109.	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
110.	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
111.	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
112.	Ajmer	Rajsthan	Jaipur
113.	Alwar	Rajsthan	Jaipur
114.	Barmer	Rajsthan	Jaipur
115.	Chittorgarh	Rajsthan	Jaipur
116.	Churu	Rajsthan	Jaipur
117.	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajsthan	Jaipur
118.	Kota	Rajsthan	Jaipur
119.	Bikaner	Rajsthan	Jaipur
120.	Hanumangarh	Rajsthan	Jaipur
121.	Jhunjhunu	Rajsthan	Jaipur
122.	Jaisalmer	Rajsthan	Jaipur
123.	Jhalawar	Rajsthan	Jaipur
124.	Nagaur	Rajsthan	Jaipur
125.	Pali	Rajsthan	Jaipur
126.	Sriganganagar	Rajsthan	Jaipur
127.	Cuddalore	Tamil nadu	Chennai
128.	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil nadu	Chennai
129.	Vellore	Tamil nadu	Chennai
130.	Viluppuram	Tamil nadu	Chennai
131.	Salem	Tamil nadu	Coimbatore
132.	Kanyakumari	Tamil nadu	Madurai
133.	Virudhunagar	Tamil nadu	Madurai
134.	Perambalur	Tamil nadu	Tiruchirapalli
135.	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad

S.No.	Locations	State/U.T.	Passport Office
136.	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
137.	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
138.	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
139.	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
140.	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
141.	Warangal (Hanamkonda)	Telangana	Hyderabad
142.	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
143.	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
144.	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
145.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
146.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
147.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
148.	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
149.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
150.	Ayodhya/Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
151.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
152.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
153.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
154.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
155.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
156.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
157.	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
158.	Haldwani (Kathgodam)	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
159.	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
160.	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
161.	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
162.	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
163.	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
164.	Raiganj (North Dinajpur)	West Bengal	Kolkata
165.	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	West Bengal	Kolkata
166.	North Kolkata (Beacon Street)	West Bengal	Kolkata
167.	Malda	West Bengal	Kolkata
168.	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata

[English]

New Railway Line to Barpeta Town

4225. SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay a new railway line connecting Barpeta town of Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for new Broad Gauge line between Bongaigaon and Agthori via Barpeta Town, Hajo, Sarthebari (135.60 km) has been completed and survey report has been received in January, 2018. As per survey report, cost of the project assessed is Rs. 3336.19 crore with rate of Return (-)8.18%. The survey report is under examination.

Issues concerning Installation of New N.P.Ps

4226. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Government in coordination with concerned State Government and other entities to sort out issues like land acquisition etc so as to facilitate early installation of new Nuclear Power Plants (N.P.Ps) along with the achievements made so far;

(b) whether the Government proposes to offer better rehabilitation/compensation package to the affected by such new power plants;

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

(d) the time by when the proposed new nuclear power stations are expected to be functional with the details thereof project-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) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (N.P.C.I.L.) is closely working with the respective State Governments to expedite land acquisition, finalization & implementation of rehabilitation packages. It is also in close coordination for obtaining various clearances to enable early start of construction of nuclear power projects. The land at 'In Principle' approved sites - Gorakhpur, Haryana and Jaitapur, Maharashtra is already acquired and is in progress at Kvvada, Andhra Pradesh. At other 'In Principle' approved Greenfield sites, namely Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan and Chutka, Madhya Pradesh, the process of land acquisition is in advance stage.

(b) and (c) The Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R. & R.) packages for Project Affected Persons are formulated by the respective State Governments in line with the prevailing central and statw laws and policies. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (N.P.C.I.L.) funds the implementation of the packages. N.P.C.I.L. also carries out neighbourhood welfare activities under its Corporate Social Responsibility (C.S.R.) programme in the vicinity of the sites, in areas of Infrastructure, Healthcare, Education & Skill Development, Sanitation and Sustainable development.

(d) The present installed nuclear power capacity comprises of 22 nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 6780 M.W.

Projects Under Construction

A capacity of 6700 M.W. comprising of nine (09) nuclear power reactors (including Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (P.F.B.R.), 500 M.W. being implemented by BHAVINI) is at various stages of commissioning/construction. Teh details are as follows:

Project	Location and State	Capacity (M.W.)	Expected Completion
K.A.P.P.-3 & 4	Kakrapar, Gujarat	2 × 700	2019/20
R.A.P.P.-7 & 8	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	2 × 700	2020/21
K.K.N.P.P.-3 & 4	Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu	2 × 1000	2023

Project	Location and State	Capacity (M.W.)	Expected Completion
G.H.A.V.P.-1 & 2	Gorakhpur, Haryana	2 × 700	2024
P.F.B.R.	Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu	1 × 500	2018

On the Progressive completion of the above stated projects, the installed nuclear capacity will reach 13480 M.W. by the year 2024.

Project Sanctioned & Under Pre-Project Activities

The Government has also accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for the following twelve (12) more reactors with a total capacity of 9000 M.W. in June-2017, which are scheduled to be completed progressively by the year 2031.

Project	State	Location	Capacity (M.W.)
Chutka-1 & 2	Madhya Pradesh	Chutka	2 × 700
Kaiga-5 & 6	Karnataka	Kaiga	2 × 700
Mahi Banswara-1 & 2	Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	2 × 700
G.H.A.V.P.-3 & 4	Haryana	Gorakhpur	2 × 700
Mahi Banswara-3 & 4	Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	2 × 700
K.K.N.P.P.-5 & 6	Tamil Nadu	Kudankulam	2 × 1000

Together with the capacity being implemented by BHAVINI, the total nuclear power capacity will reach 22480 M.W. by the year 2031.

'In Principle' approved sites for locating future Nuclear Power Plants

Further to this, the Government has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for the following sites for setting up nuclear power projects in future:

Site	Location & State	Capacity (M.W.)
Bhimpur, Units-1 to 4	Bhimpur, Madhya Pradesh	4 × 700
Jaitapur, Units-1 to 6	Jaitapur, Maharashtra	6 × 1650
Kovvada, Units-1 to 6	Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh	6 × 1208
Chhaya Mithi Virdi, Units-1 to 6	Chhaya Mithi Virdi, Gujarat	6 × 1000*
Haripur, Units-1 to 6	Haripur, West Bengal	6 × 1000*

*Nominal Capacity

Cancellation of Trains due to Shortage of Coaches

4227. SHRI B.V. NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger/express trains, originating from Karnataka to distant destinations have often been

delayed or cancelled in recent months due to dearth of rakes or coaches and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether non-availability of sufficient number of coaches and absence of a centre in Kerala for repair of coaches is one of the main reasons for delays and cancellation and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways will make more coaches available and establish a coach repair yard for the railway divisions in Karnataka to avoid repetition of such lapses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam. No passenger/Mail Express trains have been cancelled originating from Karnataka in recent month due to non-availability of rakes/coaches.

(b) There is no shortage of coaches for operation of scheduled trains on Indian Railways including Southern Railway (Kerala is served under Southern Railway). The requirement of coaches for running of existing trains, replacement against condemnation and coaches for introduction of new trains are regularly met by Railway Board allotments and supplies from Production Units. In Kerala maintenance Depot are available at Kochuveli, Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Shoranur etc to cater to the requirement of repair of coaches maintained in that region.

(c) and (d) The prescribed infrastructure for maintenance of coaches is available in the coach maintenance depots of Southern Railway. For the present pattern of trains and additional trains proposed for 2018-19, the existing coaching depots are sufficient.

Aadhaar Centres in Post Offices/Banks

4228. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of setting up of Aadhaar centres in post offices/banks have been started;

(b) if so, the current status of handing over the work to post offices and banks;

(c) the number of post offices/banks which have been identified for this work;

(d) the number of post offices/banks in which facilities of Aadhaar enrolment/updation have been started, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government has directed that there is no need to get Aadhaar card laminated from private

parties and Aadhaar letter printout is sufficient to get the Aadhaar linked benefits; and

(f) 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) to (c) Yes, Madam. Department of Posts, as Registrar of Unique Identification Authority of India (U.I.D.A.I., has been mandated to set up Aadhaar enrolment and update facility in 13,352 designated Post Offices across the country. Scheduled Commercial banks have also been mandated under Regulation 12A of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016 to set up Aadhaar enrolment and update facility at 13,705 bank branches across the country.

(d) As on 14th March, 2018, a total of 12,114 Aadhaar enrolment and update centres have become operational at Post Offices/Banks across the country. The updated state-wise list of these centres is available on the U.I.D.A.I. official website: www.uidai.gov.in

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. As per subsection (3) of Section 4 of Aadhaar Act, 2016, "An Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form subject to authentication and other conditions, as may be specified by regulations, may be accepted as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder for any purpose."

U.I.D.A.I. in this regard has issued advisory that Aadhaar letter or its cutaway portion or downloaded version of Aadhaar on ordinary paper or mAadhaar are perfectly valid.

e-Courts Mission Mode Project

4229. SHRI D.K. SURESH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of e-Courts Mission Mode Project in the country;

(b) whether the Government has achieved the target set for e-Courts Mission Mode Project in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the total number of e-Courts set up in the country till date; and

(d) the details of total allocation made and spent on the said project in the country till date for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. The e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase I was implemented during 2011-2015 wherein Rs. 251 crores was released for computerisation of district and subordinate courts. At the end of Phase-I, out of the total target of computerisation of 14,249 district and subordinate courts, sites for all 14,249 courts (100%) were made ready for computerisation, out of which L.A.N. was installed at 13,643 courts, hardware provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise was completed in all the High Courts. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System and more than 4000 court staff have been trained in Case Information System (C.I.S.) as System Administrators. Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding jails.

Under the Phase II of the Project (2015-19), Rs. 936.98 crores has been released till date against the financial outlay of Rs. 1670 crores. Computerisation of 16,089 district and subordinate courts has been completed, through provisioning of computer hardware, Local Area Network (L.A.N.), and installation of standard application software.

The details of computerised district and subordinate courts under various High Courts are as under:

S.No.	Name of the High Court	No. of Computerised subordinate courts
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	1733
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1078
3.	Bombay	2079

1	2	3
4.	Calcutta	772
5.	Chhattisgarh	340
6.	Delhi	427
7.	Gauhati	442
8.	Gujarat	1108
9.	Himachal Pradesh	118
10.	Jabalpur	1203
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	218
12.	Jharkhand	351
13.	Jodhpur	978
14.	Karnataka	897
15.	Kerala	486
16.	Madras	988
17.	Orissa	509
18.	Patna	1025
19.	Punjab and Haryana	1018
20.	Sikkim	15
21.	Uttarakhand	185
22.	Tripura	62
23.	Manipur	30
24.	Meghalaya	27
Total		16089

A new and user-friendly version of Case Information Software (C.I.S. 2.0) has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. QR Code facility has been made operational in the software. An advance version of C.I.S.N.C 3.0 has been made ready for deployment.

Till date, 11 High Courts have migrated to Case Information System National Core version 1.0.

The National Judicial Data Grid (N.J.D.G.) for District and Subordinate Courts has been created as an online platform which now provide information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of 16,089 computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. The portal provides

online information to litigants such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders and final judgements. Currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 9 crore cases and more than 6 crore orders/judgements. Litigants centric information can be obtained through the e-Courts portal (<http://ecourts.gov.in>). Case information is thus available speedily to the petitioners and respondents. The e-Courts portal and National Judicial Data Grid (N.J.D.G.) also serve as tools of efficient court and case management for judiciary which aids in disposal of pending cases.

Judicial Service Centres (J.S.C.) have been established at all computerized subordinate courts to serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants/lawyers, and for obtaining information on ongoing cases and copies of orders and judgements etc. E-Courts mobile app with the facility of QR Code was launched on 22.07.2017 for use of litigants and lawyers. Services under different captions viz. Search by C.N.R., Case Status, Cause List and My Cases are available on this application, which is available on both Google Play and Apple Store.

Furthermore, the facility of providing case information services through S.M.S. has also been implemented and the process of disseminating system-generated S.M.Ss is operational. The case details can also be obtained by sending unique C.N.R. number (Case Number Record) to a mobile number through S.M.S. Cause lists, judgements, case status etc. can be received in the litigants' mailbox on registration of email address. Information Kiosks have been setup at all computerized court complexes for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related information to the lawyers and litigants.

An eFiling application to enable the advocates, petitioners-in-person, etc., to file their cases on-line (at any time) has been launched in December 2017 and has been deployed at Delhi district court and successfully tested at City Civil Court, Mumbai.

During the Phase II, till date, about 109.56 crore electronic transactions have been recorded for eCourts through eTaal portal.

(d) Funds allocated by the Department of Justice for computerization of courts in the country under eCourts

Mission Mode Project Phase-II during the last three years are as under:

Year	Funds released under eCourts Project for computerization of courts (Rupees in crores)	Funds spent (Rupees in crores)
2015-16	210.23	195.99
2016-17	357.52	176.00
2017-18 (till date)	369.23	44.45

Restoration of Seniority of MTNL Officers

4230. DR. UDIT RAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (N.C.S.C.) have written to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to restore the seniority of M.T.N.L. Officers belonging to Scheduled Caste (S.C.) on promotion;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether Junior Telecom Officers (J.T.Os) belonging to S.C. category, promoted earlier to Telecom Engineering Services (T.E.S.) Group-B post have retained their consequential seniority in the revised list above their juniors of general/O.B.C. category, promoted later;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure implementation of DoP. & T. instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (N.C.S.C.) has sent one case to Department of Telecom (DoT) in the last two years on seniority issues of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (M.T.N.L.) employees belonging to Scheduled Caste (S.C.) officers to restore the seniority on promotion. DoT has submitted

Action Taken Report (A.T.R.) twice to N.C.S.C. on the same.

(c) and (d) The personnel & establishment matters such as promotion, seniority, etc., of M.T.N.L. is under the purview of M.T.N.L. and DoT has no role to play in such matters. The seniority list of Telecom Engineering Service Group B officers absorbed in M.T.N.L. was provided to M.T.N.L. at the time of their absorption. M.T.N.L. has confirmed that while granting promotion to a Scheduled Caste category employee to the next higher grade, their consequential seniority is retained above their juniors of general/Other Backward Caste category, promoted later.

(e) Department of Personnel and Training (DOP. & T.) instructions are always adhered to by the Department of Telecom in letter and spirit. In case of any court judgement and its implementation which differs from DoP. & T. instructions, the advice of DoP. & T. is taken invariably.

Mobile Number Portability

4231. SHRI ANTO ANTONY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the fee for the mobile number portability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) has recently sought comments from various stakeholders on the aforesaid matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the comments received and the response of 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) Telecom Regulatoru Authority of India (TRAI) has issued "The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability per Port Transaction charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (03 of 2018)" on 31st January, 2018. As per regulations, Per Port Transaction charge has been reduced from Rs. 19/- to Rs. 4/-.

(c) and (d) T.R.A.I. sought comments from various stakeholders on the Draft "The Telecommunication Mobile

Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2017". The same was placed on T.R.A.I.'s website on 18th December, 2017. The last dat for receiving comments from stakeholders was 29th December, 2017, which was further extended up to 12th January, 2018, considering the requests of stakeholders. An Open House Discussion on the subject was held on 16th Jaunary 2018 and two more days were given to stakeholders to submit their additional comments, if any.

Written comments on the Draft "The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2017" were received from fourteen stakeholders. The same has also been placed on T.R.A.I.'s website (<http://www.trai.gov.in/draft-regulations-telecommunication-mobile-number-portability-port-transaction-charge-and-dipping>). After due consideration of the facts and figures and the inputs rreceived in aforesaid public consultation, T.R.A.I. has notified the above mentioned Regulations.

[*Translation*]

Declaration of Backward District

4232. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts of Bihar State declared as backward districts;

(b) whether the Government proposes to include more districts of Bihar in the list of backward districts, including Sitamarhi and Shivhar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken to remove the backwardness of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) NITI Aayog has not declared any district as a bckward district. However, 115 districts have been identified across the country which have shown lesser progress in terms of socio-economic indicators like Health & Nutrition, Education, and Basic Infrastructure. These identified districts have been termed as Aspirational Districts. In Bihar, 13 districts have been identified as

Aspirational Districts which includes 6 districts identified by Ministry of Home Affairs on the basis of their being affected by Left Wing Extremism. These 13 districts are Katihar, Begusarai, Sheikhpura, Araria, Sitamarhi, Khagaria, Purnia, Aurangabad, Banka, Gaya, Jamui, Muzaffarpur and Nawada.

(b) As seen from above, Sitamarhi is already included in the list of aspirational districts. At present, there is no such plan for expansion of this programme or inclusion of Shivhar district.

(c) The State Government in partnership with the Central Government has taken measures to remove backwardness. This includes implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes which in turn includes schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, National Social Action Programme, Schemes in agriculture, water-resources, sanitation and basic infrastructure like programme for housing (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana), Saubhagya Yojana for rural electrification etc. In addition, backwardness of the State has been taken into consideration in the formula for inter-se allocation of resources by the 14th Finance Commission. This enables the State to take measure to remove backwardness.

Purchase of Power from DISCOMS

[English]

4233. SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is purchasing power from various discoms across the country for its train operations and if so, the details thereof, discom-wise;

(b) the details of expenses incurred on purchasing power from discoms, year-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to change this system of purchasing power from discoms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways is purchasing power from various Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) across the country for its train operations, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Indian Railways was granted deemed licensee status in November, 2015 after which it has started to procure power through Open Access from Generating Companies (GENCOs) through tariff based bidding/bilateral arrangements and has made applications to various State Transmission Utilities (S.T.U.s) for obtaining "No Objection Certificate" (N.O.C.). Indian Railways is presently drawing about 1000 M.W. through Open Access, out of about 2000 M.W. total requirement, in the State of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Haryana, Karnataka and also in Damodar Valley Corporation (D.V.C.) and Central Transmission Utility (C.T.U.) points in Uttar Pradesh after the N.O.C. was granted by the States. As and when N.O.C. is granted by other States, the share of drawing power through Open Access will further go up.

Statement

Details of State Electricity Boards/Distribution Company (DISCOMs)-wise Traction Energy Bill are as under:

S.No.	Name of S.E.B's/DISCOM's	Energy Bill (traction) in Million Rs.		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (upto Dec.' 17)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd. (A.P.E.P.D.C.L.)	4258	4136	2407
2.	Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (B.E.S.COM.)	367	434	302

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chamundi Electricity Supply Company (C.E.S.COM.)	462	478	380
4.	Gulburga Electricity Supply Company (G.E.S.COM.)	20	25	12
5.	Gujrat Electricity Board (G.E.B.)	3960	2448	2226
6.	Grid Corporation of Odisha (GRID.C.O.)	3805	1501	-
7.	Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd. (H.V.P.N.L.)	543	564	269
8.	Jharkhand State Electricity Board (J.S.E.B.)	3960	1764	1009
9.	Kerla State Electricity Board (K.S.E.B.)	1198	1287	1113
10.	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (M.P.S.E.B.)	3915	1614	927
11.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board (M.S.E.B.)	282	72	120
12.	National Thermal Power Corporation (N.T.P.C.)	1366	1025	913
13.	Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (P.S.P.C.L.)	1136	1201	1172
14.	Tamilnadu Electricity Board (T.N.E.B.)	6916	6940	5348
15.	Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (P.V.V.N.L.)	475	1350	1352
16.	Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. (U.P.C.L.)	66	98	127
17.	West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (W.B.S.E.D.C.L.)	8577	9077	7341
18.	Tata Group (TATA)	7097	3157	1881
19.	BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (B.R.P.L.)	290	187	146
20.	Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (T.P.D.D.L.)	373	385	313
21.	Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (U.H.B.V.N.)	1262	1285	655
22.	Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (D.H.B.V.N.)	943	948	405
23.	Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (U.P.P.C.L.)	5475	6300	4888
24.	Reliance Energy	124	-	-
25.	Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (M.S.E.D.C.L.)	9056	1890	1716
26.	Bihar State Electricity Board (B.S.E.B.)	3721	3781	3787
27.	Damodar Valley Corporation (D.V.C.)	5039	5758	3671
28.	Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Company Ltd. (A.P.C.P.D.C.L.)	574	161	181
29.	Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Ltd. (C.S.P.D.C.L.)	5565	6187	3472
30.	Andhra Pradesh Northern Power Distribution Company Ltd. (A.P.N.P.D.C.L.)	1259	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd. (A.P.S.P.D.C.L.)	4223	4023	2492
32.	Jaipur Vidhyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (J.V.N.L.)	2558	2390	528
33.	Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Company Ltd. (M.P.P.K.V.V.C.L.)	4359	3063	1153
34.	Madhya Pradesh Kshetra Vidhyut Vitran Company Limited (M.P.M.K.V.V.C.L.)	3013	2137	1387
35.	Madhya Gujarat Vidhyut Vij Company Ltd. (M.G.V.C.L.)	528	340	266
36.	Southern Electricity Supply Company of Odisha Ltd. (SOUTHCO)	272	730	714
37.	Western Electricity Supply Company of Odisha Ltd. (WESCO)	1712	1712	1335
38.	North Eastern Electricity Supply Company of Odisha Ltd. (N.E.S.C.O.)	732	1817	1847
39.	Telangana State Northern Power Distribution Company Ltd. (T.S.N.P.D.C.L.)	1695	2884	2193
40.	Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd. (T.S.S.P.D.C.L.)	577	1018	1065
41.	Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt. Ltd. (R.G.P.P.L.)	2670	8809	11213
42.	North Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd. (N.B.P.D.C.L.)	-	5	-
43.	Madhyanchal Vidhyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (M.V.V.N.L.)	-	509	1023
44.	Jindal India Thermal Power Ltd. (J.I.T.P.L.)	-	115	815
45.	Central Electricity Supply Utility of Odisha (C.E.S.U.)	-	1158	1572
46.	Bharatiya Rail Bijlee Company Ltd. (B.R.B.C.L.)	-	-	573
47.	Calcutta Electric Corporation (C.E.S.C.)	-	-	2
48.	Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department ((J. & K. P.D.D.)	-	-	62
Total		104422	94766	74370

- Indicates that no power drawn from this DISCOM during this period.

Implementation of Schemes for S.Cs/S.Ts

4234. PROF. SAUGATA ROY : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the planning experts of the country have ascertained the reasons for the failure of proper

implementation of schemes for S.Cs and S.Ts throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for failure of proper implementation of the schemes;

(d) whether it is true that the major portion of funds meant for such schemes has been diverted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the misuse of the funds for schemes/programmes for the welfare of S.Cs/S.Ts?

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 efficiency and issues related to it, with respect to schemes for S.Cs and S.Ts are ascertained through periodic evaluation of the Scheme of Special Central Assistance (S.C.A.) to Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (S.C.S.P.) and Scheme for Special Central Assistance (S.C.A.) to Tribal Sub Plan (T.S.P.) was conducted in the year 2013, by the erstwhile Planning Commission, through National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (N.I.R.D. & P.R.), Hyderabad. Similar evaluation studies are also conducted by the Nodal Ministries i.e. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(c) The findings of the evaluation study do not suggest failure of the schemes. However, some of the limitations identified in the implementation of the schemes are lack of effective planning at bottom level, lack of convergence of programs, thin distribution of resources, lack of awareness about the schemes amongst the S.Cs/ S.Ts etc.

(d) NITI Aayog has not come across any specific case of diversion of funds allocated for welfare of S.Cs/ S.Ts.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Train from Udaipur to Vaishno Devi

4235. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new train from Udaipur to Vaishno Devi;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Owing to operational constraints including terminal constraints at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, introduction of new train between Udaipur and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra is not feasible, at present.

[English]

Unauthorised Leave

4236. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 13,500 employees of the railways are likely to face termination from service for unauthorised leave;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Railways has received any complaints from the public about the illegal activities in and around Integral Coach Factory Chennai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In November, 2017, a drive was launched by the Railways to identify employees on unauthorised absence in various Zonal Railways and Production Units. A total of 13,521 employees were reported to be on unauthorised absence, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement. Appropriate action under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules has been initiated against such absentees.

(c) No, Madam. No specific complaint was received from the public about any illegal activities in and around the Integral Coach Factory.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Break up of 13,521 Employees on unauthorised absence (Provisional)

Zonal Railway/ Production Unit	No. of Absentees
1	2
Central	1375

1	2
East Coast	683
East Central	1792
Eastern	1214
North Central	844
North Eastern	358
Northern	1301
North Western	360
South Central	650
South East Central	274
South Eastern	829
Southern	1476
South Western	216
West Central	550
Western	1414
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	34
Diesel Locomotive Works	6
Diesel Loco Modernisation Works	6
Integral Coach Factory	115
Rail Coach Factory	19
Rail Wheel Factory	5
Total of Railways and P.Us	13521

[Translation]

Disposal of Complaints

4237. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two Ministries received 40 per cent out of total complaints during the last three years;

(b) if so, the name of the Ministries which has received highest highest number of complaints along with

the number of complaints received and the number of complaints disposed of in a time-bound manner Ministry and year-wise;

(c) whether the Ministries and the Departments take significant time in referring back those complaints which are not related to their departments;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposed to issue directions to refer back these complaints within a stipulated timeframe and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether disposal of complaints at ground level is different from what is shown in the portal; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to review mechanism for disposal of complaints?

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) No, Madam. The top two Ministries/Departments which received maximum number of complaints in the last three years and the number of complaints received and disposed of are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (C.P.G.R.A.M.S.) has no such provision for making assessment whether Ministries/ Departments take significant time in referring back the complaints not related to their departments.

(e) and (f) Disposal of grievances is done by the respective Ministry/Department as per Allocation of Business Rules, 1961 which is then reflected on the C.P.G.R.A.M.S. portal against the corresponding registration number of the grievance. Regular review meetings are held to monitor both disposed and pending grievances in the respective Departments and also in Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.

Statement*Year-wise statement of Receipt and Disposal of Complaints*

Name of the Ministry/Department	Year	Complaints Received	Complaints Disposed of	Percentage of total complaints received
Department of Financial Services (Banking Division)	2015	53776	48678	8.33%
	2016	88850	73535	12.56%
	2017	106299	121075	12.76%
Department of Telecommunications	2015	63929	59282	9.90%
	2016	67551	68448	9.55%
	2017	77463	78083	9.30%

[English]

Boinda Railway Station Overbridge

4238. SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Fly Over Bridge on Talcher-Sambalpur railway line near Boinda railway Station under the East Coast Railway which is under construction since twelve years but not completed so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total cost of the bridge and the time by which the work of the bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Construction of Road Over Bridge on Talcher-Sambalpur Railway line near Boinda Railway Station falls on National Highway. Therefor, the same is to be constructed by National Highway Authority of India (N.H.A.I.) at their own cost on single entity basis as per Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) signed on 10.11.2014 between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (M.O.R.T.H.).

Net Neutrality

4239. DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) from subscribers against Internet Service Providers (I.S.Ps) for not following the Net Neutrality guidelines laid down by the T.R.A.I.;

(b) whether the Government has found that I.S.Ps are at fault in the said complaints and if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether T.R.A.I. has any mechanism to regulate I.S.Ps to ensure net neutrality and and if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government intends to make Net Neutrality guidelines made by T.R.A.I. legally enforceable 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 (d) T.R.A.I. has submitted its recommendations on Net Neutrality to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 28th November 2017. The recommendations of T.R.A.I. are being examined by the Government.

Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to internet for all citizens of the country. T.R.A.I. has *inter-alia*, recommended that internet

access services should be governed by a principle that restricts any form of discrimination or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content. T.R.A.I. has also recommended an amendment to the license agreements to clarify the principle of unrestricted access given under the appropriate license agreements.

Funds to Assam

4240. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing funds to Assam under various special packages/schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred under each package since the announcement of such packages, year-wise; and

(d) the details of projects sanctioned under each package, till date?

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. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is providing funds to Government of Assam under the Special Packages of Rs. 750.00 crore for Bodoland Territorial Council (B.T.C.), Rs. 350.00 crore for Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (K.A.A.T.C.) and Rs. 200.00 crore for Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (D.H.A.T.C.).

(c) Year-wise release of funds under these packages since their inception is as under:-

Bodoland Territorial Council (B.T.C.)

Year	Fund released (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	100.00
2005-06	86.75
2006-07	83.50

Year	Fund released (Rs. in crore)
2007-08	100.00
2008-09	67.03
2009-10	3.15
2010-11	50.00
2011-12	50.00
2012-13	16.41
2013-14	17.04
2014-15	30.00
2015-16	30.00
2016-17	50.00
2017-18	23.47
Total	707.35

Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (K.A.A.T.C.)

Year	Fund released (Rs. in crore)
2014-15	10.52
2015-16	5.15
2016-17	3.43
2017-18	1.50
Total	20.60

Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (D.H.A.T.C.)

Year	Fund released (Rs. in crore)
2015-16	37.24
2016-17	0.08
2017-18	23.37
Total	60.69

(d) The details of projects sanctioned under these packages are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*List of Projects sanctioned under B.T.C. Special Package*

S.No.	Name of the Project
1.	Improvement of Dhamdhama Tupalia Subankhata Road.
2.	Improvement of Kaurbaha-Nagrijiuli Road by metalling and black-topping including conversion of S.P.T. Bridges into R.C.C. Minor Bridges.
3.	Metalling and Black-topping of Narabari Dawkibari Road (Narabari to Florican Garden <i>via</i> Malgaon).
4.	Improvement of North Kajolgaon Dangtol Road.
5.	Improvement of Bhowraguri Kachugaon Road in Kokrajhar.
6.	Improvement and upgradation of Kashikotra to Basugaon Road.
7.	Improvement of Sundari Bidyapur <i>via</i> Kakragaon Road.
8.	Metalling and blacktopping of Gossaigaon to Saraibil Road including improvement of existing hard crust and conversion of S.T.P. bridge to R.C.C. bridges.
9.	Widening and Strengthening of Fakiragram-Serfanguri Road including conversion of S.T.P. bridge.
10.	Improvement of North Kajolgaon Bengtol Sonitpur Road, Chirang.
11.	Construction of Road from N.H.-31 at Barama to Masalpur, Baska.
12.	Improvement of Jalah Rupahi Saudarbhittha Gobardhana road, Baska.
13.	Improvement of Udalguri Bhakatpara road <i>via</i> Bhairaguri, Udalguri.
14.	Improvement of Barnagaon Pakribari Road, Udalguri.
15.	Improvement of Kalaigaon Kundarbil road, Udalguri.
16.	Construction of 100 bedded Hospital at Kajalgaon in B.T.C. area of Assam.

S.No.	Name of the Project
17.	Kokrajhar Water Supply Scheme, Kokrajhar.
18.	Construction of Bodofa Cultural Complex at Kokrajhar.
19.	Champamati Irrigation Project
20.	Renovation/Re-construction of R.N.B. Civil Hospital at Kokrajhar.
21.	Subankhata Water Supply Scheme.
22.	Sukla Irrigation Project.
23.	Goreswar to Khoirabari Road.
24.	Bhergaon-Chouni-Khagrabari-Dimakuchi Road
25.	Lailongpara-Kopati Road <i>via</i> Boro Bazar.
26.	Howrang Mahanpur Road.
27.	Chapaguri-Khagrabari Road.
28.	Tulsijhyora-Kailamaila Road <i>via</i> Amguri
29.	Bijni-Panbari Road.
30.	Gossaigaon to Kazigaon <i>via</i> Bhukka, Tipkai Road.
31.	Construction of Cold storage at Kokrajhar district.
32.	Construction of Cold storage at Udalgiri district.
33.	Construction of North East gate Way Bus Terminus at Srinwgai Gossaigaon.
34.	Improvement of Tihu Dhoomni Road leading to Indo-Bhutan foot hills from 7th to 25 km in Baska district.
35.	Improvement of Khoirabari M.P.K. road (Andherighat) to Harisinga <i>via</i> Bhergaon, Tangla and Purandia 42.25 km length with conversion of 11 S.P.T. bridges to R.C.C.
36.	Construction of Kashikotra Bamungaon Bengtol Road.
37.	Bheragaon Piped Water Supply Scheme.
38.	Udalguri Piped Water Supply Scheme.
39.	Uttarpar Piped Water Supply Scheme.
40.	Improvement of Jalah to Kumarikata Road including 2 bridges over River Kaldia and Diring.

S.No.	Name of the Project
41.	Conversion of S.P.T. Bridge 20/1 over River Gangia into R.C.C. Bridge on Gosaigaon Sapatgram Road in Kokrajhar District.
42.	Strengthening of 11 Kv H.T. & L.T. Line with 12 Meter Steel Tubular Pole including illumination of Kokrajhar Town.
43.	Setting up of Integrated Agro-Processing Park at Lalpool (Udalgiri).
44.	Proposed Integrated Textile Park at Kharuajan, Mushalpur.
45.	Construction of Khanda Road from Dawdhara to Dhoomni <i>via</i> Nawputa in Baska Distt.
46.	Improvement of road from Bashbari to Gossaigaon <i>via</i> Dingdinga, Kokrajhar District (D.K. Road).
47.	Improvement of road from widening of Bishmuri Saralpara Sarbhanga Road.
48.	Met. And Blacktopping road from Lalmati to Manglajhora in Kokrajhar District.
49.	Construction of road from Borobazar to Ulubari <i>via</i> Bagargaon including R.C.C. Bridge & cross Drainage in Chiran District.
50.	Construction of road from Kumarikata to Nayabasti (Kumarikata Jalah Road) in Baksa District.
51.	Up-gradation of Sports Complex at Kajalgaon in Chirang (Chirang).
52.	Construction of R.C.C. Bridge No. 6/3 over Gongia river on Dotma-Bhawraguri Road (Kokrajhar).
53.	Improvement of Rowta Station Feeder road in Udalguri District.
54.	Construction of Cold Storage at Barama (Baksa).
55.	Enhancement of existing facility in Veterinary Hospital at Titaguri (Kokrajhar), Samthaibari (Chirang) and Bornagaon in Udalguri District.
56.	Construction of R.C.C. Bridge No. 8/1 over Gurufella river on Gossaigaon-Sapatgram Road (Kokrajhar).

S.No.	Name of the Project
57.	Bodo Language Research and Development Centre for Gauhati University, Kokrajhar.
58.	Bodoland Bhawan at Dwarka, New Delhi.
59.	Construction of R.C.C. Bridge No. 3/1 over Puthimari river at Dolonghat (Dhulabari) (Baksa).
60.	Setting up of Model Dairy, Fishery, Horticulture, Poultry Farm Training Centre at Kokilabari under Baksa Distt.
61.	Setting up of I.T. Park - Kokrajhar.
62.	Establishment of Sports Complex at Salbari.
63.	Construction of road from Ambagaon to Kundarbil in Udalguri District.

**List of Projects sanctioned under K.A.A.T.C.
Special Package**

S.No.	Name of the Project
1.	Improvement of Road from Amsoi Tinali to Sinani Bridge <i>via</i> Borgaon, Morten (From 0.00 Km to 17th Km).
2.	Improvement of Kheroni Rongpongong Road from 37.10th Km to 46.10th Km (Widening, Lowering and strengthening of existing hard crust and providing H.P. Culvert).
3.	Improvement/Upgradation by M. & B.T. of road from Kathalguri village to Wirwar <i>via</i> Parkup Pahar from (Ch. 2500.00 m to 9000.00 m).
4.	Improvement and M. & B.T. of road near Satgaon Don Bosco School to Mugasong Tinali road (length 4.00 Km).
5.	Construction of R.C.C. Bridge No. 1/5 (L 18.00 m) and 5/3 (L 26.00m) over river Telehor and Dera respectively on Deori Tinali to Deramokam Road.
6.	Improvement including Metalling & Black Topping at Chaitsema-Rongmandu Road from Monjuli to Longpai (Ch. from 0.00 m to 3900.00 m).
7.	Improvement with M. & B.T. of Disagisim Sibnagar Road (L 7.448 Km).

S.No.	Name of the Project
8.	Improvement of Road from Joysingh Doloi Auditorium Hall to Bijoy Teron Village approach road via Cotton Ginning Mill by widening of road formation including construction of R.C.C. Bridge No. 1/1.
9.	Improvement and M. & B.T. of Road from Donkamokam (Artukelang Charali) to Fangtrefang upto P.M.G.S.Y. Road (Portion from ch. 3803.00 m to 5510.00 m & 6010.00 m to 8303.00 m, length 4.00km).
10.	Improvement of Kollanga Sildibi Road from 7th km to 10th km (L=3.25 km) with construction of R.C.C. Bridge No. 8/2 over river Dera.

**List of Projects sanctioned under D.H.A.T.C.
Special Package**

S.No.	Name of the Project
1.	Construction of S.R. Thaosen Media Centre at Haflong, Dima Hasao District.
2.	Integrated Skill Development Centre at Dima Hasao District of Assam.
3.	Construction of Auditorium at Songpijang in Haflong, Dima Hasao District, N.C.H.A.C.
4.	Construction of Rajkumari Dishrudi Community Home Stay ad Ecotourism at Panimur in Dima Hasao District.
5.	Construction of Centre for Ethnic Community Cultural Practice (Dilaobra Sangibra Samathuraoni Nodrang) at Haflong.
6.	Construction of Community Hall at Dehangi Bazar under P.W.D. (Building), Haflong Division.
7.	Construction of Community Hall at Diyungbra (Digendu), under P.W.D. (Building), Haflong Division.
8.	Construction of Community Hall at Nobdiangting under P.W.D. (Building), Haflong Division.
9.	Construction of Community Hall at Mahur under P.W.D. (Building), Haflong Division.

S.No.	Name of the Project
10.	Improvement of P.G.H.J. Road from 19th to 74th km (Umrangso to Dilhangi) under P.W.D. (Roads), Haflong Division.

Appointment of Judges

4241. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL :
SHRI ARVIND SAWANT :
SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL) :

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of judges in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time-frame for fulfilling the commitment of appointment of a certain number of judges in the country;

(d) if so, the time by which the said appointments are proposed to be made along with the number of the proposed appointments and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total number of judges appointed in the last three years court and year-wise?

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) Filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High courts is a continuous and collaborative process, between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies in High Courts do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or

elevation of Judges and also the increase in strength of Judges.

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States.

The Supreme Court, through a judicial order in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary. This order of January 2007 by the Supreme Court stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments/High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other

relevant conditions. Further, during the Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April 2016, the Conference on being apprised of:

- (i) The large pendency of cases, both civil and criminal, in the district judiciaries; and
- (ii) Nearly twenty three percent of the pending cases being over five years old,

resolved, *inter alia*, that all the State Governments shall, in terms of the demands placed by the concerned High Courts for an increase in the cadre strength of the district judiciary provide for at least a minimum increase of ten percent per year in accordance with the judgement of the Supreme Court in Brij Mohan Lal *versus* Union of India.

(e) The details of number of Judges appointed in the last three years in Supreme Court and High Courts are given in the Statement-I and the details of sanctioned/working strength and vacancy position of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of Judges appointed in Supreme Court and High Courts during last three years

Court (Supreme Court/High Courts) and type of appointment of Judge	Year of appointment		
	2016	2017	2018
Judges appointed in the Supreme Courts	04	05	-
Appointment of Chief Justices	14	08	04
Transfer of Chief Justices	04	-	01
Judges appointed in the High Courts	*126	115	11
Additional Judges made permanent in High Courts	*131	31	57
Additional Judges given fresh term	22	05	-
Transfer of Judges	33	05	01
New posts of Judges created in High Courts	35	-	-

*Highest ever in a given year.

Statement-II**Sanctioned Strength/Working Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts during the last three years**

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Position of Judicial Officers			Position of Judicial Officers			Position of Judicial Officers		
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	1034	785	249	1025	929	96	986	920	66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17	15	2	26	17	9	28	17	11
3.	Assam	424	319	105	424	311	113	429	352	77
4.	Bihar	1727	1067	660	1825	1002	823	1828	993	835
5.	Chhattisgarh	385	341	44	395	356	39	398	335	63
6.	Goa	57	49	8	57	50	7	55	43	12
7.	Gujarat	1939	1170	769	1502	1111	391	1496	1121	375
8.	Haryana	644	474	170	644	501	143	645	496	149
9.	Himachal Pradesh	152	134	18	155	147	8	159	148	11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	245	220	25	246	219	27	253	224	29
11.	Jharkhand	592	466	126	673	448	225	672	419	253
12.	Karnataka	1122	820	302	1300	913	387	1303	976	327
13.	Kerala	457	442	15	491	427	64	535	450	85
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1350	1132	218	2021	1240	781	2021	1293	728
15.	Maharashtra	2251	1917	334	2094	1969	125	2097	1930	167
16.	Manipur	41	35	6	34	25	9	49	40	09
17.	Meghalaya	57	29	28	57	41	16	97	39	58
18.	Mizoram	63	30	33	63	30	33	63	46	17
19.	Nagaland	27	25	2	34	25	9	34	22	12

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20. Odisha	716	598	118	862	601	261	862	656	206		
21. Punjab	672	490	182	674	546	128	674	538	136		
22. Rajasthan	1191	985	206	1205	1076	129	1225	1122	103		
23. Sikkim	18	14	4	23	13	10	23	18	5		
24. Tamil Nadu	1015	969	46	1047	939	108	1108	908	200		
25. Tripura	104	68	36	106	77	29	107	76	31		
26. Uttar Pradesh	2104	1827	277	3142	1728	1414	3204	1856	1348		
27. Uttarakhand	280	206	74	291	218	73	291	230	61		
28. West Bengal	959	900	59	1013	913	100	956	916	40		
29. Andaman and Nicobar Island							11	11	0		
30. Chandigarh	30	30	0	30	30	0	30	30	0		
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	7	6	1	7	6	1	7	7	0		
32. Delhi	793	490	303	793	489	304	799	482	317		
33. Lakshadweep	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	2	1		
34. Puducherry	26	14	12	26	13	13	26	12	14		
Total	20502	16070	4432	22288	16413	5875	22474	16728	5746		

Call Drop Problem

4242. SHRI DILIP PATEL :

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a permanent solution for the call drop problem has been found and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the problem of call drop is unique to the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to cancel license of telecom companies that fail to end call drop problem in the near future and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the performance of B.S.N.L. in addressing the problem of call drop is worse as compared to other private telecom companies and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by 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 calls on mobile phones which, due to technical reasons, get cut off before the speaking parties finish their conversation and before one of them hangs up, are classified as dropped calls. In wireless networks, it is a world-wide phenomenon and not unique to any particular country. Call drops may happen in wireless networks due to various reasons like:

- (i) Poor radio coverage - Non availability of suitable tower-locations, may be due to acquisition problems and sealing of towers by local authorities/Resident Welfare Organization (R.W.A.)/Owners due to fear of Electro Magnetic Field (E.M.F.) issues;
- (ii) Radio interference due to use of unauthorized repeaters;
- (iii) Change in pattern of traffic - Exponential growth in traffic due to more use of smart phones which may result in shrinkage of 3G cell size;
- (iv) Non availability of 24x7 power resulting in

shutdown of tower/Base Transceiver Stations (B.T.S.);

- (v) Poor Radio Frequency (R.F.) optimization efforts: Network Optimization is a process through which different soft parameters (B.T.S. power, neighbour definitions) and hard parameters (e.g. Electrical Tilt, Mechanical Tilt, Azimuth etc.) of the B.T.S. are changed in order to improve the coverage area and quality of signal.

In order to resolve the problem of call drop, Government and T.S.Ps have taken various steps like:

- making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 M.Hz in 2016,
- allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilisation,
- permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilisation efficiency.
- notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers),
- periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by the Telecom Service Providers (T.S.Ps) - leading to addition of around 6.66 lakh additional B.T.S. on aggregate basis for 2G/3G/4G services during the period - June 2015 to February 2018,
- facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiple-sharing basis,
- launching of Tarang Sanchar, a public web portal for information sharing on mobile towers and their E.M.F. compliances, in May 2017.

As a result of continuous efforts put-in by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (T.S.Ps), consistent improvements have been noted in compliance to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (T.R.A.I.) Quality of service benchmarks for both 2G and 3G services. T.R.A.I. has been imposing financial disincentives against service providers who fail to comply with the benchmarks for

various quality of service parameters, including for call drop.

To monitor the performance of Service Providers on call drop for both 2G and 3G services, T.R.A.I. has prescribed two parameters viz. "call drop rate (benchmark \leq 3%)" on monthly average basis for the licensed Service Area and "worst affected cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel (T.C.H.) drop/Circuit Switched Voice drop rate (benchmark \leq 3%)". Any Cell with T.C.H. drop/Circuit Switched Voice drop rate $>$ 3% is treated as bad cell whose performance is to be improved.

As per T.R.A.I.'s Performance Indicator Report for the quarter July to September 2017, all T.S.Ps providing 2G and 3G services comply to T.R.A.I.'s Call drop benchmark of \leq 2% for Licensed Service Area (L.S.A.) as a whole.

Further, compliance to another benchmark, Worst affected cells having Traffic Channel (T.C.H.) drop rate with benchmark \leq 3% has also improved consistently. For 2G services, non-compliance in this regard has significantly decreased from 54 in quarter ending September 2015 to 20 in quarter ending September 2017. For 3G services, non-compliance in this regard has significantly decreased from 20 to 09 in the corresponding period.

Further the network related parameters were recently reviewed and notified on 18.08.2017. Two new parameters for assessing call drop, viz. D.C.R. spatial distribution measure or D.C.R. Network_Q.S.D $>$ (90,90) (benchmark 2%) implies that at-least 90% of Cells in the network should perform better than specified 2% benchmark on at-least 90% of days. Similarly, another new parameter D.C.R. temporal distribution measure or D.C.R. Network_Q.T.D. (97,90) will give confidence that on at-least 90% of Days, network performed better than specified 3% benchmark for at-least 97% of the Cells. Financial Disincentive have also been enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to 5 lakh for 1st violation and 1.5 to 2 times, capping Rs. 10 lakh for 2nd & subsequent violations. The regulations have since come into force from 1st October, 2017.

(d) As per T.R.A.I. Reports, B.S.N.L. has been consistently to call-drop rate benchmark of \leq 2% for both 2G and 3G services in all operating L.S.As for the last four quarters i.e. October to December 2016, January to

March 2017, April to June 2017, July to September 2017. Further, B.S.N.L. has been complying to second benchmark i.e. Worst affected Cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel (T.C.H.) drop/Circuit Switched Voice drop rate \leq 3% for both 2G and 3G services in all operating L.S.As except West bengal during the corresponding last four quarters.

Hence, the overall performance of B.S.N.L. mobile networks against call-drop rate benchmarks remains comparable with other T.S.Ps for both 2G and 3G services.

[Translation]

STPI in Allahabad

4243. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Allahabad has a very conducive atmosphere for technical education; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the letter sent for setting up of a software park and electronic hub in Allahabad?

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) The letter dated 05.07.2014 from Shri Shyama Charan Gupta, Hon'ble M.P. addressed to Hon'ble M.E.I.T. regarding establishment of Software and Electronics Technology Park in Allahabad was replied on 22.09.2014 (a copy of reply is at Statement-I). Currently, MeitY has no Scheme for setting up of Software Park and Electronics Hub. However, Software Technology Parks of India (S.T.P.I.), a Society under MeitY, has its Centre in Allahabad at Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (M.N.N.I.T.) campus since 2001.

The S.T.P.I. is the implementing agency for implementing the Software Technology Park (S.T.P.) and Electronic Hardware Technology Park (E.H.T.P.) Schemes of the Government. The industry in Allahabad and nearby areas can avail the benefits of these schemes through S.T.P.I. after completing the requisite registration process. Further, the benefit of the Modified Incentive Package Scheme (M.-S.I.P.S.) of MeitY could be availed by the

capital allocations; and

(d) the manner in which the services of armed forces is likely to be affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Details of Projections made by Armed Forces and Allocations made to them at Budget Estimate stage in the Financial Year 2018-19 under Defence Services Estimates (D.S.E.) are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Service/Organization	Budget Estimate Projection		Budget Estimate Allocation	
	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
Army	1,51,814.73	44,572.63	1,27,059.51	26,815.71
Navy (including Jt. Staff)	23,747.75	37,932.44	19,571.37	20,848.16
Air Force	35,260.79	77,694.74	28,821.27	35,770.17

The allocated funds are optimally and fully utilized towards operational activities. However, if required, the schemes will be reprioritized to ensure that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness.

Health Index

4246. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed a health index to rank, track the performances and strengthen health sector institutions of States (district hospitals, etc.) towards transforming action in these areas; 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) Yes Madam, Government has developed a health index to rank, track the performance and strengthen the District Hospitals and developed a 'Framework for Tracking the performance of District Hospitals'.

(b) The index measures the performance of District Hospitals for 16 identified indicators in 3 domains - Structure, Process & Outputs/Outcomes. The details of this index are available at NITI website at the following link: <http://www.niti.gov.in/content.tracking-performance-district-hospitals-health-our-hospitals#>.

[Translation]

Weather Information to Farmers

4247. SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI :
SHRI BHARAT SINGH :

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide weather forecast information to the farmers across the country and the latest information relating to environment in all the cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the weather related information service is targeted to be provided at block level by the Government?

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 Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (G.K.M.S.) of India Meteorological Department (I.M.D.) is rendered twice a week in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (S.A.U.s) and Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (I.C.A.R.). Under this, district level weather forecasts for next 5-days in respect of

- Rainfall
- maximum temperature, minimum temperature
- wind speed, wind direction

- relative humidity and clouds
- weekly cumulative rainfall forecast
- crop specific advisories

are provided to farmers. The G.K.M.S. of I.M.D. has been successful in providing the crop specific advisories to the farmers through different print/visual/Radio/I.T. based media including short message service (S.M.S.) and interactive Voice Response Service (I.V.R.S.) facilitating for appropriate field level actions. At present, about 22.7 million farmers out of 95 million estimated farming households in the country are receiving the S.M.S. based advisories.

(c) Efforts for Pilot mode initiative for sub-district scale (block level) forecasts generation and evaluation are underway.

[English]

Disagreement over Judicial Appointments

4248. SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the executive and the judiciary were very strongly disagreeing over judicial appointments;

(b) if so, the details along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is huge number of vacancies in the post of judges in various courts including Supreme Court in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Appointment of Judges in Higher Judiciary is a collaborative and integrated process involving both the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities. Differences of opinion if any are mutually reconciled by the Executive and the Judiciary to ensure that only the appropriate person is appointed to the high Constitutional post of Judge.

(c) and (d) Statement-I showing the Approved Strength, Working Strength and Vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 01.03.2018 is enclosed.

Statement-II showing the details of vacant posts of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2017 is enclosed.

The Judges appointed during last 3 years in the Supreme Court and High Courts are given below:

Years	Supreme Court	High Courts
2016	4	126
2017	5	115
2018 (upto 16.03.2018)	-	11

As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the State is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commission in other States.

Statement-I

(As on 01.03.2018)

Sl.No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies as per Approved Strength
1	2	3	4	5
A	Supreme Court of India	31	24	07
B	High Court			
1.	Allahabad	160	103	57

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	61	30	31
3.	Bombay	94	70	24
4.	Calcutta	72	30	42
5.	Chhattisgarh	22	12	10
6.	Delhi	60	38	22
7.	Gauhati	24	18	06
8.	Gujarat	52	30	22
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13	08	05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	17	11	06
11.	Jharkhand	25	17	08
12.	Karnajaka	62	30	32
13.	Kerala	47	37	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53	33	20
15.	Madras	75	58	17
16.	Manipur	05	02	03
17.	Meghalaya	04	02	02
18.	Orissa	27	16	11
19.	Patna	53	32	21
20.	Punjab & Haryana	85	50	35
21.	Rajasthan	50	33	17
22.	Sikkim	03	03	0
23.	Tripura	04	02	02
24.	Uttarakhand	11	08	03
Total		1079	673	406

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Name of States/U.Ts	Vacant Post of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	66

1	2	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
3.	Assam	77
4.	Bihar	835
5.	Chhattisgarh	63
6.	Goa	12

1	2	3
7.	Gujarat	375
8.	Haryana	149
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	29
11.	Jharkhand	253
12.	Karnataka	327
13.	Kerala	85
14.	Madhya Pradesh	728
15.	Maharashtra	167
16.	Manipur	09
17.	Maghalaya	58
18.	Mizoram	17
19.	Nagaland	12
20.	Orissa	206
21.	Punjab	136
22.	Rajasthan	103
23.	Sikkim	5
24.	Tamil Nadu	200
25.	Tripura	31
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1348
27.	Uttarakhand	61
28.	West bengal	40
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
30.	Chandigarh	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	0

1	2	3
32.	Delhi	317
33.	Lakshadweep	1
34.	Puducherry	14
Total		5746

Reduction in Number of Telecom Subscribers

4249. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of telecom subscribers has reduced by 1.58 crore to 118.5 crore in November, 2017 and if so, the details thereof, State/U.T.-wise;

(b) whether the said decline was on account of closure of mobile services by some of the Telecom Service Providers (T.S.Ps); and

(c) if so, the details thereof and 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 (c) The number of telephone subscribers as on 31st October, 2017 was 120.21 crore. The figure as on 30th November, 2017 was 118.62 crore. The service area wise details of telephone subscribers as on 31.10.2017 and 30.11.2017 are given in the enclosed Statement.

The details of 1.59 crore subscribers was predominantly due to shutdown of 2G services by Reliance Communications Limited in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh (West), Uttar Pradesh (Eadt), Haryana and Tamil Nadu circles. Other operators which also saw a decline in subscriber base in November 2017 are TATA Teleservices Ltd., Aircel, Systems Shyam Teleservices Ltd. and Telenor.

Statement

Service Area-wise net addition in total telephones as on 31st October 2017 and 30th November, 2017

S.No.	Service Area	31.10.2017	30.11.2017	Net Montlyly addition
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87086394	85554275	(-)1532119
2.	Assam	22446787	22628613	181826

S.No.	Service Area	31.10.2017	30.11.2017	Net Montlyly addition
3.	Bihar	83996529	84349504	352975
4.	Gujarat	70986510	71341140	354630
5.	Haryana	25804833	25371676	(-) 433157
6.	Himachal Pradesh	109227164	11072818	145654
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	12942063	13117245	175182
8.	Karnataka	72362860	68994791	(-) 3368069
9.	Kerala	43488968	42803499	(-) 685469
10.	Madhya Pradesh	72676649	73767190	1090541
11.	Maharashtra	96025422	94992139	(-) 1033283
12.	North-East	13049461	12956932	(-) 92529
13.	Odisha	34205373	34260457	55084
14.	Punjab	38566472	38916624	350152
15.	Rajasthan	66377083	66273505	(-) 103578
16.	Tamil Nadu	92963231	89244288	(-) 3718943
17.	Uttar Pradesh - (East)	104702650	101005790	(-) 3696860
18.	Uttar Pradesh - (West)	66644582	62593678	(-) 4050904
19.	West Bengal	58669414	58332814	(-) 336600
20.	Kolkata	29867558	29764672	(-) 102886
21.	Delhi	57794281	57958728	164447
22.	Mumbai	40524089	40924491	400402
Total		1202108373	1186224869	(-) 15883504

Free Coaching for Civil Services Examinations

4250. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has tied up with educational institutions to provide free coaching to minority students taking civil services examinations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Minority Affairs has been implementing a scheme namely "Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates/

students belonging to minority communities" under which free coaching is provided to students belonging to six notified minority communities through selected coaching institutions/organisations for preparation of qualifying examinations for admission in technical/professional courses and competitive examinations for recruitment to Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' services and other equivalent posts under the Central and State Governments including public sector undertakings, banks, insurance companies etc. A new residential coaching programme for composite preparation exclusively for Civil Services aspirants has been added in the scheme w.e.f. 07.12.2017.

In addition to the above,, this Ministry is also implementing a scheme namely "Nai Udaan" under which financial support is provided to the candidates of notified minority community who have cleared preliminary examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission, State Public Service Commissions and Staff Selection Commission for preparation of main examinations.

(b) The scheme has been revised w.e.f. 7.12.2017 and process for fresh empanelment of coaching institutions/organizations for the remaining period of 14th Finance commission i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20 has already been initiated by the Ministry.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Law Firms

4251. SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow foreign law firms in the country on the basis of reciprocity;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years;

(c) whether the Bar Council of India is against this move; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which a foreign law firm will qualify to be listed as an advocate under Advocates Act, 1961 in case the foreign law firms are permitted to operate in India?

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 matter regarding entry of foreign law firms in the country on the basis of reciprocity is under consideration of Government. The Law Commission report and the Supreme Court Judgement dated 13.03.2018 on the issue under consideration of Government of India.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected from Bar Council of India and will be laid on the Table of House.

Dedicated Freight Corridors

4252. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT :
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of progress made in the implementation of dedicated freight corridor scheme and the time by which construction work on the same is likely to be completed and it would become ready for use;

(b) the name of States likely to be benefited by dedicated freight corridors and the work being undertaken under the said scheme; and

(c) the targeted improvement likely to be made in the present situation of freight transportation and the extent to which the same is likely to have an impact on exports after the completion of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Dedicated Freight Corridor (D.F.C.) is targeted for commissioning in phases by the year 2020. Eastern D.F.C. connects the mineral and industrial belts of Eastern India with North India. Western D.F.C. connects the ports on the western coast to the hinterland in Northern and North-Western India. The main objective underlying D.F.Cs, is creation of an efficient, dedicated rail corridor for freight movement and thereby reduce the cost and improve the ease of logistics. D.F.C. directly benefits the States coming on its alignment, namely Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra and other neighbouring States by facilitating creation of industrial corridors/clusters based on D.F.C.

(c) Improvement in the freight transportations are envisaged with commissioning of D.F.C. are :

- (i) Improved connectivity to ports and industrial clusters.
- (ii) Adequate carrying capacity for freight trains.
- (iii) Increase in average speed of freight trains.
- (iv) Possibility of running scheduled freight trains with guaranteed transit time.

[*English*]

Discontinuation of Train from Kerala

4253. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has taken a decision to discontinue the service of any passenger trains running in Kerala;

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

(c) whether the Railways will reconsider its decision; 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) No, Madam. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) to (d) Do not arise

[*Translation*]

Railway Projects

4254. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise details of the rail projects approved during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the zone-wise details of the amount of funds allocated for the said projects and the amount spent in this regard;

(c) the zone-wise total number of projects which are lagging behind the scheduled time along with the number of projects which are pending due to financial crunch;

(d) whether any committee has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the said projects and find out the reasons for their delay;

(e) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to generate additional budgetary assistance in this regard and to complete the said projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Zone-wise detail of projects included in last three years and the current year i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18 alongwith budget allocated to said project are as given below:

Zonal Railway	Nos. of projects included in Budget in last three years & current year	Amount of Budget allocated in last three years and current year (Rs. Cr.)
Central Railway	17	2716
Eastern Railway	3	174
East Central Railway	19	1534
East Coast Railway	11	3141
Northern Railway	17	1231
North Central Railway	19	2010
North Eastern Railway	19	1396
North East Frontier Railway	9	579
North Western Railway	5	549
Southern Railway	7	877
South Central Railway	10	1429
South Eastern Railway	10	1095
South East Central Railway	8	2223
South Western Railway	6	1721
Western Railway	27	1308
West Central Railway	9	1601

(c) Till 2013-14, due to overall limited availability of funds, most of the projects were not progressing satisfactory. Since 2014-15, based on physical progress of projects, last mile connectivity projects and projects for decongesting the existing routes have been given sufficient funds. For this purpose, funds for capacity enhancement projects have been arranged through institutional financing by arranging loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for assured funding of viable projects. Further, clearance from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearance like forestry and wild life clearances, cutting trees, shifting of services, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies,

N.O.C. from State Irrigation Department and Power Corporations etc. Law and order issues like protest against compensation to land losers, public agitation over alignment, extremism and naxalite problems etc., also impact the pace of implementation which are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways.

(d) and (e) To expedite the Railway Projects and to improve coordination with State Government for faster execution, Ministry of Railways had requested the State Governments for nomination of representatives of the States. Majority of the States have nominated their representatives to sort out different of mutual coordination and to monitor progress of Railway Projects in their respective State.

The representative/nominee from States have been holding regular meetings with railway authorities on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law & order problems, Road Over and Under Bridges, shifting of electrical lines, canal crossings, funding of projects, identification of interested parties etc.

To strengthen the coordination mechanism, Nodal Officers have also been nominated from Zonal Railways for each State with a defined role of coordination with State Government.

In order to streamline information flow during meetings with dignitaries in Ministry of Railways, Nodal Officers in Railway Board for each State/U.T. have also been nominated to keep the updated status of various Railway related demand and monitoring the progress of various projects issues.

(f) Ministry of Railways have embarked on cooperative federalism by actively involving States in Planning, Development, financing and implementation of Railway Projects through formation of State Joint Venture. Besides, State and other stakeholders are being invited to participate in Railway projects to ensure expeditious execution through customer funding and cost sharing and/or providing land free of cost for the project. Further, institutional financing by arranging loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railway's capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

NSM

4255. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the National Supercomputing Centres proposed to be set up by the Government under the National Supercomputing Mission (N.S.M.);

(b) the State-wise number of such centres set-up so far; and

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for the purpose so far and the amount utilised out of the same?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The State-wise details of National Supercomputing Centres approved the first phase, under National Supercomputing Mission (N.S.M.) are as follow:

1. National Institute of Technology, - Uttar Pradesh
Varanasi (650 T.F.)
2. Indian Institute for Science - Maharashtra
Education and Research,
Pune (650 T.F.)
3. Indian Institute of Technology, - West Bengal
Kharagpur (1.3 P.F.)
4. Indian Institute of Technology, - Uttar Pradesh
Kanpur (1.3 P.F.)
5. Indian Institute of Technology, - Telangana
Hyderabad (650 T.F.)
6. JN Centre for Advanced Scientific - Karnataka
Research, Bengaluru (650 T.F.)

(b) None so far.

(c) Out of total funds of Rs. 334.27 crore released for the Mission to Indian Institute of Science (I.I.Sc.), Bengaluru and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C.-D.A.C.), Pune, the two implementing agencies, by Department of Science and Technology (D.S.T.) and M/o Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), a total of Rs. 59.43 crore have been utilised so far.

*[English]***New Rail Line Projects**

4256. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has signed an MoU with the State Government of Odisha for Jeypore-Malkangiri and Jeypore-Nabarangpur, new rail line projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not deciding the executing agencies for both the projects so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Two MoUs were signed with the State Government of Odisha for cost-sharing of 25% of project cost of Jeypore-Malkangiri (130 km) new line and 50% of cost sharing and providing land free of cost for Jeypore-Navarangpur (38 km) New line on 10.10.2016. Execution of both the projects has been entrusted to Construction Organisation of East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar.

*[Translation]***Cow Dung in Bio-Plants**

4257. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has given emphasis on utilising cow dung to install bio-plants in the toilets of the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the case of purchasing bacteria in place of cow dung by West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the bio-plants; of the trains has come to light

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Railways is also considering to make all the headquarters aware of the technology to remove bacteria from cow dung and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) the cow dung is used only during multiplication of bacteria in the bacteria generation facility. Anaerobic Bacteria generated under controlled condition is used in bio-toilets of the coaches.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Bacteria is being purchased for initial charging of Bio-toilets, but not in place of cow dung. West Central Railway is getting bacteria from Defence Research and Development Establishment, Gwalior and from Moti Bagh Workshop of South East Central Railway, Nagpur for use in bio-toilets fitted in coaches.

(e) No, Madam.

Lack of Basic facilities

4258. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway stations coming under various metropolitan cities of the country including Mumbai are very dirty and there is a huge lack of basic facilities;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide basic facilities at the railway stations coming under metropolitan cities of the country and to keep them clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam. Railway Stations are cleaned on daily basis to keep them tidy. All minimum essential amenities have been provided at all Railway Stations on Indian Railways, including Mumbai, as per norms.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken to improve cleanliness include Mechanized cleaning contracts, augmentation of pay & use toilets, use of C.C.T.V. cameras, Strict implementation of anti-littering law, award of rag picking/garbage disposal contracts, etc., besides utilization of departmental staff. Cleanliness awareness campaigns are launched to educate rail users to ensure a satisfactory level of cleanliness at railway stations.

*[English]***Complaints from NRI Brides**

4259. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started grievance

redressal portal 'MADAD' to help women married to N.R.Is who needs help; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the further efforts being made by the Government to help these women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) In pursuance of "good governance" initiatives, the Ministry of External Affairs has launched an online Consular Grievances Monitoring System, named MADAD, in February 2015, to help Indians abroad, including women married to N.R.Is. A module titled 'Marital Disputes' has been added to it. The distressed Indian woman married to an N.R.I. or any member of her family/friend can register a complaint under this Module. All Indian Missions and Posts abroad, the Branch Secretariats of the Ministry of External Affairs and States/Union Territories have been linked to this portal for consular grievance tracking and - up.

(b) The MADAD online portal represents a qualitative improvement over existing procedure for handling of consular grievances, through online forwarding, filing, tracking and escalation until their eventual resolution. It allows direct registration of the grievances by the members of the public and effective tracking of the entire grievance handling process all the way until the redressal of grievance.

Between 21 February 2015 and 31st December, 2017 527 grievance under "Marital Disputes" module of MADAD portal have been received and addressed.

Further, the Government has taken following steps to address such issues:

- (i) Between January, 2015 and December, 2017 this Ministry (including the Indian Missions abroad) has addressed 3492 complaints of distressed Indian women deserted by their N.R.I. spouses by way of providing them counselling, guidance and information about procedures, mechanisms for serving judicials summons on the Overseas Indian husband; filing a case in India, issuing Look Out Circulars; impounding and revocation of Indian passport of the husband; getting access to lawyers and N.G.Os empanelled with Indian Missions etc. and legal and financial assistance under I.C.W.F. Scheme.

(ii) With an aim to provide financial and legal assistance to distressed woman married to N.R.I. spouses by all Missions and Posts, the Indian Community Welfare Fund (I.C.W.F.) guidelines were revised in September, 2017. The amount of legal & financial assistance to distressed Indian women has also been increased to U.S.\$4000 per case. The assistance is released to the empanelled legal counsel of the applicant or Indian Community Association/Women's Organisation/N.G.O. concerned to enable it to take steps to assist the woman in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case.

- (iii) The Government had set up an Expert Committee on N.R.I. Marital Disputes, which presented its Report in August, 2017. Some of its recommendations including constitution of an integrated Nodal Agency (I.N.A.) have been accepted and implemented and some are under further examination. The I.N.A. is expected to be an effective mechanism to provide a single window timely solution to the problems of affected women and there would be a better monitoring of the welfare measures being undertaken in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Land Acquisition for New Rail Lines

4260. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR :
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV :
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI :

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines regarding not starting construction of any new rail line until land is not provided for this purpose;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan along with the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for addressing the said type of problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Railways have a number of projects where considerable investments have been made but returns are not forthcoming due to land acquisition problems. Therefore, it has been decided that the commencement of physical work for New Line projects shall be taken up only after completion of land acquisition. However, General Managers of Zonal Railways have been empowered to invite tenders if they are certain of the possibility of land acquisition in a reasonable time frame. For this, a written assurance from the State Government will be required. General Managers of Zonal Railways have also been empowered to review the projects that have remained in limbo for long period for various reasons. The Ministry of Railways from time to time, has requested the Chief Secretaries of State Government to take necessary steps on Railway land acquisition issues to expedite execution work of New Lines.

Individual cases have not been reported so far by any Railway including those having jurisdiction in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. Railway officers are in regular liaison with State Government official, to expedite the land acquisition.

[English]

Performance of Remote Sensing Satellite

4261. SHRI RADHEYSHYAM BISWAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of three, out of seven remote sensing satellites, has been below their maximum capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revenue generated from these seven satellites in operation has been below expectations;

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

(e) the measures taken for the optimum utilization of the said satellites and realization of maximum revenue?

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) At present, there are 19 Remote Satellites (including Meteorological satellites) operational in orbit. These satellites are being utilised to their capacity to meet the requirements of resource monitoring, infrastructure planning, enabling weather forecasting, disaster management support including host of societal applications. The services derived from these satellites are being used by various Ministries/Departments in agriculture, water resources, forest and environment, urban and rural development, ocean and meteorology.

(c) and (d) Indian Remote Sensing Satellites are meant for meeting national needs for public good services. These satellites are not meant for revenue generation. The benefits are accrued through applications derived from these satellites.

(e) In order to accelerate the use of satellites and its services, the Department has taken following measures - (i) conduct of user interaction meets and utilisation programmes; (ii) capacity building for space applications; (iii) creation of an outreach facility.

[Translation]

Decline in Rainfall

4262. SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU :
SHRI RAJU SHETTY :

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rainfall in the ensuing monsoon is expected to remain below average and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any assessment to ascertain the reasons for declining rainfall and if so, the details thereof and the expected loss likely to be suffered by the farmers due to the possible drought;

(c) the alternative sources of water supply in case of failure of monsoon;

(d) whether the Government has categorized different parts of the country as excess, normal and deficient rainfall areas on the basis of rainfall during the last three years

and if so, the details thereof, State-wise/year-wise/category-wise; and

(e) whether the Government has explored the possibilities to divert rain water from excess rainfall areas to deficient rainfall areas 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) Madam, so far I.M.D. has not issued any operational forecast for the 2018 monsoon season as the data of predictors used for generating forecast will be available only after 10th of April. The first forecast for the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole will be issued around middle of April, 2018.

(b) All India Summer Monsoon rainfall time series shows no statistically significant trend during the period 1871-2017 though it shows a slight decreasing tendency in the recent three decades.

(c) Requisite information is not available with this ministry.

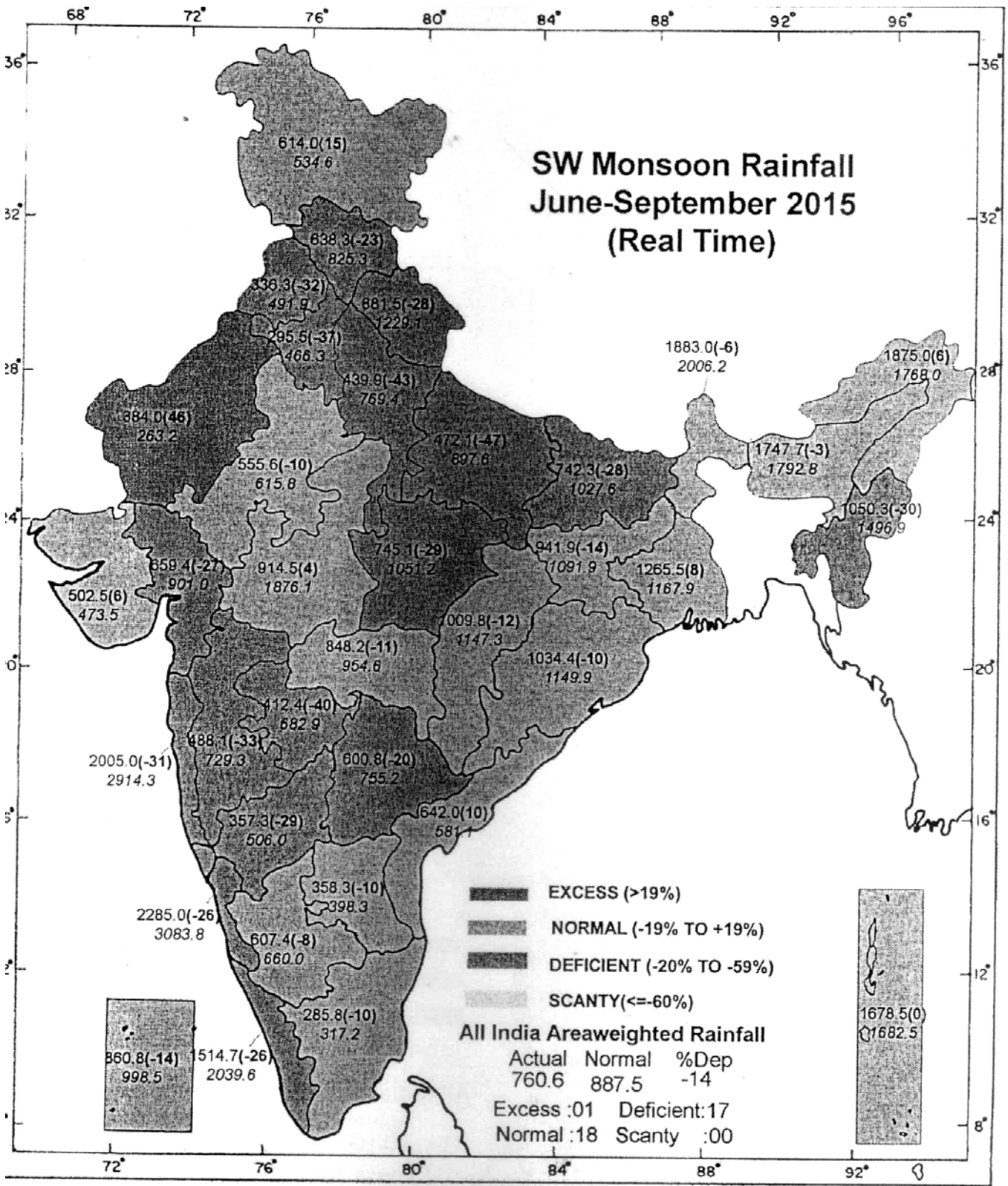
(d) I.M.D. has categorized different parts of the

country into various categories on the basis of rainfall. The maps indicating seasonal rainfall categories for the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. As seen in the map, the rainfall categories used are; Excess, Normal, Deficient & Scantly.

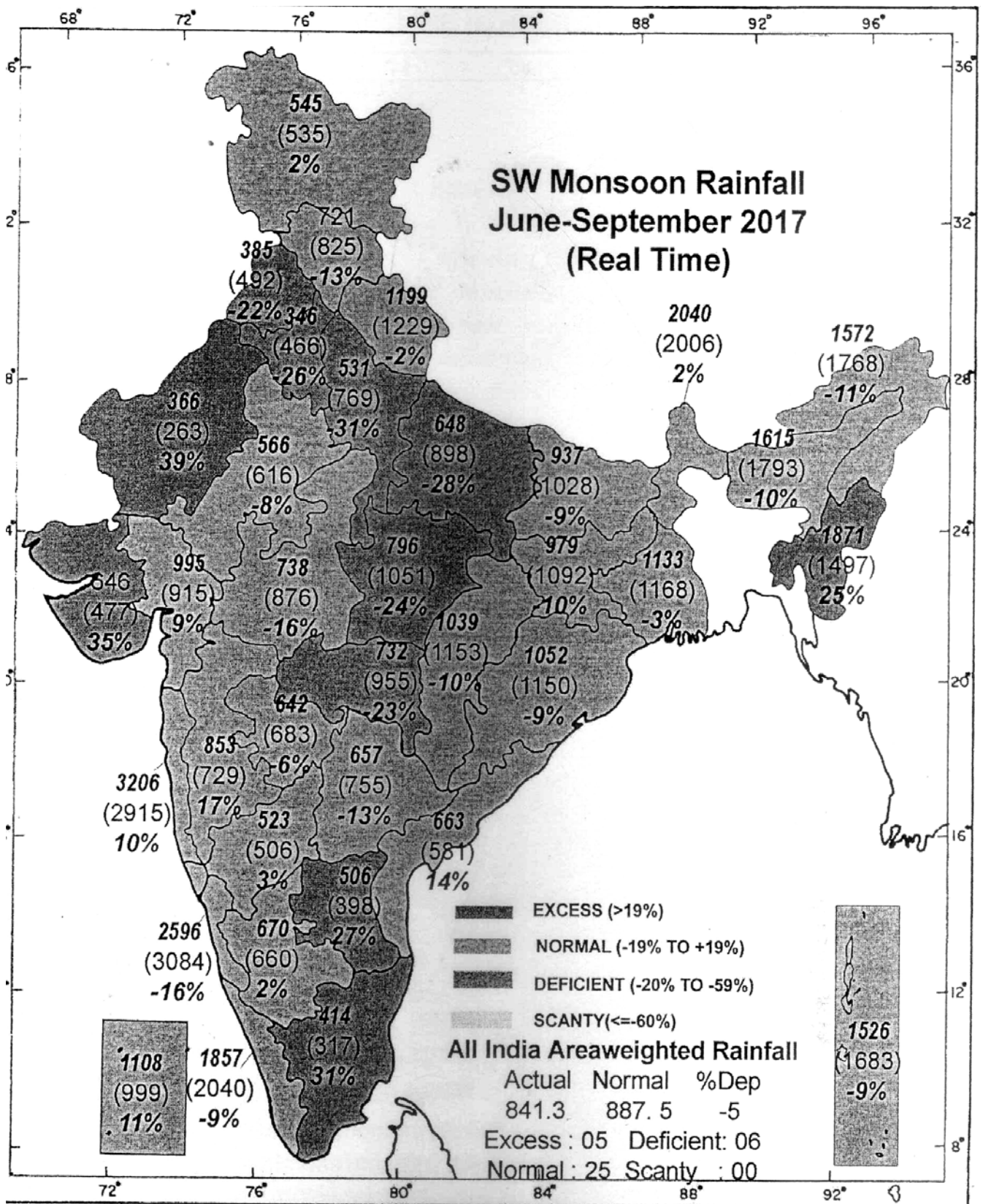
(e) The National Perspective Plan (N.P.P.) was prepared by the then Ministry of Irrigation, now Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (M.o.W.R., R.D. & G.R.) in August 1980 for water resources development through inter basin transfer of water, for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins. Under the N.P.P., the National Water Development Agency (N.W.D.A.) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports. The Pre-Feasibility Report of the all 30 links have been prepared and circulated to the concerned State Governments by the N.W.D.A. After survey and investigations, Feasibility Reports of 14 links under Peninsular Component and Feasibility Reports of 2 links and draft Feasibility Reports of 7 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed.

Statement
India Meteorological Department

**SW Monsoon Rainfall
 June-September 2015
 (Real Time)**



India Meteorological Department



Sirohi-Pindwara Rail Line

4263. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey of Sirohi-Bagra-Pindwara rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the total cost of the said project along with the rate of earning thereof details thereof;

(c) whether 28 lakh people are likely to be benefited with the start of the said route as socially it is a very important rail line;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in constructing the said line;

(e) whether the Government has fixed any time limit for completing the said project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of new Broad Gauge line from Sirohi via Marwar-Bagra to Pindwara (96.4 km) has been completed in 2016-17. As per survey report, the cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 1526.71 crore with the negative rate of return of (-)6.52%. Due to un-remunerative nature of the project, huge throwforward of ongoing projects and

limited availability of funds, the project could not be taken forward.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Penalty on Telecom Service Providers

4264. DR. K. GOPAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom Regulatory Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) has recommended a penalty of Rs. 3050 crore on three telecom service providers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, telecom company-wise and the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatoru Authority of India (T.R.A.I. in its recommendations dated 21.10.2016 had recommended penalty of Rs. 50 crore per Licensed Service Area (L.S.A.) on M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, M/s Vodafone India Limited and M/s Idea Cellular Limited for violation of the provisions of license agreements and the standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Regulations, 2009 as per the details below:

S.No.	Telecom Service Provider	No. of L.S.As in which penalty is recommended by T.R.A.I.	Amount of penalty recommended by T.R.A.I.
1.	M/s Bharti Airtel Limited	21	21 * 50 crores= Rs. 1050 crores
2.	M/s Vodafone India Limited	19	19 * 50 crores= Rs. 950 crores
3.	M/s Idea Cellular Limited	21	21 * 50 crores= Rs. 1050

T.R.A.I. in its recommendations have stated that M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, M/s Vodafone India Limited and M/s Idea Cellular Limited have violated the terms & conditions of License and denied interconnection to M/s RJIL (M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited), which appears to have been done with ulterior motive to stifle competition and is anti-consumer.

Aadhaar Leaks

4265. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any person armed with the Aadhaar number, name and address etc. particulars of another

person can thereby acquire the details of his bank account and access the same;

(b) if so, the details and the steps being taken by the Government 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) No, Madam.

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

Replacement of Old Coaches

4266. SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during recent safety audits, it has been found that many hundreds of railway coaches have not been overhauled or serviced periodically;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has allocated any funds for the periodic overhauling/servicing of railway coaches;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to replace the old, damaged and outdated rail coaches with new ones; and

(e) the details of the coaches replaced in the last three years, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Madam. All the coaches running on Indian Railways are periodically overhauled as prescribed in maintenance manuals/instructions.

The Government has allocated Rs. 8560 crore in Budget Estimates 2017-18 for the periodic overhauling/servicing of railway coaches.

(d) and (e) Acquisition of new coaches for replacement of over-aged stock is a continuous process on Indian Railways. Coaches are replaced after attaining their prescribed codal life prematurely in case of heavy damage to structural members. The details of the coaches replaced in the last three years, Zone-wise are as under:

Zonal Railway	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Central Railway	128	78	147
Eastern Railway	135	92	124
Northern Railway	148	219	229
North Eastern Railway	38	132	29
Northeast Frontier Railway	61	53	59
Southern Railway	217	112	270
South Central Railway	83	127	150
South Eastern Railway	56	93	84
Western Railway	90	150	157
East Central Railway	26	37	28
East Coast Railway	36	38	65
North Central Railway	18	22	33
North Western Railway	49	36	51
South East Central Railway	24	17	29
South Western Railway	64	67	103
West Central Railway	83	12	26
Total	1256	1285	1584

Prime Minister's Visits Abroad

4267. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the countries visited by the Prime Minister during the last six months;

(b) the details of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), bilateral agreements pertaining to socio-economic relations, diplomatic relations etc. entered into with each of the countries; and

(c) the steps taken to strengthen relations with the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) to (c) Information as desired is placed at the enclosed Statement.

Statement*Prime Minister's Visits Abroad*

S.No.	The details of the countries visited by the Prime Minister from September 1, 2017 till date	The details of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), bilateral agreements pertaining to socio-economic relations, diplomatic relations, etc. entered into with each of the countries	The steps taken to strengthen the relation with the countries
1	2	3	4
1.	China (September 3-5, 2017)	<p>9th B.R.I.C.S. Summit</p> <p>Prime Minister led the Indian delegation for the 9th B.R.I.C.S. Summit in Xiamen on 3-5 September, 2017. The outcomes of the Summit include the Xiamen Declaration. In addition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation; - BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation (2017-2020); - Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation; and - MoU between BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation were signed during the Summit. <p>India-China Bilateral</p> <p>No bilateral MoU/agreement were signed during the visit.</p>	<p>9th B.R.I.C.S. Summit</p> <p>B.R.I.C.S. is a multilateral Grouping India-China Bilateral</p> <p>During the visit of Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping to India in September 2014, the two sides forged a closer Developmental Partnership which was further consolidated during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to China in May 2015.</p> <p>In our multi faceted engagement with China, in areas where we have commonality of views, engagement has expanded and upgraded in recent years. Issues where there are differences are being handled through dialogue to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution based on mutual respect and due sensitivity to each other's interests, concerns and aspirations.</p> <p>Accordingly, both sides have been working towards utilizing their bilateral dialogue mechanisms to promote mutually beneficial cooperation. Both sides agree that progress in bilateral relations should be guided by the consensus reached between their leaders that at a time of global uncertainty, India-China</p>

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relations are a factor of stability and India and China, in their relationship, must not allow differences to become disputes.

2. Myanmar

(September 5-7, 2017)

India-Myanmar Bilateral

Key Agreements/MoUs were concluded between India and Myanmar in the areas of health, culture, capacity building, maritime security and for establishing collaboration between key institutions:

1. MoU on Maritime Security Cooperation
2. Cultural Exchange Programme for the year 2017-2020
3. MoU on Enhancing the Cooperation of the upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.
4. MoU for Sharing White Shipping Information between the Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy.
5. Technical Agreement for providing Coastal Surveillance System.
6. MoU between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (C.D.S.C.O.), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and Food and Drugs (F.D.A.), Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar on Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation.
7. MoU between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and the Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.
8. Exchange of Letter for Extension of MoU on the establishment of M.I.I.T
9. Exchange of Letter for Extension of MoU on the establishment of India-Myanmar Center for Enhancement of I.T.-Skill.
10. MoU in the field of elections between the Election

India-Myanmar Bilateral

Relations between India and Myanmar are multi faceted and rooted in shared historical, ethnic and cultural ties. Bilateral cooperation between India and Myanmar is aimed at promotion of inclusive growth and development and to contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in two countries and in the region. Our total developmental commitment to Myanmar, including the completed and ongoing infrastructure projects like Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport project and Trilateral Highway project, is around US\$ 1.75 billion. There have also been several meaningful exchanges between India and Myanmar. The visits from the President of Myanmar (August 2016) and State Conusellor of Myanmar (October 2016) and visit by the Prime Minister of India to Myanmar (September 2017) have provided new impetus to our relationship and helped us to identify potential areas of cooperation.

Commission of India and the Union Election Commission of Myanmar.

11. MoU on Cooperation between Myanmar Press Council and the Press Council of India.

3. Philippines
(November 12-14, 2017)

15th ASEAN -India Summit and 12th East Asia Summit

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation for the 15th ASEAN - India Summit and 12th East Asia Summit in Manila from 12-14 November, 2017.

India-Philippines Bilateral

The following MoUs were signed between India and Philippines during the visit :

1. MoU between the Indian Council of World Affairs (I.C.W.A.), India, and the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippines (F.S.I.), Manila.
2. MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises between National Small Industries Corporation, India and Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development, Philippines.
3. MoU on Cooperation in Agriculture and Related Fields.
4. MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics cooperation
5. MoU between Indian Council of Cultural Relations and University of the Philippines on Establishment of I.C.C.R. Chair of Indian Studies.

4. Switzerland
(January 22-23, 2018)

World Economic Forum (W.E.F.), Davos

Prime Minister visited Switzerland on 22-23 January 2018 to Participate in the W.E.F. at Davos. During the visit, P.M. delivered the plenary address at the opening session of the W.E.F. at Davos on the theme, "Creating a Shared Future in

15th ASEAN -India Summit and 12th East Asia

These are Multilateral Groupings.

Through the engagement of the Prime Minister at forums such as ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit, the full spectrum of multi-lateral relations are discussed at the level of the Leaders and action undertaken to deliver on the commitments made across the various sectors of Cooperation.

India-Philippines Bilateral

Prime Minister attended the East Asia Summit in Manila and on the sidelines of the Summit met President of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte. P.M. invited the President of the Philippines for the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in January 2018. They discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations including cooperation in fields such as pharmaceuticals, counter-terrorism, defence cooperation and education. Prime Minister also met with President of the U.S.A., Sultan of Brunei and Prime Ministers of Japan, New Zealand, Vietnam and Australia on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.

This is a multilateral Grouping.

India-Switzerland Bilateral

- Co-operation on maintaining people-to-people

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a Fractured World." Prime Minister began by observing that, "The last visit of Indian Prime Minister to Devos was in 1997 when Mr. Deve Gowda came here. In 1997, the G.D.P. of India was slightly over 400 billion dollars. Now after two decades it is almost 6 times." In the course of his speech, Prime Minister addressed "three principal challenges that have posed the biggest threats for the mankind", namely the threat of climate change, of terrorism and of many societies and countries becoming more and more self-centered. He also pointed out the significance of the economic reforms that have been carried out by Government and the benefits of these reforms in terms of making Indian economy more open and attractive. Earlier on 22 January, Prime Minister also attended a dinner interaction with 64 C.E.Os from around the world, 40 of them from other countries and 24 from India; the total market capitalization of these companies was \$3.6 trillion.

India-Switzerland Bilateral

Prime Minister met President of the Swiss Confederation Mr. Alain Berset and discussed issues of mutual interest. No MoU/ Agreement was signed during their meeting.

No bilateral MoUs/agreements were signed during the visit.

5. Jordan
(February 9, 2018)

P.M. extended invitation to King of Jordan to visit India in order to deepen cooperation in wide ranging areas that include defence, security, health, trade and investment etc. Accordingly, the King visited India on 27 February 01 March, 2018.

6. Palastine

(February 10, 2018)

India-Palestine Bilateral

During the visit of Prime Minister to Palestine on 10 February, 2018, following six MoUs were signed for Projects Assistance for around U.S. \$42 million.

- I. MoU between India and Palestine for construction of Super Speciality Hospital at Beit Sahour in Bethlehem

India-Palestine Bilateral

As part of India's solidarity with the Palestinian people, we have been extending political and financial support for the Palestinian cause. Execution of these projects in Palestine will help in capacity building, human resource

contacts and high emphasis on cultural exchanges and tourism.

- Implementation of Automatic Exchange of Information (A.E.O.I.).
- Strengthening cooperation through existing mechanism of India-Switzerland Financial Dialogue, the Indo-Swiss Joint Economic Committee meetings and the Joint Committee on Science and Technology.

- Governorate at a cost of U.S.\$30 million.
- II. MoU between India and Palestine for construction of India Palestine Centre for Empowering Women, "Turathi" at a cost of U.S.\$ 5 million.
 - III. MoU between India and Palestine for setting up of new National Printing Press at Ramallah at a cost of U.S.\$ 5 million
 - IV. MoU Between India and Palestine for construction of school in Muthalth Al Shuhada Village at a cost of U.S.\$ 1 million
 - V. MoU between India and Palestine for construction of school in Tamoon village in Tubas Governorate in Palestine at a cost of U.S.\$ 1.1 million.
 - VI. MoU between India and Palestine on Govt. of India assistance of U.S.\$ 0.25 million for construction of additional floor to Jawahar Lal Nehru School for Boys at Abu Dees.

7. U.A.E.

(Feb. 10-11, 2018)

India-U.A.E. Bilateral

During the visit, the following MoUs were concluded :

- I. MoU between Indian Consortium (O.N.G.C. Videsh Limited, Bharat Petroleum Refinery Limited & Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (A.D.N.O.C.).
- II. MoU between Government of India and Government of U.A.E.
- III. MoU between Ministry of Railways, India and Federal Transport Authority-Land & Maritime of U.A.E.
- IV. MoU between Bombay Stock Exchange (B.S.E.) and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (A.D.X.).
- V. MoU between Government of Jammu and Kashmir and D.P. World, U.A.E. on logistics.

India-U.A.E. Bilateral

MoUs concluded would contribute to further strengthening of bilateral relations through :

- I. Providing for acquisition of 19% participating interest in the offshore Lower Zakum Concession.
- II. Institutionalising the collaborative administration of contractual employment of Indian workers in U.A.E.
- III. Providing Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector.
- IV. Enhancing cooperation between both the countries in financial services industry.
- V. Establishing multi-modal logistics park and hub in Jammu comprising warehouses and specialized storage solutions.

development and infrastructure development. India has been unwavering in its support for the Palestine cause and hopes to see the realization of a sovereign, independent, united and viable Palestine, coexisting peacefully with Israel.

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8. Oman

(Feb. 11-12, 2018)

India-Oman Bilateral

During the visit, the following MoUs were concluded:

- I. Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial matter.
- II. Agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, special, service and official passports.
- III. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Health.
- IV. MoU on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
- V. MoU on Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, India and Oman Diplomatic Institute.
- VI. MoU on Academic and Scholarly cooperation sectors between National Defence College Sultanate of Oman and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- VII. MoU in the field of Tourism Cooperation between India and Oman.
- VIII. Annexure to the MoU on Military Cooperation.

India-Oman Bilateral

MoUs concluded would contribute to further strengthening of bilateral relations through :

- I. Providing a basis for reciprocal legal and Judicial assistance in civil and commercial matters, like service of judicial orders, summons and other legal and judicial documents or processes.
- II. Permitting citizens of both countries holding Diplomatic or Official Passports to enter into, exit from and transit through the territories of each party without requirement of visas.
- III. Providing for cooperation in areas of health, including in occupational and environmental health, pharmaceuticals, medical education, exchange of the best practices in the field of primary healthcare, research in the field of healthcare, technology, health care system and exchange of medical experts and scientists.
- IV. Cooperation in exploration and use of outer space, including application of space technology for peaceful purposes. It covers wide areas of cooperation in the fields of satellite, navigation, communication and other technologies related to space.
- V. Promoting contacts and exchange of diplomats and faculty members of the institute. It will enhance cooperation between the two institutes in areas of activities which, *inter alia*, may include exchange of information on structure and content of training programmes for diplomats and

identification of experts in mutually agreed areas.

VI. Exchange of idea through the conduct of conferences, seminars, and dialogues; consultations on academic and scholarly issues; joint research projects; exchange of research work, publications etc.

VII. Enhancing bilateral cooperation between India and Oman to promote tourism. The MoU will also facilitate tourism investments, accomodation and hotel management by exchange of information statistics and training in the field of Tourism.

VIII. Use of certain facilities at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sea Port, Dry Dock, and Air Port) by Indian armed forces.

[Translation]

Setting up of K.Vs in Minority Dominated Areas

4268. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV :
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI :
SHRI RODMAL NAGAR

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any action plan for setting up of 100 Kendriya Vidyalayas in minority dominated areas;

(b) if so, the name of location where work has been started under P.P.P. model in regard to the said action plan; and

(c) the name of the areas in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar where the Government has issued directives for setting up the said Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has informed that no such proposal has been conveyed to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

However this Ministry under its flagship scheme of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsD.P.), has approved proposals of the State Governments for setting up of residential schools and other schools, on the lines more or less similar to that of Navodaya schools, in Minority Concentrated Blocks/Towns in various States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, etc. Till February, 2018 this Ministry has approved setting up of 60 residential schools by various State Governments. Details may be seen at website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

[English]

Free Data to Rural Telecom Users

4269. SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom Regulatory Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) has recommended to offer 100 M.B. free data to rural users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with telecom companies and other stakeholders in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the manner in which funds collected under Universal Service Obligation Fund will be used for meeting expenses for providing such services; and

(e) whether T.R.A.I. has also commented on the poor quality of internet offered by telecom companies to rural area users; and

(f) 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) to (c) Telecom Regularity Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) had *suo-moto* initiated Consultation Paper on Free Data dated 19.05.2016. After a consultation process involving obtaining comments and counter comments from stakeholders and organising an Open House Discussion (O.H.D.) with stakeholders on 24th October 2016, T.R.A.I. had given its recommendations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on "Encouraging Data Usage in Rural Areas through Provisioning of Free Data" dated 19.12.2016. The Recommendations *inter-alia* state that:

(i) In order to bridge the affordability gap for the persons residing in rural areas and to support Governments efforts towards cashless economy by incentivising digital means, the Authority recommends that scheme under which a reasonable amount of data, say 100 M.B. per month, may be made available to rural subscribers for free.

(ii) The cost of implementation of the scheme may be met from Universal Services Obligation Fund (U.S.O.F.).

(d) T.R.A.I. has recommended that Telecom Service Providers (T.S.Ps) offering mobile data service to target users will be required to furnish details of data consumed on covered mobile connections to the U.S.O.F. The U.S.O.F. will provide support to the T.S.P. for the total data consumed during the month, subject to the cap of 100 M.B., at a pre-determined rate per M.B.

(e) and (f) T.R.A.I. in its recommendations has not commented on the quality of internet offered by telecom companies to rural area users; however, T.R.A.I. has highlighted the rural-urban disparity in terms of telecom subscribers.

In order to provide internet access in rural areas to bridge rural-urban disparity, Government is providing broadband connectivity through BharatNet project in all the Gram Panchayats of the country in a phased manner.

Tripartite MoU for Rooppur Nuclear Plant

4270. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, Bangladesh and Russia have signed tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in construction of Rooppur nuclear power plant recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said MoU is the country's first atomic energy venture abroad and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether such agreements with other countries stand valid in view of the country not being the member of Nuclear Suppliers Group (N.S.G.) 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) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed at Moscow, Russia between the State Atomic Energy Corporation 'Rosatom'; the Ministry of Science and Technology of the people's Republic of Bangladesh and the Department of Atomic Energy on 1st March 2018 on trilateral cooperation in implementation of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Project in Bangladesh. The MoU envisages rendering of consultancy to Bangladesh in performance of work related to Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant construction and executing transfer and exchange of knowledge, expertise, consultancy advice, technical support and knowhow, sharing of

resources and experience on regulatory aspects, rendering assistance in respect of Indian personnel and qualified Indian Institutions experienced in construction, commissioning and operation of technically demanding industrial facilities to the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) India is currently engaged in nuclear trade with international partners based on a waiver from Nuclear Suppliers Group (N.S.G.) in 2008.

High Speed Trains

4271. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated the process of launching semi-high speed/high speed trains in the country;

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

(c) whether any routes have been identified for the purpose and if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat; and

(d) the steps being taken to upgrade infrastructure and ensure safety of such trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed corridor (508 km) has been sanctioned with technical and financial assistance of Government of Japan. 81% of the project's estimated cost of Rs. 1,08,000 crore is to be funded by Government of Japan through a soft loan at 0.1% interest with 50 year repayment period and 15 year moratorium. The project covers the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra and also Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Nine routes identified for semi high speed trains are as under :

S.No.	Corridor	States
1.	Delhi-Agra	Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh
2.	Delhi-Chandigarh	Delhi, Haryana, Punjab

S.No.	Corridor	States
3.	Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysore	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka
4.	Delhi-Kanpur	Delhi, Uttar Pradesh
5.	Nagpur-Bilaspur	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh
6.	Mumbai-Goa	Maharashtra, Goa
7.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad	Maharashtra, Gujarat, (Saurashtra region - Nil)
8.	Chennai-Hyderabad	Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
9.	Nagpur-Secunderabad	Maharashtra, Telangana

Besides, projects for speed raising of Delhi-Mumbai including Ahmedabad-Vadodara and Delhi-Howrah including Kanpur-Lucknow routes have been included in the Budget for 2017-18 with token fund allocation of Rs. 1 lakh each. The approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (C.C.E.A.) for both the projects is underway.

Details of these two routes and States they pass through are tabulated below :

S.No.	Corridor	States
1.	New Delhi-Mumbai	Maharashtra, Gujarat (Saurashtra region - Nil), Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi
2.	New Delhi-Howrah	Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal

(d) The scope of work in two semi high speed projects includes strengthening of track structure, removal of all level crossings, through fencing, Train Protection Warning System (T.P.W.S.), Mobile Radio Communication System, augmentation of power supply, automated and instrumented for rolling stock etc.

Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed corridor is based on Shinkansen technology of Japan which has a very

good safety system. Such safety systems are an integral part of the project.

Safety Measures

4272. SHRI OM BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocations made and the expenditure incurred therefrom for safety measures in the Railways during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the details of the recommendations of the Kakodkar Committee in this regard which have been implemented and also those which have not been implemented along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps for the upgradation or complete overhaul of coaches used by the Indian Railways to bring them inline with current requirements and standards of safety while providing world class facilities to the passengers and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to upgrade the safety, security and goods carrying capacity of carriage wagons and if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(b) A High Level Safety Review Committee (Kakodkar Committee) was constituted by the Ministry of Railways which has made 106 recommendations on various technical and technology related aspects in connection with safe running of train services. Of these,

97 recommendations have been fully/partially accepted, and 9 recommendations are not accepted by the Ministry of Railways. Of the accepted recommendations, 65 have been implemented. The remaining recommendations are at various stages of implementation. The process of implementation of some of the recommendations is a continuous and/or long drawn out process requiring test and trails, identification and introduction of new and suitable technologies, consultation with outside agencies etc. and as such require larger duration of time for their final implementation.

(c) and (d) The improvement of passenger facilities and safety in trains is a continuous process. In this regard, Ministry of Railways has taken several steps to improve travel experience of passengers and safety in train services across the country. Some of the steps taken are as under - Proliferation of L.H.B. Coaches - A policy decision has been taken to manufacture only Linke Hoffman Busche (L.H.B.) type coaches from 2018-19 onwards. L.H.B. coaches have better technology and are of superior design as compared to the Integral Coach Factory (I.C.F.) type coaches.

Provision of Fire Extinguishers - Dry chemical powder type fire extinguishers are being provided in all main line trains.

Automatic Fire and Smoke Detection System in A.C. Coaches - Instructions have been issued to Production Units that all newly manufactured A.C. coaches shall be provided with Automatic Fire & Smoke Detection System. For existing coaches, sanction exists for the provision of automatic fire & smoke detection system in 3250 coaches. Works is being carried out in a phased manner.

Fire Suppression System in Pantry Cars and Power Cars - Instructions have been issued that this system should be provided in all newly manufactured L.H.B. power cars and L.H.B. pantry cars by the Production Units. Sanction is available for provision of automatic fire detection and suppression system in existing 150 L.H.B. pantry cars and 225 L.H.B. power cars. The work of retro fitment is being carried out progressively.

Improving Fire Retardancy in Coaches - Coaches are being provided with fire retardant furnishing materials such as fire retardant curtains, partition panelling, roof ceiling, flooring, seat and berths along with cushioning

material and seat covers, windows and U.I.C. vestibules etc. The specifications of these items are being upgraded from time to time as a part of continual improvement. In the specifications of major furnishing items, now a new parameter related to fire retardancy (i.e. heat release rate) has been introduced as per international norms.

Provision of Double Acting Doors in Coaches - Double acting doors in coaches are two-way swing A.C. compartment doors for easy evacuation of passengers. Such doors need to be provided in the A.C. coaches so as to improve the fire worthiness and enable passengers to quickly evacuate from the coach in the event of fire. Sanction under Rolling Stock Programme (R.S.P.) exists for the provision of double acting doors in 3500 coaches and the work is being carried out in a phased manner. Also, instructions have been issued to Production Units that all newly manufactured A.C. coaches shall be provided with double acting doors.

(e) Improvements in freight rolling stock design is a continuous activity where measures for upgrading the safety, security and goods carrying capacity of carriage wagons are being taken as a continuous process. For improving the though put, some of the recent measures taken are as below -

- (i) Design development and procurement of 25 tonne axle load B.O.X.N.S. wagons which has given satisfactory riding performance upto 100 kmph in loaded condition in Indian Railways.
- (ii) Design of new low weight low height bogies for use on new 25 tonne axle load wagons and development of higher capacity couplers & draft gears.
- (iii) Retrofitment of bogie mounted brake system, twin pipe brake system, rehabilitation of B.O.X.N. and B.O.B.R.N. wagons etc.

[Translation]

Use of Vacant Land

4273. SHRI SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH BHOLE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use vacant land in cantonment areas for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to

accrue to the army as a result thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) As per existing rules, policy and instructions, A-1 defence land under Army in Cantonment cannot be used for any purpose other than military. All A-1 defence land held with Army including such land in Cantonment areas has its planned usages keeping in mind the future strategic, operational and security needs of the nation. Certain land which appears to be vacant is actually used for training, camping, sports, mobilization purpose etc. besides being earmarked for Key Location Plan (K.L.P.) and for future expansion. The vacant land which are under the management of Cantonment Boards are kept reserved for municipal purposes.

[English]

Sindhu Sadhna

4274. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently launched the first ever indigenously built research vessel/ship 'Sindhu Sadhna' for ocean technology and research;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost of the ship;

(c) whether this research vessel has started its oceanographic research and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to launch more such research vessel/ship in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government to upgrade and improve ocean technology and research?

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) This constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.), National Institute of Oceanography (C.S.I.R.-N.I.O.), Goa has acquired a

multidisciplinary research vessel which has been named Sindhu Sadhna. The vessel has 9 laboratories, equipped for multi-disciplinary oceanographic research. An amount of Rs. 226.51 crore has been spent for vessel construction and equipments. The Sindhu Sadhna has been built indigenously and is 80 meters long and 17.6 m wide. It can accommodate 57 personnel (29 Scientists and 28 crew members). The vessel is designed for a cruising speed of 13.5 knots and has an endurance of 40-45 days.

(c) Research Vessel Sindhu Sadhna has so far completed 46 research voyages and 14 voyages towards testing and calibration of scientific equipment and machinery.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) Ministry of Earth Science has placed an order for construction of two Coastal Research Vessels (C.R.Vs) at a total cost of Rs. 99.729 crore. The said Ministry is also in the process for acquisition of Polar Research Vessel (P.R.V.) at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1051.13 crore. The C.R.Vs are used for coastal pollution monitoring, shallow water testing of various underwater components, environmental indexing of ships and coastal zones, technology services and demonstration. The P.R.V. is expected to contribute to India's scientific expeditions towards sustaining two Indian research bases in Antarctica (Maitri and Bharti); dovetail research initiatives in the Southern Ocean domain with those in the proximal regions of the Antarctic continent; widen the thrust on Arctic research disciplines, undertaken through Indian Station Himadri, in addition to providing a suitable research platform for other tropical sea programmes.

[Translation]

Promotion of Digital Transactions

4275. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI :
SHRI RODMAL NAGAR :
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue collected by the Government under digital transactions along with the measures proposed to be taken further by the Government to promote digital transactions;

(b) the details of the increase in digital transactions

in all the railway zones falling fully or partly in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, separately; and

(c) the additional steps proposed to be taken by the Railways to promote digital transactions in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The amount of revenue received on account of ticket booking through digital means during the Financial Year 2017-18 (up to February, 2018) is Rs. 27504.51 crore out of which the amount received on account of digital transaction in reserved passenger segment is Rs. 26100.27 crore which is approximately 70% of total passenger earnings in reserved segment. The amount received on account of digital transaction in unreserved passenger segment is Rs. 1404.24 crore which is approximately 9% of total passenger earnings in unreserved segment. The cashless transaction in case of freight traffic is above 99%.

Further, Indian Railways have undertaken following measures to promote digital transactions:-

- i. The facility of online booking of reserved tickets has been provided through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (I.R.C.T.C.) website. The payment for ticket booked through I.R.C.T.C. website is made through various cashless modes such as net banking, through credit/debit cards, cash cards and e-wallets. To incentivise payment through digital means, service charge on online booking of tickets was withdrawn for the tickets booked from 23.11.2016. The facility has been extended upto 31.03.2018.
- ii. Indian Railways have tied up with State Bank of India to install 10,000 Point of Sale (P.O.S.) machines at various locations of Indian Railways i.e. Passenger Reservation System (P.R.S./ Unreserved Ticketing System (U.T.S.) ticket booking counters and Parcel/Goods locations.
- iii. Booking of tickets through mobile phone has also been introduced wherein payment can be made through credit/debit cards, net banking, e-wallets etc.
- iv. Service charge applicable on transactions against credit/debit cards for purchasing journey tickets at U.T.S./P.R.S. counters has been withdrawn.
- v. International credit/debit cards issued outside India are accepted for booking of e-tickets through I.R.C.T.C. website.
- vi. Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (A.T.V.Ms) have been introduced to facilitate sale of unreserved tickets which have provision of payment through smart cards.
- vii. 0.5% discount is given on purchase of season tickets through digital means with effect from 01.01.2017 upto 31.03.2018.
- viii. It has been decided to provide 5% discount on the total value of basic fare in P.R.S. reserved counter ticket subject to maximum amount of discount of Rs. 50 on a ticket for payments made through Unified Payment Interface (U.P.I.) including Bharat Interface for Money (B.H.I.M.) subject to value of ticket being Rs. 100 and more.
- ix. Electronic Payment system for collection of freight charges is already in place. All major customers are covered under this system and around 83% of total freight is being collected through it, besides, there is provision for collecting wagon registration fee under electronic registration of demand for wagons through I.R.C.T.C. payment gateway.

(b) State-wise data is not maintained. However, the zone-wise detail of number of digital transaction over Indian Railways at the ticket booking counter, ticket booking through mobile phone and Automatic Ticket Vending Machine (A.T.V.M.) is in the enclosed Statement.

The number of transactions at the I.R.C.T.C. website (e-ticket/i-ticket) is as under:-

Financial Year	Number of Transactions (in lakhs)
2017-18 (upto February)	2237.83
2016-17	2092.95

(c) Improvements in the system including digital transactions are a continuous process. Modifications in the ticket booking system and the payment receipt system with regard to digitization are made in accordance with

the advancements in the technologies for the benefit of the rail users.

Statement

Number of Digital Transactions (in Lakhs)

Zonal Railways	FY 2017-18 (up to February)	FY 2016-17 (up to February)
Central	1036.07	1218.33
East Central	0.13	0.01
East Coast	73.91	79.01
Eastern	57.44	43.09
North Central	21.55	0.08
North Eastern	102.93	108.47
Northeast Frontier	0.10	0.004
Northern	121.29	12.69
North Western	298.87	274.74
South Central	400.98	380.62
South East Central	56.32	30.13
South Eastern	14.87	16.65
Southern	376.35	335.01
South Western	71.63	33.15
West Central	163.75	103.83
Western	486.30	470.93
Total	3372.48	3106.73

[English]

**Procedure to accord Minority Status
to any Community**

4276. SHRI PARTHA PRATIM RAY : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of religious communities treated as minority in our country;

(b) whether the Government has any plan of according minority status to Jews or any community and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names and number of minority communities

who are appointed in the National Commission for Minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The Central Government has notified six communities as minorities in the context of India as a whole under Section 2(c) of National Commission for Minorities (N.C.M.) Act, 1992. These communities are namely Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains.

(b) This Ministry has received requests from some organization of Jewish and other communities demanding grant of minority status. Such proposals for notifying a community as minority community by the Central Government involve consultations with various stakeholders.

(c) As on date members from all the six notified minority communities have been nominated as Chairperson/Vice-chairperson or Member of N.C.M.

[Translation]

Earthquake Prediction

4277. SHRI KIRTI AZAD :

SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE :

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK :

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA :

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequency of earthquakes has increased in the country;

(b) if so, the locations in the country which have experienced earthquakes along with the intensity of the earthquake during the last one year;

(c) whether any system/technology is available to predict earthquake and tsunami in the country or in global market;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has initiated or proposes to initiate any research on earthquake prediction either by I.S.R.O. or any other organization indigenously or in collaboration with any global organisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the funds

allocated for the purpose and if not, the steps proposed to be taken to pre-empt the calamities enforced by the earthquake and tsunami?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) National Centre for Seismology (N.C.S.) of Ministry monitors earthquakes in the country. Based on the earthquake data collected by N.C.S., there is no apparent increase in the frequency of earthquakes in the country.

(c) To date, there is no proven scientific technique available, anywhere in the world, to predict the occurrence of earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy with regard to space, time and magnitude. However, National Centre for Seismology (N.C.S.), maintains a country wide national seismology network, to detect and locate earthquakes occurring in and around the country. The network consists of state-of-art digital broadband seismographs, V.S.A.T. based communication systems and latest tools for dissemination of earthquake information to the concerned disaster management authorities and other user agencies in least possible time. The network also includes a 17-station real time seismic monitoring system to monitor and report large magnitude earthquakes capable of generating tsunamis on the Indian coastal regions.

The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (I.T.E.W.C.) established at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Sciences (I.N.C.O.I.S.), Hyderabad is capable of detecting tsunamigenic earthquakes occurring in the Indian Ocean as well as in the Global Oceans within 10 minutes of the occurrence of the earthquake and disseminates the advisories to the concerned authorities through e-mail, fax, S.M.S., G.T.S. and website.

(d) Indian Tsunami Early Warning System comprises a real-time seismic monitoring network of 17 broadband seismic stations established by Indian Meteorological Department to detect tsunamigenic earthquakes. In addition to that, I.N.C.O.I.S. is also receiving data from around 90 national seismic stations which are established by various national local/regional centres. I.N.C.O.I.S. and National Institute of Ocean Technology (N.I.O.T.) have installed 5 Tsunami Buoys in the Bay of Bengal and the

2 Tsunami Buoys in the Arabian Sea. To monitor the progress of tsunami waves, I.N.C.O.I.S. has installed 35 tide gauges along the Indian coast and Islands. Real time data from above observational networks transmitting through satellite communication to I.T.E.W.C. for processing and interpretation with necessary redundancy in transmission. In addition, I.N.C.O.I.S. also takes the help of numerical model to assess the tsunami potential at different locations on the coast. The centre is operational round the clock on all days. I.T.E.W.C. is also receiving data in real time from 350 seismic stations, 50 tsunami buoys and 300 tide gauges established in the Indian as well as the other ocean by other countries and international agencies. A robust communication system also has been employed for the timely reception of data and for the timely dissemination of advisories.

I.T.E.W.C. is considered as one of the most modern tsunami warning centre in the world. Considering the performance of I.T.E.W.C., in October 2012, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (I.O.C.) of U.N.E.S.C.O. has designated I.T.E.W.C. as the Tsunami Service Provider (T.S.P.) for the entire Indian Ocean Region. Since then, I.T.E.W.C. is providing tsunami advisories and related services to all countries on the Indian Ocean rim (25) countries.

(e) Total Rs. 125 Crore was sanctioned in 2005 by the Govt. of India for the establishment of National Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges.

[English]

Manufacturing of Defence Equipment

4278. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of the defence equipment manufactured in the country during each of the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) whether the equipment manufactured in the country have failed to qualify the quality test and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether indigenously manufactured equipment are being exported to foreign countries and if so, the details of equipment exported during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The details of the Major defence equipment manufactured by

the Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings in the country during last three years and the current year are as under:

S.No.	Name of D.P.S.U./O.F.B.	Major Products/Equipments Manufactured
1.	Ordnance Factory Board (O.F.B.)	Rifle 5.56 INSAS, 9M.M. Auto Pistol, 9M.M. Carbine, .32" Pistol, 12.7 A.D. Gun, 84 M.M. R.L. M.K.-III, 81 M.M. Mortar, T-72/T-90 Spare Barrel, 105 M.M. Light Field Gun, A.K.-630 Gun System, Tank T-90, T-72 O.H., Transport Vehicles.
2.	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (H.A.L.):	SU-30 M.K.I., Hawk, Light Combat Aircraft (L.C.A.), Dornier, A.L.H. and Chhetal helicopters, P.T.A. etc.
3.	Bharrat Electronics Limited (B.E.L.):	Radars & Weapon Systyems, Sonars, Communication, E.W.S., Electro-Optics, Tank Electronics, L-70 Gun Upgrade, Aslesha, Ship Borne E.W. System, New Generation Sonars, Fire Control System etc.
4.	Bharat Earth Movers Limited (B.E.M.L.):	B.E.M.L. Tatra 8x8 Vehicles, B.E.M.L. Tatra 6x6 Vehicles, Aircraft Towing Tractor, Sarvatra Bridging System, Arjun Armoured Recovery Vehicle (A.R.R.V.) etc.
5.	Bharat Dynamics Limited (B.D.L.):	Konkurs-M, Invar - A.T.G.M., Milan - 2T A.T.G.M., C 303S, Akash Missiles (S.A.M. - Surface to Air Missile), T.A.L. - Torpedo (Under water equipment), C.M.D.S. - Counter Measure Dispensing Systems for various platforms.
6.	Garden Reach Ship Builders & Engineers Limited (G.R.S.E.):	Warship, Diesel Engine (Assembly & Overhauling and Testing), Pre--Fabricated Steel Bridges, Deck Machinery Items & Marine Pump).
7.	Goa Shipyard Limited (G.S.L.):	105M Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, 105M Offshore Patrol Vessel and Fast Interceptor Boats, Damage Control Simulator, Fuel Barge etc.
8.	Mazagaon Dockyards Limited (M.D.L.):	Submarines, P15B Missile Destroyers, P17A Missile Frigates, Scorpene Class Submarine.

(b) No, Madam.

manufactured equipment being exported by Defence Public Sector Undertakings are as under:

(c) Yes, Madam. The details of the indigenously

S.No.	Name of D.P.S.U.	Major Products
1.	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (H.A.L.):	Work Packages to Aircraft O.E.Ms, Do-228 aircraft and Chetal helicopters etc.
2.	Bharat Electronics Limited (B.E.L.):	Hull Mounted Sonar, Naval Surveillance Radar, Unit Level Switch Board, Radar Finger Printing System, Electro Mechanical parts, Naval Air Surveillance Radar, Thermal imaging based fire control system, Coastal Surveillance System, Bharati Radio etc.

S.No.	Name of D.P.S.U.s	Major Products
3.	Bharat Earth Movers Limited (B.E.M.L.):	Aircraft Towing Tractor.
4.	Garden Reach Ship Builder &	Pre-Fabricated Portable Steel (Bailey & Bailey Suspension Bridge), Offshore Patrol Vessel (O.P.V.).
5.	Goa Shipyard Limited (G.S.L.):	105M Offshore Patrol Vessel, 50M Fast Patrol Vessel and Fast Interceptor Boats, Damage Control Simulator etc.

Nuclear Power Plants in Andhra Pradesh

4279. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of nuclear power projects proposed to be set up by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (N.P.C.I.L.) in Andhra Pradesh through foreign collaborations;

(b) whether Atomic Energy Regulation Board has given its approval for all the proposed nuclear power plants in Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress in the negotiations held by N.P.C.I.L. with Westinghouse Corporation of U.S.A. for setting up of nuclear power plants in the State?

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 Government has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up six units of Light Water Reactors (L.W.Rs) in cooperation with the U.S.A. at Kovvada in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. The project comprises of six units of 1208 M.W. each, to be set in a sequential manner. Pre-project activities including land acquisition, obtaining statutory clearances and site investigations are in progress at the site.

(b) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (A.E.R.B.) accords stage wise clearances at siting, construction, commissioning and operation stages. These clearances

for Kovvada project will be obtained at the respective stages.

(c) Presently, discussions with M/s Westinghouse Electric Company (W.E.C.) are in progress to arrive at a viable project proposal and demonstration of reference plant for setting up these nuclear power reactors at the Kovvada site. The project will be set up on emergence of a viable project proposal and accord of administrative approval and financial sanction by the Government.

Increase in Refund Cases

4280. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the number of refund cases on account of unbooked tickets through I.R.C.T.C. website;

(b) if so, the details of the amount refunded in respect of unbooked online tickets in the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such refund cases are disposed of immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The cases where payment is deducted but ticket is not issued during the process of online booking of tickets through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (I.R.C.T.C.) website are referred to as Failed Transactions which occur due to various factors including failure of response from bank, choice of berth preference not met, etc. During the period April, 2017 to February 2018, the number of failed transactions constituted approximately 6% of the total ticket booking transactions on I.R.C.T.C. website as compared to approximately 5% of such transactions during the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) The amount on account of refund arising out of failed transactions during the last two years is as under:-

Financial Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2015-16	1468.10
2016-17	1786.17

(c) In case of failed transaction, refund is processed automatically on the following day of the transaction made by user after confirmation through the file or transaction from bank and Passenger Name Record (P.N.R.) generation from Passenger Reservation System (P.R.S.).

[Translation]

Lokpal and Lokayukta

4281. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Rajasthan and the details of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas appointed till date;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in appointing the Lokpal and Lokayuktas;

(d) whether hundreds of appeals under the Right to Information Act are lying pending in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to dispose of the appeals 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 (c) The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 came into force w.e.f. 16.01.2014. In terms of the provisions of section 63 of the said Act establishment of Lokayuktas in the States is in the domain of respective State Governments. No data in this respect is centrally maintained by the Government.

A meeting of the Selection Committee under section 4(1) of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 was held on 1st March, 2018. The matter is presently sub-judice in Contempt Petition (Civil) No. 714/2018 filed by Common Cause a Registered Society in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(d) and (e) In terms of section 15 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 the powers to perform the function assigned under the Act are vested in the respective State Information Commissions and accordingly no information is centrally maintained relating to State Governments in this regard.

Subsidy to Pilgrims

4282. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to provide subsidy to Hindu community for Amarnath and Kailash Parvat Yatra on the lines of Haj Subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) to (c) The Government of India does not extend any direct monetary subsidy to individual pilgrims for the Amarnath Yatra and the Kailash Maasarovar Yatra. However, Ministry of External Affairs provides assistance, on self-financing basis, to the Yatris undertaking the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra by providing facilities like transportation, accomodation, food, medical tests, guides, etc. The Ministry of External Affairs also coordinates with the Government of Peoples' Republic of China as well as various Indian agencies for the smooth conduct of this Yatra.

As per the Supreme Court judgement dated 08.05.2012 and recommendations of Haj Policy Review committee constituted by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Haj subsidy has been gradually reduced since the year 2013 and it has been decided to discontinue it from Haj 2018.

[English]

Regulation of Web Media/News Portals

4283. SHRI NINONG ERING : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working to introduce legislation to codify web media and news portals;

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

(c) whether the Government is going to introduce legislation for mandatory registration of web news portals and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stand of the Government regarding regulation of the web news portals?

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 (d) No, Madam. There is no proposal in the Government to introduce legislation to codify web media and news portals or to introduce legislation for mandatory registration of web news portals.

There are existing legal provisions to curb misuse of web media:

(i) The Information technology (I.T.) Act, 2000 already provides for punishment for publishing or transmitting objectionable contents through following provisions:

- Section 66E: Punishment for violation of privacy.
- Section 67: Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form.
- Section 67A: Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act etc., in electronic form.
- Section 67B: Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form.

(ii) Government also takes action under section 69A of I.T. Act for blocking of websites/webpages with objectionable contents, whenever requests are

received from designated nodal officers or upon court orders. Section 69A of the I.T. Act empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of (1) sovereignty and integrity of India, (2) defence of India, (3) security of the State, (4) friendly relations with foreign States (5) public order or (6) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

(iii) Further, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the I.T. Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable affect minors and unlawful in any way.

Promotion of Electronics and IT Hardware Manufacturing

4284. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to promote manufacturing of electronics and I.T. hardware in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government wishes to make India an electronics hardware manufacturing hub; and

(c) if so, the steps Government plans to take in this direction?

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 (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has taken several steps to promote manufacturing of Electronics and I.T. hardware in the country with the objective to make India an electronics hardware manufacturing hub. Major steps taken by the Government to promote Electronics and I.T. hardware manufacturing in the country are give in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote Electronics and I.T. Hardware Manufacturing in the Country

1. Promotion of electronics hardware manufacturing is one of the pillars of Digital India campaign of the Government.
2. The National Policy on Electronics (N.P.E. 2012) was notified in October 2012 with the vision to create a globally competitive electronics design and manufacturing industry to meet the country's needs and serve the international market.
3. Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-S.I.P.S.) provides financial incentives to offset disability and attract investments in the Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (E.S.D.M.) sector. The scheme provides subsidy for investments in capital expenditure - 20% for investments in S.E.Zs and 25% in non-S.E.Za. The scheme is available for both new projects and expansion projects.
4. Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (E.M.C.) have been set up in the country.
5. Notification for 10 electronic products in furtherance of the Departmental of Industrial Policy and Promotion's Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 has been issued on 14.09.2017.
6. Approvals for all foreign direct investment up-to 100% in the electronic hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
7. For promotion of exports in the sector, Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (M.E.I.S.) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (E.P.C.G.) Scheme are available under the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-20. M.E.I.S. offers export incentives so as to offset disabilities of manufacturing. Zero duty E.P.C.G. scheme allows import of capital goods at zero customs duty, subject to specified export obligation.
8. Tarriff Structure has been nationalized to promote indigenous manufacturing of electronic goods, including *inter-alia* Mobile Handsets, Televisions, Electronic Components, Set Top Boxes, L.E.D. products, Medical Electronics, Solar P.V. Cells and Microwave Ovens. To promote domestic value

addition in mobile handsets manufacturing, a Phased Manufacturing Programme (P.M.P.) has been notified.

9. To promote indigenous manufacturing of Televisions, baggage rules have been amended to ban duty free import of Flat Panel Television Sets w.e.f. August 2014 under the baggage allowance.
10. Mandatory compliance to safety standards has been notified for identified Electronic Products with the objective to curb import of sub-standard and unsafe electronics goods. As of now, 43 electronic products are under the ambit of this order.

Promotion of Innovation and R. & D.

11. Electronics Development Fund (E.D.F.) has been operationalized to support Daughter Funds in the area of E.S.D.M., Nano-electronics and I.T. The fund is housed in Canbank Venture Capital Fund Ltd. The supported Daughter Funds will promote innovation, R. & D., product development and within the country.
12. Keeping in view the huge indigenous requirement on account of roadmap for digitalization of the broadcasting sector, Conditional Access System, entitled iC.A.S. has been developed in Public-Private Partnership mode to promote indigenous manufacturing of Set Top Boxes (S.T.Bs). The iC.A.S. is available to domestic S.T.B. manufacturers at a price of U.S.D. 0.5 per license for a period of three years as against market price of U.S.D. 3-5 per license for other competing products. The implementation of iC.A.S. in the cable networks is underway.
13. An Electropreneur park has been set up in New Delhi for providing incubation for development of E.S.D.M. sector which will contribute I.P. creation and Product Development in the sector.
14. National Centre of Excellence in Large Area Flexible Electronics (N.C.F.L.E.X.) has been set up in I.I.T.-Kanpur with the objective to promote R. & D.; Manufacturing; Ecosystems; Entrepreneurship; International Partnerships and Human Resources and develop prototypes in collaboration with industry for commercialization.
15. National Centre of Excellence for Technology on

Internal Security (N.C.E.T.I.S.) has been set up at I.I.T.-Bombay with the objective to address the internal security needs of the nation on continuous basis by delivering technology prototypes required for internal security and to promote domestic industry in internal security.

16. Centre for Excellence on Internet of Things (IoT) has been set up in Bengaluru jointly with N.A.S.S.C.O.M.
17. An Incubation center with focus on medical electronics has been set up at Indian Institute of Technology-Patna.
18. An Incubation Center at Kochi with focus on consumer electronics has been set up at I.I.I.T.M.

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library

4285. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme/plan for having public access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (T.K.D.L.) database;

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

(c) the number and details of cases where the usage of T.K.D.L. database has proved as an effective deterrent

against biopiracy and resulted in protection of traditional knowledge; and

(d) the number of pre-grant opposition cases, filed by T.K.D.L., pending at various international patent offices?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) No, Madam. At present no scheme/plan has been formulated for having public access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (T.K.D.L.) database.

(b) Safeguarding the information present in the T.K.D.L. database from misappropriation is of paramount importance.

(c) There are 220 cases wherein patent applications have been either withdrawn/deemed withdrawn or amended or set aside on the basis of T.K.D.L. evidence thus protecting Indian traditional knowledge. These cases have been at the patent offices of Europe, U.S.A., India, Canada, Australia and United Kingdom. The details of these patent applications are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) About 900 submissions as pregrant oppositions/ third party observations filed by T.K.D.L. are pending at patent offices worldwide.

Statement

T.K.D.L. Outcomes against Biopiracy

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
1.	EP1520585	Cancer treatment using natural plant Products or essential oils or components from some pistacia species.	Data Medica Padova, SPA, Italy	24-Sep-04
2.	EP1747786	Natural product in cream with anti-vitiligo therapeutic properties.	Perdix Eurogroup, S.L., Spain	24-Jul-06
3.	EP1660007	Compositions for Diabetes treatment and Prophylaxis.	Ayurvedic-Life International, LLC, P.O. Box 10, Neenah, WI 54957/U.S.	11-Aug-04
4.	EP2464363	Natural extract from whole Banana fruit.	M/S Medasani, Munisekhar/ India	11-Aug-10

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
5.	EP2435057	Compositions and methods for modulating lipid composition.	New Chapter, Inc./U.S.	28-May-10
6.	EP1607006	Functional berry composition.	UNILEVER NV, Netherland	18-Jun-04
7.	EP2044850	Method for altering the metabolism characteristics of food products.	Clara's ApS, Denmark	19-Sep-07
8.	EP1889638	Medicaments and food for treatment or prevention of obesity and/or diabetes containing cicer arietinum extract.	Jumpsun Bio-Medicine (Shanghai) Co. Ltd., China	6-Mar-06
9.	EP1750809	Citrus Fruit Skin extract for Angiogenesis promotion.	Industrial Research Limited and Otago Innovation Limited/ New Zealand	29Apr-05
10.	EP1807098	Herbal Compositions for treatment of diabetes.	Amcod Limited, Mombasa, Kenya	13-Sep-05
11.	EP1967197	Use of preparations, purifications and extracts of alow.	Cognis IP Management GmbH, Germany	9-Mar-07
12.	EP2065031	Skin treatment composition.	Evonik Goldschmidt GmbH Germany	30-Nov-07
13.	EP1906980	Method of treatment or management of Stress.	Natreon Inc. 2-D Janine Place New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ United States	27-Jul-06
14.	EP1660106	Biotherapetutics for Mitigation of health disorders from Terminlia Arjuna	Avesthagen Limited Unit 3, Discoverer, 9th Floor International Tech Park Whitefield Road Bangalore 560066/India	15-Aug-03
15.	EP1825845	Cosmetic herbal compositions	Jan Marini Skin Research Inc. 6951 Via del Oro San Jose, California 95119/United States	22-Feb-07
16.	EP2015761	Methods and Composition for treating Sore Throat.	Naveh Pharma (1996) Ltd. P.O. Box 8139 42505 Netanya/ Israel2009/04	29-Mar-07
17.	EP1937231	Pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases.	GW Pharma Limited Porton Down Science Park Salisbury Wiltshire SP4 OJR/Great Britain	11-Oct-06
18.	EP2133089	Composition for the treatment of disorders of the upper respiratory tract and influenza syndromes.	Indena S.p.A. Viale Orties, 12 20132 Milano/Italy[2009/51]	12-Jun-08

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
19.	EP2133080	Compounds containing equol.	Haelan Schweiz GmbH Schutzenstrasse 188808 Pfaffikon Switzerland [2009/51]	13-Jun-08
20.	EP2070545	Oral composition for the prevention and treatment of inflammatory disorders of the colon	Bios Line S.p.a. Viale FinIndia 4 35020 Ponte S. Nicolo (PD)/ Italy[2009/25]	10-Dec-04
21.	EP2101800	Extracts from the skin of fruits of plants from genus vitis, compositions containing the same and a process for its manufacture.	Ache Laboratorios Farmaceuticos S.A. Rodovia Presidente Dutra Km 222,2 Porto da Igreja 07034- 904 Guarulhos-SP/Brazil [2009/39]	14-Dec-07
22.	EP1949889	Fibroblast activator, method for activation of fibroblast, collagen synthesis promoter, method for promotion of collagen synthesis, skin aging-preventing agent, and method for prevention of aging of the skin.	Mercian Corporation 5-8, Kyobashi 1-chome Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8305/ Japan[2008/31]	17-Oct-06
23.	EP1709995	Asthma/allergy therapy using nigella sativa.	Al-Jassim Rawaa 2578 River Wood Drive Napperville, Illinois 60565/United States, Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands and Qatar	2-Mar-00
24.	EP1958641	Treatment and prevention of inflammation.	Bionature E.A. Limited, 1 Poseidon 2406 Egomi, Nicosia/Cyprus [2008/34]	16-Feb-07
25.	EP1729593	Cysteine Protease from Ginger	Natbio Pty Ltd. 41/8 Goodwin Street Kangaroo Point, QLD 4169/Australia [2006/50]	23-Feb-05
26.	EP1971354	Composition comprising liquiritigen for preventing and treating liver disease.	Seoul National University Industry Foundation San4-2, Bongcheon-dong, Gwanak-gu Seoul 151-818/South Korea [2008/39]	5-Jan-07
27.	EP2089505	Reduced-hangover alcoholic beverage.	Morning-After Herbal Infusion Corporation 180 Boul. Rene- Levesque East Suite 208 Monreal, QC H2X 1N6/ Canada [2009/34]	8-Nov-07
28.	EP1942917	Composition and methods for Use of juice organic, juice based skin care products.	Juice Beauty 711 Grand Avenue, Suite 290 San Rafael, CA 94901/U.S.	30-Oct-06

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
29.	EP2175848	Therapeutic uses of Cannabigerol.	GW Pharma Limited Porton Down Science Park Salisbury Wiltshire SP4 0JR/ Freat Britain [2010/16]	25-Jun-08
30.	EP2218455	Dolichos biflorus extract for use in therapeutic skin treatment.	Cognis IP Management GmbH Henkelstrasse 67 40589 Dusseldorf/Germany [2010/33]	7-Feb-09
31.	EP2014295	Topical compositions for the prevention and treatment of inflammatory and/or infective conditions of the genital area.	Velleja Research SRL via Natta, 28 29010 Pontenure (PC)/ Italy [2009/03]	28-May-08
32.	EP2008661	Formulation based on marigold aloe and centellae.	Spannagel, Lucia Antonia Guemes 235, barrio Los Eucalptos Villa Carlos Paz Provincia de Cordoba/Argentina [2009/01]	5-May-08
33.	EP1759706	Use of Mash of Gentiana root and corresponding agents.	Priebe, Ingrid Thierschstrasse 10 83471 Schonau/Germany [2007/10]	4-Sep-06
34.	EP2167072	Use of Oleocanthal for Treatment of Cutaneous Inflammation.	B.C. DEVELOPMENT S.A. route de France 17/CP 18 2926 Boncourt/Switzerland, Sprim 2 square Petrarque 75016 Paris/France	4-Jul-08
35.	EP2029150	Extract of Herbal and the composition containing the same.	DONG-A PHARM. CO., LTD. 252, Yougdu-dong Dong- daemun-ku Seoul 130-823/ Republic of Korea	27-Feb-07
36.	EP2263481	Green tea extracts of improved Bioavailability.	Nestec S.A. Avenue Nestle 55 1800 Vevey/Switzerland	29-May-09
37.	EP1553851	Cosmetic composition for preventing and/or correcting the functional disorders of the pilo-sebaceous unit of mammals.	L'Oreal 14, rue Royale 75008 Paris/France Nestec S.A. Avenue Nestle 55 1800 Vevey/Switzerland	16-Dec-03
38.	EP1755402	Compositions for inhalation therapy and methods of use.	Tower Laboratories, Ltd. 8 Industrial Park Road Centerbrook, CT 06409/ United States	6-May-05
39.	EP1140123	Use of tropical root crops in effective intervention strategies for treating difficult and complex cases and chronic diseases.	Slimak, Karen M. P.O. Box 2444 Springfield, VA 22152/ United States	13-Nov-00

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
40.	EP2146739	Methods of immune or hematological enhancement, inhibiting tumour formation of growth, and treating or preventing cancer, symptoms, or the Symptoms of cancer treatments.	Fonterra Co--operative Group Limited 9 Princes Street Auckland/New Zealand	14-May-08
41.	EP1925311	Use of a plant extract or plant juice	BIOPROGRESS TECHNOLOGY Limited Units 15-17 Cambridge Science Park Milton Road Cambridge, CB4 0FQ/ Great Britain	15-Nov-06
42.	EP2152284	A synergistic Ayurvedic/Functional food Bioactive Composition (Cincata)	Avesthagen Limited Discoverer, 9th Floor International Tech Park Whitefield Road Bangalore Karnataka 560066/India	29-Jun-07
43.	EP1609476	Composition for treating Hepatitis C	Original Image Co., Ltd. 3-21-2 Motohama-cho Naka-ku Yokohama-shi kanagawa 231-0004/Japan	4 Mar-04
44.	EP1991241	Composition and methods for the induction and maintenance of quality sleep	lomedix Sleep International SRL The Grove 21 Pine Road Belleville 11113 Saint Michael/ Barbados	14-Jul-06
45.	EP1855701	Metal Chelator	Georgiou, George J. Panayia Aimatousa 300 Aradippou 7101, Larncaca/Cyprus	1-Feb-06
46.	EP1906982	Plant extracts and methods and uses therefore	Avesthagen Limited Unit 3, Discoverer, 9th Floor International Tech Park Whitefield Road Bangalore 560066/India	23-Feb-05
47.	EP2223616	Food supplement preparation with an active ingredient mixture	PM-International AG 17, rue des Gaulois 1618 Luxembourg	13-Feb-09
48.	EP1998758	Spray composition for topical use for treating and/or preventing herpes simplex labial infections	Istituto Farmacoterapico Italiano S.P.A. Via Paolo Frisi 21/23 00197 Rome/Italy	21-Mar-03
49.	EP1718143	Agents for Sequestering Serum Aging factors and uses therefore	Nu Skin International, Inc. 75 West Center Street Provo, UT 84601/United States	4-Feb-05

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
50.	EP2033650	Inhibitor of Expression of Nuclear Transcription Factor Ap-1, and Pharmaceutical product and product using the inhibitor	ARKRAY, Inc. 57 Nishiaketa-cho Higashikujo Minami-ku Koto-shi, Kyoto 601-8045-Japan	19-Jun-07
51.	EP2251032	Lactoferrin and brain health and protection in adults	Nestec S.A., Avenue Nestle 55, 1800 Vevey/Switzerland	12-May-09
52.	2251029	Lactoferrin and gut neuronal health in adults and/or elderly	Nestec S.A., Avenue Nestle 55, 1800 Vevey/Switzerland	12-May-09
53.	EP1812028	Herbal composition phy906 and its use in Chemotherapy.	Yale University Two Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511/United States	9-Nov-05
54.	EP2371374	Soluble fiber from Musa spp. for treating gastroenteritis or diarrhea	PROVEXIS (IBD) LIMITED Thames Court 1 Victoria Street Windsor Berkshire SL4 1YB/ United Kingdom	10-Feb-04
55.	EP1498132	Compositions for preventing or treating Pollenosis, Allergic Nephritis, Atopic Dermatitis, Asthma or Urticaria	Original Image Co., Ltd., 21-2 Motohama-cho 3-chome Nakaku Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 231-0004/Japan	21-Apr-03
56.	EP1945237	Use of Extracts of Myrtle and other Mediterranean plant species, as Antimycotic agent towards Yeast and Yeast-like Microorganisms.	Romani Annalisa, Via Delle Lame 4, 51031 Agliana/ Italy	17-Oct-06
57.	EP1863498	Composition Comprising Isoorientin for Suppressing Histamine	Unigen, Inc. 200-1, Songjeongri Byeongcheonmyeon, Cheonansi Chungcheongnamdo 330-863/ South Korea	17-Mar-06
58.	EP2094091	Antimicrobial Composition	Nature Therapeutics Limited, 4 Mill Fields Bassingham Lincoln, Lincolnshire LN5 9NP/ United Kingdom	6-Dec-07
59.	EP2086560	Methods of treating Epiphora	Riolan Technologies, Inc., 8575 Prestwick Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037/United States	1-Nov-07
60.	EP2251024	Plant-Origin drug for preventing or improving Hyperuricemia	Kaneka Corporation, 2-4, Nakanoshima 6-chome Kitaku, Osakashi, Osaka 530-8288/ Japan	21-Jan-09

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
61.	EP2163252	Composition coontaining Licorice-derived Polyphenol	Kaneka Corporation, 2-4, Nakanoshima 6-chome Kitaku, Osakashi, Osaka 530-8288/ Japan	16-May-08
62.	EP2144591	Personal care compositions comprising an Antimicrobial Blend of essential oils or constituents thereof	The Procter & Gamble Company One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202/ United States	15-Apr-08
63.	EP1841320	Methods and pharmaceutical compositions useful for treating psoriasis	S.U.L.V.E. Ltd., P.O. Box 899, Business Center, 25147 Kfar-vradim/Israel	12-Jan-08
64.	EP2227247	Anticancer composition comprising plant stem cell line derived from Taxus Cambium or Procambium	Unhwa Corporation, 865-5 Hoseongdong 1-gaDeokjinguJeonju-si, Jeollabuck-do 561-211/South Korea	10-Oct-08
65.	EP2139504	Standardized Bioactive Herbal Extracts	Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited, Plot No. 90, Sector-32, Gurgaon, Haryana 122001, Delhi/India	24-Mar-08
66.	EP2377543	Ophthalmic, pharmaceutical and other healthcare preparations with naturally occurring plant compounds extracts and derivatives	Natural Disinfectant Technologies, Landhuis Joonchi, P.O. Box 837, Curacao/NETH. ANTILLES	4-Apr-03
67.	EP2157978	MC-1 R, MC-2 R, and MU Opioid Receptors Modulation	BASF Beauty Care Solutions France SAS, France	6-Jun-08
68.	EP2144621	Guava Extract	OMNICA GMBH, Plan 5, 20095 Hamburg/Germany	22-Apr-08
69.	EP2046357	Antioxidant compositions comprising extracts of Myrtle and Rosemary	Nuraging Biotech S.r.l., Localita Piscinamanna, edif.5, 09010 Pula (CA)/Italy	24-Jul-07
70.	EP2323501	Reduced sesame seed derived pigments	OMNICA GMBH, Plan 5, 20095, Hamburg/Germany	28-Jul-09
71.	EP2349305	Phytochemical Compositions and Methods for Activating Amp-Kinase	Metaproteomics LLC/ United States	4-Nov-09
72.	EP2060621	Wheat-germ oil concentrate , a method for the production thereof, a method for producing wheat-germ oil and a medicinal and prophylactic composition based thereon and used for treating sexual dysfunctions	Otkrytoe Aktsionernoje Obschestvo Zavod Ekologicheskoy Tekhniki, Moscow 115114/Russia	27-Nov-06

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
73.	EP1825861	Anti-inflammatory extract and agent and method for the production thereof	Otkrytoe Aktsionernoe Obschestvo Zavod Ekologicheskoy Tekhniki, I Ekopitaniya 'Diod'/Russia	15-Nov-05
74.	EP2094094	Composition comprising a milled cereal product	F. Coy, Johannes F., Mestemacher GmbH/Germany	7-Dec-07
75.	EP1998727	Herbal composition for treatment of infections caused by Dermatophytes	Piramal Enterprises Limited/	27-Mar07
76.	EP2124636	Novel use of (-)-Epigallocatechin Gallate	DSM IP Assets B.V., Het Overloon 1, 6411 TE Heerlen/Netherlands	17-Jan-08
77.	EP2204176	Nutritional Composition	Societe des Produits Nestle S.A., P.O. Box 353, 1800 Vevey/Switzerland	17-Jul-01
78.	EP2089044	Anti-obesity product and its method of preparation	Chongqing institute of Ecological Materia Medica Co. Limited/China and Phynova Limited/Great Britain	9-Jul-07
79.	EP1993522	Resveratrol and/or Grape leaf extract as i.a. Endurance Improver, Anti-aging agent, Muscle strength improver	Kao Corporation 14-10, Nihonbashi-Kayabacho, 1-chome Chuo-ku Tokyo 103-8210/Japan	25-Oct-06
80.	EP 2269598	Curcuminoid compositions exhibiting synergistic inhibition of the expression and/or activity of cyclooxygenase-2	Metaproteomics, LLC/US	17-Jul-02
81.	EP2293689	Food Product	Mars, Incorporated/US	28-May-09
82.	EP1901701	Personal care and medicinal products incorporating bound Organosulfur groups	Ott, David M., 777 Panoramic Way, Berkeley, CA 94704/US	24-May-06
83.	EP1881839	Compositions of Bakuchiol and methods of making the same	Unigen, Inc./US	9-May-06
84.	EP2419508	Method for the induction of a reward response by modulation of dopaminergic systems in the central nervous system	Somalabs, Inc., 40 Allen Road, South Burlington, VT 05403/US	16-Apr-10
85.	EP1558271	Compositions that treat or inhibit pathological conditions associated with inflammatory response	Metaproteomics, LLC/US	20-Oct-03
86.	EP2266586	Compositions and method for alleviating inflammation and oxidative stress in a mammal	Lifeline Nutraceuticals Corporation 6400 South Fiddler's Green Circle, Suite 1970 Englewood, CO 80111/United States	23-Mar-05
87.	EP2243383	A method and composition for nutritionally improving glucose control and insulin action.	Nestec S.A./Switzerland	4-Apr-06

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
88.	EP2361602	A hair building solid agent.	M/S Pangaea Laboratories Limited/Great Britain	11-Feb-11
89.	EP2689806	Oral compositions containing extracts of myristica fragrans and related methods	Colgate-Palmolive Company/ United States of America	1-Dec-10
90.	EP2328598	Novel compositions containing isolated Tetrameric type a Proanthocyanadin and methods of use and manufacture.	Phenolicx, LLC/US	4-Aug-09
91.	EP1572219	Efficient method for producing compositions enriched in total Phenols	Phenolics, LLC, P.O. Box 2439 846 San Carlos Avenue, El Granda, CA 94108-2439/US	21-Nov-03
92.	EP1941899	Agent for promoting Glucagon-like Peptide 1 Secretion, food or drink for promoting Glucagon-like Peptide1 Secretion, agent for inhibiting postprandial increase in blood sugar level and food or drink for inhibiting postprandial increase in blood sugar level.	Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd., 33-1, Shiba 5-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8384/Japan	29-Sep-06
93.	EP2192910	Oral compositions containing botanical extracts	Colgate-Palmolive Company, 300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022/United States of America	29-Sep-08
94.	EP2415469	Anti-resorptive and bone building dietary supplements and methods of use	Krempin, David W., 30150 Corte Cantera, Temecula, CA 92591/US	24-Oct-07
95.	EP2367526	Compositions and methods for alleviating hyposalivation and for providing oral comfort	VDF Futureceuticals, Inc., 819 Disie Highway, Momence, IL 60954/United States of America	13-Nov-09
96.	EP1883416	Compositions and methods for the prevention and treatment of conditions associated with inflammation	Wellgen, Inc., 63 Dudley Road, New Brunswick NJ 08901-8520/ US	24-May-06
97.	EP2691072	Triglyceride Compositions of Plant Origin for Cosmetic Applications obtained from Olive Oil Deodorization Distillate.	M/S LEHVOSS ITALIA s.r.l./ Italy	29-Mar-12
98.	EP1849473	Chinese traditional medicine composition for treatment of avian influenza/Bird Flu, method for preparation and application thereof.	Livzon Pharmaceutical Group Inc., CN, China	19-Jan-07
99.	EP1722805	Bioactive compositions from Theacea plants and processes for their production and use.	Integrated Botanical Technologies, 23 snowden Avenue, Ossining, New York 10562-3218/US	12-Jan-05

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
100.	EP1880719	Composition for prophylaxis or treatment of urinary system infection and method thereof.	CHIN-HSIUNG LIN, Taiwan, Province of China	6-Jun-07
101.	EP2153831	Anti-Fatigue Agent and Oral composition each comprising Andrographolide as active ingredient.	Suntory Holdings Ltd./ Japan	30-May-08
102.	EP2062883	Insulin sensitivity improving agent.	Kao Corporation 14-10, Nihonbashi-kayabacho, 1-chome Chuo-ku Tokyo 1038210/Japan	5-Sep-07
103.	EP1795200	Medicine and food/beverage for ameliorating hyperglycemia.	MORINAGA MILK INDUSTRY CO., LTD. 33-1, Shiba 5-chome Minato-ku, Tokyo-to 108-0014 Japan	30-Mar-05
104.	EP2223930	Eriocitrin-containing material, method for production of the Eriocitrin-containing material, and food beverage, pharmaceutical preparation and cosmetic each comprising the Eriocitrin-containing material	POKKA CORPORATION, 4-2-29, Sakae Naka-ku Nagoya-shi, Aichi 460-8415/Japan	26-Dec-08
105.	EP2112929	Catechin as Insulin sensitivity improving agent	Kao Corporation 14-10 Nihonbashi-kayabacho, 1-chome Chuo-ku Tokyo 1038210/Japan	28-Nov-07
106.	EP2182963	Herbal Composition on the basis of extracts of Foeniculum Vulgare, Murraya Koenigii and Triphala	"Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research (D.I.P.S.A.R.) Pushp Vihar Sector III New Delhi 110017/India" and "Promed Exports Private Limited 210 Ashirwad Commercial Complex D-1 Green Park New Delhi 110016/ India	17-Jun-08
107.	EP2229403	Recovery of hydrophobic peptides from oils	University of Saskatchewan Box 5000, RPO University Suite 501-121 Research Drive Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 1K5/ Canada	22-Dec-08
108.	EP2155222	Extract of Trigonella Foenum-Graecum	BIOTEK HOLDING APS V. Vimmelskafet 43 1161 Copenhagen K/Denmark	14-Apr-08
109.	EP2269621	Agents for maturing, Normalizing or Stabilizing blood vessels and wrinkle-preventing and improving agents	Shiseido Company Ltd., 5-5 Ginza 7-chome Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8010/Japan	31-Mar-09

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
110.	EP2319537	Stabilizer for Lymph Vessel	Shiseido Company Ltd., 5-5 Ginza 7-chome Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8010/Japan	17-Jun-09
111.	EP1859834	Anti-Inflammatory agent	Maruzen Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd., 14703-10, Mukaihigashi-cho Onomichi-shi, Hiroshima 7220062/ Japan	15-Mar-05
112.	EP2303298	Compositions comprising extract from Boswellia Serrata	Ganga Raju Gokaraju, Andhra Pradesh/India	2-Jun-09
113.	EP2379095	Compositions Comprising Lipophilic extracts of zingiber Officinale and Echinacea Angustifolia for the prevention and treatment of Gastro- Oesophageal Reflux.	Indena S.p.A., Via Ortles, 12, 20139 Milano/Italy	15-Jan-10
114.	EP2275113	Skin circulation-improving agent and skin temperature-elevating agent	Shiseido Company, Ltd., 5-5 Ginza 7-chome Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-8010/Japan	26-Mar-09
115.	EP2134316	Novel cosmetic and/or pharmaceuticals compositions and applications thereof	Legacy Healthcare Holding Ltd., 85, St.John Street, Valleta VLT 1165/Malta	8-Feb-08
116.	EP2262503	Formulations with Sanguinarine, Chelerythrine or Chelidonine for the treatment of Warts, Verrucas and Psoriatic Plaques	INDENA S.p.A. Viale Ortles, 12, 20139 Milano/Italy	9-Mar-09
117.	EP1781235	Anti-hypersensitive Inflammation and Anti-allergy activities of Zingiber Zerumbet	Wholesome Life Science Co., Ltd., 5F, 170, Sec 3 Ming-Chuan E.Rd Taipei 105/Taiwan	18-Jul-05
118.	EP2379092	Compositions comprising a Lipophilic extract of Zingiber Officinale and an extract of Cynara Scolymus	INDENA S.p.A. Viale Ortles, 12, 20139 Milano/Italy	15-Jan-10
119.	EP2493490	Pharmaceutical or Veterinary Medical preparation obtained from Coconut	Mehlhorn, Heinz/GERMANY King Saud University/ Saudi Arabia	8-Oct-09
120.	EP2152281	Composition for yreatment of ischemic heart disease, facilitation of blood circulation and angiogenesis, improving skin beauty, improving male sexual function containing ginseng berry extract	Amorepacific Corporation, 181, 2-ga Hangang-ro Yongsan-gu, Seoul 140-777/Republic of Korea	28-May-08

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
121.	EP1296698	Therapeutic Agents-II	Peplin Research Pty Ltd., Ground Floor, South Tower, 527 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, QLD 4006/Australia	7-Jun-01
122.	EP2416793	A plant extract comprising statins and preparation techniques and uses thereof	Nanyang Polytechnic/ Singapore	8-Apr-10
123.	EP2052731	Composition for preventing and/or treating Itching containing component originating in the Bark of tree belonging to the Genusacacia	Mimozax Co., Ltd., 4291-1, Miyauchi Hatsukaichi-shi, Hiroshima 738-0034/ Japan	10-Aug-06
124.	EP2506724	Vigna Unguiculata seed extract and Compositions containing the same	Laboratories Expanscience/ France	30-Nov-10
125.	EP2226071	Composition for oral administration	Unitika, Ltd./Japan	28-Aug-08
126.	EP2046324	Treatment and prevention Mucositis by Anthocyanidin derivatives	M/S Indena S.p.A./Italy	27-Jul-07
127.	EP1750651	Composition for improving skin, hair and coat health containing flavanones	Nestec S.A., Avenue Nestle 55, 1800 Vevey/Switzerland	17-Dec-04
128.	EP1827362	Compositions and methods of their use for improving the condition and appearance of skin	Avon Products, Inc./US	28-Nov-05
129.	EPEP2157966	MC-1R, MC-2R, and/or (mu) OPIOID Receptors Stimulation	BASF Beauty Care Solutions France SAS/France	6-Jun-08
130.	20100203117	Anti-adipogenic compositions containing piper betle and dolichos biflorus.	Kramer & Amado, P.C. 1725 Duke Street, Suite 240, Alexandria, VA, 22314, United States	24-Mar-10
131.	20100203078	Anti-obese compositions containing holoptelea integrifolia extracts.	LAILA NUTRACEUTICALS, Vijayawada, India	20-Aug-07
132.	20110097424	Herbal formulations for the management of chronic ulcers and wounds	Apptec Inc., C/o Bregen Technical Consultants L.L.C., 154 Old clinton road Flemington nj 08822	26-Oct-10
133.	20110052737	Topical skin formulations comprising Botanical Extracts.	Mary Kay Inc. Dallas Texas, United States	12-Aug-10
134.	20100178367	Herbal formulation for Wound Healing	Manish Saxena, new Delhi, India	25-Mar-10

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
135.	20100129296	Extract of <i>Trigonella Foenum-Graecum</i> .	SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENnsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 800, Washington DC 20037, United States	17-Nov-09
136.	20110177184	Bloat therapeutic agent for a Ruminant	Chie Suzuki, Kyo Nagashima, Masami Mochizuki, Japan	28-Sep-09
137.	20100203178	Synergistic Herbal Composition	Suresh Kumar Gupta, New Delhi, India	22-Apr-10
138.	20100291249	Pomegranate-derived Products for the Treatmetn of Skin Sores and Lesions	MDIP LLC, Post Office Box 2630 Montgomery Village, MD, 20886-2630, US	27-Jul-10
139.	20110118346	Novel use of Lignan-type compounds or extract of Nutmeg or Aril of Nutmeg comprising the same.	Hwang; Jae Kwan; Cho; Yu-Mi; Kim; Gyu Hoi; South Korea	17-Oct-08
140.	20120128808	Agents from <i>Ficus Hispida</i> for the Amelioration of Metabolic Syndrome and related diseases.	Laila Nutraceuticals, India	2-Feb-12
141.	20130005830	Sandalwood oil and its use.	Santalís Pharmaceuticals Inc., US	31-Aug-12
142.	20120115891	Method for the induction of a reward response by modulation of dopaminergic systems in the central nervous system.	Somalabs Inc., US	1-Mar-12
143.	20120329739	Composition for preventing or treating Poliosis or Vitiligo comprising a <i>Pueraria</i> genus plant extract or Puerarin.	Kim; Hyoung-Jun, Korea	31-Aug-12
144.	20100139696	Flaxseed lignan complex, methods of using and compositions thereof.	Pearl Cohen Zedak Latzer, LLP, 1500 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York 10036, United States	1-Jun-10
145.	20090269398	Composition for the encapsulation of natural product extracts in oil dedium in hard gelatin capsules and a method of encapsulation.	Vilambi NRK Reddy, US	26-Apr-08
146.	20100173022	Composition for the treatment of Diabetes Mellitus and Metabolic Syndrome.	Morrison & Foerster LLP, 12531 High Bluff Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA, 92130-2040, United States	22-Mar-10
147.	20100061944	Oral hygiene composition comprising myrtle.	Mars Incorporated, US	14-Aug-09

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
148.	20120231032	Agent for expelling parasites in humans, animals or birds.	Maria Wilhemina Meijs, US	3-May-12
149.	20130017279	Formulations for treatment of skin disorders.	N.B. Baktha Reddy, Chennai, India	13-Sep-12
150.	20130095171	Herbal composition and method for treatment of airway inflammation using the same.	Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan	11-Oct-12
151.	20080199550	Novel Anticancer Agent, Methods for obtaining the same and Pharmaceutical Compositions thereof.	MMI Corporation, US	29-Feb-08
152.	20110305779	Phytochemical combinations that regulate pathological immunity.	Cowan; Fred M., US	9-Jun-11
153.	20140106002	Homeopathic composition and method for the treatment of Skin Irritations and other Skin diseases.	M/S Jensen; Ned L, US	15-Mar-13
154.	20130337057	Novel Herbal composition for the treatment of kidney stone and other urinary tract disorders.	M/S Patankar; Suresh Balkrishna, India	3-Sep-03
155.	CA 2387703	Method for claiming human beings using personal care compositions.	Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies Inc., United States of America	29-Feb-00
156.	CA 2579562	Method for improving sleep behaviors.	Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies Inc., United States of America	26-Feb-07
157.	CA 2448513	Isoflavone Concentrates, as well as methods for their production.	Aquanova German Solubilisate Technologies (AGT) GMBH, Germany	29-Jun-02
158.	CA2366318	Novel Pharmaceutical, dietary and cosmetic compositions comprising zinger officinale roscoe, eicosapentaenoic acid and/or docosahexaenoic acid.	IDA ROYALTY APS, Denmark	2-Mar-00
159.	CA 2572031	Fat combustion accelerator.	SUNTORY LIMITED, Japan	29-Jun-05
160.	CA 2616602	Method of treatment or management of Stress	NATREON, INC. (United States of America	27-Jul-06
161.	CA 2697020	Method of producing plant extract formulations	QUINN PHARMACEUTICALS, Australia	20-Aug-08
162.	CA 2409051	Antimigraine Combination comprising Sapindus and Emblica Extracts.	LUPIN LIMITED, India	25-May-00

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
163.	CA 2625433	Carotenoid oxidation products as Chemopreventive and Chemotherapeutic Agents	LYCORED LTD., Israel	5-Oct-06
164.	CA 2642184	Composition containing ginseng and cinnamon	Goliath Oil and Gas Corporation, Canada	28-Oct-08
165.	CA 2470603	Methods for the treatment of peripheral neural and Vascular Ailments	THE QUIGLEY CORPORATION, USA	6-Nov-02
166.	CA 2467664	Methods of making and using Theaflavin, Theaflavin-3-Gallate, Theaflavin-3'-Gallate and Theaflavin 3,3'-Digallate and Mixture thereof.	Nashai Biotech, LLC, United States of America	27-Nov-07
167.	CA2530345	Composition and Method for mitigating a negative effect of Alcohol consumption.	EFFECTLIVE INC., (Canada)	15-Dec-05
168.	CA 2473143	Composition containing Oat Straw and Willowherb Extract	JOHNSON & JOHNSON GMBH (Germany).	10-Feb-03
169.	CA 2485389	Formulations useful in the treatment of male and female impotence.	INDENA S.P.A. (Italy)	2-May-03
170.	CA2485264	Formulations useful in the treatment of male and female impotence.	INDENA S.P.A. (Italy)	30-Apr-03
171.	CA 2601777	Compositions and methods for enhancing cognitive function.	SIGNUM BIOSCIENCES, INC., USA	3-Feb-06
172.	CA 2485530	Throat Spray.	CNS, INC. USA	14-Feb-03
173.	CA 2445373	Use of Phyllanthus constituents for treating or preventing infections caused by Hepatitis B viruses.	PHYTRIX AG (Germany)	26-Apr-02
174.	CA 2555728	Agents for sequestering serum aging factors and uses therefore.	Nu Skin International, Inc., (USA)	4-Feb-05
175.	CA 2454171	Curcuminoid compositions exhibiting synergistic inhibition of the expression and/or activity of Cyclooxygenase-2.	Metaproteomics, LLC., (United States of America)	17-Jul-02
176.	CA 2588119	Composition and method for facilitating the healing of non-healing and slow-healing wounds and ulcerations.	Berkson, Lindsey (United States of America)	17-Nov-05
177.	CA 2334621	Composition and method for treatment of Inflammation and Pain in Mammals.	Metagenics, Inc., (United States of America)	10-Apr-00
178.	CA 2632684	Protein Kinase modulation by hops and acacia products.	Metaproteomics, LLC (United States of America)	11-Dec-06

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
179.	CA 2570989	Product of vegetal ofigin comprising Proanthocyanidines and its preparation process.	Investigacion Y Nutricion, S.L. (Spain)	21-Jun-05
180.	CA 2511431	Pharmaceutical compositions comprising Flavonoids and Menthol	Immupharm A/S (Denmark)	19-Sep-03
181.	CA 2679847	Methods and compositions for promoting bone and joint health	Metaproteomics, LLC, (United States of America)	14-Mar-08
182.	CA 2649514	Licorice Polyphenol Preparation	Keneka Corporation (Japan)	12-Apr-07
183.	CA 2618613	Protein Kinase Modulation by Hops and Aacacia products	Metaproteomics, LLC (United States of America)	9-Aug-06
184.	CA 2584124	Flavonoid composition for treating oral diseased	Unigen Pharmaceuticals, INC. (United States of America)	19-Oct-05
185.	CA 2641950	All natural multivitamin and multimineral dietary sipplement formulations for enhanced absorption and biological utilization.	Mannatech, INC. (United States of America)	26-Oct-06
186.	CA 2684853	Dietary supplement for promoting wellness and weight loss and methods of administering the same.	Reliv International, Inc. (United States of America)	9-Nov-09
187.	CA 2606392	Hair Tonic	INDENA S.P.A. (Italy)	5-Apr-06
188.	CA 2412435	Phytonutrient formula for the relief of Chronic pain resulting from Inflammation	WYETH (United States of America)	13-Jun-01
189.	CA 2731454	A herbal and vitamin C composition used for treating Inflammation and the maintenance for good health.	LEBLANC, RUSSELL (Canada)	10-Feb-11
190.	CA 2574518	Pharmaceutical composition and non dependence coffee comprising edible Carboxylic Acid and/or its Acid Salt and Coffeine.	SHIAO, Shin-JEN (Taiwan)	24-Oct-05
191.	CA 2546464	Sequential application of oral and topical formulations for treating wrinkles and other damage to skin.	Wachsberg, Richard (Canada)	1-May-06
192.	2009217410	Composition for treating skin lesions.	Dynamiclear Pty Ltd., 19 Byrnes Street Mareeba QLD 4880 Australia	21-Sep-09
193.	2008278764	Fortification of nutritional products with olive extracts containing hydroxytyrosol and hydroxytyrosol fortified nutritional products.	PROBELTE PHARMA, S.A., Ctra. Madrid Km.389 Poligono Industrial el Tiro E-30100, Espinardo Murcia Spain	23-Jul-08

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
194.	2009222618	NGNA compositions and methods of use.	Life Science Nutrition AS, Industrivegen 42 N-6160 Hovdebygda/Norway	7-Oct-09
195.	2009240851	A composition for treating AIDS and associated conditions.	Willfred-Ramix, Inc., United States of America	29-Nov-09
196.	GB2448535	New use for cannabinoid-containing plant extracts.	GW PHARMA LTD., Portan Down Science Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 0JR/ United Kingdom	19-Apr-07
197.	252093	A Synergistic Qyurvedic/Functional Food Bioactive composition.	M/x Avesthagen Limited Discoverer, 9th Floor International Tech Park, Whitefield Road, Bangalore, Karnataka 560066, India	23-May-07
198.	182/MUMNP/ 2009	Cinnamomi and Poria composition and uses thereof	Jiangsu Kanion Pharmaceuticals Co. Ltd/China	22-Jan-09
199.	881/CHENP/ 2008	Process for producing enriched fractions of Tetrahydroxycurcumin and Tetrahydrotetrahydroxycurcumin.	Gogaraju Ganga Raju/ India	21-Feb-08
200.	1576/DEL/ 2006	A Novel Herbal Composition Effective against Skin Disorders and to a Process for the preparation thereof.	Director, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), New Delhi, India	4-Jul-08
201.	1864/DEL/ 2006	A novel herbal composition and a process for preparation thereof effective against Diarrhaea and Dysentery.	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM)/ India	21-Aug-06
202.	1313/DEL/ 2006	A preparation for the treatment of running and stuffy nose, productive or non-productive cough with or without fever and to a process for the preparation thereof.	Central Council for Research of Ayurveda and Siddha/India	31-May-06
203.	2426/DEL/2007	Hard Boiled Herbal Skin Candy.	M/S Sharadendu Bali/India	20-Nov-07
204.	692/DEL/2004	A Synergistic Pharmaceutical Composition for the treatment of Cancer.	M/S Anshul Kumar Agrawal/ India	8-Apr-04
205.	1865/DEL/2006	A novel herbal composition effective against general weakness and a process thereof.	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM)/ India.	21-Aug-06
206.	369/DEL/2005	A composition for the treatment of sex drive and weakness.	Shrivastav, Yashvardhan and Shrivastav, Anand/India	21-Feb-05

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
207.	1642/DEL/2006	A novel herbal composition effective against headache and a process for the preparation thereof.	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM)/ India	17-Jul-06
208.	3387/DELNP/2004	Formulations useful in the treatment of male and female impotence.	INDENA S.P.A. /Italy	1-Nov-04
209.	1962/MUM/2008	A herbal formulation for treating sickle cell disease.	Atul Desai/India	16-Sep-08
210.	1734/DEL/2007	A novel herbal composition for the treatment of Eczema.	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM)/ India	14-Sep-07
211.	1735/DEL/2007	A novel herbal composition for the treatment of Sinusitis.	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM)/ India	14-Aug-07
212.	907/DEL/2005	A synergistic herbal formation useful in reducing undesirable after-effects of alcoholoc beverages.	Anil Sharma/India	8-Apr-05
213.	193/CHE/2007	A herbal preparation effective in the prevention and management or Rheumatoid Arthritis and associated compliants.	Dr. Swaminathan/India	31-Jan-07
214.	172/DEL/2007	A preparation of treatment of Vitiligo and a method of preparation thereof.	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM)/ India	29-Jan-07
215.	212/DEL/2006	A herbal preparation for the prevention and management of various types of Carcinoma.	Prof. S.S. Trivedi/India	25-Jan-06
216.	1783/DEL/2007	Nutraceutical Biscuits	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM)/ India	21-Aug-07
217.	1732/DEL/2007	A novel composition of the herbal tea.	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM)/ India	14-Sep-07
218.	833/SEL/2007	An Edible Oil blend of Mustard and Rice Bran and a process thereof	M/S Dr. Shakir Ali, Dr. Jafar Salamat Khan, Dr. Malik Zainul Abdin, Mr. Hamid Nawaz Khan/ India	16-Apr-07

Sr.No.	Pub. No.	Title	Applicant	Date of Filing
219.	529/KOL/2007	Unique Natural Oils and Cream for Recovering the disease like Spondylosis, Osteo-Arthritis etc and the process of producing the same.	M/S Apurba Ganguly/India	2-Apr-07
220.	926/CHENP/	Antiobese Compositions containing Holoptelea Integrifolia Extracts.	M/S Laila Nutraceuticals/ India	18-Feb-10

[*Translation*]

**Gondia-Jabalpur and Katangi-Tirodi
Broad Gauge Lines**

4286. SHRI BODHSINGH BHAGAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of Gondia-Jabalpur and Katangi-Tirodi broad gauge lines along with the details thereof;

(b) whether the contractors concerned have suspended construction due to GST and the construction work is getting obstructed as the case is under appeal in court;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the construction works of the said broad gauge lines are likely to be completed on schedule; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The present status of construction of Gondia-Jabalpur gauge conversion and Katangi-Tirodi new line is as under:-

Gondia-Jabalpur Gauge conversion:-

Gondia-Balaghat section (42 Km), Balaghat-Katangi section (47 Km) and Nainpur-Jabalpur section (113 Km) have been completed and commissioned. Gauge conversion between Balaghat to Samnapur (17 Km) has been completed in January 2018 and Commissioner of Railway Safety (C.R.S.) has issued authorization for running of trains. In remaining section Samnapur-Nainpur (60 Km), work has been taken up.

Katangi-Tirodi new broad gauge line -

Katangi Tirode (15.36 Km) was sanctioned as MM

to Gondia-Jabalpur GC project in 2011. The work for construction of Katangi- Tirodi new broad gauge line has been taken up.

(b) and (c) GST related problem has been resolved. However, in this particular project, agency has approached Hon'ble High Court Nagpur, and the matter is subjudice.

(d) and (e) Every Railway project requires a number of clearances from various Ministries and Departments of State/Central Governments. These, *inter-alia*, include clearances inherent to land acquisition, forestry clearance and permission for crossings, Court case etc. which are part of project execution. In addition, as per the prevailing system, funds are allocated on yearly basis, based on progress of the project, land acquisition etc. Hence, no time-frame has been fixed for completion of this project.

[*English*]

Agreement with Seychelles

4287. SHRI BHOLA SINGH :
SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up a cooperation agenda with Seychelles that covers joint efforts in anti piracy and enhanced Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance and monitoring to check economic offences in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits therefrom;

(c) whether the said agreement, first signed in 2015, has been renegotiated recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the major changes made therein along with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) and (b) India and Seychelles have signed an agreement on development, management, operation and maintenance of facilities on Assomption Island in Seychelles. It is a joint project that India will be executing at the specific request of the Government of Seychelles. The objective is to assist Seychelles secure its vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) including near the Mozambique Channel, located over a thousand kilometres from the main island of Mahe.

The agreement covers within its purview our shared efforts in anti-piracy operations, and enhanced EEZ surveillance to prevent intrusions by potential economic offenders including those indulging in illegal fishing, poaching, drug and human trafficking. Assomption Island is also located along the main shipping route through with bulk of our cargo passes.

(c) and (d) The original agreement that was signed in March 2015 was renegotiated at the request of Government of Seychelles as their internal procedure including the ratification of the agreement by their National Assembly could not be completed. The revised agreement was signed on 27 January 2018. As per the terms of the agreement, the facilities on Assomption Island will be funded by India, owned by Seychelles and jointly managed by both sides.

[*Translation*]

Crispy Fruit Technology Invented by CSIR

4288. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR has invented crispy fruit technology to make fruits and vegetables crispy which can also be preserved for 3 to 4 months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of fruits and vegetables which perish every year on an average; and

(d) whether the Government is likely to promote this technology to save the fruits and vegetables from being perished 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) Yes, Madam. CSIR has developed the technology to make fruits and vegetables crispy. The technology is based on either Freeze drying or vacuum frying. The Freeze drying technology has been optimized for a variety of fruits Viz; apple, banana, mango, orange, pineapple and sapota and vegetables like beetroot, beans, corn, carrot, ginger and pumpkin. The vacuum frying technology is optimized for banana, bread fruit, jack fruit, potato, okra, beetroot, plantain, brinjal, bitter gourd, etc.

(b) The unique features of the technology are:

Prolonged shelf-life (3-4 Months);

Retains near to original colour, texture, aroma, nutritional values;

Technology does not involve addition of any chemical/preservatives;

Ease of transportation due to reduction in 70-80 percent of original weight of fresh fruits.

(c) The estimated losses are about 15-25% of overall production.

(d) Yes, Madam. The technology has potential to reduce the wastage and enhancing the overall utilization as value added products. CSIR is promoting these technologies and has signed separate MoUs with Uttarakhand Council of Science and Technology (UCOST), Dehradun, and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) to deploy the technology in their respective areas.

Hiring Rate in IT Sector

4289. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a deceleration in net new hiring growth rate in the IT sector;

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

(c) whether the trend will continue in the ongoing year and the coming year; and

(d) the total revenue growth of the IT sector and the total growth in job additions in the last three years?

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. However, despite the gentle deceleration, the IT sector continues to be a net hirer.

(b) The Year-Wise details of Employment in the IT Sector are as under:

	FY2015-16	FY2016-17	FY2017-18
Total employees	26,88,000	38,63,000	39,68,000
Net addition	2,03,000	1,75,000	1,05,000
Growth rate	6%	4.50%	2.70%

Besides, 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 during the last two years.

There is a continuing gentle deceleration in net hiring growth rate (but with a growing base) as industry focuses on innovation, enhanced efficiencies and lower attrition. The drop in the hiring growth rate in the IT industry is due to several factors which inter-alia includes:

- Exponential and disruptive adoption of new technologies by the industry;
- Some of the less complex, standard and repetitive jobs are being automated;
- companies are improving their employee-utilisation

levels and reorienting their bench strength. the emphasis is shifting to upgraded skills; and

- Companies are employing people with specialised skill-sets in newer areas such as data science, machine learning, artificial intelligence and internet-of-things.

(c) The industry continues to be a net hirer in the ongoing year and is projected to add about 1,00,000 new jobs in the year 2018-19. Further thereafter, 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.

(d) The total growth in job additions in the last three years is as given in part (b) above. The total revenue growth of the IT sector in the last three years is as under:

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (E)
Exports (US\$ billions)	108	116	126
Domestic (US\$ billions)	35	38	41
Total	143	154	167

(E) = Estimate

Source: NASSCOM

Cases Handed Over To CBI

4290. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of cases handed over to CBI from each State;

(b) the total number of cases pending with CBI for

investigation, State-wise including Kerala;

(c) the Criteria fixed by CBI for taking over a case from the State Police;

(d) whether the Central Government/CBI has received request from the State of Kerala to take over certain cases and if so, the total number of requests

received in this regard and the details of the steps taken thereon; and

(e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the authorities are reluctant to take over certain cases for investigation even after the request from the State Police and State Government and if so, the details of such cases during the last three years?

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) CBI has registered a total of 121 cases on the references received from State Govt. during the last 3 years i.e. 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto 28.2.2018).

out of 121 cases 85 cases are pending under investigation.

(c) CBI examines the feasibility of taking over investigation keeping in view various aspects of the case including sensitivity, inter-state or trans-national ramifications etc and recommends the Government accordingly and subsequent to Notification issued by Central Government under section 5 of the DSPE Act, 1946.

(d) and (e) CBI received a total of 10 requests from the State Govt. of Kerala during the last 3 year i.e. 2015k, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto 28.2.2018). Out of these, 6 cases have been taken-up by CBI for investigation and decision has not been taken in one case.

3 requests of State Govt. of Kerala were not taken-up for investigation as these were of ordinary in nature and have no inter-state/international ramifications. Moreover, CBI is already overburdened with large number of cases referred by Constitutional Courts.

UID Details Going Public

4291. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unique Identification Number (UID) details are going public;

(b) if so, whether this will affect the privacy of the individuals;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the privacy of the individuals;

(d) whether biometric will be used for Aadhaar recognition; 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) No, Madam. No. Aadhaar details have been made public from Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) or its Central Identity Data Repository (CIDR). UIDAI has been mandated to function in accordance with the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 and subsequent regulations framed thereunder.

Section 6 of Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016 categorically states that the Aadhaar number of an individual shall not be published, displayed or posted publicly by any person or entity or agency.

Further, it is also mentioned any individual, entity or agency, which is in possession of Aadhaar number(s) of Aadhaar number holders, shall ensure security and confidentiality of the Aadhaar numbers and of any record or database containing the Aadhaar numbers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Biometrics along with Aadhaar number as an individual is used for authentication purpose.

(e) Biometrics based authentication comprises of fingerprints or iris or both, as per the requirement.

Mandate of UIDAI

4292. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has a mandate to issue a Unique Identification Number (UID) to all residents of India;

(b) if so, whether this project is being implemented

by the Union Government in coordination with the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details 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) As per Section 11 of Aadhaar Act, 2016, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is responsible for the processes of enrolment and authentication and performs such other functions assigned to it under the Act.

(b) and (c) As per sub section 3 of Section 23 of Aadhaar Act, 2016 UIDAI has inter-alia appointed State Governments as Registrar for Providing enrolment and update facilities to residents.

Unused Land

4293. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILEAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the vacant railway land lying unused in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) the location and size of the vacant-land;

(c) the time from which the said land is lying vacant; and

(d) the proposals prepared/proposed to be prepared from the utilisation of the vacant land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Railways maintain only Zonal Railways-wise details of vacant railway land. State of Andhra Pradesh falls in East Coast Railway, Southern Railway, south Central Railways and South western Railway of Indian Railways. Presently 11580 hectares of land (approximately) is vacant in these Zonal Railways.

The vacant land mostly in the form of narrow strips along the tracks, is used for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other railway infrastructure. The vacant land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways which include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc. Railway's operations also necessarily require development of ancillary logistic

support/infrastructure such as bulk oil installations & oil depot, steel yards, concrete sleeper plants, coal dumps, connectivity to private sidings, connectivity to ports and other infrastructure, commercial plots, vending stalls, etc. for which land is leased/licensed. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources. At present, 54 land parcels measuring 189 hectare (approximately) where commercial development seems feasible have been entrusted to RLDA which includes 0.83 hectares of land in Andhra Pradesh. The land is lying vacant since the inception of Railway Lines in these four Zonal Railways.

[Translation]

Charges Against Government Officials

4294. DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL:
SHRI KIRTI AZAD:

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS and IPS officers as well as the personnel of other allied Central Services officers facing vigilance probe for the charges of misappropriation of public funds and having income more than the known sources as on date;

(b) the number out of them facing charges of misappropriation of public funds earmarked for the poor and economically weaker sections of the society; and

(c) the number of such officials found guilty of the charges and the number of personnel whose services have been terminated during the last three years?

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) No such consolidated data is maintained by this Department regarding vigilance probe for the charges of misappropriation of public funds and income more than the known sources against officers

of All India Services and other Allied Central Service. However, for officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) is the Cadre Controlling Authority (CCA) and for Indian Police Service (IPS), the CCA is Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

As per available information, sanction for prosecution on the specific charges of misappropriation of public funds and disproportionate assets has been issued against 12 IAS/IPS officers in the last three year (2015-2017).

Further, 01 retired IAS/IPS officer was convicted on corruption charges, and 02 IAS/IPS officers were terminated from service in the last three years on charges of misappropriation of funds.

[English]

Satyam

4295. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

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

(a) the funds allocated under SATYAM (Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the progress and achievement made since the inception of the programme;

(c) whether the Government has invited research proposals from scientists, academicians and investigators under SATYAM for the year 2017-18;

(d) if so, the number of such proposals received along with the basic theme for SATYAM;

(e) whether the Government has identified research institutes and universities for the said programme and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of other steps taken by the Government to promote scientific research in yoga and meditation?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR.

HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Madam, the funds for SATYAM (Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation) are allocated from the Research & Development (R&D) Support budget head of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and as such there is no separate budget allocation for SATYAM programme.

(b) The SATYAM Programme was started in the year 2015 and since then three Calls for Proposals have been made (once in a year) to invite research proposals under SATYAM. Since its inception, DST has received 1050 proposals under SATYAM and about 60 projects have been recommended for budgetary support. These projects are at various stages of development as the duration of such projects is usually three years.

(c) and (d) DST had invited proposals under SATYAM for the year 2017-18 during month of October 2017 and received 213 research proposals. The basic themes of SATYAM include investigations on the effect of Yoga and Meditation on physical and mental health and well being and investigations on the effect of Yoga and Meditation on the body, brain and mind in terms of basic processes and mechanisms.

(e) Department of Science and Technology invites proposals under SATYAM on open Call for Proposals basis and researchers/academicians from across the country can submit their project proposals.

(f) Three scientific Conferences on Yoga and Meditation under SATYAM have also been supported during 2017-18 in order to promote scientific research in this domain.

Employment Generation in Railways

4296. ADV. SHARADKUMAR MARUTI BANSODE:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment generated by Railway in technical and non-technical grades during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of existing vacancies in Railways;

(c) whether Railways has abolished certain posts/vacancies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with efforts being made by the Government for filling up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of the employment given by Railways in technical and non

technical grades during the last three years and the current year is as under-

(i) In Group 'C' categories :-

Year	Candidates Empanelled for		Total Candidates Empanelled
	Technical posts	Non-technical posts	
2014-15	6006	9185	15191
2015-16	22529	5466	27995
2016-17	17354	2233	19587
2017-18 (Upto 31.12.2017)	2223	14604	16827
Total	48112	31488	79600

(ii) Candidates empanelled by RRCs in last three years in Level-1 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix (18000-56900) :-

Year	Candidates empanelled in Level-1
2014-15	31995
2015-16	51808
2016-17	6731
Total	90534

(b) In Zonal Railways in non-gazetted cadre three are 2,40,533 (provisional) vacancies as on 01.11.2017.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. In the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (till date) Zonal Railways have surrendered 48,767 posts and also created 31,290 new posts to meet the requirement of new assets/new services. Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process through various modes of intake. The policy of the Railways administration is to fill up the vacancies as per the laid down procedure through Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs). There is always a time-lag between occurrence of vacancies and processing the same for filling up, which involves notification of vacancies, holding examinations, finalizing of select panels and issue of appointment letters. However, manpower planning requires continuous review of sanctioned strength in view of ever changing technology, working systems and creation of new assets and introduction of new trains. Recently, Railway

Recruitment Boards (RRBs) have published two fresh notifications viz. Centralized employment Notification (CEN) No. 01/2018 on 03.02.2018, for recruitment for 26,502 vacancies of Asst. Loco Pilots (ALPs) & Technicians, and CEN No. 02/2018 on 10.02.2018, for recruitment for 62,907 vacancies of Level-1 (erstwhile Group 'D') staff. The closing dates of online applications for both these CENs are 31.03.2018.

[Translation]

Coal Blocks for Non-regulated Sectors

4297. SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision sanctioned by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs to allot coal blocks for non-regulated sectors such as steel, cement, aluminium, sponge iron through auction;

(b) if so, the amount of revenue likely to be earned as a result thereof;

(c) the State-wise number of coal blocks proposed to be auctioned in this way; and

(d) the number of coal blocks auctioned to private companies along with the number in which production has started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, the methodology for fixing floor price for auction of

coal mines for sectors like Steel, Sponge iron, Cement, Captive Power etc. has already been approved by the Government and an Order in this regard was issued on 26.12.2014. Direction of the Central Government has been issued to the Nominated Authority for the conduct of auction of 13 coal mines for the specified end use 'Iron &

Steel, Cement and Captive Power Plants [excluding steel (coking)]'. In addition, direction of the Central Government has also been issued to the Nominated Authority for the conduct of auction of 6 coal mines for the specified end use 'Production of iron and steel'. The state wise number of these coal mines are as under:

Sl.No.	State	Specified end use		Total
		Iron and Steel	Non-regulated Sector [Excluding Steel (Coking)]	
1.	Chhattisgarh	-	3	3
2.	Jharkhand	5	3	8
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	2
4.	Maharashtra	-	3	3
5.	Odisha	-	1	1
6.	West Bengal	-	2	2
Total		6	13	19

Amount of revenue likely to be earned from the auction of above coal mines is dependent on final bid price (Rs./tonne) of the successful bidder and the quantity of coal extracted.

(b) So far, 31 coal mines have been allocated by way of auction to the regulated as well as non-regulated sector under the said Act, out of which 30 have been allocated to the private sector companies. These 30 coal mines includes 5 coal mines (Gare Palma IV/7, Mandla North, Mandla South, Utkal-C and Mandakini) in respect of which notices towards termination of Coal Mine Development and production Agreement (CMDPA) / Vesting Order have been issued for violation of terms and conditions of Tender Document/CMDPA. out of the 31 auctioned coal mines, mining operations have commenced / mine opening permission granted in 13 coal mines (this includes 2 coal mines Madla North & Mandla South).

[English]

Non-Payment of Wages to Workers in Qatar

4298. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian migrant

workers in Qatar have gone unpaid for up to four months and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to resolve this issue;

(b) the measures undertaken by the Government to ensure the protection of interests of Indian migrant workers in the Gulf nations;

(c) whether the Government has identified the reasons behind such problems which persist despite reforms like the introduction of a Wage Protection System and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any special provisions have been made to promote the welfare of women workers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) The Indian Mission in Qatar has informed that no such case has specifically been reported to them in the recent past where Indian nationals have not been paid their monthly wages for up to four months. However, the Mission had received a request in February, 2017 where 162 workers employed in M/S Scale Trading & Contracting Company had not received their salary for five months and denied final settlement and exit permit

with passport. Mission had taken up the matter with the Qatari authorities. The Mission arranged the air tickets from Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) and repatriated 160 Indian emigrant workers while the remaining 2 opted to continue working in the company.

The Government of Qatar launched a Wage Protection System (WPS) in November 2015, which made it mandatory for all companies to pay salaries of their workers directly into their bank accounts. However, there are other reasons also, due to which workers sometimes face problems, such as:

- (i) disputes with sponsors/company;
- (ii) underpayment of salary/allowances;
- (iii) non-payment of overtime;
- (iv) premature termination of services;
- (v) non-release of passports;
- (vi) unhygienic living conditions in camps; and
- (vii) non-availability of proper medical facilities etc.

Indian Missions take up these issues immediately with concerned Government authorities for prompt redressal.

The Government has taken several steps to safeguard the interests of Indian emigrants to the Gulf countries, these are:

- (i) The on-line MADAD portal enables the emigrant workers and their family members to register their consular grievances online and track their redressal.
- (ii) Grievances related to Overseas Employment in notified Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries including gulf countries, can also be logged in directly by emigrants/relatives or through the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) on eMigrate portal. These grievances are settled by respective jurisdictional protectors of Emigrants (PoEs) as per laid down procedures.
- (iii) Mission in Gulf countries also conduct Open Houses on a regular basis where workers can seek redressal of their grievances.
- (iv) A multi-lingual 24X7 Helpline of Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in New Delhi provides information, guidance and grievance redressal on

all issues and problems pertaining to overseas employment of Indian nationals.

- (v) Missions in Gulf countries have also established 24x7 helplines and Toll Free help lines for the benefit of Indian workers to seek help.
- (vi) Indian Workers Resource Centres (IWRC) have been set up at Dubai (UAE), Sharjah (UAE), Riyadh, Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to provide guidance and counselling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers.
- (vii) Migrant Resource Centres in Delhi, Kochi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Lucknow have been merged with PoE Offices for greater synergies in assisting emigrants or their relatives to redress their problems/complaints regarding overseas employment.
- (viii) The missions utilise the Indian Community welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide assistance to overseas Indian Nationals in times of distress.
- (ix) Suitable accommodation to distressed Indian nationals has been setup in Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Malaysia to provide temporary accommodation.
- (x) Labour and manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements are already in place with the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries that provide the institutional framework to comprehensively discuss and review labor related issues.

(d) In order to promote the welfare and protection of women workers, Government has taken further measures in restricting the recruitment of ECR passport holding Indian Female workers only through six State Government recruiting agencies w.e.f. 2nd August, 2016 to avoid their harassment by foreign employers. The foreign employers who intend to recruit Indian Female domestic workers directly, have to register themselves on e-Migrate System with the respective Missions and deposit a bank guarantee equivalent to US\$2500/-. The age restriction of 30 years has also been made mandatory in respect of all women emigrants emigrating on ECR passport, irrespective of the nature/category of employment. Further, mandatory Insurance and medical cover is extended to all Indian

workers including women, through Pravasi Bhartyia Bima Yojana (PBBY). The Missions are also proactive in providing medical and legal support to distressed Indian women workers and take all possible measures, using ICWF funds for their speedy repatriation to India. The Mission houses such women workers at its premises as they await completion of their repatriation process by the Deportation Centre.

[Translation]

Permanent Membership of UNSC

4299. DR. RAGHU SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any new initiative to get permanent membership in the UN Security Council and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the problems being faced in this regard along with the details of the diplomatic steps taken by the Government; and

(c) the details of the nations in favour and against India seeking the said membership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) India has all the credentials to be a permanent member of a reformed and expanded UN Security Council that reflects contemporary global realities.

Government has undertaken a series of initiatives, both at bilateral and multilateral levels, in pursuance of permanent membership in an expanded and reformed UN Security Council. We work alongside reform oriented countries including through groupings like the G-4 (India, Japan, Brazil and Germany) and L.69 (made up of cross regional developing countries). India is also actively engaged in the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiations on UNSC reform at the United Nations. Since September 2016, India has been participating in the meetings of the "Group of Friends on Security Council Reform" which supports urgent reform of the UN Security Council including an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership and early commencement text based negotiations in the UNGA on this issue.

A large number of countries have supported India's

candidature for permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council. This has been expressed in various forms and fora including in bilateral discussions with the Government of India. India's performance as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during 2011-12 has also significantly strengthened India's claim to permanent membership.

There is a Grouping known as the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) that includes Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, Republic of Lorea, San Marino, Spain and Turkey, that would like to see expansion in only the non-permanent category and is opposed to an expansion of permanent membership.

Mobile Phones at Affordable Rates

4300. SHRI HARI MANJHI :
SHRI JANAK RAM :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide mobile phones at affordable prices in rural areas by reducing the price and charges; and

(b) 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) The Government is not aware of any proposal to provide mobile phones at affordable price in rural areas by reducing the price and charges.

Cost of mobile handsets are determined by its features, technology, market trends and competition. The cost of handsets typically go down with time and new launches in the market.

Cost of data and voice call services also depends upon market competition and the quality of services being provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). Due to increasing competition in the market most of the TSPs are offering multiple competitive tariff plans, depending upon the need of customers belonging to various strata of society.

*[English]***New Defence Policy**

4301. SHRI PRATAP SIMHA :
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE :
SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any defence policy and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government proposes to bring a New Defence Policy and if so, the details, salient features and the objectives thereof;

(c) whether the government is formulating an Action Plan to Export Defence Products to other countries and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the involvement of the higher defence Organisation like Cabinet Committee on Security, National Security Council, Chief of Defence Staff in decision making is critical to the functioning of the Defence Policy and if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) the amount spent by the Government for acquiring Advanced Defence Technology during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Government policies on defence matters are developed through a dynamic process which is constantly reviewed. As there would be no advantage from a formal and public declaration of India's "defence policy", this time tested approach is intended to be persisted with.

(c) Defence Export Strategy has been formulated and placed in the public domain. The Strategy provides for creation of an Export Promotion Body, engaging Indian missions / Embassies abroad in export promotion, export financing through line of credit etc., better use of offset, export of indigenously developed defence systems and streamlining of the export regulation process.

(d) All relevant stakeholders are actively involved, as per mandate, in decision making processes and structures relating to defence policies.

(e) As per the data available, 141 capital Acquisition Cases worth Rs. 1,79,997 Crores (approx.) have been

contracted during the Financial year 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, which include acquisition of Advanced Defence Technology.

Entry to NSG

4302. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts and initiatives made by India to gain entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG);

(b) whether any nation including China has been opposing India's entry into NSG and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has changed its position on being a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any member of the NSG including China has insisted upon signing NPT as the precondition to gain entry into NSG; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) India's application for membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) remains under consideration of the Group. Government continues to engage with the NSG and its members at the appropriate levels for a decision on India's application.

(b) to (e) India is not a member of the NSG and is hence not privy to its internal discussions. However, it is gathered that while no member explicitly opposes India's membership, procedural objections have been raised ostensibly on grounds of India's non-NPT status. India's position on the NPT remains unchanged. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to sign the NPT as a precondition for joining the NSG.

Review of Progress of Infrastructure Projects

4303. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many projects in the infrastructure sector are running much behind schedule

leading to substantial escalation in the cost of the projects;

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

(c) whether the Government would consider to review the progress of each such project particularly in view of their utility as at present and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action proposed by the Government to ensure timely completion of all infrastructure projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) 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. As on 01.01.2018, 104 projects which are running behind schedule leading to substantial escalation in the cost of the projects.

The state-wise details of these projects are available in the flash report at www.cspm.gov.in/publications.

(c) There is no such proposal in this regard.

(d) The major action plan undertaken 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.

Military and Naval Communication

4304. SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA :
SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any strategic plans to utilise an exclusive spectrum bandwidth for military and naval communications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any inbuilt protection system against the interception of communications by our Indian Army and naval forces;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to take any remedial measures to ensure that no secret communications are intercepted and if so, the details thereof including the measures 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) Yes Madam, the Government has identified certain frequency bands for exclusive use by Defence services. The details of strategic plan to use the spectrum has been sought from Ministry of Defence.

(c) to (e) The details have been sought from Ministry of Defence and the same will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

INS Arihant

4305. SHRI P.V. MIDHUM REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether INS Arihant has suffered major damages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the indigenous nuclear submarine has not been able to sail for the last several months now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) The information cannot be divulged on the floor of the House in the interest of National Security.

Enduring Defence Ties With US

4306. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States requested/seeking enduring defence ties with the country;

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

(c) the details of changes that have taken place post designation of India as 'Major defence partner' of the US in 2016;

(d) the details of strategy being drawn with the strategic partnership of US to initiate action against Haqqani network, LeT, etc.; and

(e) the details of joint exercises, policy coordination and military exchanges that have taken place between US and India during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) India and the United States have been engaging constructively on defence cooperation. Defence ties were revitalised with the signing of "New Framework for the US-India Defence Relationship" in 2005 and the resulting intensification in cooperation on defence equipment, joint exercises, specialised exchanges, cooperation in maritime security and counter-piracy and other exchanges. The Defence Framework was updated and renewed for another 10 years in June 2015.

(c) In June 2016, the U.S. recognised India as a "Major Defence Partner", and committed to facilitate technology sharing and industry collaboration for defence co-production and co-development. In the consideration of the National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA), 2017 by the US House of Representatives, an amendment seeking, inter alia, to recognize India as a major defence partner of the US, and to enhance India-US defence cooperation was adopted.

(d) India and US have committed to strengthen cooperation against terrorist threats. There is active cooperation on counter-terrorism with regard to groups like LeT and other proscribed terrorist groups. The United States has also designated Syed Salahuddin as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist and Hizbul Mujahideen as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 2017. The inaugural India-U.S. Designations Dialogue was held in New Delhi in December 2017 to enhance bilateral cooperation on terrorism-related designations, including

exchange of information on procedures for pursuing designations against terrorist groups and individuals through domestic and international mechanisms and best practices for effective implementation of the designations.

(e) Joint Military Exercises during last three years include Joint Army Exercises Yudh Abhyas and Vajra Prahar held annually; India-US-Japan Exercise Malabar held annually; Multilateral Exercise RIMPAC 2016 off the coast of Hawaii, USA; and Indian Air Force participation in Exercise Red Flag in 2016 in USA. Both countries have established a range of consultative mechanisms for policy dialogue and coordination including regular Defence Ministerial exchanges; Defence Policy Group at Defence Secretary level; Defence Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI) and other institutional forums. A wide variety of training and specialized subject matter exchanges between the armed forces are held regularly.

Cyber Crime Against Children

4307. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to bring a legislation to ban children under age of 13 from joining social media like its being done in UK;

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

(c) the number of cases of cyber crimes related to children below the age of 18 registered in the last three years in the country and in Andhra Pradesh specifically.

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) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Cyber Space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. Cyberspace has distinct and unique characteristics as compared to physical space. With widespread proliferation of new technologies like social media and mobile apps, etc. there are some negative elements who are misusing these technologies for committing cyber crimes. Such behavior is facilitated by virtual and borderless nature of cyber space, where anyone can open an account in any

name including fake name from any part of the world at any time. Most social networking sites do not do background information check and have their servers abroad.

However, Government has adequate institutional mechanism under the Information Technology Act (IT Act), 2000, Indian Penal Code (IPC), Indecent Women Representation Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) etc. to bring culprits under book. It is technically challenging to detect and prevent uploading of misinformation and malicious content proactively. Government takes action as and when any objectionable content is brought to its knowledge.

As per information provided by national Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of 5, 8 and 17 cases were registered during the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively under section 67B of IT Act, 2000 pertaining to publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form. No case was registered during these years in the state of Andhra Pradesh under section 67B of IT Act, 2000.

Further a total of 40, 94 and 48 cases were registered during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively under section 14 (using child for pornographic purposes) & section 15 (Storage of Pornographic material involving child) of POCSO Act, 2012.

[Translation]

Inspection of Stations by Officers

4308. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposes to send any team of officers for inspection of railway stations in Maharashtra in order to resolve on the spot problems of passengers by talking with them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Railways in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) There is already a well established mechanism in the Railways to address the issues regarding resolving the grievances of

passengers on daily basis. Railway officers and supervisors do conduct regular inspection in order to resolve problems. In addition, All India Helpline No. 138, Twitter Handle @RaiMinIndai are also available for lodging complaints by passengers which are forwarded to concerned authority for redressal and are resolved immediately. Certain grievances which cannot be resolved on the spot are addressed in due course of time through well established mechanism. The grievances of the passengers are taken care of by existing mechanism which is considered adequate.

5G Services

4309. SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector telecom companies have launched 5G services in the country while the BSNL and MTNL have not even started 3G across all the circles in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation regarding the reasons for the public sector telecom companies lagging behind in launching the said services and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of BSNL mobile towers which are not providing 3G services, till date, State/UT-wise; and

(e) Whether the internet speed from such towers providing 3G services is less as compared to the other companies and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor along with 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) to (c) No Madam. Private sector telecom companies have not launched 5G Services so far. BSNL and MTNL both are providing 3G services in their licensed service areas. BSNL has covered 6056 cities / locations with 3G services through 42661 numbers of 3G BTSs and has 3G networks in all Licensed Service areas (LSAs). MTNL is also

providing 3G services in its entire service area of Delhi and Mumbai.

(d) Circle wise details of BSNL mobile towers not having 3G services is as per the enclosed Statement

(e) GSM based cellular mobile services including internet speed of 3G services being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is working satisfactorily in its licensed service areas and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Services (QoS) parameter prescribed by TRAI.

Statement

Circl	Number of BSNL mobile towers which are not having 3G Services
1	2
Haryana	800
Himachal Pradesh	434
Jammu & Kashmir	622
Punjab	1427
Rajasthan	2027
Uttarnchal	489
UP East	2683
UP West	1510
Andaman & Nicobar	92
Assam	557
Bihar	1695
Kolkata	143
Jharkhand	1347
North East-I	353
North East-II	333
Orissa	1505
West Bengal	1706
Chattisgarh	1379
Gujarat	2343
Maharashtra	2725
Madhya Pradesh	4055

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1863
Chennai	565
Kerala	1722
Karnataka	2827
Tamil Nadu	2885
Telangana	1317
Total	39404

Socio-Economic Development Knowledge by CSIR

4310. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) plays the most important role in providing required knowledge of socio-economic development of the country including rural areas and small cities;

(b) if so, the details of the achievements and accomplishments made during the last two years;

(c) whether the CSIR has taken several measures to develop scientific temper among the youth which has given positive results; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been playing important role in providing the necessary S & T knowledgebase needed for the social and economic development of the country including that of rural areas and small cities. CSIR has always endeavored to deploy its relevant knowledge base/ technologies on the ground for benefit of common man. CSIR operated project activities under 'CSIR-800' program aiming at bringing in desired S&T interventions for improving quality of life of rural/common people at base of the economic pyramid. CSIR has steadily contributed its technologies/advisory services encompassing end-to-end solutions in various domains like: food and food processing; building and construction; pottery; enhancing

potability of water; energy efficiency; cultivation and processing of economic plants; affordable health etc.

The achievements and accomplishments of the key 'CSIR-800' initiatives carried out during last two years in enclosed at the given statement.

Further, highlights of the activities carried out in recent past are as follows:

A food processing unit set up at CSIR-Centre for High Altitude Biology (CSIR-CeHAB) in the remote tribal region of Lahaul and Spiti is benefitting local common farmers, enabling making of novel products from buckwheat; and for brining of peas (a major crop). CSIR developed an automated processing unit for sugar cane juice bottling, which is being popularized. CSIR is empowering the selected Women self-help groups in Mainpur through augmentation of infrastructure and value addition of locally grown crops.

CSIR has taken steps to document traditional architecture of rural areas of the Western Himalayan region and is providing need based s&T interventions. CSIR is conducting training programs across country for dissemination, Training, demonstration & improvement of appropriate rural housing technologies to various stakeholders and the common man. CSIR imparted training and skill development techniques to terracotta pottery rural artisans across various states and tribal tasar farmers of Telangana state for enhancing their income.

CSIR developed and disseminated a number of technologies on water. CSIR deployed arsenic removal technology in villages of West Bengal. CSIR also deployed de-floridation plants and variety of other water purification plants for community/ domestic use in Rural Areas for common people. CSIR is making efforts to provide sustainable/ safe drinking water in drought prone and fluoride affected villages of Nalgonda and anantapur districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Specific plants based Phytoid technology exclusively designed for the treatment of municipal, urban agricultural and industrial wastewater has been deployed in several part of country. CSIR's improved iron removal plants having low cost design and improved aeration have been successfully installed in Bankura (West Bengal) benefitting about 1000 rural people. Additional, 55 plants have been

commissioned at different places to cater to needs of about 25000 rural people.

CSIR has developed and installed 1-5 KW power Solar Power trees in rural sectors and towns. It takes less land of only 4 sq ft for a 5 kw solar power tree as compared to 400 sq ft of land required in case of the conventional solar photovoltaic layout.

CSIR has developed improved biomass chulhas like "NEERDHUR" for household and community level and improved pine needle stove with significant lower emissions for biomass. CSIR has also developed forced draught bio-mass fired cook-stoves with higher efficiency of about 35%. This cook-stove can also operate a forced draught fan or charge a battery. For many of the stoves developed by CSIR, entrepreneurs are eligible for the getting subsidy from Government. CSIR has improved gur bhattis for large number of sugarcane growing willagers. the improved gur bhattis have longer furnace life, consumer less fuel (bagasse) and emit less exhaust smoke. CSIR also developed Bagasse drying unit for Gur making plants using waste heat recovery technique.

CSIR's post-harvest centres in Mizoram (Aizawl) and Arunachal Pradesh (Pashighat) are helping local farmers for value addition to their agricultural produce. The centres house technology for high efficiency drying and processing of ginger, cardamon, turmeric, chillies etc. Accordingly, farmers are able to sell their produce at 20-25% higher price. CSIR has been continuously popularizing mushroom technology through transfer and training to benefit rural women in North East States.

CSIR transferred its Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and other related technologies for rural development in the Western Himalayan region and adjoining plains. CSIR labs endeavoured to strengthen MAPs industry in Kashmir Valley through field level demonstration and propagation of region specific superior genotypes of MAPs in Jammu & Kashmir region. Efforts are being made to train farmers on cultivation and value addition of medicinal and aromatic plants like Lavender, Rose, Lemongrass, Tegeter, Mint, and Phalsa. Awareness camps for farmers of the area besides demonstrations of Mobile Distillation Unit for extraction of essential oils have been organized. Already hundreds of farmers in more than a dozen village of Kathua district (J&K) have been distributed slips of lemongrass, java citronella and vetiver

for cultivation at more than 100 hectares area under a project.

CSIR has been making efforts for popularization of rice variety Improved Samba Mahsuri, a bacterial blight resistant rice cultivar, jointly developed by CSIR and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). It has been grown in about 90,000 hectares of farmers' fields in the five states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

CSIR disseminated knowhow for economically valuable cultivation for the seaweed *Kappaphysus alvarezii* in coastal areas. Each member involved in seaweed cultivation is earning on an average 5000 per month for a period of 8 months in a year. The seaweed also yields bioenergy products along with co-generation of bio-fertilizer.

CSIR disseminated bioinoculants for enhancing plant productivity, in UP to the farmers in partnership with State Government on a very large scale. There has been 29% increase in growth levels and 20% increase in tuber yield of potato as compared to the untreated ones. CSIR bioinoculants have been tried in Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lady's finger, French bean, Garden pea, Turmeric, Ginger and Maize in demonstrations in various districts, between 265 to 1714 m altitude. The bio-inoculants have resulted in 15-50% yield increase, control of various diseases and reduced cost of production besides environmental benefits.

CSIR developed Samadhan Kendra, a Rural Information Technology centre for rural community. It provides details about the agriculture, portioning pest disease information system (PDIS) on the major crops of that particular area, types of control measures to be adapted etc. It also provides market related information to farmers to enable them to sell their produce at higher premium without aid of any middle men. CSIR established several Samadhan Kendras in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Each Samadhan Kendra caters to population of about one lakh rural people.

CSIR and Meghalaya government are working in collaboration for popularization of dehydrated floral crafts of CSIR for income enhancement. More than 100 women in 36 clusters have been empowered across the State with knowledgebase of CSIR. The technology is branching out, as the trained women are willingly acting as Master

Trainer, and extending this technology within their groups/clusters across the State.

CSIR labs have made herbal formulations (anti-malarial, anti-arthritis, anti-fungal etc.) for benefit of common people. CSIR conducted Science and Health Awareness Programs focusing rural areas and small towns. CSIR deployed and popularized safe contraceptives among rural women. CSIR scientists also conducted awareness programs among rural women about Post-menopausal osteoporosis related health issues and their management. CSIR designed and deployed oxygen enrichment units (OEU) for Indian rural/Tribal Community.

CSIR has been contributing in the area of healthcare. Some recently developed technologies/interventions benefitting the common people include: streptokinase (a drug for cardiovascular disease); Risorine (a cost effective bioavailability enhanced anti-tuberculosis drug); Battery operated hand-held MicroPCR (towards affordable and point of care disease diagnostics for Tuberculosis, Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Hepatitis B and H1N1); non ClonableID technology for Medical Product authentication; Diagnostic system for affordable, point of need testing to manage HIV and TB; Novel Molecular diagnostics for eye diseases; and eHealth Center (eHC, a platform for the fourth paradigm of science, data-intensive discovery, while bringing affordable healthcare service to the doorstep of common people).

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) For inculcating scientific temper among young school children, CSIR in Partnership with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has started "Jigyasa" program connecting CSIR labs with KV schools across the country. The CSIR/KVS MoU on "Jigyasa", signed on 6th July 2017, marked the beginning of the program. In last 9 Months, about 12000 students got exposed to the CSIR labs and its various scientific activities/research facilities.

Further, CSIR regularly undertakes activities aimed at disseminating information on its scientific competence and achievements through exhibitions, seminars, workshops and otherwise using mass media and interactive channels of communication including print, electronic and digital media. CSIR also reaches out to common man and youth extensively through social media including facebook and

tweeter. to inculcate scientific entrepreneurial spirit among college students recently one program "BEST-Be an entrepreneur of Science & Technology" was held at Visakhapatnam on 25th January 2018. The event was enthusiastically attended by more than 500 young students.

The science popularization activities also include lecture series of eminent scientist and industry captains for benefit of diverse CSIR stakeholders including youth. CSIR labs invite children from schools/colleges on various

occasions such as National Science/Technology Day, CSIR lab Foundation day.

CSIR through its laboratory namely CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR) publishes and disseminates scientific and technological information that benefits various segments of the common man including youth. Three popular science magazines are published by CSIR-NISCAIR namely Science Reporter (English Monthly) Vigyan Pragati (Hindi, Monthly) and Science ki Duniya (Urdu, quarterly), which are well circulated among youth.

Statement

Achievements and accomplishments of the key 'CSIR-800' initiatives carried out during last two years

S.No.	Lab	CSIR Initiatives/Offerings	Achievements and accomplishments
1.	CSIR-CBRI	Advisory services for S&T interventions in the Traditional Architecture of Rural areas	S&T solutions for design and construction of hill houses maintaining traditional architecture duly Strengthened using the innovative technologies, and also to reduce the use of the costly building materials.
2.	CSIR-CCMB	Improved Samba Mahsuri, a bacterial blight resistant rice cultivar	Enhanced incomes of rice farmers of several states. Beneficiaries are farmers who cultivate fine grained rice varieties in affected areas. This variety has been particularly helpful to farmers of Kunool, east and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh where there have been several recent epidemics of bacterial blight.
3.	CSIR-CCMB	Popularization of Apple Cultivation in Eastern ghats and Gondwana regions Telagana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate income generation in non-traditional apple growing parts of the country saving transport costs. • To enhance apple production in the country, both in season as well as off season and reduce the import • Apple is a long-duration horticultural tree crop; and would require another 2-3 years, for fruition.
4.	CSIR-CERI	Cyanide Free electrolytes for electroplating of brass, silver and gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Protection of livelihoods through environmental friendly electroplating, 100 palters trained. (ii) Replacement of cyanide copper electrolytes with economically viable, environment friendly cyanide free electrolytes for finishing of brass, silver and gold.

S.No.	Lab	CSIR Initiatives/Offerings	Achievements and accomplishments
5.	CSIR-CFTRI	Automated Processing unit for sugar cane juice bottling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income enhancement by more than 50% as compared to traditional processing shelf-life of the product is 4 months colout & teste similar to that of fresh juice
6.	CSIR-CFTRI	Fermented and dehydrated ready mixes for Idli/ Dose batter, Malted Weaning Food, Fortification of Atta, Garlic Paste, Ginger Paster, Mango Ripening: Accelerated Process, Ready to Serve Fruit Juices & Beverages etc.	nutrition and Income Enhancement
7.	CSIR-CGCRI	Demonstration of High capacity Ceramic member modules (8m/hr) for Arsenic and Iron removal at Ramchandrapur village, Dist Malda, West Bengal Training and Skill Development Programme for the Rural Artisans Associated in Making terracotta pottery across various states	one plant installation complete, handed over to PHED, Govt. of West Bengal. Yearly Benefit is 16.06 Lakhs for one unit catering to 500 people. Training imparted to 127 artisans from various States across the country through five residential programs of 10 days duration each.
8.	CSIR-CIMAP	Improved agro and processign technologies of economically important medicinal and aromatic crops like Lemongrass, Palmarosa, Vetiver, Citronella, Menthol Mint, Ashwagandha, Lemongrass	Demonstration of lemongrass, vetiver, palmarosa, menthol mint and ashwagandha were made on farmer's field covering an area of 1140 acres in different art of country including bundelkhand, Vidharabha and Kutch region. From demonstrations crop produce worth Rs 482.50 lakhs(essential and ashwagandha roots) was obtained. A total employment of 1,53,500 mandays was created from the cultivation of these plants.
9.	CSIR-CMERI	Semi-automated Ginger Processing technology for producing ginger flakes	Income generation Rs 2580/ton per day, Rs 7.74 lakhs/ton annum.
10.	CSIR-CMERI	Improved Iron Removal Plants	Enables iron removal at half of the cost. The expenditure of commercial available domestic filters for 500 people is approx. 1 lakh and the cost of Improve Iron Removal Plant for 500 people is 50,000
11.	CSIR-CSMCRI	Improvement of quality of solar salt through scientific intervention	Beneficiaries additional profit 100/MT of salt

S.No.	Lab	CSIR Initiatives/Offerings	Achievements and accomplishments
12.	CSIR-CSMCRI	Seaweed cultivation for marginal societies in coastal regions	The average income per beneficiary is estimated as 9,643/-
13.	CSIR-CSMCRI	Agronomic practices of Salicornia in green house	295 Farmers trained. Each farmer getting benefit of 5000/- from Salicornia cultivation. Total income generated: 14.75 lakhs
14.	CSIR-IHBT	Aromatic and Herbals: Production of characterized planting material of industrial and commercial plants for facilitating crop diversification	An area of 285 acres brought under high demand industrial crops viz., stevia, wild marigold, damask rose and other herbals like cardamom, lavender, geranium etc. with a total revenue generation of 370 lakhs.
15.	CSIR-IHBT	Introduction of important cut flower crops for crop diversification	Income enhancement. Floriculture expanded in additional 45 acres of land, benefitting 265 growers with net return of 259.71 lakhs in HP and adjoining states UK, J&K, Punjab
16.	CSIR-IICT	Samadhan Kendra	For extending benefits out of modern agriculture farming, pest control methods, soil testing, seed management etc. each Kendra caters needs of 20 villages in and around covering approximately 1 lakh population. 50,000 vegetable farmers in Medak and 70,000 mango farmers in Chittoor district benefitted in last few years.
17.	CSIR-IICT	Sustainable Tassar Culture development by tribal tasar farmers in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	Income generation of 4,000 per farmer, 400 tasar farmers benefitted. During 2016-17 Rs. 24.67 lakhs have been realized by the farmers of Karimnagar and Adilabad district of Telangana respectively by selling their cocoons.
18.	CSIR-IICT	Popularization of Pheromone Application Technology (PAT)	PAT farmers benefitted with an additional income of 20% in comparison to non-FAI farmers, ease of application, up to 50% reduction in pesticides, quality produce, health benefits and environmental safety etc. Returns ranged Rs 2500-25000 per acre depending upon crop in 1735 acres.
19.	CSIR-IICT	Highly Compact Reverse Osmosis/ Nanofiltration Systems for ground Water and Surface Water Purification (50-1000 L/h)	Successfully commissioned 15 compact plants of 50-250 L/h capacity in schools, hostels & villages and 12 pilot plants of 1000 L/h capacity. 5 lakhs population is getting benefitted and the Revenue generation is Rs 75 lakhs per annum.
20.	CSIR-IICT	Biogas Plants Based On AGR for Food waste treatment	utilizes 1000 kg of waste per day each at 3 plants Benefits Rs 2879-3348/- per day (Rs 10.55-12.22 lakhs per annum)

S.No.	Lab	CSIR Initiatives/Offerings	Achievements and accomplishments
21.	CSIR-IIIM	Field demonstration of region specific medicinal & Aromatic plants genotypes of CSIR for socio-economic upliftment of masses in J&K region (J&K AROM AROGYA GRAM-JAAG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSIR improved agro-technologies on MAPs deployed in targeted districts of Jammu region • 1745 growers/farmers trained • Income generation of about Rs. 10 lakhs • Quality planting material of about Rs. Crores
22.		Cultivation of Monarda Citriodora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agro-technology of jammu monarda transferred at 10 acres of land in Jammu, Srinagar and Hardoi. • Standardization done for thymol rich crystal development protocols from essential oil of jammu Monarda 99% Pure)
23.		Production technology for Value added "Kashmir Aroma Kit"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total 2654 valued added Aroma Kits prepared from six types of essential oils produced in CSIR-IIIM farms • Ten Value added products such as mosquito repellent liquid, mosquito repellent cream developed in collaboration with a private company
24.	CSIR-IIP	Improved Gur making plant	Energy efficiency in Gur making process through CSIR-IIP improved technology has converted it from a part time business to a profitable full-time business for sugarcane farmers. Nearly 23% increased income in one season can be achieved with this improved technology that has been proved through the installation of 37 plants. The total savings figure for 37 units is Rs. 66 lakhs per annum. Moreover, for every 1 tonne of Gur produced from improved plant 271.5 kg. of CO ₂ have been reduced.
25.	CSIR-NBRI	Bioinoculants for enhancing the performance of crops on sodic wastelands using the most potential salt and temperature tolerant strains of Trichoderma spp., Bacillus spp. and pseudomonasspp.	17 biofertilizer and 9 Biopesticide producing labs of up were provide high value, stress tolerant microbes (PSB, Rhizobium and Azotobacter) and hands on training. These labs produced 45 lakh packets, used all over the state. 100 farmers trained. an area of 1,62,800 ha covered leading to saving of 29,343 MT of fertilizer.
26.	CSIR-NCL	CSIR-NCL's UF-membrance based water purification units for Indian rural/tribal community	water supply to rural and tribal community of several villages.

S.No.	Lab	CSIR Initiatives/Offerings	Achievements and accomplishments
27.	CSIR-NEERI	Clean water and sanitation in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neerdhur" technology has been successfully developed and demonstrated in 4 villages across 2 states namely Mohagan, Gothangoan in Nagpur district, Savroli-Palghar, Mumabi and Chunakhali. • Rejuvenation of degraded lands using bamboo biomass through microbe assisted green technology (MAGT) • Demonstration of rapid composting technology in selected villages of Vidharbha, Maharashtra • Design and development of in-vessel solar composter for rural areas
28.	CSIR-NEERI	Demonstration of mass scale production of spirulina protein in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Benefits
29.	CSIR-NEERI	Demonstration of decentralized phytosystems for treatment of domestic water and its use in agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greywater treatment
30.	CSIR-NEIST	Liquid Deodorant cleaner production	Rs. 6 lakh/ Entrepreneur/ annum
31.	CSIR-NEIST	Training on Weaving using Jacquard Looms and Product Development	Rs. 60,000 / annum
32.	CSIR-NGRI	Identification and exploration of groundwater resources in problematic terrains and drought affected regions for meeting the drinking water needs of rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community based sustainable water recharger solutions
33.	CSIR-NIIST	Bio gas digester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income enhancement and environment protection
34.	CSIR-NML	Brassware lacquer and brass melting furnace	Income enhancement and Energy Efficiency

[English]

Telecom Facilities in Rural Areas of Uttar Pradesh

4311. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes for providing new telecom facilities in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total number of villages in the State where Wireless Local Loop (W.L.L.) services have been provided especially in rural schools;

(c) the number of villages where no telecom facilities exist and the steps taken by the Government to provide such facilities in those villages;

(d) the districts in the said State where telephone lines have been laid but not activated and the reasons therefor; and

(e) 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) BharatNet for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats and scheme for mobile communications services in Left Wing Extremism (L.W.E.) affected areas are ongoing new telecom projects in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) 51906 villages in Uttar Pradesh have been provided with Wireless Local Loop (W.L.L.) services.

(c) According to data collected from Telecom Service Providers (T.S.Ps) in 2014, it is estimated that there are 160 villages out of 97814 villages which are uncovered with mobile services. At present, the Department has the following programmes for provision of telecom services in left out villages/areas of the country.

- (i) **Mobile Communication Services in Left Wing Extremism (L.W.E.) affected areas:** Department has installed 78 mobile towers in L.W.E. affected areas of Uttar Pradesh under L.W.E. Phase-I. Department has also received a list of 179 mobile locations from the Ministry of Home Affairs (M.H.A.) in L.W.E. affected areas of Uttar Pradesh. Telecom Commission, in its meeting held on 21.12.2017, has recommended the proposal for installing 179 mobile towers in Uttar Pradesh in L.W.E. Phase-II.
- (ii) **BharatNet:** BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 51,581) in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e) **Nil.**

[Translation]

Safety of Passengers

4312. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has allocated huge funds to the railway for safety of rail passengers keeping in view the various train accidents that took place during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the condition of tracks, safety and monitoring lapses are the major reasons for rail accidents;

(d) if so, whether the Government is considering the fact that manual railway track inspection and conventional system of safety have become old fashioned in the current scenario;

(e) if so, whether the Union government proposes to develop modern and high technology system for monitoring, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which said new technology is likely to be made available to Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The Railways' Capital Outlay has been fixed at Rs1,20,000 cr in Revised Estimates 2017-18, which is Rs10,065 cr higher than Actual Expenditure 2016-17 of Rs1,09,935 cr. To give fillip to passenger safety, the Government has introduced Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) in 2017-18 with a corpus of Rs1 lakh crore to be spent over a period of five years, to clear the backlog of renewal/replacement of safety assets.

The Capital allocation of 2017-18 also includes Rs20,000 cr under RRSK to be spent on identified works under planheads Track Renewals, Bridge Works, Signalling & Telecommunication Works, Road Safety Works of Level Crossings & Over/Under Bridges, Rolling Stock, Traffic Facilities, Electrical Works, Machinery & Plant, Workshops, Passenger Amenities and Training.

(c) During the current year 2017-18 (1st April 2017 to 15th March 2018), out of total 71 consequential train

accidents over Indian Railways, 14 accidents were attributed to track defects.

(d) Inspection of Railway track is done as per Indian Railways Permanent Way Manual, which requires inspection of track by mechanized means, supplemented by detailed manual inspection to ensure safety.

(e) to (g) Induction of state of the art technology is a continuous process. Induction of various state of the art technology for monitoring and inspection of rail tracks have been considered, such as Integrated Track Recording Cars (TRCs), Ground Penetration Radar, Axle box Mounted Accelerometers, Component Monitoring System and Vehicular Ultra Sonic Flaw Detection (USFD). Maintenance of track is done with fleets of state of the art track maintenance machines deployed over different Zonal Railways.

[English]

R.O.B./F.O.B. at Asifabad

4313. SHRI NAGESH GODAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed in the budget for 2018-19 for construction of RoBs in the State of Telangana, especially a foot over bridge at Asifabad Road and over bridge on Railways gate No.71-T/SPL at Asifabad Road Railways Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Two Road Over Bridges in lieu of manned level crossing No.7 Km.17/600-700 between Falaknuma-Budvel stations and manned level crossing No.27 Km.58/300-400 between Timmapur-

Shadnagar stations have been sanctioned in 2018-19. Nine Road Under Bridges (RUBs) in level crossing No. 245, 246 & 247 on Secunderabad-Mudkhed Section and LC No.11 on Secunderabad-Dhone Section, LCs No.BP-1, BP-2, BP-3, BP-5 and BP-7 on Sant Nagar-Maula Ali Section and Foot Over Bridge at Asifabad Road Railways Station have also been sanctioned in 2018-19. The consent from State Government of Telangana For construction of ROB on Railway Gate No.71-T/SPL at Asifabad Road Railway Station is awaited.

[Translation]

Green Corridors

4314. SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL):

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rail routes developed as Green Corridors in the country, State-wise;

(b) the names of the stations identified for development as Green Corridors;

(c) the time by which the said stations are likely to be developed; and

(d) whether any timeframe has been fixed in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As a part of "Swachh Bharat Mission", Indian Railways is proliferating bio-toilets on its coaching stock so that no human waste is discharged from coaches on to the track. In order to demonstrate the advantage of fitment of Bio-toilets, 6 Green corridors were made functional during the year 2016-17. During the year 2017-18, 16 green corridors have already been made functional. Indian Railways has commissioned the following 22 sections as Green corridors free from human waste discharge from trains:

Railway	Section	Date of Commissioning	Kms	State
Central Railway	Daund-Baramati	Feb, 2018	43	Maharashtra
Central Railway	Chalisgaon-Dhule	Dec, 2017	56	Maharashtra
East Central Railway	Sakari-Biraul	Mar, 2018	35	Bihar
Eastern Railway	Madhupur-Giridih	Feb, 2017	38	Jharkhand/West Bengal
Eastern Railway	Bhagalpur-Banka	Aug, 2017	53	Bihar
North Eastern Railway	Bhojipura-Pilibhit	Nov, 2017	40	Uttar Pradesh

Railway	Section	Date of Commissioning	Kms	State
North Eastern Railway	Chhapra-Thave	Jan, 2018	109	Bihar
Northeast Frontier Railway	Chaparmukh-Silghat	July, 2017	82	Assam
Northeast Frontier Railway	Katakhal-Bairabi	Jan, 2018	84	Assam
Northeast Frontier Railway	Arunachal-Vangaichungpao	Jan, 2018	61	Assam/Manipur
North Western Railway	Barmer-Munabao	March, 2017	119	Rajasthan
North Western Railway	Pipar Road-Bilara	March, 2017	41	Rajasthan
North Western Railway	Hanumangarh-Sadalpur	April, 2017	178	Rajasthan
North Western Railway	Sikar-Loharu	Feb, 2018	150	Rajasthan/Haryana
North Western Railway	Anupgarh-Suratgarh	Aug, 2017	77	Rajasthan
Southern Railway	Rameswaram-Manamadurai	July, 2016	119	Tamil Nadu
Southern Railway	Trichy-Manamadurai (excluding T.P.J.)	Oct, 2017	151	Tamil Nadu
Southern Railway	Madurai-Manamaduria (excluding M.D.U.)	Oct, 2017	48	Tamil Nadu
Southern Railway	Virudhnagar-Manamadurai (excluding V.P.T.)	Oct, 2017	67	Tamil Nadu
Western Railway	Okha-Kanalus junction	Oct. 2016	140	Gujarat
Western Railway	Porbandar-Wansjaliya	Oct, 2016	33	Gujarat
Western Railway	Dhola junction Madhuva (excluding Rajula Road- Rajula City)	Jan, 2018	127	Gujarat

(b) So far stations have not been identified and only Green Station has been identified over Indian Railways. The stations that fall under these sections will automatically become human discharge free from coaches.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The plan to fit bio-toilets in the entire fleet of coaches of Indian Railways by the year 20121-22 has been advanced to 2019 in the Budget 2017-18. After completion of fitting of bio-toilets in all coaches, the complete Indian Railways network will automatically become human waste discharge free from coaches.

[English]

Vacant Land

4315. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total vacant land belonging to Railways in the country;

(b) whether Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been mandated to indentify vacant railway land or plots for leasing out for commercial exploitation;

(c) if so, the details of vacant land/plots identified so far and the revenue expected to be generated;

(d) the hurdles being faced in commercial exploitation of vacant railway land in various railway zones; and

(e) the steps taken to resolve the issues with State Governments/other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) The vacant land available with the Railways is about 0.51 lakh hectare. This vacant land is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks and required for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other infrastructure. The vacant railway land is also utilized for execution of various

infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways which include projects like doubling/tripling, yard remodelling, Rail Coach and Component factories, etc. the vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational need, is utilised in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, in order to mobilise additional financial resources. Presently, the following 54 sites measuring 189 hectare (approx.) having revenue potential of about Rs14,000 crore, where commercial development seems feasible have been entrusted to R.L.D.A. which were identified by Railway/R.L.D.A.

S.No.	Zonal	Station (Division)	Site Particulars	Area (in Hectare)
1.	Central	Mumbai	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus	10.40
2.		Mumbai	Lokgram, Kalyan	3.65
3.		Mumbai	Kurla (west)	0.13
4.	East Central	Gaya (Mughal Sarai)	Gautam Budh Institute	0.57
5.		Raxaul (Samastipur)	on station approach Road	1.20
6.	East Coast	Visakhapatnam (Waltair)	Daba Gardens (Ambedkar Circle)	0.20
7.		Delhi (Delhi)	Old steam loco shed saria Rohilla	15.50
8.		Lucknow (Lucknow)	Lucknow Ind. Area Siding, Aish Bagh,	3.54
9.	Northern	Lucknow	Plot of land behind Alam Badh-Diesel Shed, Lucknow	0.44
10.		New Delhi (Delhi)	Ashok Vihar	13.26
11.		Amritsar (FZR)	Near Railway Colony No. 2 on Main GT Road	0.25
12.		Katra (firozpur)	Katra	4.28
13.		Shimla (Ambala)	Railway Godown below winter Field	0.35
14.	North Central	Gwalior (Jhansi)	Kampoo Kothi	0.60
15.		kanpur (Allahabad)	Nirala Nagar	26.50

S.No.	Zonal	Station (Division)	Site Particulars	Area (in Hectare)
16.		Jhansi	Jhansi East	0.67
17.		Jhansi	Jhansi West	2.16
18.		Etawah	Etawah	0.30
19.	North Eastern	Shahamatganj (izzatnagar)	Shahamatganj	14.68
20.		Gwaltoli/Kanpur (Izzatnagar)	Gwaltoli, Kanpur	1.52
21.	Northeast Frontier	Siliguri (Katihar)	Burdwan Road	1.20
22.		Ajmer	Jons Ganj	0.86
23.		Ajmer	Hazari Bagh Colony	3.63
24.		Bikaner	Railway Colony, Lalgarh	20.83
25.		Jaipur	Loco Area	2.17
26.		Chennai (Chennai)	Kakkapalam, Padi, 5kms form ICF	2.10
27.	Southern	Salem (salem)	2 plots at Salem Market Station	1.05
28.		Nagaptnam (Tiruchirapalli)	1 plot at station	0.40
29.		Villipuram (Tiruchirapalli)	3 plots at sation	0.71
30.		Palanthruthy (Trivandrum)	Palanthruthy (Island)	1.70
31.		Chetpet (Chennai)	Chetpet	0.76
32.		Chennai (Chennai)	Victoria Crecent adjacent to Ethiraj College	0.43
33.		Chennai (Chennai)	Poes Garden	0.53
34.	Southern	Chennai Egmore (Chennai)	Ponamallee High Road	2.00
35.		Park Station (Chennai)	Park Station	0.33
36.		Perambur (Chennai)	Perambur Pananthope colony	2.00
37.		Ayanavaram (Chennai)	Ayanavaram colony	3.50
38.		Tambaram (Chennai)	Tambaram	1.65

S.No.	Zonal	Station (Division)	Site Particulars	Area (in Hectare)
39.		Tiruvottiyur (Chennai)	Tiruvottiyur	19.43
40.		Waltax Road (Chennai)	Waltax Road Near Basin Bridge	0.12
41.		Pulianthope (Chennai)	Pulianthope	074
42.		Hyderabad	Nizamabad Railway Station	0.24
43.	South Central	Secunderabad (Hyderabad)	Near Moulali Flyover	8.90
44.		Poornandampet (Vijaywada)	Near Rly Hospital	0.15
45.		Aurangabad (Nanded)	Part of old ITDC Hotel	3.90
46.		Guntakal (Guntakal)	In Rly Colony	0.48
47.	South Western	Bangalore City (Bangalore)	On platform road	1.01
48.		Mumbai	Scrap yard at Mahalaxmi	0.95
49.	Sestern	Mumbai (Mumbai)	Bandra (East)	4.50
50.		Mumbai	Bandra (East)	0.153
51.		Mumbai	Khar Colony	0.33
52.		Mumbai	Bandra (West)	1.03
53.	West Central Railway	Sawai Madhopur	Near GRP Thana in the Circulating area	0.40
54.		Kota Jn.	Near existing PF No.1 cycle stand	0.21
Total				188.570

The slump/lack of demand in real estate for the last few years, availability of free hold land in vicinity resulting in low interest in lease hold land and too much time taken by local authorities for change of land use and approval of plans are some of the hurdles being faced in commercial exploitation. To resolve these issues, Railways has increased the lease period up to 99 years, concentrating more on metropolitan cities having more demand of real estate and RLDA has set up some field offices outside

Delhi so that issue of change in land use/approval of plans may be chased with Urban Local Bodies/State Governments on regular basis.

B.P.O. Promotion Scheme

4316. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objectives of the India B.P.O.

Promotion Scheme was to create opportunities for the youth living in rural areas so that they do not need to migrate to urban clusters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the India B.P.O. Promotion Scheme has been given the special focus of the Government to develop the North East regions of India, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said scheme provide special incentives of upto Rs. 1 lakh per seat in the form of Viability Gap Funding (V.G.F.) and disbursement of financial support under these schemes is directly linked with employment generation, if so, the details of beneficiaries, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh since inception of the said scheme; and

(e) the details of the total seats under India B.P.O. Promotion Scheme and under North East B.P.O. Promotion Scheme distributed across different States including Madhya Pradesh in proportion to their population?

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) India B.P.O. Promotion Scheme (I.B.P.S.) aims to incentivize 48,300 seats B.P.O./I.TeS. operations, with an outlay of Rs. 493 crore, by 31.03.2019. The objectives of the scheme are to create employment opportunities for the youth and promotion of investment in I.T./ITeS sector across the country, particularly in small cities/towns including rural areas.

(c) The Government has initiated a separate "North East B.P.O. Promotion Scheme (N.E.B.P.S.)", with an outlay of Rs. 50 crore, to incentivize 5,000 seats B.P.O./ITeS

Operations for creation of employment opportunities for the youth and growth of I.T./ITeS Industry in the North East Region.

(d) The I.B.P.S. and N.E.B.P.S. provide financial support upto Rs. 1 lakh per seat in the form of Viability Gap Funding (V.G.F.) 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 Rs. 1 lakh per seat. The disbursement of financial support under these schemes is directly linked with employment generation. The employment target under the schemes is 1.5 times the number of B.P.O./ITeS seats. Companies achieving at least 50% of the employment target can also avail financial support on *pro-rata* basis. Till now 180 units for a total of 31,732 seats under I.B.P.S., and 20 units for a total of 2,060 seats under N.E.B.P.S. have been approved. For the State of Madhya Pradesh, 3 units have been approved for a total of 900 seats. The State-wise list of units approved under I.B.P.S. and N.E.B.P.S. is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) The total 48,300 seats in I.B.P.S. have been distributed across the States/U.Ts based on respective population percentage as per Census 2011. Thus, for the State of Madhya Pradesh a total of 3200 seats has been allocated. The State/U.T. wise list of seats distributed under I.B.P.S. based on population percentage is given in the enclosed Statement-II. However, there is no State wise distribution of seats in N.E.B.P.S.; the total 5,000 seats are for the entire North East Region.

Statement-I

List of approved units under I.B.P.S.

State	City/Location	Company Name	Seats Allocated
Andhra Pradesh	Bhimavaram	Omega Healthcare Management Services Private Ltd.	200
	Chittoor	String Information Services Private Limited	100
	Gjuewaka	Nekkanti Systems Private Limited	100
	Guntupalli	Karvy Data Management Services Limited	450
	Guntupalli	Karvy Data Management Services Limited	300

State	City/Location	Company Name	Seats Allocated
	Guntur	Phycare Services (India) Private Limited	300
	Guntur	Synchro Serve Global Solution Private Limited	100
	Nellore	Sri Dwarka Sai Construction (India) Private Limited	100
	Rajahmundry	Pragna Digital Solutions Private Limited	100
	Tirupati	Rapid Care Transcription Private Limited	100
	Tirupati	A.G.S. Health Private Limited	100
	Tirupati	A.G.S. Health Private Limited	200
	Tirupati	VenusGEO Solutions Private Limited	100
	Vishakhapatnam	Chandusoft Technologies Private Limited	100
	Vishakhapatnam	Global Revenue Cycle Management Services Pvyt. Ltd.	500
	Vishakhapatnam	Fluentgrid Limited	500
	Vishakhapatnam	Fluentgrid Limited	500
	Vishakhapatnam	Sree Tammina Software Solutions Private Limited	100
	Vishakhapatnam	Maple Software Private Limited	200
	Vishakhapatnam	Maple Software Private Limited	200
	Vishakhapatnam	InspireEdge IT Solutions Private Limited	100
	Vishakhapatnam	InspireEdge IT Solutions Private Limited	200
	Vishakhapatnam	Miracle Software System India Pvt. Ltd.	600
	Vishakhapatnam	W.N.S. Business Consulting Services Pvt. Ltd.	510
	Vishakhapatnam	Apex Covantage India Private Limited	100
	Vizianagaram	Miracle Software System India Pvt. Ltd.	600
Bihar	Dalsinghsarai	Vision India Services Private Limited	100
	Gaya	Maurya Heights Buildcon Private Limited	100
	Muzaffarpur	Vision India Services Private Limited	100
	Patna	Maestroes Technical Services Private Limited	100
	Patna	Tatwa Technologies Limited	110
	Patna	Tata Consultancy Services Limited	1000
	Patna	Shakti Infotech Private Limited	100
	Patna	Variety Vyapaar Private Limited	100
	Patna	A. V. Ispat Private Limited	100
	Patna	Datek Software Solution Private Limited	100
	Patna	Sunny Star Hotels Private Limited	100

State	City/Location	Company Name	Seats Allocated
	Patna	Route Mobile Limited	300
	Patna	Touchstone Private Limited	100
Chandigarh U.T.	Chandigarh	Health Biotech Limited	100
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Karvy Data Management Services Limited	200
	Raipur	Innowave I.T. Infrastructures Limited	400
	Raipur	Milestone Soft Tech Private Limited	100
	Raipur	Indus Smelters Limited	100
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Regulus Marketing Private Limited	500
	Ahmedabad	Mas Callnet India Pvt. Ltd.	100
Haryana	Panchkula	Eli Research India Private Limited	300
Himachal Pradesh	Baddi	Health Biotech Limited	100
	Baddi	Rescuers Lifescience Limited	100
	Shimla	Enser Communications Private Limited	50
Jammu and Kashmir	Bhaderwah	SunShine Auto Private Limited	50
	Budgam	Unosis I.T. Solutions Private Limited	50
	Jammu	Enser Communications Private Limited	50
	Jammu	Enser Communications Private Limited	100
	Jammu	ComTech Info Solutions Private Limited	50
	Sopore	iLocus Consulting Private Limited	50
	Srinagar	iKraft Software Private Limited	50
	Srinagar	Gate Consulting Private Limited	50
	Srinagar	Gate Consulting Private Limited	50
Jharkhand	Deoghar	Sri Publications and Stationers Pvt. Ltd.	50
	Dhanbad	Ritika Printech Private Limited	50
	Ranchi	Concentrix Daksh Services India Private Limited	500
	Ranchi	Route Mobile Limited	550
	Ranchi	Ritika Printech Private Limited	50
	Ranchi	Sri Publications and Stationers Pvt. Ltd.	50
	Ranchi	Nimbus Adcom Pvt. Ltd.	250
	Ranchi	Mica Educational Company Pvt. Ltd.	100
	Ranchi	KRAFT Outdoor Media Private Limited	100
Karnataka	Attibele	Redeem Systems Private Limited	200

State	City/Location	Company Name	Seats Allocated
	Bijapur	Mandamus Info Knowledge Consultants (Banglore) Pvt. Ltd.	50
	Chikmangalur	Mandamus Info Knowledge Consultants (Banglore) Pvt. Ltd.	50
	Gulbarga	Mandamus Info Knowledge Consultants (Banglore) Pvt. Ltd.	100
	Hospet	Mandamus Info Knowledge Consultants (Banglore) Pvt. Ltd.	50
	Hubli	NSI Next Wealth IT Services Private Limited	100
	Mangalore	Karvy Data Management Services Limited	100
	Manipal	KarMic Design Private Limited	100
	Mysore	Indecomm Global Services India Private Limited	100
	Mysore	Focus Edumatics Private Limited	100
	Sringeri	Mandamus Info Knowledge Consultants (Banglore) Pvt. Ltd.	50
	Tumkur	Mandamus Info Knowledge Consultants (Banglore) Pvt. Ltd.	100
	Udupi	Mandamus Info Knowledge Consultants (Banglore) Pvt. Ltd.	100
Kerala	Kozhikode	UL Technology Solutions Private Limited	100
	Palakkad	Karvy Data Management Services Limited	100
Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	Karvy Data Management Services Limited	700
	Sagar	B.R. Kohli Construction Private Limited	100
	Vidisha	M.S. E-Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	100
Maharashtra	Aurangabad	GeBBS Healthcare Solutions Private Limited	150
	Aurangabad	GeBBS Healthcare Solutions Private Limited	650
	Bhiwandi	Writer Business Services Private Limited	100
	Bhiwandi	Adoroi Marketing Science Private Limited	100
	Dhule	Atmasuman Buildcon Private Limited	100
	Nagpur	Lighthouse Info Systems Private Limited	100
	Nashik	Tata Consultancy Services Limited	1000
	Nashik	Writer Business Services Private Limited	120
	Nashik	Suma Soft Private Limited	110
	Sangli	Enser Communications Private Limited	100
	Sangli	Enser Communications Private Limited	100
	Wardha	Maharani Paints Private Limited	100
	Wardha	Vamani Overseas Private Limited	110
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Nexgen Renaissance Private Limited	100
	Bhubaneswar	Luminous Infoways Private Limited	100
	Bhubaneswar	2coms Consulting Private Limited	100

State	City/Location	Company Name	Seats Allocated
	Bhubaneswar	Hari Telematics Private Limited	100
	Bhubaneswar	Soumyasree IT Services Private Limited	200
	Bhubaneswar	Silicon Techlab Private Limited	100
	Bhubaneswar	BPO Convergence Private Limited	100
	Bhubaneswar	BPO Convergence Private Limited	200
	Bhubaneswar	SMA E-expert Pvt. Ltd.	100
	Bhubaneswar	Tatwa BPO Ltd.	200
	Bhubaneswar	IDS Logic Private Limited	100
	Bhubaneswar	P and A Advertising Agency Pvt. Ltd.	117
	Bhubaneswar	Suyog Computech Pvt. Ltd.	51
	Bhubaneswar	Casa Infratech Private Limited	100
	Cuttack	Tatwa Technologies Limited	150
	Jaleswar	RuralShores Business Services Private Limited	150
	Puri	Suyog Computech Pvt. Ltd.	54
	Sambalpur	RuralShores Business Services Private Limited	200
Puducherry U.T.	Puducherry Taluk	iMarque Solutions Private Limited	100
Punjab	Amritsar	AK EDU Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	300
	Mohali	Mark Software Systems Private Limited	100
	Mohali	Geeks Technical Solutions Private Limited	100
	Mohali	ND Care Nirogam Private Limited	100
	Mohali	CRM Services India Pvt. Ltd.	1000
	Mohali	Aerial Telecom Solutions Private Limited	100
	Mohali	Iqbri Telecom Private Limited	100
	Mohali	Signature Forex & Allied Services Private Limited	100
	Pathankot	NVR & Associates Limited	100
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Premkunj Construction & Engineering Private Limited	100
	Jaipur	Mattsen Kumar Services Private Limited	200
	Udaipur	Mewar Hi-Tech Engineering Private Limited	100
Tamil Nadu	Auroville	Desicrew Solutions Private Limited	100
	Auroville	Newgen Digital Works Private Limited	100
	Cheyyar	Global Software Solutions (TVL) Private Limited	50
	Coimbatore	TNQ Books And Journals Private Limited	100
	Coimbatore	TNQ Books And Journals Private Limited	100

State	City/Location	Company Name	Seats Allocated
	Coimbatore	Focus Edumatics Private Limited	100
	Coimbatore	Focus Edumatics Private Limited	100
	Coimbatore	Amazon Development Centre India Private Limited	400
	Coimbatore	Amazon Development Centre India Private Limited	600
	Coimbatore	Access Healthcare Services Private Limited	200
	Coimbatore	Neware Eliya Soft Tech Private Limited	100
	Coimbatore	Raise BPO Private Limited	100
	Hosur	iMarque Solutions Private Limited	100
	Kottakuppam	Rapid Care Transcription Private Limited	100
	Madurai	AMBC Technologies Private Limited	100
	Mannargudi	BKR Hotels and Resorts Private Limited	100
	Mayiladuthurai	iMarque Solutions Private Limited	300
	Mayiladuthurai	iMarque Solutions Private Limited	100
	Namakkal	Mahima Technology Pvt. Ltd.	300
	Tiruchirappalli	Oasys Cybernatics Private Limited	100
	Tiruchirappalli	Oasys Cybernatics Private Limited	100
	Tiruchirappalli	Visionary RCM Infotech (India) Private Limited	300
	Tiruchirappalli	IVTL Infoview Technologies Private Limited	100
	Tirunelveli	Global Software Solutions (TVL) Private Limited	50
	Tirupattur	BoscoSoft Technologies Private Limited	100
	Vellore	Newgen Digital Works Private Limited	100
Telangana	Ghatkesar	Writer Business Services Private Limited	120
	Karimnagar	ECLAT Health Solutions Private Limited	200
	Nizamabad	RuralShores Business Services Private Limited	200
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	Chandrakala Universal Private Limited	100
	Baitalpur	RuralShores Business Services Private Limited	200
	Bareilly	Mayur Industries Private Limited	200
	Ghazipur	Vision India Services Private Limited	200
	Jhansi	SevenSeas Shanti Edutech Private Limited	100
	Kanpur	Ratan Housing Development Limited	300
	Lucknow	Karvy Data Management Services Limited	350
	Lucknow	Tatwa Technologies Limited	110
	Lucknow	Sellers Safety Controls Private Limited	150

State	City/Location	Company Name	Seats Allocated
	Lucknow	Harbansram Bhagwandas Ayurvedic Sansthan Pvt. Ltd.	120
	Lucknow	Hariwali Electronics India Private Limited	100
	Lucknow	AVSM Security and Outsourcing Services Pvt. Ltd.	100
	Unnao	Dataman Computer Systems Private Limited	100
	Varanasi	Tata Consultancy Services Limited	1000
	Varanasi	Route Mobile Limited	550
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Asset Infotech Limited	50
	Dehradun	Grass Roots Research and Creation India Pvt. Ltd.	50
	Dehradun	CSOS Corporate Solution Pvt. Ltd.	50
	Dehradun	Granada Services Pvt. Ltd.	200
West Bengal	Ranaghat	Fast Tech Technologies Services Private Limited	100
	Siliguri	MET Technologies Private Limited	100

List of approved Units under N.E.B.P.S.

State	Company Name	City/Location	Seats
Arunachal Pradesh	B4B IT Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Itanagar	50
Assam	IKF Technologies Ltd.	Guwahati	100
	Thredz Information technology Pvt. Ltd.	Guwahati	50
	Aduro Trading & Associates Pvt. Ltd.	Jorhat	50
	Tatwa Technologies Ltd.	Guwahati	150
	Madhav Mukund Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Guwahati	60
	Madhav Mukund Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Kaliabor/Nowgaon	50
	Pecon Software Ltd.	Guwahati	350
	Anjaybee Infotech Private Limited	Diphu	50
	Anjaybee Infotech Private Limited	Majuli	50
	Anjaybee Infotech Private Limited	Kokrajhar	50
	Anjaybee Infotech Private Limited	Nagaon	50
	Anjaybee Infotech Private Limited	Silchar	50
Manipur	UNI TRANSSolution Pvt. Ltd.	Imphal	100
	CubeTen Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Imphal	50
	RK Marvin Communication Pvt. Ltd.	Imphal	100

State	Company Name	City/Location	Seats
Meghalaya	Vision India Services Pvt. Ltd.	Shillong	200
Nagaland	Infinity Infomatic Pvt. Ltd.	Kohima	400
	Clairvoyance Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Dimapur	50

Statement-II*I.B.P.S. Seats Distribution across State(s)/U.T.(s) based on population % as per Census 2011*

State/U.T.	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
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
Odisha	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
Tamil Nadu*	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

1	2	3	4	5
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/UTs as per Census 2011, and then rounded-off to nearest 100.
2. Minimum seats support for a State/U.T.=100.
3. *Population of all the States of North East Region and Urban Addlomeration Population of certain cities [Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-N.C.R. (Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida), Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune] is subtracted from the respective State;s Population and subsequently from overall population of Country.

Supply of Heavy Water

4317. SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Heavy Water Board (H.W.B.) has begun to supply heavy water to private companies for the manufacture of Deuterium Labelled compounds which are Active Pharma Ingredients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the advantage in this field will reach the masses through end products developed by the Indian Pharmaceutical and other industries 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) Subsequent to approval from Atomic Energy Commission, Heavy Water Board has recently signed collaborative agreements with two Indian parties for development of deuterium labelled compounds, N.M.R. solvents, D-labelled active pharma ingredients. One party

has placed purchase order for supply of 1000 kg. Heavy Water.

(c) Yes Madam. Presently the research and academic institutions and Indian private companies are importing deuterated compounds. This agreement will initiate import substitution for the deuterated compounds and heavy water, the benefit of which will reach to the masses.

Mega Defence Projects

4318. SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI BHOLA SINGJH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether whether the Government has reviewed the status of various mega defence projects launched under Make in India initiative;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating the present status of these projects;

(c) the reasons for delay, if any, in these projects;

(d) the steps taken to expedite and fast track these projects; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to ease the rules to give freest initiative to arms and ammunition and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) Projects with a cost of Rs. 150 Crore and below are within the delegated powers of Services. Projects of more than Rs. 150 Crore are dealt by the Services and Ministry of Defence. The progress of Capital Acquisition Projects is reviewed regularly at various levels in Ministry of Defence to achieve the desired operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and to effectively contribute to 'Make in India' program of Government of India. During the last three years and current year (upto 31.01.2018), 192 contracts for capital procurement of defence equipment with total value of Rs. 243069.47 crore have been signed including 121 contracts with Indian vendors involving Rs. 116583.02 Crore and 71 contracts with foreign vendors for value of Rs. 126486.45 crore.

The steps taken to expedite and fast track the capital acquisition projects include broad timeframe for completing procurement activities (AoN to award of contract) has been reduced from 80-117 weeks to 70-94 weeks in multi vendor cases and from 92-137 weeks to 82-114 weeks in resultant Single Vendor cases; Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) validity has been reduced to six months (from one year) for 'Buy cases and to one year (from two year) for 'Buy & Make (Indian)' cases; Draft request for Proposal (R.F.P.) has to accompany Statement of Case (SoC) for AoN, Cases with AoN value of more than Rs. 150 crore to be directly brought before Services Capital Acquisition Plan Categorisation Higher Committee (S.C.A.P.C.H.C.) thereby eliminating initial placement of such cases before

Service Capital Acquisition Plan Categorisation Committee (S.C.A.P.C.C.), etc.

[Translation]

Upgrading Railway Tracks

4319. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL) :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made in the Railways during the last two years and the locations where such investment has been made including the details in this regard;

(b) the amount of funds spent on upgrading railway tracks in the last two years including the percentage of railway tracks upgraded as a result thereof; and

(c) the amount of budget sought by the Ministry for upgrading railway tracks and introducing new technology including the amount of budget received along with the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The Zone-wise Capital Expenditure incurred during the last two years i.e. 2015-16 and 2016-17 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount spent for Track Renewal and the percentage of Railway tracks upgraded during the last two years i.e. 2015-16 and 2016-17 is as under:

Year	Expenditure incurred on Track Renewal	Total Track K.M.	Physical progress of Track Renewal in K.M.	Percentage of Track upgraded
(Rs. in Crore)				
2015-16	5586.03	119630	2794	2.34%
2016-17	6397.97	121407	2487	2.05%

(c) The requirement of funds demanded and budget outlay during the last two years and current year for

finalization of plan head 3100 (Track Renewal) are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Funds (PH-31 - Track Renewal)	
	Demanded	Budget Outlay
2015-16	9800.00	5426.06 (Revised Estimates)
2016-17	10500.00	6739.79 (Revised Estimates)
2017-18	10800.00	9304.58 (Revised Estimates)

Statement

Zone-wise Capital Expenditure during 2015-16 and 2016-17

S.No.	Railway/ Production Unit	2015-16	2016-17
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	4393.31	4492.30
2.	Eastern	2995.36	4083.46
3.	East Central	5172.50	4604.69
4.	East Coast	3893.21	4092.05
5.	Northern	19967.80	18868.56
6.	North Central	2098.34	2889.25
7.	North Eastern	2044.63	2747.03
8.	Northeast Frontier	7312.79	8583.95
9.	North Western	2123.76	2439.98
10.	Southern	3966.33	3683.68
11.	South Central	5145.19	4666.97
12.	South Eastern	3259.75	3429.53
13.	South East Central	2898.68	2954.49
14.	South Western	2234.06	2515.82
15.	Western	3979.76	4179.82
16.	West Central	3733.0	3791.51
17.	Metro Railway/Kolkata	595.13	538.56
18.	Chittaranjan Locomotive	-185.36	-202.10

1	2	3	4
19.	Diesel Locomotive Works	-56.60	-93.56
20.	D.M.W.	16.82	14.32
21.	Integral Coach Factory	83.56	70.99
22.	Rail Coach Factory	57.15	167.43
23.	Modern Coach Fctory	314.89	138.15
24.	Railway Electrification	2265.18	2884.30
25.	Rail Wheel Factory	116.28	-226.23
26.	M.T.P./Chennai	13.26	16.40
27.	Rail Wheel Plant Bela	0.00	124.68
28.	Partnership (P.P.P.)	15081.00	26834.09
Total		93519.79	108290.14

Note : Including Extra Budgetary Resources i.e. E.B.R./Indian Railway Finance Corporation and E.B.R./Institutional Finance.

[English]

Scholarship Schemes for Students of Minority Community

4320. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE :

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries of the scholarship schemes being implemented by the Government for students belonging to the minority communities in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/U.T.-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether there is a gap between funds sought by the States/U.Ts and released by the Union Government under the said schemes during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/U.T.-wise and scheme-wise and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the cases of irregularities/corruption/diversion of funds under the said schemes have come to the notice of the Government during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State/U.T.-wise and Scheme-wise and the reasons therefor along with the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in such cases so far; and

(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the said schemes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) implements three scholarship schemes viz, Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for educational empowerment of six notified minority communities viz. Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi across the country. The number of beneficiaries of these scholarship schemes during the last three years and current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Madam. The Scholarship is disbursed directly to the students under Direct Benefit Transfer (D.B.T.) mode.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) All the three scholarship Schemes are now implemented through the National Scholarship Portal (N.S.P.) and the disbursement of scholarship is made under Direct Benefit Transfer (D.B.T.) mode. This process has increased transparency and promptness in disbursement of scholarship, in general, and reduced the number of duplicate beneficiaries and pilferage of funds. This has also enabled the actual and needy beneficiaries from the weaker sections of minorities to avail these scholarships.

Besides this, the Ministry has also taken various initiative to give wide publicity of these schemes through print advertisements and broadcast/telecast of audio/video spots through All India Radio (A.I.R.), Doordarshan/Private T.V. Channels, F.M. Channels, Digital Cinema and various other means of outdoor publicity, including publicity made through 'Progress Panchayat' to make the target group aware of these schemes. Annual and Regional Conference/Workshops are also conducted at regular intervals for implementing agencies/stakeholders.

Statement

The number of beneficiaries awarded under the Scholarship Schemes during the last three years and current year as on (15.03.2018)

S.No.	States/U.Ts	Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme			
		2014-15 Scholarship awarded	2015-16 Scholarship awarded	2016-17** Scholarship awarded	2017-18** Scholarship awarded
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131069	155058	126750	108436
2.	Telangana	176178	214661	158873	134695
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	132981	61325	137493	162246
5.	Bihar	122883	23210	60399	107077
6.	Chhattisgarh	19953	13363	7329	7056
7.	Goa	3350	2127	1414	

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Gujarat	353933	208176	113666	107857
9.	Haryana	0	1174	2419	*
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3196	2477	1665	1414
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	389420	0	54135	92485
12.	Jharkhand	28465	25797	18933	7216
13.	Karnataka	435369	467890	418486	327234
14.	Kerala	845465	521109	498360	422072
15.	Madhya Pradesh	104819	77054	71285	71582
16.	Maharashtra	717896	511996	444286	465027
17.	Manipur	19364	2120	3382	
18.	Meghalaya	22327	1879	8470	
19.	Mizoram	141210	52149	47423	27757
20.	Nagaland	42836	34507	16717	24084
21.	Odisha	39610	2976	14771	
22.	Punjab	417001	428583	379711	*
23.	Rajasthan	253433	145135	117787	105922
24.	Sikkim	4443	2291	1026	666
25.	Tamil Nadu	461376	406136	330596	283475
26.	Tripura	9193	6478	1	3754
27.	Uttar Pradesh	859667	515410	422084	497644
28.	Uttarakhand	54051	6666	14478	18374
29.	West Bengal	1690039	1285719	675218	662590
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	845	0	15	
31.	Chandigarh	3319	1715	2394	329866
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	225	78	63	
33.	Daman and Diu	728	0	0	
34.	Delhi	9301	78	3	
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
36.	Puducherry	2648	1442	1645	1724
Total		7496593	5178779	4151277	3970253

S.No.	States/U.Ts	Post-matric Scholarship Scheme			
		2014-15 Scholarship awarded	2015-16 Scholarship awarded	2016-17** Scholarship awarded	2017-18** Scholarship awarded
1	2	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5176	10743	11998	11487
2.	Telangana	11580	15421	15008	14602
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	29893	29600	28303	29439
5.	Bihar	42248	44162	45577	44626
6.	Chhattisgarh	2657	2204	2001	2039
7.	Goa	93	177	239	
8.	Gujarat	40574	24017	18254	18407
9.	Haryana	721	2739	3409	*
10.	Himachal Pradesh	337	510	503	520
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	15977	20602	23639	20673
12.	Jharkhand	12281	12173	12929	13148
13.	Karnataka	85830	51775	41690	31764
14.	Kerala	94460	46703	54608	57189
15.	Madhya Pradesh	10009	14309	15293	16197
16.	Maharashtra	56984	49766	44066	46095
17.	Manipur	7085	2647	2830	2237
18.	Meghalaya	313	4498	4951	5617
19.	Mizoram	389	586	1331	1290
20.	Nagaland	198	797	3673	5199
21.	Odisha	3921	3430	3179	
22.	Punjab	83415	63801	58812	*
23.	Rajasthan	39098	28437	24604	20584
24.	Sikkim	184	539	205	103
25.	Tamil Nadu	67385	41880	38403	30403
26.	Tripura	757	1050	909	909

1	2	7	8	9	10
27.	Uttar Pradesh	99852	98184	74633	89846
28.	Uttarakhand	1076	2221	2918	3507
29.	West Bengal	192267	92122	87798	77818
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0	5	
31.	Chandigarh	222	257	259	52076
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	19	26	
33.	Daman and Diu	0	34	39	
34.	Delhi	522	1226	528	3881
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
36.	Puducherry	116	211	280	367
Total		905620	666840	922900	600023

S.No.	States/U.Ts	Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme			
		2014-15 Scholarship awarded	2015-16 Scholarship awarded	2016-17** Scholarship awarded	2017-18** Scholarship awarded
1	2	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	526	1174	1922	1160
2.	Telangana	1238	1917	2437	2383
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	3886	4698	3999	4583
5.	Bihar	13393	11107	10923	9969
6.	Chhattisgarh	614	550	565	448
7.	Goa	163	167	114	
8.	Gujarat	4821	4386	3996	3098
9.	Haryana	1109	1240	1224	*
10.	Himachal Pradesh	129	99	78	63
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6519	5784	5162	2595
12.	Jharkhand	1498	2066	2204	1099
13.	Karnataka	19814	14728	12897	6553
14.	Kerala	25844	22876	20864	16287

1	2	11	12	13	14
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2954	2704	2794	2070
16.	Maharashtra	5230	6526	5165	2348
17.	Manipur	437	395	345	27
18.	Meghalaya	884	1068	1125	1043
19.	Mizoram	0	96	247	164
20.	Nagaland	1160	1279	1222	652
21.	Odisha	550	550	596	
22.	Punjab	10367	9008	6923	*
23.	Rajasthan	2783	4133	3972	3360
24.	Sikkim	78	83	22	9
25.	Tamil Nadu	5747	5294	5459	4772
26.	Tripura	115	185	155	66
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16861	17449	12380	9964
28.	Uttarakhand	577	690	646	243
29.	West Bengal	10696	12190	12114	12231
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	4	0	
31.	Chandigarh	40	33	25	985
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	2	7	
33.	Daman and Diu	4	4	10	
34.	Delhi	693	1042	509	107
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
36.	Puducherry	40	55	57	56
Total		138770	133582	120158	86335

*The achievement showing in U.T. of Chandigarh during 2017-18 includes State of Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab.

**Provisional Data (Disbursement of Scholarship for 2017-18 continues.)

Note : Total No. of Scholarship reduced due to implementation of schemes through National Scholarship Porta (N.S.P.) and disbursement made under Direct Benefit Transfer mode.

Rajdhani/Shatabdi Trains from Delhi to State Capitals

4321. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajdhani or Shatabdi Express trains are being run from New Delhi railway station to capitals of all States everyday;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the number of capitals of States where there is no arrangement for such trains and the time schedule to link all the capital cities by rail?

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

At present, 23 States out of the 29 States are connected to Delhi by Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express. Out of these 23 States, 13 States are connected by daily Rajdhani Express trains and 6 States are connected by daily Shatabdi Express trains. At present, 6 States i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim are not connected to Delhi either by Rajdhani Express or Shatabdi Express owing to no Railway (Broad Gauge) connectivity to these capitals at present. However, introduction of trains is an on-going process on Indian Railways.

Reduction in Carbon Footprints

4322. SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken adequate measures to reduce carbon footprints by reducing the production, supply and use of coal in various industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries had given any specific reply to the Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the current status of coal production, supply and use for the ongoing projects and for the newly proposed projects of C.I.L. and its subsidiaries as well as N.L.C. India?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Government of India has already taken several initiatives to improve the efficiency of coal based power plants and to reduce its carbon footprint. All new, large coal-based generating stations have been mandated to use the highly efficient supercritical technology.

Renovation and Modernization (R. & M.) and Life Extension (L.E.) of existing old power stations is being undertaken in a phased manner. About 144 old thermal stations have been assigned mandatory targets for improving energy efficiency. Coal beneficiation has been made mandatory. Introduction of ultra-supercritical technology, as and when commercially available is part of future policy. Besides, stringent emission standards being contemplated for thermal plants would significantly reduce emissions.

To promote cleaner and alternate use of coal, C.I.L. is pursuing initiatives for setting up plants for gasification of coal and its further processing into downstream chemicals. In this direction, C.I.L. has formed a J.V. company along with R.C.F., G.A.I.L. and F.C.I.L. namely; Talcher Fertilizers Limited (T.F.L.) to set up a coal based Ammonia-Urea plant at Talcher, Odisha, through Surface Coal Gasification route.

(d) The current Status of coal production of 'ongoing projects' of C.I.L. is as follow:

Subsidiary	Total ongoing Projects	Total Sanctioned Capacity (M.T.Y.)	Coal Production till Feb' 2018 (M.T.)
E.C.L.	12	22.92	13.85
B.C.C.L.	5	12.95	2.53
C.C.L.	15	57.72	17.30
N.C.L.	4	65.00	50.80
W.C.L.	26	45.16	15.42
S.E.C.L.	34	203.24	75.13
M.C.L.	16	167.83	71.22
N.E.C.	4	1.20	0.00
Total C.I.L.	116	576.02	246.25

Setor-wise coal supply from C.I.L. during 2017-18 (upto Feb' 18) is as under:

(in Million tonnes)

Sectors	Actual Dispatch 2017-18 (upto Feb'18) (Provisional)
Power	411.30
Fertilizer	1.76
Steel	2.67
C.P.P.	33.43
Cement	3.25
Sponge Iron	5.56
Others	67.11
Total	525.09

The current status of coal production of 'ongoing projects' of N.L.C.I.L. is as follows:

N.L.C.I.L., at present operate 3 lignite mines (28.5 M.T.P.A.) linked to 4 pit head power stations at Neyveli (2990), one lignite mine (2.1 M.T.P.A.) linked to pit head power station at Barsingsar, Rajasthan (250 M.W.). N.L.C.I.L. uses the Lignite produced in its mines to the linked pit head power plants. Also a small quantity of lignite is being sold to an Independent power producer and small scale industries.

New mining projects of N.L.C.I.L. are:

- Expansion of Mine-I 10.50 M.T.P.A. (Area Expansion) & Expansion of Mine-IA (From 3.0 M.T.P.A. to 7.0 M.T.P.A.).
- Hadla Lignite Mine (1.9 M.T.P.A.) and Bithnok Lignite Mine (2.25 M.T.P.A.) at Rajasthan.
- Mine-III project at Neyveli (11.5 M.T. per annum).
- South of Vellar at Tamil Nadu (11.5 M.T. per annum - (as a replacement for Mine-I & II).
- Pachwara South in Jharkhand (11 M.T.P.A.) - allocated on 25.07.2013.
- Talabira-II & III in Odisha (20 M.T.P.A.) - allocated on 02.05.2016.

Defence Agreement

4323. SHRI MOHD. SALIM :
SHRI MD. BADRUDDOZA KHAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with which the Government has signed defence/military agreements during the last three years; and

(b) the details of private companies in the country producing military, defence tools equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Names of countries with which the Government has signed defence/military agreements during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Since the opening up of Defence Industry sector in May, 2001 for 100% manufacturing by Indian private sector including Foreign Direct Investment (F.D.I.) upto admissible cap both subject to licensing, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (D.I.P.P.) has issued 348 licenses to 210 Indian Companies till February, 2018.

So far, 40 F.D.I. proposals/Joint Ventures have been approved in defence sector for manufacture of various defence equipments, both in public and private sector.

Statement

Names of countries with whom Defence/Military Agreements signed during the last three years (from 20.03.2015)

Sl. No.	Country
1.	Australia
2.	Bangladesh
3.	Brunei
4.	Chile
5.	Fiji
6.	France
7.	Japan
8.	Jordan
9.	Kazakhstan
10.	Kenya

Sl. No.	Country
11.	Kyrgyz Republic
12.	Madagascar
13.	Maldives
14.	Myanmar
15.	Mongolia
16.	Oman
17.	Pakistan
18.	Phillippines
19.	Portugal
20.	Republic of Korea
21.	Russia
22.	Singapore
23.	Tanzania
24.	Turmenistan
25.	U.A.E.
26.	U.s.A.
27.	Vietnam

New Schemes for B.S.N.L. Subscribers

4324. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to launch any new scheme for B.S.N.L. subscribers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has taken any new steps to improve B.S.N.L. services in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (B.S.N.L.) is offering various tariff schemes to its Global System for Mobile communication (G.S.M.)/Landline/Broadband subscribers depending on the competitive and affordable rates.

B.S.N.L. is continuously formulating tariff plans based on number of factors viz. prevailing market trends, competitor's tariff, commercial viability, cost of operation etc. B.S.N.L. on the basis of these factors continuously revises its tariff plans for the benefit of the customers.

Currently B.S.N.L. proposes to introduce Family Broadband Plan 'B.B.G. Combo U.L.D. 1199 Family' @ Rs. 1199/- per month, bundled with three mobile connections with following additional facility:

- Unlimited Broadband with initial speed of 'Up to 10 Mbps'.
- Unlimited free calling from landline to any network within India.
- Unlimited free calling from all 3 S.I.Ms (Subscriber Identification Modules) to any network within India.
- Unlimited data browsing/downloading from all 3 S.I.Ms.
- Online T.V. on Mobile.
- Online education subscription for one month.

Similarly, in Landline category, B.S.N.L. proposes to introduce Landline plan @ Rs. 99/- with a facility of unlimited calling to B.S.N.L. network within India.

(b) to (d) B.S.N.L. has taken the following initiative to improve its services in the country:

1. In A.D.S.L. (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) Broadband, for increasing traffic carrying capacity, augmentation of Broadband Network equipments is being done from time to time. For providing better browsing speed to customers, B.S.N.L. has done peering and caching with various content providers in B.S.N.L. Network. B.S.N.L. is also taking steps for Rehabilitation of Outdoor network.
2. For augmentation of G.S.M. (Global System for Mobile communication) radio Capacity and coverage area, Phase-VIII.4 mobile expansion project is under rollout. The project presently envisages to provide 20035-2G B.T>S.; 22517-3G Node Bs and 10000-4G E-Node Bs in its L.S.As.

3. To improve quality of wireline telephone network B.S.N.L. has planned for replacement/migration of Legacy Public Switched Telephone Network (P.S.T.N.) T.D.M. (Time Division Multiplexing) based switches to I.M.S. (I.P.-Multimedia Subsystem) based N.G.N. (Next Generation Network) class 5 network which support different kinds of services i.e. voice, video and data.

With migration to N.G.N., customer will get enhanced facilities on wire line with providing Enhanced Value Added Services like Personalized Ring Back Tone, Broadband V.A.S., Multi Media Video Conferencing and I.P. Centrec etc.

Core equipment of 1 Million and 3 Million capacity for Phase-I & Phase-II respectively has been installed and commissioned. Access equipment of 1 Mn against Phase-I has been installed and commissioned. Access equipment of 3 Million against Phase-II is under implementation

CDOT MAX NG core has been supplied at two core locations i.e. Gurgaon and Cuttack under Phase-I. Phase-II P.O. (Purchase Order) for core equipment of C-DOT MAX NG at 6 sites placed on M/s C-DOT. Core equipments have been received and integrated by B.S.N.L. Acceptance Testing of core sites is under progress.

Tender for access equipment of C-DOT MAX NG has been floated by B.S.N.L. for upgradation of CDOT-MAX Switches to CDOT-MAX NG. PO has been issued to L1 & L2 bidders. Supply of access equipment completed.

A Tender for 2.4 Million NGN core, 5 Million P.O.T.S. (Plain Old Telephone System) and 2 Million ADSL2+ ports has been finalized and is being implemented by B.S.N.L.

Categorisation of Railway Stations

4325. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion laid down for categorisation of railway stations in the country;

(b) whether some of the railway stations have been provided passengers' facilities/amenities below their eligibility as per the said categorisation in the country;

(c) if so, the details of such stations, zone-wise and the reasons therefor;

(d) the salient features of the Adarsh Station Scheme being implemented by the Railways and the present implementation status thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to give special impetus on improvement of passengers' amenities at small and medium railway stations across the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve passengers' facilities amenities at railway stations across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Criteria for categorisation of stations have been revised w.e.f. November, 2017. As per the new categorization, both number of footfalls and passenger earnings of stations have been taken into account for categorization of stations.

The stations have been clubbed into 3 groups i.e. non-suburban (N.S.G.), Suburban (S.G.) and Halt (H.G.). Further these groups have been put in grades ranging from 1-6, 1-3 and 1-3 respectively.

Category of	Criteria of Proposed Earnings	Criteria of Proposed outward Passengers handled
1	2	3
Non suburban Stations		
N.S.G. 1	More than 500 Crore	More than 20 Million
N.S.G. 2	More than 100 Crore, less than or equal to 500 Crore	More than 10 Million, less than or equal to 20 Million

1	2	3
N.S.G. 3	More than 20 Crore, less than or equal to 100 Crore	More than 05 Million, less than or equal to 10 Million
N.S.G. 4	More than 10 Crore, less than or equal to 20 Crore	More than 02 Million, less than or equal to 05 Million
N.S.G. 5	More than 01 Crore, less than or equal to 10 Crore	More than 01 Million, less than or equal to 02 Million
N.S.G. 6	less than or equal to 01 Crore	less than or equal to 01 Million
Suburban stations		
S.G. 1	More than 25 Crore	More than 30 Million
S.G. 2	More than 10 Crore, less than or equal to 25 Crore	More than 10 Million, less than or equal to 30 Million
S.G. 3	less than or equal to 10 Crore	less than or equal to 10 Million
Halt Stations		
H.G. 1	More than 50 lakh	More than 3 lakh
H.G. 2	More than 05 lakh, less than or equal to 50 lakh	More than 01 lakh, less than or equal to 03 lakh
H.G. 3	less than or equal to 05 lakh	less than or equal to 01 lakh

(b) and (c) Minimum Essential Amenities (M.E.As) are provided at stations on Indian Railways as per norms. However, shortfall in amenities occurs due to upward revision in scale of amenities at various categories of stations. The Zone-wise details of stations having shortfall in M.E.As as per norms are as under:

S.No.	Zonal Railway	No. of Stations having shortfall as per norms
1	2	3
1.	Central	18
2.	Eastern	Nil
3.	East Central	52
4.	East Coast	17
5.	Northern	179
6.	North Central	45
7.	North Eastern	18

1	2	3
8.	Northeast Frontier	8
9.	North Western	102
10.	Southern	40
11.	South Central	Nil
12.	south Eastern	Nil
13.	South East Central	1
14.	South Western	Nil
15.	Western	Nil
16.	West Central	Nil
Total		480

(d) Various passenger amenities which *inter-alia* include improvement of facade of the station building, retiring room, waiting room (with bathing facilities), separate waiting room for ladies, landscaping of circulating

area, earmarked parking, signages, Pay & Use toilets, Foot Over Bridge, ramps at entry to station, separate parking for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Non-slippery walkway, 'May I help you' booth, trolley path etc. are to be provided at Railway stations which are identified for development under 'Adarsh' station scheme as per the respective category of the station. 1253 Railway stations have been identified for development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme. Out of which, 1050 Railway station have been developed under this scheme as per norms.

(e) Improvement to passenger amenities on Indian Railways is a continuous process. With a view to meeting the expectations of the passengers. Indian Railways is making all out effort to provide improved facilities at the stations including small and medium Railway stations. Indian Railways has more than 8500 stations. It has always been the endeavour of the Railways to provide adequate amenities to the passengers at the 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.

(f) Modernisation/upgradation of passenger amenities at railway stations is a continuous and on-going process. At present, stations are undertaken for development under 'Adarsh Station Scheme' and 1253 stations have been identified for development under this scheme.

Leakage of SSC Exam Papers

4326. PROF. SADHU SINGH : Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the examination for recruitment of non-gazetted staff for various central ministries and subordinate departments is conducted by the Staff Selection Commission and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are reports of leakage of the examination paper for combined graduate level exam tier-2 and if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether there has been demand for CBI

investigation into the alleged paper leak and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the follow up steps 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) The staff selection Commission (SSC) is mandated to make recruitment to Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) posts and Group 'C' of (non-technical) posts under Government of India and their attached and subordinate offices.

The Staff Selection Commission annually conducts the following examinations:

- I. Eight mandate All India Open Competitive Examinations for filling up regular vacancies.
- II. Recruitment to Selection Posts in various Ministries/ Departments, attached and subordinate Offices, Where the essential qualifications vary from Matriculation to Post Graduation specific to the requirements of the Ministry/Department.
- III. Three Limited Departmental competitive Examinations for promotion from (i) Multi Tasking Staff to Lower Division Clerk, (ii) Lower Division Clerk to Upper Division Clerk (iii) Stenographer Grade 'D' to Stenographer Grade 'C'.
- IV. The Commission also conducts three non-mandated examinations, namely, (i) Constable (General Duty) Examination for Paramilitary Forces, (ii) Constable (Executive) Examination for Delhi Police and (iii) Recruitment to Scientific Assistants in Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Examination.

(b) to (d) There was no leakage of question papers of Staff Selection Commission (SSC) Examination. 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, the Commission in order to reiterate and reaffirm the faith of the candidates in the

examinations process recommended for an impartial enquiry by CBI. Accepting the recommendation of the Commission, Government has referred the matter to CBI for a free and fair enquiry. CBI has registered a Preliminary Enquiry on 8/3/2018.

Iranian President's Visit to India

4327. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, India and Iran have agreed for closer cooperation in the fields of energy, banking and counter terrorism;

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

(c) whether India and Iran have discussed various agreements and the future course of action on Chabahar and India's contribution to the Chabahar railways;

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

(e) whether India has described chabahar as the gateway to Afghanistan and the Central Asian region; and

(f) if so, the details of agreements made between India and Iran to make transit and trade the core of bilateral relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) and (b) Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran paid a visit to India from 15-17 February 2018. During the visit, 9 bilateral Agreements and MoUs were exchanged between the two countries.

On Energy, India and Iran agreed to develop a long term strategic partnership and increase the pace of negotiation for reaching appropriate results on energy cooperation, including Farzad B gas field.

On banking, India and Iran agreed on the deepening of trade and investment cooperation and recognized the need to put in place an effective banking channel for business transactions. Both countries also agreed to set up a joint Committee of officials to examine feasible options to establish functional payment channels.

On counter-terrorism, the two countries agreed to enhance regular and institutionalized consultations between

the respective National Security Councils and others concerned on terrorism, security and related issues such as organized crime, money-laundering, drug trafficking and cyber crime and jointly called on the international community to end selective or partial approaches to combating terrorism and, in this regard, stressed the need to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism at the UNGA.

(c) to (f) Promoting multi-modal connectivity within and across the region constituted a key element of the visit. The recent developments including successful inauguration of the Phase-1 of Chabahar Port in early December 2017; the ratification of the Trilateral Agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor by all sides; and the successful shipment of wheat assistance from India to Afghanistan through Chabahar Port were described as having opened a new gateway to and from Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond.

During the visit, both countries reiterated their commitment for early and full operationalisation of Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar. A lease contract for Shahid Beheshti port of Chabahar during the interim period was signed between Port and Maritime Organization (Iran) and India Ports Global Limited (IPGL). India conveyed its readiness to support the development of Chabahar-Zahedan Rail line. Iranian side conveyed that it would organise a business promotion event, with participation of countries from the region and beyond, with the objective of showcasing the economic opportunities offered by the Chabahar Port.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Bihar

4328. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has any proposal to state new rail projects in the State of Bihar;

(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) and (b) Yes,

Madam. One new rail project namely Darbhanga Bypass line connecting Shisho Halt and Kakarghati excluding Darbhanga Yard costing Rs130 crore falling in Bihar has been included in Union Budget 2018-19 subject to necessary approvals.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Derecognition of Political Parties

4329. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in August 2013, the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in their 61st report recommended that the power to derecognise parties for violating Model Code of Conduct be included in the Representation of the People Act, 1951;

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

(c) whether The National commission to review the working of the constitution in its 2002 report called for a separate law, making provision for recognition and derecognition of political parties, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the 255th report of the Law Commission on electoral reforms recommended changes to the Representation of Peoples Act to empower the poll panel, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in December 2016, the Election Commission sent a set of 47 proposals on electoral reforms to the Government asking for powers to deregister a political party and to be authorised to issue necessary orders regulating registration and deregistration of political parties; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the status of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (f) The issue of electoral reforms in its entirety was examined by the Law Commission having regard to the Reports of various Committees in the past, including the reports of the Department-related

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice and national Commission to review the working of the Constitution. The Law Commission in its 255th Report has, inter-alia, made certain recommendations for empowering the Election Commission for dereregistration of political parties for non-compliance of the proposed provisions for regulation of the parties and also for failure to contest parliamentary or State elections for ten consecutive years.

The Election Commission in December, 2016 has requested the Government to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the Law Commission on electoral reforms, including the recommendations for empowering the Election Commission for deregistration of the political parties. The matter is under examination.

Model land Leasing Act

4330. SHRI SUNIL JAKHAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog has come up with a Model land leasing Act for the State Government to enable legalisation of land leasing;

(b) if so, the details of the State Government which have so far enacted such a Land Leasing Legislation, State-wise; and

(c) the positive outcome noticed of the changes made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Madam, the Expert Group constituted by NITI Aayog has suggested a Model Act on Agricultural land Leasing which was made public on 12th April, 2016. This Model Act has been prepared to facilitate the States for enactment of their own land leasing laws.

(b) and (c) Government of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have modified their leasing laws to promote land leasing. Madhya Pradesh Assembly has passed bill (BHUMISWAMI EVAM BATAIDAR KE HITON KA SANRAKSHAN VIDHEYAK, 2016) on 29th July, 2016 for agricultural land leasing. Some other State have reportedly initiated process to enact their own land leasing Acts

based on NITI Aayog's Model Act. The enactment of land leasing laws by the States may enhance the agricultural productivity; encourage the land owners to lease out land without any fear of losing land right; and enable the tenant farmers to access bank credit, insurance, disaster relief and other support services. This may also help in occupational mobility of the rural poor and provide opportunity for occupational diversification to land owners to opt for non-farm employment.

[Translation]

Central Hospitals of Regional Railways

4331. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of central hospitals of regional railways functioning in the country at present ;

(b) whether doctors are available in every department of the said railway hospitals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to fill up vacancies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There are 16 Central Hospitals at Zonal Railways functioning in the Country.

(b) to (d) As regards availability of doctors in Railway Hospitals, Indian Railway Medical Service (IRMS) cadre consists of only General Duty Medical Officers. Specialist Doctors recruited through the cadre are being best utilized for providing specialized medical care to the railway beneficiaries. The vacancies, wherever arisen, are regularly filled up by recruitment through Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) or by deployment of Contract Medical Practitioners (CMPs) on annual contract basis. For filling up short term vacancies of specialists, doctors are also engaged as Honorary Visiting Specialists (HVSs) and by calling consultants on case to case basis. Further, because of increase in superannuation age of doctors from 60 to 65 years, there has been a marked improvement in availability of doctors in Railways.

[English]

Misuse of Aadhaar Data

4332. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any penal action against the private companies that have misused Aadhaar data, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the 210 State/Central Government websites on which Aadhaar details were made public, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which foreign companies have access to Aadhaar database and bio-metric information of citizens; and

(d) whether the Government will take measures to restrict private and foreign firms from accessing bio-metric information stored in Aadhaar database, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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) There has been no instance which has been reported where Aadhaar data has been misused by Private companies.

(b) It was found that approximately 10 websites of Central Government, State Government departments and some educational institutes were displaying the list of beneficiaries along with their name, address, other details and Aadhaar numbers for information of general public.

The concerned departments/websites were instructed to remove the Aadhaar and other personal data from the said websites. In addition, the Central and State Governments have been advised to sensitize all Ministries/ Departments to take all precautions while publishing or sharing data on their websites and ensure compliance of Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Information Technology Act, 2000.

(c) No foreign company has access to Aadhaar database and bio-metric information of the residents.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[*Translation*]

LTC Facility to Visit Saarc Countries

4333. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK": Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced in the year 2015 to allow the Central Government employees to visit SAARC countries on Leave Travel Concession (LTC) in order to promote mutual tourism among the SAARC countries;

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

(c) the reasons for not providing such LTC facility even after the lapse of three years; and

(d) the time by which the orders are likely to be issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) A proposal of Leave Travel Concession (LTC) facility to Government employees to SAARC countries with a purpose to enhance people to people contact and boost relations in the SAARC region was examined by the Government and after thorough examination of all aspects involved, the proposal was found not feasible and decided not to take it forward.

[*English*]

Monitoring Implementation of Bharat Net

4334. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government monitors the status of implementation of Bharat Net project in all Gram Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including the State of Gujarat and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government has constituted an independent body to check the implementation status of the said project and to ensure mobile and broadband

connectivity in deficient areas of the country including Gujarat 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) and (b) Yes, Madam. The implementation of BharatNet project is being monitored in the country including Gujarat. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which is the executing agency for the Project, Monitors the BharatNet project on a regular basis. Two committees in the Department of Telecommunications have been set up for monitoring and resolution of issues.

These Committees are:

- (i) Empowered Committee under secretary, Department of Telecommunications
- (ii) Steering Committee headed by Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

The State/UT-wise details of the Gram Panchayats, connected under the BharatNet Project, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the executing agency for BharatNet Project to Connect all Gram Panchayats in the country, including in Gujarat, by Broadband. Controllers of Communication Accounts (CCAs) and Licensed Service Area (LSA) field units of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) monitor the mobile and broadband connectivity, including at GP level.

Statement

State/U.T.-wise Status of BharatNet (as on 11.03.2018)

Sr.No.	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
2.	Assam	1464
3.	Bihar	4962
4.	Chandigarh	13
5.	Chhattisgarh	3559
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
7.	Daman & Diu	0
8.	Gujarat	4565
9.	Haryana	5803

Sr.No.	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
10.	Himachal Pradesh	162
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	169
12.	Jharkhand	1504
13.	Karnataka	6071
14.	Kerala	1129
15.	Lakshadweep	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	11102
17.	Maharashtra	13437
18.	Manipur	123
19.	Meghalaya	122
20.	Mizoram	18
21.	Nagaland	61
22.	Odisha	2402
23.	Puducherry	101
24.	Punjab	6761
25.	Rajasthan	8150
26.	Sikkim	4
27.	Tamil Nadu	0
28.	Telangana	2042
29.	Tripura	26940
30.	Uttar Pradesh	26940
31.	Uttarakhand	1361
32.	West Bengal	2020

Sr.No.	State/UT	Service Ready GPs
33.	Andaman & Nicobar	0
34.	Andhra Pradesh	0
Total		104548

Recruitment in Central Government Service

4335. SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that there has been no recruitment in the Central Government for any non-executive posts during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is proposing to provide any unemployment allowance to the educated unemployed youth; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No Madam.

The year wise number of persons recruited through the main recruiting agencies of the Central Government i.e., Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)/ Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs) in the last 3 years is as given below:

Year	Number of Candidates recommended by U.P.S.C.	Number of Candidates recommended by S.S.C.	Number of Candidates empanelled/recruited by R.R.B./R.R.Cs	Total
2014-15	8272	58066	47186	113524
2015-16	6866	25138	79803	111807
2016-17	5735	68880	26318	100933

The above figures do not include recruitments made by the Banks, other financial institutions, Universities,

Central Public Sector Enterprises, Statutory/ Autonomous Bodies and directly by the Ministries/ departments without going through UPSC/SSC.

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

(c) and (d) Government of India does not have any proposal for providing unemployment allowance to unemployed persons.

Building Igloos on Moon

4336. SHRI BALKA SUMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started working on building igloo-like habitats on the lunar surface for potential future missions and is planning to use the Moon as an outpost, like missions in Antarctica; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) ISRO along with academic institutions is doing experimentation on potential structures for lunar habitation.

(b) Various options are being studied about the requirements and complexities of habitats. The study is more towards futuristic developments.

[Translation]

Loss of Revenue Due to Encroachments

4337. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of policy governing management and use of railway land;

(b) the total area of encroached land got freed by the Railways during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(c) whether the Railways has assessed the loss of

revenue due to encroachment of its land during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Land is acquired for railway projects viz. new lines, doublings, gauge conversions, Railways production units etc., through State Government. Land which is already public property and in which no interest of private persons exist, is also taken on lease or transferred to the Railways for execution of Railway Projects. As on 31.03.2017, the total land available with the Railways is approximately 4.76 lakh hectare, out of which approximately 4.25 lakh hectare is under railway track & yard, structures & buildings which include workshops & production units also and under allied usages which also include afforestation. Approximately, 0.51 lakh hectare land is vacant, and mostly it is in the form of narrow strips along the tracks, which is required for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other railway infrastructure and approximately 862.00 hectares (0.18%) land is under encroachment. This vacant land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways which include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc. Railways operations also necessarily require development of ancillary logistic support/ infrastructure such as bulk oil installations & oil depots, steel yards, concrete sleeper plants, coal dumps, private sidings, connectivity to ports and other infrastructure, commercial plots, vending stalls, etc. for which land is leased/licensed. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority, Wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources. The details of land retrieved after removing encroachments during the last three years (2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17) and the current year (up to January 2018), zone-wise, are as under:-

Zonal Railway	land (Area in Hectares) retrieved during the last three years and the current years
1	2
Central	1.92

1	2
Eastern	0.76
East Central	1.93
East Coast	5.60
Northern	7.28
North Central	0.21
North Eastern	0.21
Northeast Frontier	48.58
North Western	0.51
Southern	1.74
south Central	1.79
South Eastern	11.04
Southeast Central	11.89
south Wester	0.00
Western	0.12
West Central	2.24
Production units	0.00
TOTAL	95.82

At certain locations, encroachments cause bottlenecks and safety hazards in train operations and difficulties in track maintenance which at times affects the line capacity and the throughhput which ultimately affects the revenue of Railways which may not be feasible to assess.

[English]

Transportation of Coal

4338. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the train shortage in India has left about 10 power stations without pare coal supplies and if so, the details of trains provided for supply of coal during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government is considering to provide more number of rakes to supply coal and in turn earn more revenue; and

(c) if so, the details of new rakes being procured for transportation of coal?

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

(b) Keeping in view the critical importance of coal in the national economy, this segment is accorded a higher priority in supply of rakes over other bulk commodities. coal loading has increased from 369.4 rakes/day in 2016-17 (April-February) to 383.8 rakes/day in 2017-18 (April-February). During February 2018, Indian Railway loaded 431.4 rakes/day against 407.2 rakes/day in February 2016.

(c) Transportation of coal is predominantly done in BOXN and BOBR type of open wagons. During 2017-18 (upto February 2018), 4,358 BOXN and 667 BOBR wagons have been inducted by Indian Railways. As on 01.03.2018, there are pending orders of 4,155 BOXN and 362 BOBR type of wagons with wagon manufacturers.

[Translation]

Railway Pass holders

4339. SHRI JANAK RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway pass holders do not have facility to purchase online tickets through any portal and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of cost incurred on each ticket purchased from the counter vis-a-vis online purchase;

(c) whether the government proposes to link railway pass to aadhaar card and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the Government employees eligible for railway passes along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. At present, railway pass holders do not have the facility to book tickets online through any portal because the system of issuing railway passes is yet to be computerised.

(b) With regard to ticket issued through computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters, the cost is incurred on various inputs such as premises, equipment, their maintenance, manpower cost and other costs such as electricity, furniture, stationery, networking

etc., which varies from location to location. As far as cost of issuing e-tickets is concerned, it is incurred on procurement and maintenance of hardware and software, cost of technical manpower, recurring expenditure like rent, electricity charges, internet bandwidth charges, administrative cost, etc. As such, it is not feasible to quantify the overall cost incurred on each ticket purchased through counter and through online mode.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

(d) Six sets of First Class 'A' privilege passes in a year are given to Gazetted Railway officers. First Class or Second Class 'A' or Sleeper Class privilege passes are given to non-gazetted railway employees as per entitlement and the number of sets in a year is one (01) set of privilege pass upto the end of 5th year of railway service and thereafter three (3) sets. Employees of non-railway departments appointed on deputation to posts on Indian Railways and officers & the employees of Railway Audit Department are also provided privilege passes as per with the railway employees of equal status.

[English]

Flexi Fare System

4340. SHRI D.S. RATHOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is going to cancel the Flexi fare system in Rajdhani Trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any data about the declining number of passengers in the Rajdhani Trains in the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) : (a) and (b) A Committee was constituted to review the flexi fare scheme. The terms of reference of the Committee was to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind interest of passengers and Railways. The Committee has already submitted its report which is under examination.

(c) and (d) The year-wise details of passengers booked in Rajdhani trains in the last three years is as under:-

Financial Year	Number of passengers booked (in millions)
2014-15	10.35
2015-16	9.91
2016-17	10.09

Shortage of Soldiers

4341. SHRI VINOD LAKHAMASHI CHAVDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any data of the shortage of soldiers in all the three wings of the Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The shortage of soldiers in the three armed forces is as follows :

	Sanctioned strength	Borne Strength	Shortage (-)
Indian Army	1216247	1194864*	21383
Indian Air Force	142529	127519	15010
Indian Navy	72562	56214	16348

*excluding 2198 A.P.S. Non-Reg J.C.O./O.R.

Adverse Impacts of Nuclear Power Plants

4342. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the consequences faced, if any, with respect to health, property and safety, in the neighbouring areas of nuclear reactors;

(b) the details of the measures taken by the Government to mitigate and/or compensate the said adverse impacts; and

(c) the details of any assessment undertaken to ascertain the impact of nuclear reactors on climate and environment?

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) With respect to health, property and safety there are no consequences faced by the neighbouring areas of nuclear reactors during their normal operation. Environmental Survey Laboratories (E.S.Ls) of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (B.A.R.C.), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy established at all Nuclear Power Plants (N.P.Ps) carries out periodic survey of radioactivity levels in environment and estimate the dose to members of public residing around N.P.Ps. The doses received are small percentages of the limit prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (A.E.R.B.). As opined by International bodies such as the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (U.N.S.C.E.A.R.), the populations living near N.P.Ps receiving miniscule doses are not likely to be vulnerable to radiation induced diseases.

Epidemiological survey for health assessment in respect of employees working in close proximity of radiation and staying in the nearby residential complex and villages of each of the nuclear power plants in operation have been carried out by reputed local medical colleges and analysis has been carried out by Tata Memorial Hospital (T.M.H.), Mumbai, a premier cancer research centre in the country. In addition, annual medical checkups are carried out for all occupational workers regularly.

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

(c) Extensive surveys are carried out by Environmental Survey Laboratories (E.S.L.) of Health, Safety and Environment Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (B.A.R.C.) around the nuclear power plant (N.P.P.)

sites as per the requirements prescribed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (A.E.R.B.). These surveys cover all the environmental matrices (air, water, dietary products etc.) to assess the impact of nuclear reactors on climate and environment. It is seen that the average effective dose due to operation of N.P.Ps at the plant boundary is a very small fraction (<1%) of limits prescribed by A.E.R.B.

Justice Clock System

4343. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to install Justice Clocks in the Courts to display the best performing courts of India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far 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) The Government is planning to install electronic L.E.D. display message board systems called Justice Clocks for creation of public awareness about the disposal and pendency of cases and general progress in the justice sector. A Justice Clock was installed in 2017 at Department of Justice, Jaiselmer House, New Delhi highlighting the citizen centric services of ongoing projects such as e-Courts Mission Mode Project and Access to Justice Project. Information regarding the top district and subordinate courts which dispose off highest number and percentage of cases pending for various lengths of time such as 0-2 years, 2-5 year and above 10 years is also displayed on the Justice Clock display.

Installation of similar Justice Clocks was proposed by the Department of Justice in all 24 High Court of the country; which has been approved by the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India in its meeting held on 20th February, 2018.

[Translation]

Central Assistance to Welfare Schemes

4344. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments has forwarded

any proposal/suggestion for increasing the amount of funds under Central assistance to various welfare schemes;

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to increase the siad fund?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing various schemes for the Welfare of Minority Committees. Amongst these schemes, multi-sectoral Development Programme is being implemented in identified Minority Concentration Areas as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (C.S.S.) designed primarily for addressing development gaps/deficits by gap filling of existing C.S.S. of various Central Ministries and also provides for taking up innovative projects which are not covered by any of the existing C.S.S. This programme aims to improve the socio-economic condition of minorities by providing basic amenities to them for improving the quality of life and reducing imbalances in the identified Minority Concentration Area. Under this programme, the project considered are demand based and as per the felt need of the States. The Ministry makes tentative allocation of funds for each State during a financial year. This allocation of funds varies depending upon the submission of projects proposals, Utilization Certificates for the funds released earlier, addition/deletion of fresh blocks/towns/cluster etc. The funds available under MsDP scheme in the current financial year is sufficient to meet the requirement of the State/U.Ts.

[English]

Suspension of Passports of Certain Individuals

4345. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government maintains a list of corporate defaulters/promoters who seek to leave the country to evade indictment and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has any rules for the suspension of passports of such persons to prevent them leaving the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: (a) No. The Government does not maintain a list of corporate defaulters/promoters who seek to leave the country to evade indictment.

(b) and (c) Passports can be suspended by the Central Government or any designated officer as per the provisions of Section 10A of the Passport Act 1967 (Relevant provision is attached at the enclosed Statement. The holder whose passport has been suspended cannot leave the country on such a passport.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

10A. Suspension of passports or travel documents in certain cases - (1) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions contained in section 10, if the Central Government or any designated officer is satisfied that the passport or travel document is likely to be impounded or caused to be impounded or revoked under clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 10 and it is necessary in the public interest so to do, it or he may -

(a) By order, suspend, with immediate effect, any passport or travel document.

(b) Pass such other appropriate order which may have the effect of rendering any passport or travel document invalid, for a period not exceeding four weeks.

Provided that the Central Government or the designated officer may, if it or he considers appropriate, extend, by order and for reasons to be recorded in writing, the said period of four weeks till the proceedings relating to variation, impounding or revocation of passport or travel document under section 10 are concluded:

Provided further that every holder of the passport or travel document, in respect of whom an order under clause (a) or clause (b) of this sub-section had been passed, shall be given an opportunity of being heard within a period of not later than eight weeks reckoned from the date of passing of such order and thereupon the Central Government may, if necessary, by order in writing, modify or revoke the order passed under this sub-section.

(2) The designated officer shall immediately communicate

the orders passed under sub-section (a), to the concerned authority at an airport or any other point of embarkation or immigration, and to the passport authority.

- (3) Every authority referred to in sub-section (2) shall, immediately on receipt of the order passed under sub-section (1), give effect to such order.

Vacancies in Army

4346. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of posts are lying vacant in the Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for not filling up the vacancies;

(c) whether the vacancies which are lying vacant for the last five years or more have been abolished in the Army also as per the new decision of the Government; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The details of number of posts lying vacant in various ranks in the Indian Army are given below:

Rank	Number of Vacancies
Officers	7680
Junior Commissioned Officers/ Other Ranks (J.C.Os/O.Rs)	21383

Shortage of personnel is *inter alia* attributable to accretions of posts from time to time, tough selection procedures, difficult service conditions coupled with perceived high degree of risk involved in the service career as also inherent limitation of number that could be trained without compromising the quality of training.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Essential Features of New Catering Policy

4347. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the essential features of the new catering policy formed by I.R.C.T.C. this year;

(b) the steps the Government has taken to upgrade the quality of food served on trains;

(c) the number of stations that have successfully implemented the new catering policy;

(d) whether the Government plans to take action against stations serving expired food or food unfit for human consumption; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) New catering Policy was notified on 27 February 2017, with the objective of providing quality food to rail passengers, by unbundling catering services on trains, and creating a primary distinction between food preparation and food distribution in trains. The essential features of the New Catering Policy 2017, *inter-alia* includes:- (i) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (I.R.C.T.C.) shall manage catering service on all mobile units and meals will be picked from nominated kitchens. (ii) The setting up/development/refurbishment of new or existing Base Kitchens/Kitchen units will be undertaken by I.R.C.T.C. These modern, state of the art kitchens will be owned, operated and managed by I.R.C.T.C. (iii) I.R.C.T.C. shall engage service providers from hospitality industry for service of food in trains. (iv) I.R.C.T.C. to involve/empanel Self Help groups for providing catering related services. (v) Zonal railways shall manage minor static unit (catering stall/milk stalls/trolleys etc). (vi) Allotments of General Minor Units at all category stations will be done through competitive open tendering system by divisions. (vii) For the purpose of allotment, a Refreshment Room (at B and below category of stations) or a stall or a trolley to be deemed as one unit. As such, a single unit is to be awarded through a single license. (viii) 33% sub quota for women in allotment of such category of minor catering units at all category of stations to be provided.

(b) Steps taken/being taken to ensure that good quality and hygienic food is served to the passengers *inter-alia* include (i) Optional Catering Service has been introduced as a pilot project, on 32 Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains under the management of I.R.C.T.C.

(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 (C.S.M.C.) (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) Allotment of catering contracts by I.R.C.T.C. and Zonal Railways under the framework of Catering Policy 2017 is an on-going process, as per the need and requirement of catering services. At present I.R.C.T.C. is managing 334 pairs of Duronto, Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Mail/Express trains and 223 static units.

(d) and (e) Providing quality and hygienic food under both mobile and static catering units is the aim of the Railways. Checking of quality and quantity of food is an integral part of its inspection, which is being done regularly by Railway officials. All complaints are dealt strictly and action including monetary penalty, debarring and termination of contract is taken as per the gravity if the complaint and decisions are taken on case to case basis.

Quality Research by Scientist

4348. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE :
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

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

(a) the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government to curb attrition rate of scientists and to encourage them to do quality research in the country;

(b) the extent to which the said schemes/programmes have achieved the desired results in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/U.T.-wise;

(c) the funds provided by the Government under the

said schemes/programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme/programme-wise;

(d) the number of complaints of irregularities in implementation of the said schemes/programmes that have come to the notice of the Government during the said period, scheme/programme-wise along with the action taken thereon;

(e) the number of scientists who left their job across the country during the said period, State/U.T.-wise; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for welfare of the scientists and to retain them 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) Government has taken several measures to curb attrition of scientists and to encourage them to do quality research in the country. The extramural funding schemes of Department of Science and Technology (D.S.T.) and Department of Biotechnology (D.B.T. and Fellowship schemes of D.S.T., D.B.T. and Council Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.) have been designed to encourage individual scientists to do quality research. Schemes/Programmes such as fund for improvement of S. & T. infrastructure in universities and higher educational institutions (F.I.S.T.) to build research infrastructure for enhancing research capabilities, Core Research Grant, Start-Up Grant for Young Scientists in the form of Early Career Research Award and National Postdoctoral Fellowship, Research fellowships such as J.C. Bose and Swarnajayanti are targeted at practicing scientists to strengthen R. & D. in various sectors.

(b) The said schemes are aimed to elevate R. & D. status of the country and have achieved the desired results in a major way. The outcome of these schemes are multipronged and have multiplying effects influencing the quality of manpower, research excellence of institutions and over all development of the country. Though it is difficult to indicate yearwise desired results to the extent to which the said schemes/programmes have achieved, the achievements can be tracked through certain S. & T. indicators. India's position globally in scientific publications, as per Scopus database, has moved to 6th with a growth

rate of 13.9% as against the world average of 4.4% during 2009-2013. In the field of nanoscience and technology, India is at 3rd position. India's output of papers in Chemistry is third behind United States of America and China. A report of Springer Nature has indicated that India is ascending towards world-class science and our country is at 13th position globally on an index of world-class scientific journals. As per the W.I.P.O. report 2016, India is ranked at 10th position in terms of resident patent filing

activity. C.S.I.R. is recognized to be among the international leaders in knowledge creation and it is ranked 12th in the world amongst the government institutions.

(c) The details of funds provided by the Ministry of Science and Technology under the said schemes/programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme/programme-wise are given below:

S.No.	Schemes/Programmes	Allocation of Funds (In Crores)			
		2014-15 (Actuals)	2015-16 (Actuals)	2016-17 (Actuals)	2017-18 (B.E.)
I Department of Science and Technology (D.S.T.)					
1.	Basic and Applied Research (R/ & D. Support)	259.54	328.29	352.81	388
2.	Autonomous Institutions and Professional Bodies	701	887.66	1097.28	1166
3.	International Cooperation	78.68	84.33	104.65	166.54
4.	Technology Development Programme	130.59	130.17	193.61	235
5.	Synergy Projects	23.23	24.86	26	-
6.	National Mission on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology	64.29	83.6	123.64	136
7.	Science and Engineering Board	535	660	767	800
8.	Mega Facilities for Basic Research	61.93	68.91	79.86	130
9.	Disha Programme for Women in Science	43.85	55.89	60.63	75
10.	Supercomputing Facility and Capacity Building	-	81.88	90	125
11.	Swarna Jayanti Scholarship	11.99	14.74	14.99	15
12.	INSPIRE	266	405.9	419.5	480
II Department of Biotechnology (D.B.T.)					
1.	Biotechnology Research and Development, Human Resource Development, Research Resources and Facilities	789.77	903.33	1020.04	1252.42
III Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.)					
1.	National Human S. & T. Resource Development Programme	296	303	300	225

(d) No complaints of irregularities in implementation of the said schemes/programmes have come to the notice of the Government during the said period.

(e) and (f) Except isolated cases of scientists leaving their jobs for personal reasons, no significant attrition has been reported. The Flexible Complementing Scheme/Merit

based promotion scheme positioned in scientific departments and the implementation of the VII Pay Commission pay scale and introduction of Performance Related Incentive Scheme (P.R.I.S. in strategic Departments have attracted scientists to remain in the country. and hence the Institutions are not experiencing any brain drain. In addition to incentivization schemes like sharing of proceeds with scientists from contractual R. & D.; and consultancy and premia & royalty received from the transfer of technology, the Government has several welfare programmes like housing schemes, health schemes, leave travel concession, special schemes for women etc. to Central Government employees including scientists.

Amendment in the Constitution

4349. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of amendments made in the Constitution of India since its promulgation;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to review the working of the Constitution by a High Power Commission and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a Commission appointed by N.D.A.-I for the purpose had submitted its report to the Government; and
- (d) if so, the status of the report?

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) The Constitution of India has been amended 101 times so far.

(b) No, there is no such proposal to review the working of the Constitution by a High Power Commission.

(c) and (d) The National Commission to review the working of the Constitution was set-up by the Government of India, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah (Retired Chief Justice of India), on 22nd February, 2000. The Commission had submitted its report on 31st March, 2002. Action on the recommendations made in the Report lies with various Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations.

Two Time Zones

4350. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has come to a decision on the feasibility of having two time zones for the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government had set-up a High Level Committee in 2002 that had not recommended implementation of twotime zones in the country due to several complexities involved in the process. The Committee, in order to meet the objective of gainfully utilizing the morning hours and to provide better recreational avenues during evening hours, had recommended advancing work timing suitably in the Eastern and North-Eastern States. Accordingly, an advisory was issued to Eastern and NorthEastern States to consider advancing work timing accordingly.

[Translation]

R.O.B. at Keshloor

4351. SHRI DINESH KASHYAP : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Railway Over Bridges (R.O.Bs) that has been approved by the Government for construction, State-wise;
- (b) whether the works of constructing R.O.Bs at Keshloor village on Jagdalpur-Konta route under national highway No. 30 and Avarabhata area on Geedam-Dantewada route under national highway No. 163-A in the State of Chhattisgarh are also covered under the approved R.O.Bs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the action being taken for approving the construction of these R.O.Bs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) State-wise details of Road Over Bridges (R.O.Bs) sanctioned as under:

S.No.	State	No. of R.O.Bs Sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	139
4.	Chhattisgarh	19
5.	Delhi	5
6.	Goa	8
7.	Gujarat	130
8.	Haryana	86
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
10.	Jharkhand	43
11.	Karnataka	59
12.	Kerala	118
13.	Madhya Pradesh	100
14.	Maharashtra	123
15.	Odisha	42
16.	Puducherry	5
17.	Punjab	21
18.	Rajasthan	78
19.	Tamil Nadu	157
20.	Telangana	47
21.	Uttar Pradesh	340
22.	Uttarakhand	6
23.	West Bengal	108
Total		1716

(b) to (d) The locations of Keshloor village on Jagdalpur-Konta route and Avarabhata area on Geedam-Dantewada route fall on National Highway. As per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoR.T.H.) on 10.11.2014, R.O.B. in lieu of

these travel crossings (L/Cs) are to be constructed by MoR.T.H./National Highway Authority of India (N.H.A.I.) at their own cost.

[English]

Scarcity of Funds

4352. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last few years, Railways has been incapable of coping up with increasing transport demand and also raising/improving the traffic volume and flows at lower unit cost of operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scarcity of funds is hampering the ongoing and survey related projects and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways is short of funds for undertaking infrastructural expansions; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to increase revenue generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Indian Railways has been able to cater to the existing demands of transport.

(c) and (d) Till 2013-14, scarcity of funds was one of the important factors that had affected execution of railway projects as Railway Projects are highly capital intensive and gave long gestation period. The funds for the Railway projects are allocated project-wise on yearly basis and is done as per availability of resources and progress of the project. However, the scarcity of funds has never affected the survey work. Since 2014-15, the following steps have been taken to improve the funding scenario of Railway projects:

- (1) Institutional financing by tying up loan for Rs. 1.5 lac crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railway's capacity for committed fund provision for capacity enhancement projects.
- (2) The capital expenditure for Railways has been increased from Rs. 58,718 crore in 2014-15 to

around Rs. 93,795 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 1,09,000 crore in 2016-17 and a plan size of Rs. 1,20,000 crore has been kept for 2017-18.

- (3) Railway has embarked upon on participative model with various State Government and other stake holders to prioritize the work beneficial to them through cost sharing and State Joint Ventures.

(e) Railways' revenue enhancing measures, *inter alia*, include targeting progressively higher traffic throughput, effective marketing strategies to capture more and more traffic, dreation of additional capacity and optimum utilisation of the existing rail infrastructure, enhancement in productivity and efficiency, improvement of passenger interface, periodic rationalisation of fare and freight rates and focus on increasing the share of non-fare revenue sources in Railways' earnings.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Narayanpur Tatwara Railway Station

4353. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide the stoppage of Jan Shatabdi Express, Mewad Express and Nizamuddin Express at Narayanpur Tatwara railway station in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal to provide stoppages of additional trains including 12059/12060 Nizamuddin-Kota Jan Shatabdi Express & 12963/12964 H. Nizamuddin-Udaipur Mewar Express at Narayanpur Tatwara.

Train Service to Colonies

4354. SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various colonies having population between 15,000 to 20,000 are still not linked with trains;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has set any target in

terms of time frame to connect said colonies with trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railway projects are not sanctioned based on population of colonies. Railway projects are considered based on demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Member of Parliament, other public representatives and Railways' own requirement, participation by State Government or private entities etc. They are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes. As on date, Indian Railways has a throwforward of approx. Rs. 3.02 lakh crores of ongoing New line projects.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

National Bamboo Mission

4355. SHRI RAJU SHETTY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing National Bamboo Mission in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the above said scheme;

(c) the funds allocated and released under the above mentioned suchemes to State Government and Institutions during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the number of entrepreneurs benefitted from the scheme so far; and

(e) the extent to which success has been achieved in the implementation of this scheme?

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) National Bamboo Mission was launched in 2006-07 with the objective *inter alia* to increase the coverage of bamboo in the country and establish convergence and synergy among stakeholders for development of bamboo sector based on a regionally differentiated strategy. The Mission primarily focuses on quality planting material, area

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20.	West Bengal	93.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	B.T.S.G. (Kerala)	115.20	57.58	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	B.T.S.G. (Dehradun)	225.67	150.00	118.36	118.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	N.H.B.	100.00	50.00	30.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sub-Total	5127.10	2954.06	3759.70	3686.30	921.76	695.90	566.32	258.67
N.E. States									
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	1376.29	1281.90	350.00	350.00	138.60	138.60	75.60	19.00
25.	Assam	1065.23	296.64	70.00	70.00	156.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Manipur	1023.22	861.57	695.97	695.97	272.21	194.05	217.08	217.06
27.	Meghalaya	308.85	96.62	0.00	0.00	27.83	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Mizoram	1396.00	1230.00	830.21	830.21	416.58	416.58	311.58	284.46
29.	Nagaland	1136.66	1135.91	872.50	872.50	388.50	244.25	283.50	141.75
30.	Sikkim	301.46	56.76	256.99	245.60	24.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Tripura	198.73	80.60	124.33	124.33	20.50	0.00	8.69	0.00
32.	C.B.T.C. Guwahati	28.68	14.00	18.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sub-Total (N.E.)	6835.12	5054.00	3218.00	3206.61	1444.90	993.48	896.45	662.27
	Grand Total	11962.22	8008.06	6977.70	6892.91	2366.66	1689.38	1462.77	920.94

Consultants Employed by CEC

4356. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of consultants employed by the Central Election Commission (CEC) at present;

(b) whether all of them were appointed as consultants after retirement from Government service;

(c) if so, the amount of honorarium being paid to all the consultants and the duration for which they have been appointed;

(d) whether any common citizen has also been appointed to the said post; 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) and (e) 18 consultants have been employed by Central Election Commission (CEC) at present. The information with respect to the consultants has been given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Consultant	Period of Employment	Honorarium Paid	Whether appointed after retirement from government service
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Shri Vipin Katara, Consultant (E.V.M.)	One(1) year (w.e.f. 19.10.2017)	Rs. 80,000/-	Yes

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Mrs. Anjana Gosia, Consultant (Legal)	One(1) year (w.e.f. 10.05.2017)	Rs. 80,000/-	No
3.	Ms. Smitha Sathasivan, Consultant (P.W.D.)	Six(6) year (w.e.f. 16.11.17 - 15.05.2018)	Rs. 25,000/-	Yes
4.	Mrs. Padma Kumari Menon Consultant	One(1) year (w.e.f. 14.09.17 - 15.05.2018)	Rs. 40,000/-	Yes
5.	Shri Ghan Shyam Khohar Consultant (P.P.S.)	Three (3) months (w.e.f. 14.03.2018)	Rs. 50,000/-	Yes
6.	Shri Tapan Kumar Dutta, Consultant (P.P.S.)	Three (3) months (w.e.f. 14.03.2018)	Rs. 25,000/-	Yes
7.	Shri Bhawar Lal, Consultant (E.V.M. & V.V.P.A.T.)	One (1) year (w.e.f. 10.01.2018)	Rs. 80,000/-	Yes
8.	Dr. Bhagbanprakash, Consultant (Training)	22.02.2011 to 11.05.2018	Rs. 80,000/-	Yes
9.	Shro Noor Mohammad, Consultant (Training)	22.05.2012 to 22.05.2018	Rs. 80,000/-	Yes
10.	Shri S.K. Mendiratta, Legal Advisor	01.01.1998 - Till date	Rs. 80,000/-	Yes
11.	Shri S.D. Sharma, Sr. Fellow	Six (6) months w.e.f. (01.12.2017)	Rs. 80,000/-	Yes
12.	Dr. Aarti Aggarwal	One (1) year (w.e.f. (29.11.2017	Rs. 80,000/-	No
13.	Ms. Simran Sachdeva	One (1) year (w.e.f. 02.05.2017)	Rs. 35,000/-	No
14.	Shri Vinayak Sen	One (1) year (w.e.f. 12.05.2017)	Rs. 35,000/-	No
15.	Shri Apoorv Tiwary	One (1) year (w.e.f. 01.06.2017)	Rs. 35,000/-	No
16.	Ms. Aradhna	One (1) year (w.e.f. 06.11.2017)	Rs. 35,000/-	No
17.	Shri V.K. Sharma, Consultant (I.C.)	One (1) year (w.e.f. 27.09.2017)	Rs. 80,000/-	Yes
18.	Shri Pradeep Sangwan, Consultant (E.V.M.)	One (1) year (w.e.f. 27.11.2017)	Rs. 5.3 Lakh per annum (Consolidated)	Yes

[English]

Installation of Bio-Toilets

4357. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to complete

installation of bio- toilets in all the trains by December, 2018 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the percentage of trains where bio-toilets have been installed as on date and the details of the same;

(c) whether the Government has taken serious note

of the study conducted and submitted to them by IIT-Madras which has found that the bio-toilets are ineffective and ill maintained and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other measures being taken by the Government to rectify the issues concerned with the bio-toilets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The earlier plan to install bio-toilets in the entire fleet of coaches by the year 2021-22 has been advanced to the year 2019. Further, Indian Railways has set in-house target to complete the work of installation of bio-toilets in all coaches by June 2019.

(b) As of now, approximately 60% of the total passenger carrying coaches over Indian Railways have been installed with bio-toilets. List of some of the trains having coaches equipped with bio-toilets is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No such study on bio-toilets in coaches has been conducted and submitted to Indian Railways by IIT-Madras.

(d) Indian Railways are taking all the necessary steps to ensure proper and smooth functioning of bio-toilets in all the trains. For proper use of bio-toilets by esteemed passengers, vigorous awareness drive has been launched.

Statement

List of some of the trains having coaches equipped with bio-toilets:

Zonal Railways	Trains
Central	22135/36 Nagpur-Rewa Superfast Express, 22119/20 Mumbai C.S.T.M.-Karmali Tejas Express, 12131/32 Dadar-Sai Nagar Shirdi Express.
East Coast	18401/02 Puri-Okha Express, 18496/95 Bhubaneswar-Rameswaram Express,

Zonal Railways	Trains
	12898/97 Bhubaneswar-Pondicherry Express.
East Central	55575/76 Darbhanga-Biraul Passenger, 13241/42 Banka-Rajendra Nagar Intercity Express, 12355/56 Rajendra Nagar-Jammu Tawi Archana Express.
Eastern	12343/44 Darjeeling Mail, 12377/78 Padatik Express, 12345/46 Saraighat Express.
North Central	22431/32 Allahabad-Udhampur Express, 12417/18 Prayagraj Express, 11107/08 Bundelkhand Express.
North Eastern	15045/46 Gorakhpur-Okha Express, 15119/20 Manduadih-Rameswaram Express, 12595/96 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminal Hamsafar Express.
Northeast	15635/36 Pkha-Guwahati Express,
Frontier	15647/48 Lokmanya Tilak (t)-Guwahati Express, 15717/18 Guwahati-Mariani Intercity Express.
Northern	14611/12 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Ghazipur City Express, 14609/10 Swaraj Express, 12471/72 Swaraj Express.
North Western	22497/98 Shri Ganganagar-Tiruchchirappalli Humsafar Express, 14889/90 Bhagat ki Kothi-Munabao Thar Express, 14811/12 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Sikar Express.

Zonal Railways	Trains
South Central	12757/58 Secunderabad-Sirpur Kaghaznagar Express, 17019/20 Hyderabad-Jaipur Express, 12721/22 Hyderabad-Nizamuddin Dakshin Express.
South East	18241/42 Durg-Ambikapur Express,
Central	18247/48 Bilaspur-Rewa Express, 58219/20 Bilaspur-Chirmiri Express.
South Eastern	18007/08 Shalimar-Vanjapur Intercity Express, 22877/78 Howrah-Ernakulam Antuodaya Express, 22887/88 Howrah-Yesvantpur Humsafar Express.
Southern	12635/36 Chennai Egmore-Madurai Vaigai Express, 12605/06 Chennai Egmore-Karaikudi Pallavan Express, 22661/62 Chennai Egmore-Rameswaram Sethu Express.
South Western	16589/90 Rani Chennamma Express, 12627/28 Karnataka Express, 16501/02 Ahmedabad-Yesvantpur Express.
West Central	12121/22 Madhya Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express, 11449/50 Jabalpur-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express, 12193/94 Jabalpur-Yesvantpur Express.
Western	22969/70 Okha-Varanasi Express, 19573/74 Okha-Jaipur Express, 19565/66 Okha-Dehradun Uttaranchal Express.

Maternity Leave and Pension

4358. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER:
SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women Government employess who have commissioned surrogacy will now be entitled to maternity leave;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that divorced daughter will be eligible for pension if divorce case has been filed before the death of pensioner/family pensioner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases resolved during the last three years?

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. Hon'ble Delhi High Court vide its judgement dated 17.07.2015 in the Writh Petition (C) No. 844/2014 - Rama Pandey vs. Union of India & Ors., has laid down that a female employee, who is the commissioning mother, would be entitled to apply for maternity leave. Department of Personnel and Training, after examination of the judgement, has circulated it to all Ministries/Departments for wide publicity vide Office Memorandum dated 29.01.2018.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam. In accordance with the Office Memorandum No. 1/13/09- P&PW (E) dated 19th July, 2017, Family pension would also be granted to a divorced daughter from the date of divorce in cases where the divorce proceedings had been filed in a competent court during the life-time of the employee/pensioner or his/her spouse but divorce took place after their death, subject to fulfilment of all other conditions for grant of family pension.

No centralized data regarding grant of pension/ Family pension by the various Pension Disbursing authorities is maintained.

C.S.I.R. Assistance to Publish Findings in International Journals

4359. SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
DR. J. JAYAARDHAN:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provides assistances to scientists working in its institutions to publish their findings in reputed International Science Journals;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of papers published during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the quantum of financial assistance provided to scientists for this purpose;

(d) whether Government has found that some papers have fake data in the manuscript presented by scientists;

(e) if so, whether the Government/ CSIR has conducted any investigation in the matter along with the action taken against the erring scientists;

(f) whether the Government has constituted any authority to examine the authenticity of the data in research paper in random manner and if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government for preventing the recurrence of such instances?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (c) Madam, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) encourages scientists working in its laboratories/ Institutions to carry out Research & Development in identified areas and publish their research findings in scholarly journals. CSIR provides infrastructural, technical, administrative as well

as financial support to carry out the research and publish the original research work.

The Number of Publication by CSIR laboratories over the years 2017 to 2017 is as follows:

(d) CSIR is in cognizance of a couple of instances of malpractices related to research publications at its laboratories.

(e) The concerned CSIR laboratories, CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh and CSIR-Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), Hyderabad have conducted detailed investigations in the aforementioned matters. The services of the concerned scientists in these laboratories have been terminated.

(f) CSIR laboratories have institutional mechanisms in place to enable strong and open scientific culture to pursue R&D and adopt check for plagiarism in publications using available software e.g. CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh has constituted an Ombudsman Authority to randomly check the authenticity of the data in research papers before they are published by its scientists.

(g) CSIR has formed a Committee of its three senior Directors to look into ethical issues on scientific culture in CSIR and present a course of action to prevent such incidences in future.

Deployment of Surface Miners

4360. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRIMOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the surface miner are deployed by Coal India Limited (CIL) for selective mining at some of the open cast mines;

(b) if so, the total raw coal production from open cast mines and percentage of open cast production by surface miners from the mines of CIL during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether efforts are also being made to iron out the differences over third party sampling and is fo, the details thereof and result yielded therefrom;

(d) whether any decision has been taken with regard to standard operating procedure for thir party sampling of coal at the mine end; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) At present, 19 departmental & 81 hired surface miners are in operation in the mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL). The year wise production during the last three years and the current year till Jan-18 is as under:

S.No.	Year	Production from S.Ms (Mt.)	Total Open Cast production for the year (Mt.)	% of Total Open Cast Production
1.	2014-15	197.91	459.20	43.10
2.	2015-16	233.84	504.97	46.31
3.	2016-17	255.87	522.66	48.96
4.	2017-18 (Till Jan-18, Prov.)	212.33	415.91	51.05

Surface miners for selective mining of coal are being deployed in opencast coal mines of C.I.L. based on their geo-mining and techno-economic viabilities.

(c) When there is difference between Third party sampling analysis result and the analysis result of Coal Companies part of the same sample analyzed in mine end lab, the Referee sample is referred for analysis in designated Government referee labs. As per provision of Fuel Supply Agreement, the result of referee analysis is binding on both seller and purchaser. During the period 2017-18, out of total referee analysis reports received till date there is variation in 63% of results from the results originally given by third party agency. Out of these variation in results, referee labs have reported higher Gross Calorific Value (G.C.V.) than the G.C.V. reported by the Third Party Agency in 87% cases.

(d) and (e) The following Standard Operating Procedure have been formulated for third party sampling at the Loading end -

(i) An independent Third Party Agency to be appointed by Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (C.I.M.F.R.) by a transparent process for undertaking the work of sampling and analysis of coal at the loading end on behalf of both the power plant (consumer) and the coal companies (supplier).

(ii) The C.I.M.F.R. shall enlist third party agencies

through a transparent process for the work of sampling and analysis of coal.

- (iii) The authorized representatives of power plant and coal company shall jointly witness the process of sample collection and preparation of the laboratory samples. The representatives shall put their signature on the sample tags in evidence of the process of sampling. All three - independent sampler, consumer and supplier - shall also sign on the sample register maintained by the coal company at the loading end.
- (iv) The sample shall be collected and prepared by the third party agency independent sampler as per B.I.S. norms. Collection of samples to be ensured within free time for loading of rakes.
- (v) The fee for independent sampling agency shall be equally borne by both the coal company (supplier) and the power utility (consumer).
- (vi) The coal companies shall provide adequate enabling conditions for collection, preparation and storage of coal samples at the loading end.
- (vii) The final laboratory sample shall be divided into 4 (four) parts. Part-I of the sample is for analysis by the independent Third Party Agency at a government laboratory or N.A.B.L. Accredited laboratory as appointed by C.I.M.F.R. through a transparent process. Part-2 and Part-3 of the

sample are to be handed over to the coal company and the power utility, respective for their own analysis. Part-4 of the sample, called Referee sample, shall be sealed jointly by the third party agency, representatives of the coal company and the power plant and shall be kept with the Third Party Agency under proper lock and key arrangement. The Referee sample shall be preserved for a period of 30 days from the date of sample collection.

- (viii) Mere absence of or failure of participation by any representative of either party despite prior notice shall not be a ground to negate the sampling process undertaken.
- (ix) The Third Party Agency shall communicate the Analysis Results of the sample within 18 (eighteen) working days of the sample collection to the coal company and the power plant.
- (x) The coal company or the power plant may raise dispute, if any, within 07 (seven) days of the submission of the result by the Third Party.
- (xi) In case of dispute raised within the stipulated time period, the Referee sample shall be analyzed by a government laboratory.
- (xii) The persons engaged by third party agency should take proper training at Vocational Training Centre and obtain certificate for complying with the statutory provision of Mines Act.

Maintenance of Railway Tracks

4361. SHRI PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE :
 SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL :
 DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE :
 SHRI VINAYAK BHURAO RAUT :
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite allocation of huge amount for railway safety in the past, enough is required to be done in the matter;

(b) if so, whether considering the various train accidents reported during the last one year, the Union Government has made a big allocation to the railways for

the safety of the railway passengers and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the condition, security and monitoring of track is one of the main reasons for the rail accidents;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government is considering that traditional methods of manual railway track inspection and safety has become outdated in present scenario;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to consider the state-of-the-art and high tech method of monitoring, inspections and maintenance of the rail tracks; and

(f) so, the details thereof and the time by which the new technology will be made available and implemented in the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 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. The Railways' Capital Outlay has been fixed at 1,20,000 crore in Revised Estimate 2017-18, which is 10,065 crore higher than Actual Expenditure 2016-17 of 1,09,935 crore. To give fillip to passenger safety, the Government has introduced 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' (RRSK) in 2017-18 with a corpus of 1 lakh crore to be spent over a period of five years, to clear the backlog of renewal/replacement of safety assets. The Capital Allocation of 2017-18 also includes 20,000 crore under 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' (RRSK) to be spent on identified works under planheads Track Renewals, Bridge Works, Signalling and Telecommunication Works, Road Safety Works of Level Crossings and Road Over/Under Bridges, Rolling Stock, Traffic Facilities, Electrical Works, Machinery and Plant, Workshops, Passenger Amenities and Training.

(c) Train accidents on Indian Railways occur due to various reasons such as failure of equipment, human

errors, sabotage, combination of factors etc. Each and every consequential train accident on Indian Railways is inquired into either by the commission of Railways Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or by the Departmental Inquiry Committee of Railway to determine its reasons. During the current year 2017-18 (from 1st April, 2017 to 15th March, 2018), out of total 71 consequential train accidents, 14 accidents were on account of track defects.

(d) to (f) Inspection of Railway Track is done as per Indian Railway Permanent Way (IRPW) Manual, which requires inspection of track by mechanized means, supplemented by detailed manual inspection to ensure safety. Induction of state of the art technology is a continuous process. Induction of various state of the art technology for monitoring and inspection of rail tracks have been considered, such as Integrated Track recording Cars (TRCs), Ground penetration Radar, Axle Box Mounted Accelerometers, Component Monitoring system and Vehicular Ultra Sonic Flaw Detection (USFD). Maintenance of track is done with fleets of state of the art track maintenance machines deployed over different Zonal Railways.

Make In India Projects

4362. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air force (IAF) needs fighter aircraft/jets to bolster its depleting squadron strength and the Navy requires more submarines and warships to replace its ageing fleet;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in procurement of these requirements along with the time by which these requirements are likely to be fulfilled;

(c) whether not a single project has so far been started under Make in Indian initiative and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether an internal report of the Ministry says the India's entire weapons acquisition process is badly broken and beset with huge delays and only 8 to 10% of 144 proposed deals in the last three financial years fructified within stipulated time and if so, the details thereof and the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the corrective measures being taken by the Government in procedural delays and duplication in process to speed up implementation of defence projects to meet the demand of armed forces especially the present threat perception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) During the last three years and current year (upto January 2018). 192 contracts have been signed with Indian vendors (121 contracts) and foreign vendors (71 contracts) for capital procurement of Defence equipment for armed forces, out of which 74 contracts have been signed for Army; 84 for Navy and 34 for Air Force, for capital procurement of defence equipment such as aircraft, frigates, radars, missiles, tanks, artillery guns, rifles, micro Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), ballistic helmets, helicopters, rockets, ships, ammunition and simulators.

Capital Procurement of defence equipment is undertaken in accordance with the extant Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). DPP-2016 focuses on streamlining and simplifying of defence procurement processes and aims to balance the requirements of expeditious procurement. It contains provisions for reducing the timelines for completion of procurement activities. Further, Government regularly monitors progress of on-going procurement projects so as to ensure that the Armed Forces are equipped to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges.

Defence Manufacturing

4363. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHOURAO RAUT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the Government's good intentions, domestic defence manufacturing has not taken

off in a big way and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether lack of a long-term defence procurement plan and ill-advised conditions such as technology transfer in a stipulated time frame has hampered defence sector development and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the defence ministry is increasingly falling short of the funds and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether various state Governments have submitted proposal for defence industrial corridor project in their States and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government need a coherent defence manufacturing policy to achieve the objectives and boost the domestic defence manufacturing; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) No, Madam. The domestic defence manufacturing in the country stands on a strong footing, and in the year 2016-17, the total defence production in the country was worth Rs. 61,500 crore approximately.

(b) Does not arise since the Government is pursuing achievement of higher level of indigenisation and self reliance in defence sector through measures including according preference to procurement from Indian vendors under the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), simplification of Make procedure, introduction of simplified procedure for Make-II sub-category, liberalization of the licensing regime and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy by raising the cap on FDI in the defence sector, simplification of export procedure, streamlining of defence offset guidelines etc. Recently, the government has notified the 'Strategic Partnership (SP)' Model which envisages establishment of long-term strategic partnerships with Indian entities through a transparent and competitive process, wherein they would tie up with global Original Equipment Manufacturers (IEMs) to seek technology transfers to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure and supply chains.

(c) During the last three financial years and current year (upto 31.01.2018), 121 contracts have been signed

with Indian vendors and 71 contracts have been signed with foreign vendors for capital procurement of Defence equipment for Armed Forces. The Capital Budget and Expenditure for Armed Forces for the last three years are given below:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Revised Estimates	Expenditure
2014-15	66151.73	65862.38
2015-16	65400.00	62235.54
2016-17	62619.36	69280.17

(d) The strengthening of defence-industrial base of the country is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Government periodically based on the requirements, viability, availability of resources etc. Consequent to the announcement of setting up of two Defence Industrial Corridors in the Budget Speech of 2018-19, Government has received three proposals from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Among these three states, Government has decided to set up two Defence Industrial Corridors, one in the state of Tamil Nadu and the other in the state of Uttar Pradesh. These are spanning across Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Triruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and spanning across Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

(e) and (f) The Government has recently announced in the General Budget 2018-19 that the Government will bring out an industry friendly Defence Production Policy 2018 to promote domestic production by public sector, private sector and MSMEs.

Radioactive Waste and Nuclear Smuggling

4364. SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:

SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of exposure to radioactive waste causing public health hazard at large level in the country have been reported and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether guidelines to set up Chemical Biological

Radiation and Nuclear Cell in hospitals are not followed and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether lack of container security poses threat of nuclear smuggling in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether International Panel on Fissile Materials has reported that liquid sodium cooled Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) experienced sodium leaks resulting in fires and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has developed a low-cost handheld 12-channel Tele-ECG machine which records all 12 ECG channels simultaneously and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for application of atomic energy technology in social welfare?

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 incidents have been reported so far.

(b) No please. The guide lines issued by National Disaster Management Authority are being followed. National Disaster Management Plan-2016 (NDMP-2016) issued by NDMA provides guidelines for capacity development in the area of Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies. NDMP-2016 stipulates establishment of tertiary care hospitals for treatment of radiation injuries and establishment of primary and secondary care hospitals of adequate capacity at selected cities.

(c) No please. Major sea ports in the country are equipped with radiation detection equipment's (RDEs) for scanning presence of any radioactive material containers. Further India has set up at the national level an institutional mechanism called a Counter Nuclear Smuggling Team (CNST) to devise a coordinated multi-agency approach to deal with the threat of individuals or group of individuals acquiring nuclear or radioactive material for malicious purposes.

(d) The international Panel on Fissile Materials in

their research report titled "Fast Breeder Reactor Programs: History and Status" released in Feb 2010 mentions various incidents of sodium leaks in international liquid sodium cooled fast breeder reactors (Russia, France, Japan, United Kingdom, India) based on data available in published literature. In all the cases, the resulting sodium fire was extinguished by plant operators using the sodium fire-extinguishing system provided and these incidents did not affect reactor safety. In fast breeder reactors, diverse leak detection systems are provided (two different methods) for all sodium pipelines and equipment. Emphasis is placed on early detection of sodium leaks by providing sensitive instrumentation to detect and alert the operator for taking necessary safety action. Dry-chemical powder/inerting with inert gas is used to extinguish sodium fire.

(e) Bhabha Atomic Research centre (B.A.R.C.) has developed Handheld 12-Channel Tele-E.C.G., which is a portable, light weight Mobile Controlled E.C.G. machine and capable of simultaneous acquiring all 12 channels of E.C.G. in Real time. The machine can be connected to Mobile/PC via Bluetooth and the report is generated in the form of an image that can be sent to the expert via M.M.S. or internet. This has provided virtual instantaneous E.C.G. diagnostic service to a villager at his home/village thus, proving the philosophy - "**Cardiac Care - Just a Click Away**". This saves crucial time, which is otherwise lost in transporting the patient to the nearest cardiac care center.

(f) Department of Atomic Energy and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (B.A.R.C.) in particular has significantly contributed for application of atomic energy for several societal applications. Some of the areas are mentioned below,

- (i) Agriculture by developing high yielding varieties of rice, pulses and oilseeds using nuclear techniques.
- (ii) Promoting food preservation through irradiation.
- (iii) NISARGRUNA technology for disposal of solid biodegradable waste degradation which has been commercialized and deployed on fairly large scale.
- (iv) Municipal waste
- (v) Waste resource identification and water purification.
- (vi) Health Care.

Unutilized Berths to Senior Citizens

4365. KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH :
 SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA :
 SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA :
 SHRI GAJANAN KIRITIKAR :
 SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN :
 SHRI A. ANWAHAR RAAJAHAA :
 SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO :
 SHRI S.R. VIJAYKUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to release unutilized berths in trains from women quota to waitlisted passengers first and then to the senior citizens and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the other facilities being provided to women passengers by the Railways for their smooth travel in trains;

(c) whether the Railways has also decided to go paperless by not pasting reservation chart on reserved coaches of all trains and if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether the Railways has installed digital display of charts for tickets confirmed from waitlisted category in some stations and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to provide such facility in all railway stations of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) With a view to facilitate travelling of female passengers by train, a reservation quota of six berths in sleeper class (SL) in long distance Mail/Express trains and a reservation quota of six berths in 3 A.C. class of Garib Rath Express trains has been earmarked for exclusive use of female passengers irrespective of their age, while travelling alone or in group of female passengers. It has also been decided that at the time of preparation of first reservation charts, the unutilized accommodation out of this quota will be released to waiting list female passengers travelling alone or in group of female passengers followed by waiting list senior citizens. If there are no such passengers, and berths are left vacant, onboard ticket checking staff has been authorised to allot this accommodation to any other lady passenger/senior citizen on partially confirmed ticket, if any, after making necessary entries in the reservation chart.

(b) In addition to the facilities mentioned in reply to part (a) above, the other facilities being provided to women passengers by the railways for their smooth travelling are as under:-

- (i) A combined quota of six lower berths per coach in Sleeper class and three lower berths per coach in Air Conditioned 3 tier (3A.C.) and Air Conditioned 2 tier (2AC) classes for senior citizens, female passengers 45 years of age and above, and pregnant women. In case of Rajdhani, Duronto and fully Air Conditioned Express trains, the number of berths to be earmarked under this quota in 3AC is 4 lower berths per coach as against 3 lower berths per coach in normal Mail/Express trains.
- (ii) Unreserved coaches/compartments for female passengers in E.M.U. (Electrical Multiple Unit)/D.M.U. (Diesel Multiple Unit)/M.M.T.S. (Multi Modal Transport System) trains & local passenger trains depending upon demand pattern as well as availability of accommodation.
- (iii) Running of ladies special Electrical Multiple Units (E.M.U.)/Mainline Electrical Multiple Units (M.E.M.U.)/Multi Modal Transport system (M.M.T.S.) services on the suburban sections of Mumbai, Kolkata, Secunderabad and Chennai as well as on the Delhi-National Capital Region (N.C.R.) sections.
- (iv) Second class accommodation for women in the second class-cum-Luggage-cum Guard's Coach (S.L.R.) in most of the long distance trains.

(c) Yes, Madam. Based on a similar successful experiment conducted by South western Railway, the practice of pasting of reservation charts on train coaches was discontinued at New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Bombay Central, Chennai Central, Howrah and Sealdah stations of Indian Railways on experimental basis for a period of three months. Keeping in view the positive feedback received from Zonal Railways, it has been decided to discontinue pasting of reservation charts on reserved coaches of trains at all erstwhile A1, A & B category of stations as a pilot project for six months starting from 01.03.2018.

(d) and (e) At present the facility of digital display of

reservation charts has been provided at approximately 92 locations on Indian Railways. Provision of improved facilities for passengers including digital display of reservation charts is a continuous and ongoing process.

Reduction in Airfair for Haj Pilgrims

4366. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA :
 SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA :
 KUNWAR HARIBASH SINGH :
 SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA :
 SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR :
 SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN :
 SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN :
 SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO :
 SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrims who undertook the Haj pilgrimage during each of the last three year;

(b) the number of estimated pilgrims likely to be undertaking the Haj pilgrimage during the current year;

(c) whether the Government has decided for a significant reduction in airfair for those going on the Haj;

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

(e) the estimated airfare amount likely to be reduced for Haj pilgrims; and

(f) the names of the Airlines which will offer reduced airfare for Haj?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) the number of pilgrims who undertook the Haj pilgrimage during last three years and the expected number of pilgrims for Haj 2018 is as under:

Year	Pilgrims through Haj Committee of India	Pilgrims through Private Tour Operators
2015	99930	36000
2016	99961	36000
2017	124940	45000
2018 (expected)	128702	46323

(c) to (f) Air travel arrangements for the pilgrims going through Haj Committee of India (H.Col.), a statutory organization under Ministry of Minority Affairs are made through the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard. Air travel cost depends on the lowest price discovered for each embarkation point through competitive bidding in which several airlines of Saudi Arabia and India participate. As per the bilateral agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, bids were invited from the scheduled airlines of India and Saudi Arabia for Haj 2018 air charter operations from 20 Embarkation Points (E.Ps). Based on the L1 rates, Air India (07 E.Ps), Saudi Airlines (07 E.Ps) and Flynas (06 E.Ps) have been selected to operate for air transportation of pilgrims for Haj 2018. A comparison of the lowest airfare arrived through competitive bidding for Haj 2014 and Haj 2018 (excluding taxes, airport charges and applicable Haj subsidy) reveals that rates quoted by the airlines have substantially come down. The comparative list of lowest airfare quoted by airlines in US dollars for Haj 2014 and 2018 is in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Lowest Airfare quoted by Airlines for Haj 2014 and Haj 2018

Sr.No.	Embarkation point (E.P.)	2014 Lowest air fare (in US\$)	2018 Lowest air fare (in US\$)
1	2	3	4
1.	Srinagar	2635	1238
2.	Mangalore	1778	1000
3.	Gaya	1798	1200
4.	Goa	1491	990
5.	Nagpur	1322	834
6.	Bhopal	1496	1100
7.	Ranchi	1656	1300
8.	Mumbai	1028	695
9.	Aurangabad	1346	1020
10.	Jaipur	1224	930
12.	Ahmedabad	1028	795
13.	Cochin	1129	924

1	2	3	4
14.	Lucknow	1157	967
15.	Kolkata	1249	1065
16.	Guwahati	1598	1420
17.	Chennai	1128	951
18.	Delhi	1028	867
19.	Bangalore	1128	970
20.	Varanasi	1247	1095

Note-Lowest airfare does not include applicable taxes, airport charges or air travel subsidy popularly known as Haj subsidy earlier given to airlines.

[Translation]

Procurement of Arms

4367. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH :
SHRI R. PARTHIPAN :
DR. P. VENUGOPAL :
SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/Defence Acquisition Council has approved various procurement proposals of arms and ammunition for the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of armament likely to be procured and the estimated funds likely to be incurred on each armament;

(c) whether the said arms and ammunition are likely to be purchased within a fixed time limit and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to phase out the INSAS Rifles supplied to the armed forces with more modern weapons and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the allocation of funds for Defence in the current budget makes India the world's fifth largest spender on arms and armed forces and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) The Capital Procurement of Defence equipment including arms and ammunition is carried out as per extant Defence Procurement Procedure (D.P.P.). During the last

three years and current year (upto 31.01.2018), 192 contracts have been signed for capital procurement of defence equipment such as ammunition, artillery guns, ballistic helmets, missiles, heicopters, aircraft, tanks, radars and simulator for Armed Forces.

D.P.P. provides the stipulated timelines for completion of procurement process. Government regularly monitors progress of ongoing procurement projects so as to ensure that these are concluded expeditiously.

Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) has been accorded by Defence Acquisition Council (D.A.C.) on 16.1.2018 for procurement of 72,400 assault rifles under 'Fst Track procedure'.

The Capital Budget and Expenditure for Armed Forces for the last three years are given below:-

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Revised Estimates	Expenditure
2014-15	66151.73	65862.38
2015-16	65400.00	62235.54
2016-17	62619.36	69280.17

Compulsory Registration of Marriage

4368. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN :
SHRI ALOK SANJAR :

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended compulsory registration of marriages in all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with other recommendations made by the Law Commission in this regard;

(c) the reasons mentioned by Law Commission for this purpose;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to make registration of marriages mandatory within a specified period of time;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Union/State Governments in this regard and

the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented countrywide; and

(f) whether there are different forms of the certificate of marriage registration in different States and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The 21st Law Commission of India, on a reference made by the Central Government, in its 270th Report titled "Compulsory Registration of Marriages" has, *inter alia*, recommended the Central Government to suitably amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (18 of 1969) so as to include registration of marriage within its scope so that the existing administrative machinery would also be able to carry out registration of marriages. The full report of the Commission is accessible from the website <http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in/reports/Report270.pdf>.

(c) to (e) In order to provide evidentiary value in matrimonial and maintenance cases and prevent unnecessary harassment meted out to women, it has been decided to provide for compulsory registration of marriages. However, it may not be possible to lay down any rigid time frame in this regard.

(f) The State Governments are empowered to frame rules for registration of marriages under various enactments. Hence, no data regarding certificate of marriage registration is centrally maintained.

[English]

Shortage of Skilled Manpower

4369. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY :
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY :

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

(a) whether there is considerable shortage of skilled manpower in the Information Technology (I.T.) sector;

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

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment and planning for immediate requirement of

manpower in the I.T. sector due to Digital India Programme and online transactions and advent of more software related programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the skill development training proposed to be given to the educated youth in the country?

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 (d) As per NASSCOM, Indian Information Technology - Business Process Management (I.T.-B.P.M.) Industry continued to be a net hirer with an addition of 70,000 new jobs with a total employee base of around 3.9 million in the year 2016-17. However, speedy adoption of automation and emerging technologies are affecting some jobs and new jobs which are being created require newer skill-sets.

The Government of India and Indian I.T.-B.P.M. Industry are increasingly looking at new skill-sets and subject matter experts to continue on the evolution growth path. New job roles in the areas such as Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Data Science, Mobile App development, etc are evolving, which is giving rise to a new breed of domain experts. It is also indicated that with changing paradigms of talent deployment, re-skilling of employees is becoming the key agenda for I.T. industry.

Various initiatives of Government of India such as Digital India covering e-Government Services, Common Service Centres, B.P.O. Promotion Schemes, Digital Payments, Electronic manufacturing, and Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan; e-commerce, GST network, Make in India, Start-up India, e-Health, Smart cities, and e-Agriculture Market Place/Digital Mandis; etc are creating new job opportunities. These initiatives coupled with new and emerging technologies are creating I.T. 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 I.T.-B.P.M. sector would continue to hire at a rate of 3% to 3.5% year-on-year by 2022. NASSCOM also indicates that

many firms have already established dedicated programs to re-skill their existing employees.

Government of India has setup various sector Skill councils (S.S.C.) including NASSCOM IT-ITeS SSC to address the requirement of present and future skills and job roles by covering developing job standards, training content, Faculty & Student training, Assessments and certification, etc.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NASSCOM, to collaborate and strengthen their cooperation in the field of skill development particularly with respect to the re-skilling and up-skilling impertive in areas of new and emerging technologies, with Government acting as an enabler/facilitator. A future skills platform for Business to Business (B2B) killing (<http://future.skills.nasscom.in>) has been launched by NASSCOM.

In addition, MeitY takes up several capacity building activities to ensure availability of trained human resources for the manufacturing & service sectors of Electronics and I.T. Industry. various schemes/activities pertaining to Human Resource Development for I.T. sector are as under:-

- (i) National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (N.I.E.L.I.T.), an Autonomous Scientific Society under MritY, is engaged both in Formal & Non-Formal Education in the area of I.E.C.T. through its own centres located at 40 locations and 700+ accredited centres spread across the country. N.I.E.L.I.T. through its various courses have trained a cumulative 5.50 lakh number of candidates out of which 3.49 Lkh candidates are certified during April, 2017 to January, 2018.
- (ii) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C.-D.A.C.), a R. & D. organization of the MeitY, has enrolled 3485 candidates out of which 2918 candidates have completed the training during April, 2017 to September, 2017.
- (iii) Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics and I.T. which provides support for 3000PhDs (1000 Full-Time & 2000 part-Time), to promote research, innovation and development of new products. So far, a total of 1153 PhD (970 full time+183 part

time) candidates have been enrolled at various institutes.

- (iv) Scheme of Financial Assistance for setting up of Electronics and I.C.T. Academies, under which Seven Academies have been setup for faculty development to improve the employability of the graduates/diploma holders. So far, 13,220 participants have been trained under 347 Faculty Development Programs (F.D.Ps).
- (v) Information security Education and Awareness (I.S.E.A.) Project Phase-II is aimed at capacity building in Informaton Security, training of Government personnel and creation of mass Information security awareness. So far, 28,069 candidates are under-going training/trained in various formal/non-formal programs at 52 institutions, 4,457 Government Officials have been trained and 606 awareness workshops have been conducted covering 65,342 participants.

Delay in execution of KNPP

4370. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS :
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was huge cost escalation due to delay in the execution and commissioning of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (K.N.P.P.);

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the deficiencies noticed in execution of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The original approved completion cost of Kudankulam project Units 1 & 2 (K.K.N.P.P. 1 & 2 - 2×1000 M.W.) ws Rs 13171 crore. The project has been completed and the units are in

commercial operation. The completion cost is to be Rs. 22462 crore. The increase in cost has been mainly on account of additional scope of work, escalation, Interest During Construction (I.D.C.) and foreign exchange variation.

The delay in the completion of Kudankulam Units - 1 & 2 (2×1000 MW) were mainly due to delays in sequential receipt of equipment from Russian Federation and subsequent local protests at the site. The domino effect of the protests, demobilization & subsequent remobilization of resources, various litigations, meeting the directives of the Honorable Supreme Court by various agencies before commissioning of the plant took time. In addition, being the first-of-a-kind reactor in India of large unit size and with many imported equipment/components, the reviews and regulatory clearances also took time.

(c) Presently, K.K.N.P.P.-1 & 2 (2×1000 MW) are in commercial operation. They have cumulatively generated about 24335 Million Units of electricity as on February, 2018. The lessons learnt from K.K.N.P.P.-1 & 2 are being taken care of in the implementation of subsequent units at the site. Also, a structured ongoing public outreach programme based on a multipronged approach is implemented to address the apprehensions of the people about safety of nuclear power and related issues and allay their concerns in a credible manner.

Hon. Speaker : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 O'Clock.

11.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

(At this stage, Shrimati V. Sathyabama, Prof. A.S.R. Naik, Shri Rajesh Ranjan and some other hon. members came and stood on the floor near the Table).

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Hon'ble Speaker : Hon'ble members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion on different matters. Though these matters are important, these do not necessitate interruptions in the proceedings. Therefore, I have disallowed all the notices of adjournment motion.

...(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Madam, on behalf of Shri Alphons Kannanthanam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Group 'A' and 'B' Posts, Recruitment Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1443 (E) in Gazette of India dated 24th November, 2017 under Section 50 of the Indian Institute of Information Technology Act, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8958/16/18)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri Rajen Gohain, 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 Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Kolkata, 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 8959/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)] : Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay following papers on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy each of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
 - (ii) A copy of Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2016-17.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT 8960/16/18]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT 8961/16/18]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Madam Speaker, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 19th March, 2018, adopted the following Motion regarding filling up of three vacancies in the Joint Committee on the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017:-

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do appoint three Members to the Joint Committee on the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray from Rajya Sabha and two more vacancies that will arise owing to retirement of Shri Ajay Sancheti and Shri Bhupender Yadav from Rajya Sabha on 2nd and 3rd April, 2018, respectively and communicate to the Lok Sabha the names of the Members so appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee and resolves that Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray be re-appointed and Shri Bhupender Yadav and Shri Mahesh Poddar be re-appointed/ appointed to the said Joint Committee w.e.f. 4th and 3rd April, 2018 respectively."

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations in the 306th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Space, Ministry of Science and Technology, Environment and Forests*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8962/16/18.

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVANATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL) : I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 306th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Space, Ministry of Science and Technology, Environment and Forests.

[English]

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. Hon. Minister, Shri Ananthkumar wants to say something.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, I want to request all our hon. Members to go back to their seats and allow us to conduct the normal business so that we can take up every matter. ... (Interruptions) Madam, we are ready to discuss everything including the No Confidence Motion because the Modi Government not only has full confidence in the House but outside the House in the country as well. ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I once again request all our hon. Members to go back to their seats and allow us to take up very important matters before the Lok Sabha. ... (Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Notices of Motion of No Confidence

[English]

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have received

notices of Motion of No Confidence in the Council of Ministers from Sarvashri Thota Narasimham and Y.V. Subba Reddy. I am duty bound to bring the notices before the House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Unless the House is in order I will not be in a position to count the fifty Members. I have to count the heads. I just cannot see anything from here. How can I count the heads? I have to count fifty Members who have to stand in their assigned places so that I can ascertain as to whether the leave has been granted or not.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER : I request all of you to go back to your seats. Please listen to me. I cannot even see anybody.

... (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 : The House stands adjourned to meet again on Thursday, the 22nd March, 2018 at 11 a.m.

12.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 22, 2018/Chaitra 1, 1940 (Saka).

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