

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifteenth Session  
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

11.02 hrs

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

**Wednesday, August 08, 2018/Shravana 17, 1940 (Saka)**

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, with profound sorrow, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of Dr. M. Karunanidhi, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who passed away on 7th August, 2018 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu at the age of 94.

Born as Dakshinamoorthy in Tiruvarur District of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, during his long and illustrious political career, he ably showcased his admirable leadership qualities and worked relentlessly for the cause of the people, particularly the marginalized and the downtrodden sections of the society.

An asute administrator, he served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for five terms. He was also a Member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for thirteen terms. He was also a Member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Council. He also served as the Leader of Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly twice.

Dr. M. Karunanidhi, a visionary and a true leader of the masses was fondly called by his followers as "Kalaigarnar" meaning a versatile personality.

A multifaceted persona, Dr. Karunanidhi, rose to become the most celebrated screenwriter in the Tamil film industry, using the cinematic medium to deliver his political ideas to the masses. The 1952 box office hit 'Parasakthi', in particular, was a turning point both in Tamil cinema and for Dr. Karunanidhi. In his demise, the country has lost a highly popular and eminent public personality. His passing away is an irreparable loss to the country and marks end of an era.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect for the departed soul.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Overseas Citizens of India

\*301. SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of applications of the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) are lying pending with the High Commissions of India abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last four years, year-wise and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the details of OCI status given to the applicants during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, there are some Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card applications pending with some of our Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad, while most of our Missions/Posts have no pending applications of OCI card applicants. The number of pending applications at some of our Missions/Posts issuing larger number of OCI cards have reduced significantly during the last few years.

(b) The number of OCI card applications pending with our Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad, year-wise, for the last four years are given in the following table:—

Year	Number of normal OCI card applications pending	Number of spouse-based OCI card applications pending
2014	1321	0
2015	436	35
2016	375	66
2017	472	475

The OCI card applications are pending at our Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates for various reasons, including those that require action at the end

of the applicants. Most of the OCI card applications are pending on account of incomplete documentation or non-submission of certain mandatory documents by the OCI card applicants. Our Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad continue to follow up with the applicants, to seek necessary documents/information for clearing the pendency. However, in several instances, the applicants could not be contacted or the applicants do not contact the respective Embassy/High Commission/Consulate for long periods thus resulting in pendency. Some of the applications are pending on grounds of technical rejection. The pendency in case of spouse-based OCI card applications is mainly because of non furnishing of necessary documents by the applicants, such as apostilled Marriage Certificate, passport details and native details of the foreign spouse. Applications which are put on hold because of pending security clearances by the security agencies, are also included in the table above.

(c) The year-wise details of OCI cards issued during the last four years are given in the following table:—

Year	Number of OCI Cards Issued	Number of OCI Cards issued in lieu of PIO cards
2014	220859	0
2015	329725	60830
2016	410150	156841
2017	399915	114590

#### **Flexi-Fare System**

\*302. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:  
SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its report has observed that after the introduction of flexi-fare system in premium trains, fewer passengers travelled in these trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the drop in occupancy, in absolute and percentage terms, class-wise in these trains during the period from September, 2016 to July, 2017 along with the percentage of vacant seats;

(c) whether CAG has also observed that the passengers are choosing air travel over trains on routes

where fares in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Express trains are higher due to the flexi-fare system and if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(d) the additional revenue earned by the Railways through flexi-fare system which otherwise could not have been possible through normal fare system; and

(e) whether the Railways has reviewed/proposes to review the flexi-fare system, if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its report has observed that after the introduction of flexi-fare system in premium trains, fewer passengers travelled in these trains. However, Railways' contention is as follows:

(i) Number of passengers booked in the trains having flexi fare has registered an increase of 1.37% for the period September 2016 to June 2018 (flexi fare period) as compared to corresponding period of previous years (Non Flexi Fare period).

Comparative increase in actual number of passengers during 09.09.2016 to 30.06.2018 (flexi fare period) *vis-a-vis* 09.09.2014 to 30.06.2016 (non-flexi period) in flexi fare trains is as under:—

Period	Actual passengers
09.09.2014 to 30.06.2016 (non-flexi period)	52.32 Million
09.09.2016 to 30.06.2018 (flexi fare period)	53.04 Million
Absolute increase	0.72 million
% increase	1.37%

(ii) The CAG report has assessed the first 11 months of the implementation of Flexi Fare system. Since Advance Reservation Period (ARP) of trains is 120 days, the actual assessment would have been only four months after introduction of this scheme on 09.09.2016. Besides, the months of February 2017 and March 2017 were lean period when normally most of the trains have comparatively lower occupancy.

(iii) Trains with Flexi fare *i.e.*, Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Durgam constitute only approximately 1.11% of total number of trains over Indian Railways. First four months after introduction of Flexi fare consists of Advance Reservation Period. This was followed by lean period for passenger traffic. Therefore, initial drop in occupancy in trains with flexi fare does not indicate drop in overall occupancy over Indian Railways.

(iv) Occupancy of the trains varies during peak, non-peak, festival seasons, special occasions and weekends etc. Therefore, sometimes the trains run with higher occupancy (more than the berth potential) and sometimes during non-peak periods, some berths remain vacant.

Class-wise number of passengers booked in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Durgam Express trains (trains with flexi fare) from September 2016 to July 2017 *vis-a-vis* September 2015 to July 2016, absolute variation and percentage variation are as under:-

Class	September 2015 to July 2016	September 2016 to July 2017	Absolute variation	Percentage variation (%)
1A*	344515	352763	8248	2.39
2A	2932115	2652896	-279219	-9.52
3A	9931776	9996277	64501	0.65
3E	285381	276562	-8819	-3.09
CC	10429062	10173920	-255142	-2.45
EC*	875471	890387	14916	1.70
SL	2084983	2180848	95865	4.60
Total	26883303	26523653	-359650	-1.34

\* Flexi fare has not been implemented in these classes.

The above table is for the period September 2016 to July 2017 (as asked for in the Part 'b' of the question). However, the passengers booked have increased by 1.37% for the complete flexi fare period upto June 2018 as compared to corresponding period of previous years (non flexi fare).

(c) The CAG report has observed that decrease in occupancy in premier trains did lead to passenger shifting to air for travel in these sectors (13 sectors assessed by CAG)

However, Railways' contention is as follows:

(i) Railways and Airlines are different modes of transport, which are not comparable in the terms of volume, connectivity as well as convenience.

(ii) There is no fixed maximum limit of fare in Airlines whereas Railways have fixed maximum fare throughout the year. Airline fare varies excessively depending on time of operation, stoppages, travel duration, Origin-Destination pair, carrier etc. Railways' fare may or may not be higher than the air fare depending upon the class of travel as well as the peak or lean periods. It is the choice of the passengers to opt either Railway or Airlines for travelling as per their convenience.

(iii) Alternative train services on normal fare structure are available over Indian Railways on the routes of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Durgam trains.

(iv) Railway also serves a large number of passengers boarding/de-boarding at intermediate stations.

(v) The average occupancy of all reserved accommodation including routes of flexi fare trains during 2015-2016 (Non-flexi period) was 101.15% which has gone up to 105.80% in 2017-18 (Flexi period). This shows that there has been no loss of traffic by Indian Railways to other mode of transport like Airlines.

(vi) Sectors assessed by CAG are typically very long distance sectors like Mumbai-Kolkata and Chennai-New Delhi. Trains take around 26 to 28 hours for travel on these sectors while the same journey is done in 1.5 to 3 hours by air.

(d) Additional earnings due to flexi fare upto June 2018 in comparison to corresponding previous years are as under:-

Period	Additional earnings (Approx.) (Rs. in crore)
September 2016 to March 2017	371
April 2017 to March 2018	864
April 2018 to June 2018	265
Total	1500

(e) A Committee was constituted to review the flexi fare system. The Committee has submitted its report and the same is under examination.

### **Royalty on Coal**

\*303. SHRIMATI RITA TARAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group constituted by the Government to consider revision of rates of royalty on coal has submitted its report to the Government and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is considering enhancement of royalty and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision to enhance the rate of royalty on coal is expected to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Coal has constituted a Study Group on 21.07.2014 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (MoC) for the purpose of examining the issue of revision of present royalty rates on coal and lignite. The Study Group has submitted its recommendation on 05.02.2018, which is under consideration with the Government.

### **Railway Projects in Karnataka**

\*304. SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various railway projects underway in the State of Karnataka, zone and project-wise;

(b) the number of projects which are behind schedule and the reasons therefor, project-wise;

(c) the cost overrun for each of the pending projects; and

(d) the measures that have been taken/are being taken by the Government to complete the projects within the stipulated time or extended time frame?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) 16 new line projects costing Rs. 21,098 crore having length of 2146 Km and 15 doubling projects costing Rs. 14,105 crore having length of 1923 Km falling fully/partially in the State of Karnataka are in different stages of approval/planning/execution. Details of ongoing New Line and Doubling projects falling partly or fully in the State of Karnataka are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Following measures have been taken up to expedite completion of the projects:

- Railway has recently issued policy guidelines for land acquisition. Under this policy, Railway has decided to take up the execution only after substantial land acquisition.
- Regular follow up with State Government for land acquisition: Chief Secretary of State Government has been requested to expedite the land acquisition.
- Institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for assured funding of projects has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

**Statement***Details of ongoing New Line and Doubling projects falling partly or fully in the State of Karnataka*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Railway	Year of inclusion	Anticipated cost	Expenditure upto March, 2018	Outlay 2018-19	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>New Line</b>							
1.	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur (93 Km)	South Western	1996-97	936	416	60	Kadur-Chickmagalur (46 Km) commissioned. Balance work is with land free of cost and 50% cost sharing by Government of Karnataka. Land acquisition taken up.
2.	Hejjala-Chamarajanagar (142 Km) of Bangalore-Chamarajanagar-Satyamangalam (260 Km)	South Western	1996-97	1395	4	0.50	Work is with land free of cost and 50% cost sharing by Government of Karnataka. Land acquisition papers for 1624 acre land on Hejjala-Chamarajanagar section (142 Km) falling in Karnataka submitted to State Government. Work beyond Chamarajanagar falling in Tamil Nadu is not being executed, falling in Reserve Forest area.
3.	Hubli-Ankola (167 Km)	South Western	1997-98	2315	128	20	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has been requested to give approval of diversion of 595 hectare forest land.
4.	Munirabad-Mahboobnagar (246 Km)	South Central & South Western	1997-98	2800	1118	275	Work on Munirabad (Ginigera)-Raichur (165 Km) in Karnataka area is on 50% cost sharing by Government of Karnataka. On this project, Munirabad (Ginigera)-Budhgumpa-Chikkabenakal (27 Km) & Devakadra-Jaklair (28.55 Km) new line and Krishna-Yeramaras (16 Km) DN line commissioned. Work taken up in Chikkabenakal-Karatagi (41 Km) in Karnataka area. Further, land acquisition taken up in balance length.
5.	Rayadurg-Tumkur (213 Km)	South Western	2007-08	2062	605	221	Work is on 50% cost sharing by Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for section falling in their respective States. 119 Km falls in Karnataka area where land acquisition has been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Cuddapah-Bangalore (Bangarpet) (255.40 Km)	South Central & South Western	2008-09	1997	408	175	Work is on 50% cost sharing by Government of Andhra Pradesh. Bangarpet (Kolar)-Mudghatta (43 Km) is in Karnataka area. On this stretch, land acquisition been taken up.
7.	Bagalkot-Kudachi (142 Km)	South Western	2010-11	1293	441	35	Work is with land free of cost and 50% cost sharing by Government of Karnataka. Bagalkot-Khajdoni (30 Km) commissioned. For balance portion, land acquisition has been taken up.
8.	Shimoga-Harihar (79 Km)	South Western	2011-12	833	2	1	Work is with land free of cost and 50% cost sharing by Government of Karnataka. Land acquisition has been taken up.
9.	Whitefield-Kolar (53 Km)	South Western	2011-12	548	0	0.25	Work is with land free of cost and 50% cost sharing by Government of Karnataka. Land acquisition has been taken up.
10.	Marikuppam-Kuppam (24 Km)	South Western	2011-12	280	3	55	6 Km stretch fall in Karnataka area and 18 Km falls in Andhra Pradesh area. Land acquisition has been taken up.
11.	Tumkur-Davangere (200 Km)	South Western	2011-12	1801	73	135	Work is with land free of cost and 50% cost sharing by Government of Karnataka. Land acquisition has been taken up.
12.	Gadag-Wadi (252 Km)	South Western	2013-14	2842	202	145	Work is with land free of cost and 50% cost sharing by Government of Karnataka. 725 acres out of 750 acres in Talakal-Kushtagi section (57 Km) acquired and earthwork and minor bridges have been taken up. 606 acre out of 642 acre in Shahpur-Wadi section (47 Km) acquired. For balance portion, land acquisition has been taken up.
13.	Chikballapur-Gowribidanur (44 Km)	South Western	2013-14	692	0	0.10	Project has been found financially unviable even with State Government providing land free of cost and sharing 50% of construction cost of the project.
14.	Chikballapur-Puttaparthysri Satya Sai Nilayam (103 Km)	South Western	2013-14	368	0	0.10	Project has been found financially unviable even with State Government providing land free of cost and sharing 50% of construction cost of the project.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Srinivasapura-Madanapalli (75 Km)	South Western	2013-14	296	0	0.10	Project has been found financially unviable even with State Government providing land free of cost and sharing 50% of construction cost of the project.
16.	Gadag-Yalvigi (58 Km)	South Western	2017-18	640	0	0.50	Project included in Budget subject to requisite approvals. Detailed Project Report examined. Project is not found financially viable. State Government has been asked for free land and sharing of 50% of construction cost.
<b>Doubling</b>							
1.	Bangalore Whitefield-Bangalore City-Krishnarajapuram (38 Km)	South Western	1997-98	492	0	6	3rd & 4th line on Bangalore-Whitefield section (38 Km) has been sanctioned in March, 2018.
2.	Kankanadi-Panambur (19 Km)	Southern	2006-07	238	142	77	Panambur-Jokate (6 Km) commissioned. Work on Jokate-Mangalore (13 Km) section taken up.
3.	Daund-Gulbarga (224.90 Km) and Pune-Guntakal electrification (641.37 Km)	Central	2009-10	1750	1394	75	On this project, Gulbarga-Dudhani (50 Km) section is in Karnataka area and Dudhani-Hotgi-Gulbarga (175 Km) section is in Maharashtra area. So far, Hotgi-Akkalkot Road (23 Km) and Mohol-Vakav (23 Km) sections have been commissioned in Maharashtra. Work has been taken up in complete project.
4.	Hospet-Hubli-Londa-Tinaighat-Vasco-da-Gama (308 Km)	South Western	2010-11	2127	951	81	On this project, 236 Km falls in Karnataka area and 72 Km falls in Goa area. On Karnataka area, 84 Km of doubling has been commissioned. Work has been taken up in balance section of Karnataka.
5.	Tornagallu-Ranjitpura (23 Km)	South Western	2011-12	147	0	0.10	In view of low capacity utilisation of existing line, this project is not being executed.
6.	Hotgi-Kudgi-Gadag (284 Km)	South Western	2014-15	1798	208	400	238 Km falls in Karnataka and 26 Km falls in Maharashtra. Work on Hotgi-Kudgi section (134 Km) is being funded by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). Minchinal-Lachyan (43 Km) commissioned. Work on balance section taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Renigunta (9.6 Km), Gooty (7.6 Km) & Wadi (3.8 Km) bypass (21 Km)	South Central & South Western	2015-16	273	12	26	Wadi bye-pass work is in Karnataka area. For this, preparation of plans has been taken up.
8.	Pune-Miraj-Londa (467 Km)	Central & South Western	2015-16	3628	280	435	Pune-Miraj section (281 Km) falls in Maharashtra area and Miraj-Londa section (186 Km) falls in Karnataka area. Works have been taken up.
9.	Yelahanka-Penukonda (121 Km)	South Western	2015-16	860	142	120	Government of Andhra Pradesh is sharing 50% cost for the length falling in their state. Yelahanka-Devarapalli (71 Km) is in Karnataka area and balance 50 Km falls in Andhra Pradesh area. Works have been taken up.
10.	Hubli-Chikjajur (190 Km)	South Western	2015-16	1141	321	250	Works have been taken up in complete project.
11.	Arsikere-Tumkur (96 Km)	South Western	2015-16	578	129	100	Works have been taken up in complete project.
12.	Birur-Shimoga (60 Km)	South Western	2016-17	500	0	10	Project included in Budget subject to requisite approvals. In view of low capacity utilization of exiting line and reduction in traffic on project section, this project is not being executed.
13.	Netravati-Mangalore (1.5 Km)	Southern Central	2016-17	28	0	21	Requisite approvals for the project obtained in May, 2017. Detailed estimate of Rs. 28 crore sanctioned. Agency finalised.
14.	Yeshwantpur-Channasandra (21.7 Km)	South Western	2018-19	170	0	0.10	New project sanctioned in Budget 2018-19.
15.	Baiyyappanahalli-Hosur (48 Km)	South Western	2018-19	376	0	0.10	New project sanctioned in Budget 2018-19.

Completion of Railway projects requires acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities etc. These matters may cause delay in completion of projects, cost and time overrun in the projects.

#### **Electrification of Broad Gauge Lines**

\*305. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lowering the fuel cost burden has been the key focus area of the Railways and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes gauge conversion and 100 per cent electrification of broad gauge railway lines by 2021-22 and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the electrification works carried out during the last three years, zone-wise; and

(d) the length of broad gauge lines yet to be electrified and the time frame fixed for the completion of the said work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Madam. Lowering the fuel cost for Indian Railways is one of the key focus areas as it constitutes a significant portion of Indian Railways' ordinary working expenses. The annual fuel bill (diesel + electric) in the year 2014-15 was Rs. 30,901.80 crore, which has come down to Rs. 29,507.58 crore in the year 2017-18, resulting in savings of Rs. 1,394.22 crore. This is despite increase in originating loading in freight traffic by 64.10 Million Tons (MT) and increase in numbers of passengers booked on originating basis by 53 Million in the same time period *i.e.* 2014-15 to 2017-18.

Various measures are being taken to reduce the fuel costs, both for electric and diesel traction, the details of which are appended. The details are as follows:

- (i) The total electricity bill has come down from Rs. 12,315.80 crore in the year 2014-15 to Rs. 11,893.58 crore in the year 2017-18, a reduction of 3.43%. This is despite increase in electric traction due to increase in electrification of additional sections of 8411 route kilometers (RKM) and increase in gross ton kilometers (GTKM) hauled by electric traction, in the same period.
- (ii) The total diesel bill has come down from Rs. 18,586 crore in the year 2014-15 to Rs. 17,614 crore in the year 2017-18, a reduction of 5.23%. Oil consumption which has grown by 23% from 2009 to 2014 has now decreased by 3.5% from 2014 to 2018.
- (iii) The above reduction in fuel cost is in spite of increase in traffic hauled (Gross Ton Kilometer

or GTKM) which is reflected by improvement in energy efficiency indicators of Specific Energy Consumption (SEC), Specific Fuel Consumption (SFC):

	2014-15	2016-17	% Improvement
SEC (kWh/1000 GTKM)-Goods	6.86	6.46	5.83%
SEC (kWh/1000 GTKM)-Passenger	18.9	18.2	3.7%
SFC (litres/1000 GTKM)-Goods	2.1	1.98	5.71%
SFC (litres/1000 GTKM)-Passenger	3.78	3.75	0.79%

Reduction in SEC, SFC is an indicator of fuel efficiency achieved.

(b) 5182 kilometer (km) of Meter Gauge (MG)/Narrow Gauge (NG) exist on Indian Railways and the work has been taken up on 2901 km of MG/NG line for gauge conversion. The completion of Gauge conversion projects require land acquisition and shifting of utilities etc. In view of the above, work of gauge conversion usually takes few years to complete. Therefore, Railway is also exploring option of starting trains of better speed and comfort on these Meter Gauge and Narrow gauge lines as well.

Indian Railways has planned to optimally electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) routes of Indian Railways. Balance unsanctioned work of non-electrified routes of 13675 route kilometer has been included in Budget 2018-19 and their electrification will be taken up, for optimal lengths, after requisite sanctions are obtained.

(c) During last three years (*i.e.* 2015-16 to 2017-18) Zone-wise, Route Kilometers (RKM) electrified are as under:-

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Route Kilometers electrified
1	2	3
1.	Central	399
2.	Eastern	194
3.	East Central	729

1	2	3
4.	East Coast	727
5.	Northern	750
6.	North Central	394
7.	North Eastern	348
8.	Northeast Frontier	123
9.	North Western	1180
10.	Southern	323
11.	South Central	1033
12.	South Eastern	118
13.	South East Central	482
14.	South Western	146
15.	Western	329
16.	West Central	555
Total		7830

(d) Indian Railways plans to electrify balance approximately thirty four thousand Broad Gauge (BG) Route Kilometer (RKM) network, optimally, by 2021-22 for achieving seamless train operations on electric traction over entire BG network subject to requisite approvals.

#### **Statement**

##### *Measures being taken to reduce the fuel costs for electric and diesel traction*

Some of the measures taken for energy conservation and reduction in Electric and Diesel fuel bill are as per the details below:

#### **(i) Energy Conservation Measures:**

- Chittranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) has completely switched over to production of energy efficient three-phase electric locos with regenerative features. Similar action is being taken for Electrical Multiple Units (EMU), Main line Electrical Multiple Units (MEMU).
- Loco pilots are being regularly counseled to maximize coasting and use of regenerative braking feature. Loco pilots are counseled to

switch off blower of electric locos in case yard detention is more than 15 minutes. Similarly, diesel locos are also shut down if expected detention is more than 30 minutes.

- Trailing locomotive of Multi Units (MU) hauling empty freight trains are switched off to save energy.
- Energy consumption on electric locomotives is regularly monitored through microprocessor based energy meters provided in all the electric locomotives and benchmarking is done based on average energy consumption.
- Monitoring the fuel consumption with respect to trip ration of diesel locomotive drivers.
- Reducing inventory of diesel in all major Railway Consumer Depots (RCD) from 15 days to 5 days.
- Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) has been provided in 762 diesel locomotives to reduce fuel consumption when locomotive is idle.
- Monitoring of idling of diesel locomotives is being done through remote monitoring (REMMLOT).
- There is huge saving in diesel fuel consumption of power cars with introduction of Head On Generation (HOG) system. As on date, 80 trains have been converted to HOG system. There is saving to the tune of Rs. 136 crore per annum. On account of saving in diesel fuel consumption during 2018-19, it is planned to convert all End On Generation (EOG) rakes into HOG system.
- Energy audits to improve energy efficiency of railway offices, stations, buildings and workshops.

#### **(ii) Power Procurement through Open Access as Deemed Licensee for reducing unit cost of electricity:**

Indian Railways has started procuring power, as Deemed Licensee, through open access, as per provisions of The Electricity Act, 2003. This initiative has been started from November, 2015 and progressively different States which have been added for supply of open access power to Indian Railways are Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh,

Gujarat, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Delhi, Bihar, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) area and lastly Uttar Pradesh. Presently, 1100 Mega Watt (MW), out of total requirement of 2000 MW is on open access, which has led to average per unit cost of power on Indian Railways coming down from Rs. 6.73 per unit (2014-15) to Rs. 6.06 per unit (2017-18), an improvement of 10% approximately.

### **Terror Activities**

\*306. SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has raised the issue of terror activities from across the border at the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Pakistan thereto during the past one year; and

(c) the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to mobilise nations to fight the menace of terrorism at the global level?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government has consistently raised the issue of cross border terrorism and placed high emphasis on international cooperation in combating the menace of terrorism including in bilateral, regional and international fora.

There is enhanced concern in the international community at the terrorism emanating from our neighbourhood, including the continuing activities of internationally designated terrorist entities and individuals such as Jamaat-ud Dawa (JuD), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen. Countries have called upon Pakistan to not allow its territory to be used for terrorism in any manner. Many terrorist entities and individuals who find shelter in Pakistan and are also engaged in terrorism against India have been proscribed by the United Nations (UN), the European Union and other countries. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at its Plenary in June 2018, notified Pakistan in the 'Grey List' due to continuing terror financing related concerns, including with respect to the UN proscribed terrorist entities like LeT, JuD and Falah-i-Insaniyat.

These vindicate India's consistent stand that internationally designated terrorist groups and individuals

continue to operate from and raise financial resources with impunity in Pakistan, and use territories under its control for carrying out cross-border terrorism in India and elsewhere in South Asia.

India's call to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestation; zero tolerance to terrorism; rejection of any justification for an act of terror; delinking terror from religion; need for all forces believing in humanity to unite in fight against terrorism has found greater acceptance among the international community, and is reflected in a number of outcome documents issued after bilateral Summit meetings with various countries, and at regional and multilateral fora, such as G20 Leaders' Statement on Countering Terrorism (7 July, 2017), BRICS Leaders' Xiamen Declaration (4 September, 2017), the Qingdao Declaration of the Council of Head of States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (10 June, 2018), 10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration (26 July, 2018), among others.

India is actively contributing to consensus building in forums like Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) and the Financial Action Task force (FATF), including on issues related to terror financing. There is growing international support for India's proposal for a 'Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism' (CCIT) and many countries, including the permanent members of the United Nations, have voiced support for expeditious conclusion of such a convention.

### **Padho Pardesh Yojana**

\*307. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched the Padho Pardesh Yojana to provide interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the objectives/targets of the said Yojana have been achieved, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of minority students benefited and the subsidy given under the Yojana since its inception;

(d) whether the Government has initiated any programme to propagate the Yojana to create awareness among minority students, if so, the details thereof along with the financial allocation made for this Yojana during the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to promote overseas studies and research among minority students?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Yes, Madam. The Ministry has been implementing 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 sections of notified minority communities to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability.

The Scheme has been revised during 2017-18 and physical target as well as financial allocation under the scheme has been increased considerably. For greater transparency and representation of each minority community, 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. For availing of the benefit under the scheme a student should fulfill following criteria along-with other terms and conditions prescribed in the scheme:

- (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 (IBA) for the purpose.
- (iii) Total income from all 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.

Details of Scheme is available on the website of this Ministry *i.e.* [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Since inception of the scheme total number of 3251 students (including renewals) have been benefitted under the Padho Pardesh Scheme and an amount of Rs. 28.65 crore has been disbursed to them towards claim of their interest subsidy. Details of physical target, number of students benefitted and amount of interest subsidy disbursed under the scheme are given as under:-

(Rs. in crore)			
Year	Physical Target (Fresh)	No. of students benefitted (Fresh + Renewals)	Amount of interest Subsidy awarded
2014-15	200	573	3.50
2015-16	300	815	4.15
2016-17	300	727	4.00
2017-18	400	1136	17.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>3251</b>	<b>28.65</b>

(d) and (e) The awareness campaign is carried out under the Scheme of Research/Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Scheme of the Ministry to create awareness among the minority communities for all schemes being implemented by the Ministry including Padho Pardesh Scheme. The Ministry has taken various initiatives to give wide publicity of these schemes through print advertisements and broadcast/telecast of audio/video spots through All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan/Private TV Channels, FM Channels, Digital Cinema and various other means of outdoor publicity, including publicity made through 'Progress Panchayat' to make the target group aware of this scheme.

The details of fund allocated under the scheme of Padho Pardesh during last three years and current year are given below:-

Financial Year	(Rs. in crore)	
	Fund allocated for the scheme	
2015-16	4.19	
2016-17	4.00	
2017-18	17.00	
2018-19	24.00	

Apart from the Padho Pardesh Scheme, National Minority Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC), an organization under this Ministry also provides Education loan for overseas studies to the students belonging to the notified minority communities. So far, 277 students have been given loan by NMDFC.

#### **Multi-Sectoral Development Programme**

\*308. SHRI RAMEN DEKA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund allocation under the Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) in Assam during the last three years in general and particularly in Nalbari, Kamrup, Barrau and Udalguri districts of Assam; and

(b) whether the Government has any new proposal to educate the girl children of minority communities of Assam and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The funds approved for allocation under Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) for the State of Assam and for Kamrup, Nalbari and Udalguri district for the last three years is as below:—

Sl.No	State/District	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Assam State	19632.06	39345.88	57506.8
2.	Kamrup District	1498.87	4316.86	2738.42
3.	Nalbari District	1183.44	1656.94	2738.42
4.	Udalguri District	482.73	204.18	2738.42

There is no district called Barrau in Assam.

(b) The Government has recently approved the restructured Multi-Sectoral Development Programme called the "Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)" for implementation during the remaining period of 14th Finance

Commission. The number of identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) under MSDP in the State of Assam were 119 falling in 17 districts which has been increased to 141 MCAs falling in 20 Districts in restructured programme called the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram leading to larger coverage of beneficiaries. PMJVK provides that 80% of the resources will be utilized for projects related to sectors of education, health and skill and at least 33-40% of this will be utilized for facilities and assets that benefit women/girls. For the State of Assam, the Ministry has approved 254 School Buildings and 21 Residential Schools in the identified Minority Concentration Areas. Out of the 21 Residential Schools sanctioned during 2017-18, 02 units are exclusively for girls. The other schools/residential schools will also have provisions to educate girl children as day scholars. In addition, the Ministry is also implementing Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means Schemes for minorities with 30% earmarking for girls. The actual grant for girls, however, is much more than 30% in all the scheme. The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, is also implementing the Begam Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship Scheme exclusively for Minority girl students studying in Class IX to XII.

[Translation]

#### **Atomic Power Generation**

\*309. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the share of atomic energy in total power generation in India at present;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme to double it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country was about 3% in the year 2017-18.

(b) and (c) The present installed nuclear power capacity of 6780 MW would reach 13480 MW by the year 2024-25 with the completion of projects under construction (including 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor [PFBR], being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited [BHAVINI]). In June-2017, the Government accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for 12 nuclear power reactors aggregating a total capacity of 9000 MW, which are scheduled to be completed progressively by the year 2031. On their completion, the total nuclear power capacity would reach 22480 MW. With the increase in the nuclear installed capacity base, the share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation would also increase.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Purchase Orders to PSUs**

\*310. SHRI JANAK RAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether purchase orders given by her Ministry to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for defence products are decreasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to issue more licences to the private sector for manufacturing and supply of various defence equipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The licensing policy has been streamlined, reducing the number of items requiring Industrial License. A total of 379 licenses have been issued to 230 Indian companies for manufacture of defence items.

*[English]*

#### **Scholarships to Minority Students**

\*311. DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many deserving minority students have been denied scholarships with the change in disbursement of funds from manual to Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme;

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

(c) the amount of funds that remained unused due to technical difficulty in DBT scheme; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to overcome the technical difficulties in DBT scheme?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. In fact the disbursement of funds to eligible minority students under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode through National Scholarship Portal (NSP) has resulted in the following benefits for all stakeholders including the target beneficiaries:

- (i) Timely and hasslefree disbursement of scholarships directly to students.
- (ii) Disbursement of scholarships done in fair and transparent manner.
- (iii) Ensuring scholarship to genuine beneficiaries.
- (iv) Elimination of duplication and prevention of misuse of Government funds.
- (v) Create a detailed database of beneficiaries.

(c) The National Scholarship Portal (NSP) was launched in 2015 for implementation of scholarship schemes of 2015-16 and disbursement of scholarship under DBT mode. Initially there were some technical glitches on NSP and they have been resolved now. While some budgetary saving was observed in 2016-17, which included removal of duplicate and fake applications having been weeded out, no eligible beneficiary verified by the processes was denied the benefit of scholarship during 2016-17 and succeeding years.

(d) Any technical issue/difficulty, faced by any stakeholders, is addressed immediately by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) that has developed the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for implementation of scholarship schemes. The Helpdesk and Helpline number have also been provided for redressal of technical issues for all stakeholders. Ministry of Minority Affairs has put in place a robust complaint redressal system/mechanism to address any concern of any stakeholder including the target beneficiaries.

[Translation]

#### **Data on Employment and Unemployment**

\*312. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:  
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to adopt any new method to collect accurate data on employment and unemployment based on the proposed survey of one lakh households and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government also proposes to include the number of loans provided under the MUDRA Scheme in employment data, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has started a new regular employment-unemployment survey, namely Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) since April, 2017. The methodology for this survey has been formulated by the Standing Committee on Labour Force Statistics (SCLFS) and approved by the National Statistical Commission. In this survey, annually almost one lakh households from 12,800 sampling units (7,024 villages and 5,776 Urban Frame Survey (UFS) blocks) are being surveyed at all-India level.

The primary objective of PLFS is to measure quarterly changes of key Labour Force Indicators (such as Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) in urban area as well as to generate the annual estimates of different labour force indicators both in rural and urban areas. For measuring the

labour force indicators, both Current Weekly Status (CWS) and Usual Status (US) approach are followed.

(b) In order to assess employment generation including self employed under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken a decision to institute a survey for this purpose. Labour Bureau, as an attached office of Ministry of Labour and Employment has been entrusted with this survey work. 5000 Branches of Banks/Micro Finance Institution (MFI) and about 1 lakh beneficiaries under MUDRA Scheme will be covered to generate estimates of employment.

[English]

#### **Disabled/Divyang Friendly Stations**

\*313. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:  
SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions made to improve/provide ramps, wheelchairs and other disabled-friendly facilities at the railway stations and in trains;

(b) whether the Government plans to maintain facilities for persons with disabilities and if so, the details thereof along with the funds spent on making the Railways disabled-friendly during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding railway services being disabled-unfriendly, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Railways proposes to develop 'B' category railway stations across the country as Divyang-friendly stations and if so, the details of the stations identified for this purpose, zone-wise; and

(e) whether escalators and lifts are being installed at all the railway stations in the country to facilitate the senior citizens to reach upto foot over bridges and if so, the details of the railway stations in the country where these facilities have been provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and

(b) Indian Railways is committed to make India friendly and accessible for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) as part of "Sugamya Bharat Mission" or Accessible India Campaign of Government of India. Improvement/augmentation of amenities at Railway stations, including those for differently abled passengers is a continuous process. Provisions of facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) are to be provided at all stations over Indian Railways. In order to provide better accessibility to Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Short Term Facilities and Long Terms Facilities have been planned at all stations, beginning with Non Suburban Group 'NSG 1', 'NSG 2', 'NSG 3' & 'NSG 4' (erstwhile 'A-1', 'A' & 'B') category stations. The details of Railway stations provided with facilities as on 31.05.2018 for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under all categories of stations over Indian Railways are as under:-

Sl. No.	Facility for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	Approximate number of stations, where facility provided
1.	Standard ramp for barrier free entry	2586
2.	Earmarking at least two parking lots	1429
3.	Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to station building	1465
4.	Signages of appropriate visibility	1474
5.	At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)	1989
6.	At least one toilet (on the ground floor)	1908
7.	May I help you booth	1131

Long-term facilities are to be provided for Divyangjan at 'NSG-1' to 'NSG-4' categories of stations, which are as follows:-

1.	Engraving on edges of platforms	1816
2.	Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer	1288

Zonal Railways have been instructed to provide one wheelchair per platform and in case of island platforms one wheel chair per two platforms at all erstwhile 'A-1' and 'A' category stations.

Yatri Mitra Sewa has also been introduced at major Railway stations for enabling passengers to book wheelchairs services cum porter services free of cost through NGOs, Charitable trust, PSUs etc under CSR and responsibility of providing this facility has been entrusted with IRCTC. In case of lack of response from NGOs, Charitable trust, PSUs etc., this service may be arranged on payment basis through a service provider or on its own.

Passenger can book e-wheelchairs online through IRCTC portal [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in). The facility is presently, available at 22 stations i.e. Ahmedabad, Agra Cantt., Vadodara, Varanasi, Bhusawal, Vijayawada, Kanpur Central, Mumbai CST, Mumbai Central, Howrah, Indore, Jhansi, Jaipur, Lucknow Jn., Lucknow, New Delhi, Nagpur, Pathankot Cantt., Pune, Bengaluru City, Secunderabad and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra.

Passengers can book cab/coach & porter service online through IRCTC portal [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in). The facility is available at Chandigarh, Gaya, Guntur, Howrah, Jaipur, Lucknow, Lucknow Jn., Madurai, New Delhi, Delhi Jn., Hazarat Nizamuddin, Delhi Safdarjung, Anand Vihar, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Tirupati and Vijaywada.

Further, Zonal Railways have been authorized to introduce Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs) at major railway stations for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), elderly and ailing passengers on 'first come first served' basis through sponsorship from individuals, NGOs, Trusts, Charitable institutions, Corporates and PSUs/Corporate Houses under their Corporate Social Responsibility free of charge to passenger or to the Railway. Further, instructions have also been issued to Zonal Railways to invite Expression of Interest for providing the facility of Battery Operated Car service on payment basis initially at all 'A1' category stations keeping in view the financial sustainability of the service. This facility can be availed by passengers on 'first come first served' basis, however, preference shall be given to Sr. Citizens, Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), pregnant women and medically sick passengers.

Disabled friendly SLRD coaches of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design are available in the holding of Indian Railways (IR). These coaches have a suitably designed compartment & toilet adapted to the needs of the disabled/Divyang passengers. Further, the fully air conditioned (WRRMDAC) Garib Rath trains have been provided with an air-conditioned disabled friendly compartment in the power cars. For Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches, the coach design having a compartment for the disabled/Divyang passengers has been developed and the coach is likely to be manufactured by the Production Units in 2018.

It is endeavored to have at least one disabled friendly ICF design coach in each Mail/Express train running with ICF coaches. More disabled friendly coaches shall be added to the fleet of IR in the coming years on LHB design.

In the Accounting and Budgeting System of Indian Railways there is no specific head meant for allocation towards Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan). In Capital segment of Budget, works relating facilities/amenities for travelling public, including those for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) like provision of escalators, elevators, ramps etc. are taken up under Plan Head-'Passenger Amenities', while arrangement in coaches for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) passengers are done under Plan Head-'Rolling Stock'. However, these figures are not amenable to segregation. Funds for approximately Rs. 1657.86 crores have been allocated under Plan Head-'Passenger Amenities' for the financial year 2018-19.

The expenditure on development of Passenger Amenities works including those for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) at Railway Stations is generally funded under Plan Head-'Passenger Amenities'. Zone-wise details of expenditure (Gross) under this Plan Head during the last three years and current year is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)				
Zonal Railway	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 Expenditure Upto June, 2018
1	2	3	4	5
Central	78.74	72.88	161.89	24.67
Eastern	62.98	48.26	50.73	4.66

1	2	3	4	5
East Central	63.75	65.81	74.11	21.95
East Coast	57.46	56.31	59.85	15.17
Northern	109.33	86.28	170.98	30.04
North Central	52.62	59.94	66.56	22.76
North Eastern	71.94	108.28	91.44	19.17
Northeast Frontier	54.09	45.81	38.16	3.08
North Western	66.07	55.97	68.63	12.28
Southern	95.91	68.41	102.19	6.67
South Central	94.82	68.36	63.81	8.33
South Eastern	65.60	59.05	81.95	9.42
South East Central	31.38	31.94	23.50	5.48
South Western	60.22	41.96	49.61	3.06
Western	49.61	48.20	134.80	21.85
West Central	63.50	43.19	44.44	8.14
Metro	3.19	5.59	3.89	0.15
Total	1081.21	966.78	1286.54	216.88

(c) A total 1,66,706 complaints were received during financial year 2017-18 through Complaint Management System (COMS) Portal. The various heads for categorization of complaints through COMS portal are given in enclosed Statement. However, no separate data is maintained regarding railway services being disabled unfriendly.

(d) There were 709 'A-1', 'A' & 'B' category stations (erstwhile) catering to the bulk of passenger traffic on Indian Railways out of which 670 stations have been provided with all Short-Term Facilities and 639 stations have been provided with all Long-Term Facilities. As per new categorization of stations, there are 611 stations falling in 'NSG 1' to 'NSG 4' categories.

(e) In order to facilitate easy movement of elderly, sick and Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and for smooth access to platforms at major railway stations, escalators/lifts are provided as part of "Sugamya Bharat Mission". So far, 498 escalators at 185 stations and 371 lifts at 150 stations have been provided.

**Statement**

*Cause-wise of complaints received through Complaints Management System Portal (www.coms.indianrailways.gov.in)*

**(01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018)**

Sl. No.	Causes	Total No. of Complaints
1	2	3
1.	Publicity	115
2.	Security	877
3.	Accident Claims	208
4.	Parking	497
5.	Tour package service related Grievances	3
6.	Improper behavior of Commercial Staff	3655
7.	Improper behavior of Non Commercial Staff	1158
8.	Improper behavior of Non Railway Staff	951
9.	Passenger Booking	2594
10.	Reservation Issues	3859
11.	Allotment of seats/berths by Train Staff	3846
12.	Refund of Tickets	11679
13.	Unauthorised passenger in coaches	7711
14.	Booking of Luggage/Parcels/Goods	4821
15.	Working of Enquiry Offices	1446
16.	Non availability of Water	10422
17.	Catering & Vending Services	12185
18.	Cleanliness at Stations	2318
19.	Maintenance/cleanliness of Coaches	25363
20.	Malfunctioning of Electrical Equipment	21489
21.	Punctuality of Train	35793
22.	Complaint related to Sleeper Class	2163
23.	Thefts/Pilferages	3471
24.	Bribery & Corruption	2397

1	2	3
25.	Bedroll Complaints	6814
26.	Emergency Assistance	183
27.	WIFI Services	165
28.	Retiring Room (ONLINE)	523
Total		166706

**Rail Coach Factory**

\*314. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status/details of work completed on the Rail Coach Factory which was being set up at Gohana in Haryana in collaboration with the State Government of Haryana;

(b) whether there is a proposal from the State Government of Haryana for changing the proposed location of the Rail Coach Factory from Gohana to some other location and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken initiatives to reduce dependence on imports and generate employment opportunities by way of investment in the rail-based industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of all the new rail-based industries, fully Government-funded as well as under PPP mode, set up/proposed to be set up during the last four financial years including the financial year 2018-19 and the details of fund allocation and utilization, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Proposal for setting up of Coach Refurbishment Unit in Sonipat district has been approved at the cost of Rs. 483.60 crore which will have capacity of refurbishing 250 coaches per year. Sanction of Parliament is awaited.

(b) Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation has proposed allotting land on leasehold basis at Barhi in Sonipat district itself for the said refurbishment unit.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The details of such industries are as follows:

Details of rail-based industries commissioned in the last four years:-

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Industry & Location	Cost & Total funds allocated & utilized	Status
1.	Karnataka	Rail Bogie Karkhana at Yadgir	Rs. 97.04 crore has been utilized for the factory	This factory costing Rs. 97.04 crore has been commissioned in 2017-18. It is completely funded by the Government.
2.	West Bengal	Bogie Manufacturing Factory at Budge Budge	Approximately Rs. 96.02 crore	This factory costing approximately Rs. 96.02 crore has been inaugurated in 2016-17. It is completely funded by the Government.

Details of Rail-based Industries (completely funded by the Government) approved for setting up during the last four years:-

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Industry & Location	Cost & total funds allocated & utilized	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra	Rolling Stock Components Factory at Ratnagiri	Estimated cost: Rs. 303.65 crore Funds utilized till date: Rs. 44.82 crore Funds Allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 63.96 crore	Work for setting up of this factory is in progress
2.	Maharashtra	MEMU/EMU/Metro Rail Coach Production Unit at Latur	Estimated cost: Rs. 497.90 crore	Sanction of Parliament is awaited
3.	Haryana	Coach POH and Refurbishment Workshop at Sonipat	Estimated cost: Rs. 483.60 crore	Sanction of Parliament is awaited
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Coach POH and Refurbishment Workshop at Jhansi	Estimated cost: Rs. 454.89 crore	Sanction of Parliament is awaited
5.	Assam	Provision of DEMU/MEMU Shed at Lumding	Estimated Cost: Rs. 73.67 crore Work Sanctioned in 2018-19 Funds Allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 10 lakh	Preliminary work for setting up of this unit is in progress
6.	Location to be decided	Setting up of Maintenance Depots for Train sets at various locations	Estimated Cost: Rs. 180 crore Work Sanctioned in 2018-19 Funds Allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 10 lakh	Location of depots are to be decided based on operational requirements
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Centralised wheel-set maintenance facility for rolling stock	Estimated Cost: Rs. 66.95 crore Work Sanctioned in 2018-19 Funds Allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 10 lakh	Preliminary work for setting up of this unit is in progress
8.	Odisha	Freight train maintenance facilities with Routine Overhauling Facility for Freight Wagons at Maneswar	Estimated cost: Rs. 49.16 crore Funds utilized: NIL Funds allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 10.74 crore	Preliminary work for setting up of this unit is under progress

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Odisha	Setting up of Electric Locomotive Periodic Overhauling Workshop at Kalahandi	Estimated cost: Rs. 186.37 crore Funds utilized: NIL Funds allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 26.86 lakh	Allotment of suitable land from State Government is awaited
10.	Assam	Workshop for refurbishing of LHB coaches at New Bongaigaon	Estimated cost: Rs. 106.32 crore Funds utilized: Rs. 9.00 crore Funds allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 10.62 crore	Preliminary work for setting up of the unit is under progress
11.	Bihar	Setting up New MEMU car shed at Gaya for maintaining 30 rakes of 16 coaches over E.C. Railway	Estimated cost: Rs. 57.49 crore Funds utilized: NIL Funds allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 10 lakh	Preliminary work for setting up of the unit is under progress
12.	Uttar Pradesh	Construction of MEMU car shed at Kanpur	Estimated cost: Rs. 49.62 crore Funds utilized: NIL Funds allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 2.50 crore	Preliminary work for setting up of the unit is under progress
13.	Uttar Pradesh	Provision of DEMU shed at Aunrihar	Estimated cost: Rs. 123.27 crore Funds utilized: Rs. 44.11 crore Funds allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 80.27 crore	Work for setting up of the unit is in progress
14.	Telangana	Workshop for Wagon POH for Kazipet	Estimated cost: Rs. 269 crore Funds utilized: NIL Funds allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 199.99 crore	Awaiting allotment of land by State Government
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Proposal for Wagon POH workshop of Cap. 200 Nos at Vadlapudi, Near Duvvada station of Waltair division in East Coast Railway	Estimated cost: Rs. 213.97 crore Funds utilized: Rs. 97 crore Funds allotted in 2018-19: Rs. 150 crore	Work for setting up of the unit is in progress

In addition, the Government has made investments in Joint Ventures for setting up units for manufacture of diesel locomotives at Marhowra in Bihar and for manufacture of electric locomotives at Madhepura where major investments are from the private sector partners.

#### **CRZ Notification**

\*315. DR. RAVINDRA BABU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification is part of the 'Law' under Article 13 of the Constitution of India, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the Constitutional provisions under which agencies like Ministries, consultants, corporations and

corporate houses, etc. are authorized to make such laws without parliamentary debate; and

(c) whether the Government or its agencies have been exempted from incorporating provisions contained in Part 3 and Part 4 of the Constitution during the policy formulation and if not, the status of land titles and livelihood titles granted to fishermen communities in coastal belt since 1991?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The CRZ Notification is a part of law under the Constitution. As per sub-clause (a) of clause (3) of article 13 of the Constitution, "law" includes any Ordinance, order,

bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law.

The Parliament *vide* article 246 of the Constitution enacted the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) which is a principal legislation, duly enacted as per parliamentary procedure. However, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 delegated certain powers to the Central Government to issue notification under section 3 of the said Act. Exercising those powers, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the CRZ Notification.

The essence of CRZ Notification is to conserve and protect the unique environment and marine area of the coastal stretches to provide livelihood security for the fisher and other local communities and promoting sustainable development based on scientific principles, duly taking into account the natural hazards in the coastal areas and the sea level rise due to global warming etc. The Notification provides for livelihood security to the fisherman community. While there are strict regulations for construction, industrial, commercial setups and also residential buildings, the CRZ notification protects the interests of the fisher community by means of suitable enabling provisions even in the No Development Zone (NDZ) of the CRZ. Facilities associated with livelihoods of fishing community such as fish drying yards, net mending yards, traditional boat building yards, ice plants, ice crushing units, auction walls, fish curing facilities etc. have been permitted in the NDZ. Fisher communities and other local communities have also been permitted to repair or reconstruct their dwelling units, as per their traditional rights in the NDZ.

#### **Shortage of Mobile Towers**

\*316. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of towers for cellular phone services in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the agencies responsible for this situation;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian private telecom operators spend hardly 15 per cent of their outlay on infrastructure as against 30 per cent in China and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the Government intends to bring a turnaround in the situation?

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 making all efforts along with the stakeholders to provide affordable tele-connectivity to all inhabited areas of the country. As a result of the continuous efforts put-in by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), the number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) for providing 2G, 3G and 4G-LTE services in the country have increased from 7.94 lakh to 18.60 lakh since April, 2014. The total number of mobile towers in the country is over 4.76 lakh and these are shared by multiple TSPs for multiple technologies.

Besides, the Government has been working on dedicated programs through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide tele-connectivity in rural areas, hilly, remote and tribal locations including islands in the territory of India as detailed below:

- (i) Bharat-Net plans to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country for providing broadband connectivity in the Gram Panchayats. As on 29th July, 2018, about 2,84,723 kilometers of Optical Fiber Cable has been laid to connect 1,18,270 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of which 1,13,549 GPs are service-ready. This infrastructure is available to all TSPs on a non-discriminatory basis for providing local access at rural-level.
- (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 Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Out of 2555\* tower-locations identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), 2335\* mobile towers are radiating.

\*Reply of Part (a) and (b) of Starred Questions No. 316 dated 08.08.2018 was subsequently corrected through a correcting Statement made in the House on 10.08.2018. Accordingly, the figure 2555 in the last Sentence of the reply may be head as 2355.

The Government has approved Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas Phase II Scheme to provide mobile services at 4072 MHA identified locations in Left Wing Extremism affected areas. Detailed Project Report (DPR) for LWE Phase II Scheme is being prepared. Implementation of the project will commence after selection of implementing agencies.

- (iii) Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North Eastern Region, M/s Bharti Airtel & M/s Bharti Hexacom have been entrusted to set up over 2004 mobile towers to connect about 2128 villages in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, parts of Assam and National Highways in North-Eastern States. Besides, M/s BSNL has been assigned to install 2,817 mobile towers to provide coverage in 4,119 uncovered villages in other parts of North East. Further, provision of 2G & 4G mobile services in 2374 uncovered villages and along National Highways in Meghalaya by installation of 2173 mobile towers has been approved.
- (iv) Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, setting-up 172 towers to provide 2G & 4G coverage in 172 uncovered villages and 42 towers for coverage of entire 129 kilometers National Highway (NH) 223 including 80 kilometer falling within Jarawa Tribal Reserve belt.
- (v) Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Lakshadweep Islands, 10 new BTS have been set-up by M/s BSNL.

(c) Funds have been invested by Telecom Service Providers (TSP) in building a world class telecom infrastructure in the country on a regular basis, as per their market needs and financial situation. Over Rupees 44,344 crore in total has been disbursed by USOF for augmentation of telecom facilities including mobile-towers. No reliable figures for investment in Chinese telecom infrastructure are available.

(d) The Government is facilitating further expansion of telecommunication facilities for which following initiatives have been taken:

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz in 2016,
- (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and Liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilisation,
- (iii) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November, 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers),
- (iv) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilisation efficiency,
- (v) permitting use of Government buildings/estate including Defence Estate for setting-up mobile towers on multiple sharing by TSPs,
- (vi) waiving off requirement of securing Wireless Operating License against each wireless transmitter on annual basis,
- (vii) setting-up of indigenous test-bed for 5G technology in collaboration with institutions of national repute.

These initiatives have facilitated the industry to undertake faster expansion of telecom infrastructure to meet the rapidly growing demand for telecom services.

The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP) envisages Mission 'Connect India' for creating a robust digital communication infrastructure by providing universal broadband coverage at 50 Mbps to every citizen, 10 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and public Wi-Fi hotspots to reach 10 million by 2022. The Mission is aimed at promoting Broadband for All as a tool for socio-economic development while ensuring service quality and environmental sustainability.

[Translation]

#### Assessment of Gross Domestic Product

\*317. SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether GDP of the country is likely to be higher than US\$ 2.59 trillion and if so, the details thereof, sector-wise; and

(c) the contributions of agriculture, industry and service sectors in GDP of the country during each of the last four financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) Yes, Madam. Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are released periodically as per prescribed Advance Release Calendar on the basis of methodology given under the United Nations System of National Accounts, 2008.

(b) Yes, Madam. The GDP at current prices during 2017-18 is estimated at Rs. 167,73,145 crores. The sector-wise details measured in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) during 2017-18 are given in Statement-I.

(c) The contributions of agriculture, industry and service sectors in total GVA during last four financial years are given in Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Sector-wise details measured in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) during 2017-18*

(in Rs. crore)

Sl. Sector No.	GVA at Current Prices for the year 2017-18
1. Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	25,94,729
2. Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity, Gas, Water Supply, Other Utility Services & Construction	4,411,640
3. Services	81,76,002
Total GVA at Basic Price	151,82,371

**Statement-II**

*Sector-wise contribution in total GVA during last four financial years*

Sl. No. Sector	Percentage Share of sector in total GVA at Current Prices			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1. Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	18.2	17.7	17.9	17.1
2. Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity, Gas, Water Supply, Other Utility Services & Construction	30.0	29.8	29.3	29.0
3. Services	51.8	52.5	52.8	53.9
Total GVA at Basic Price	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Coal Washeries**

\*318. DR. BANSILAL MAHATO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by the Government for setting up coal washeries in the country;

(b) the details of established and functional coal washeries at present, State and Coal India Limited/ subsidiary/company-wise;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay in setting up of new coal washeries;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the necessary steps taken by the Government to complete the said process in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF

CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Coking Coal washeries are primarily set up to meet the requirement of washed coking coal for the purpose of Steel making through Blast Furnace Route. Non-Coking Coal washeries are set up to reduce the ash percentage in non coking coal with a view to improve the quality of coal and for making it suitable to the requirement of sponge iron and fertilizer sector and also to comply with stipulations in MoEF's Gazette notification GSR (02) E dated January 02, 2014 in respect of supply of thermal coal with ash content not exceeding thirty-four per cent on quarterly average basis to Thermal Power Plants located beyond 500 KM from pithead.

The details of existing coal washeries of Coal India Limited/subsidiary wise are furnished in the table below with details of State:—

Sl. No.	Subsidiary	Name of Washery	State	Type
1	2	3	4	5
1.	BCCL	Dugda II	Jharkhand	Coking

1	2	3	4	5
2.		Moonidih	Jharkhand	Coking
3.		Mahuda	Jharkhand	Coking
4.		Bhojudih	West Bengal	Coking
5.		Sudamdih	Jharkhand	Coking
6.		Madhuband	Jharkhand	Coking
7.	CCL	Kathara	Jharkhand	Coking
8.		Sawang	Jharkhand	Coking
9.		Rajrappa	Jharkhand	Coking
10.		Kedla	Jharkhand	Coking
11.		Kargali	Jharkhand	Non-Coking
12.		Gidi	Jharkhand	Non-Coking
13.		Piparwar	Jharkhand	Non-Coking
14.	NCL	Bina	Uttar Pradesh	Non-Coking
15.	WCL	Nandan	Madhya Pradesh	Coking

The details of the washeries in India other than CIL are as mentioned below:—

Sl. No.	Company	Name of Washery	State	Type
1.	SAIL	IISCO Chasnalla	Jharkhand	Coking
2.	Tata Steel Ltd.	Jamadoba	Jharkhand	Coking
3.		Bhelatand	Jharkhand	Coking
4.		West Bokaro 2	Jharkhand	Coking
5.		West Bokaro 3	Jharkhand	Coking
6.	Adani Enterprises Ltd.	AEL	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking
7.	Aryan Coal Beneficiation (India) Ltd.	Chakabura	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking
8.		Dipka	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking
9.		Panderpauni	Maharashtra	Non-Coking
10.		Gevra	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking
11.		Binjhari	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking
12.		Hemgir	Odisha	Non-Coking
13.	Aryan Energy Pvt. Ltd.	Talcher	Odisha	Non-Coking
14.		RKP	Telangana	Non-Coking
15.	Global Coal & Mining Pvt. Ltd.	Ib Valley	Odisha	Non-Coking
16.		Ramagundam	Andhra Pradesh	Non-Coking
17.		Talcher	Odisha	Non-Coking
18.		Manuguru	Andhra Pradesh	Non-Coking

Sl. No.	Company	Name of Washery	State	Type
19.	Jindal Power Ltd.	JPL	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking
20.	Kartikay Coal Washeries Pvt.Ltd.	Wani	Maharashtra	Non-Coking
21.	Spectrum Coal & Power Ltd.	Ratija	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking
22.		Talcher	Odisha	Non-Coking
23.	Bhatia International Limited	Wani	Maharashtra	Non-Coking
24.		Jharsuguda	Odisha	Non-Coking
25.		Pander Pauni	Maharashtra	Non-Coking
26.	B L A Industries Pvt Ltd	Dharmasthal Coal Project	Madhya Pradesh	Non-Coking
27.	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Jindal Mine Washery	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking
28.	Sarda Energy & Mineral Division	Karwahi Washery Div.	Chhattisgarh	Non-Coking

(c) and (d) Yes. There has been some delay in operationalisation and setting up of coal washeries. The major reasons for delay of construction of these washeries, as informed by CIL, are as below:

- (i) Absence of Commitment of consumers in case of Washed Non Coking Coal to accept the Value added selling price of beneficiated coal.
- (ii) Delay in identification of land for washeries and reject handling, and time taken for acquisition and possession of the sites.
- (iii) Delay in tendering/retendering in some cases and in finalisation of tenders due to limited number of bidders participating and qualifying
- (iv) Legal issues during execution.

(e) A regular monitoring mechanism has been put in place both at Ministry of Coal as well as CIL level to ensure time bound actions by subsidiary companies for achieving various milestones. Further, in order to ensure time bound clearances especially from MoEF&CC regular Secretary level meetings are held between both ministries. To overcome the problems on acquisition and possession of land, regular follow up meeting are held with local authorities and State Government bodies at different levels.

[English]

#### **Bio-Toilets**

\*319. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:  
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deficiencies/shortcomings pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor General, in its report in 2017, regarding the bio-toilets installed in the trains and stations have been taken into consideration by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Railways thereon, particularly about the quantity and quality of the toilets installed by private firms and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways has taken any initiatives to train the staff and create awareness among the general public regarding the maintenance and use of bio-toilets; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its report no. 36 of 2017 has mentioned instances of deficiencies/complaints such as choking, foul smell, non-availability of dust bins/mugs, non-functional sub-assemblies/components etc. in bio-toilets. Bio-toilets, being proliferated in Indian Railways' coaches, are vulnerable to misuse. Generally, the problems of choking and foul smell in coach lavatories are due to use of toilet pan as garbage bins, inadequate use of water in flushing and inadequate ventilation. Following actions have been taken by the Railways to address these issues:

- Passengers are being educated regarding proper use of bio-toilets.
- Provision of individual dust bin in each coach lavatory has been made mandatory.
- Improved flushing system is being installed.
- Improvement to ventilation systems is also underway to eliminate foul smell.
- Concerned staff is being trained for proper up-keep and maintenance of bio-toilets.
- Continual design improvements are being done like replacement of ball valve, P-trap and wire rope operating mechanism with simpler S-trap arrangement.
- Vacuum based flushing system.

To address quality issues, specifications have been made more stringent and stern assessment of concerned vendors is being done. Strict inspection of bio-toilet material is being carried out by inspection agencies.

To address quantity issues, approved vendor list for retention tank (bio-toilets) has recently been revised and there are 20 suppliers in the present Vendor Directory having a combined declared monthly capacity of more than 12800 bio-toilets (retention tanks) which is adequate for Indian Railways' requirement. To expedite the supply & installation of bio-toilets in Zonal Railways, method of placing Centralised Rate Contracts from Railway Board has already been adopted for bulk purchase & accelerated retro-fitment of bio-toilets.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. A special training module on bio-toilet system has been started in Centre for Advanced Maintenance Technology (CAMTECH) at Gwalior for training of staff concerned with up-keep and maintenance of bio-toilets in coaches. Training is also being imparted to the concerned staff in Zonal Railways.

Extensive public awareness campaigns about appropriate usage of bio-toilets using all means are being conducted by Zonal Railways.

#### **Coal Auction**

\*320. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether only approximately 16 per cent of the total allocated coal reserves have been auctioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the other channels of allocation of coal reserves in the country;

(c) whether the fourth and fifth rounds of auctions have been cancelled owing to lack of bidders and if so, the facts thereof;

(d) the details of coal mines auctioned during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure precise policies, transparent transactions and transformative outcomes, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The allocation of coal mines are made under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 [CM(SP) Act, 2015] and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MM(DR) Act, 1957]. Allocation is made through auction to public and private sector companies and through allotment to public sector companies.

Under the CM (SP) Act, 2015, 84 coal mines have been allocated so far. Out of the originally allocated 89 Coal Mines, Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements have been terminated in respect of 5 Auctioned Coal Mines. Out of the 84 allocated coal mines, 26 have been allocated by way of auction which comprise less than 10% of the balance geological reserves of the total reserves of the allocated coal mines. State-wise details of these 26 auctioned Coal Mines are given in the enclosed Statement. Under the MM (DR) Act, 1957, 19 coal blocks have been allocated through allotment route to Central/ State Government Companies and no coal block has been allocated through auction route.

(c) In the 4th tranche of auction, 9 coal mines were put for auction for the Nonregulated Sector *i.e.* Iron & Steel, Cement and Captive Power Plants. Due to the low response, online bids were not opened and the 4th tranche of auction was annulled. In the 5th tranche, 6 coal mines were put for auction for the specified end use

“production of Iron & Steel”. As there were less than 3 bidders/technically qualified bidders, the 5th tranche of auction was also annulled.

(d) During the last three years, that is, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (till 31.07.2018) two mines, namely, Marki Mangli-I and Majra located in the State of Maharashtra have been auctioned to M/s Topworth Urja and Metals Limited and M/s Jaypee Cement Corporation Limited respectively.

(e) To keep the process transparent, the first ever auction of coal mines were conducted in December, 2014 through e-auction mode on an electronic platform. No physical bids were accepted or considered. Applications were required to be submitted online for allotment of coal mines to Government companies also. Further, to ensure the foolproof security of the E-platform of M/s MSTC, Security Audit had also been conducted prior to auction of coal mines. It was one of the most transparent auctions where bids were placed on an electronic platform accessible to everyone with an internet connection. In

fact, everyone had the option of tracking the progress of the auction on their mobile phones. The Ministry had to augment the server capacity as lakhs of people were viewing the auctions live. The number and names of the companies which had applied were publicly disclosed in open forums where hundreds of bidders were present along with members of the media too. The entire proceedings were videotaped. There were also press releases and names were disclosed on the auction website. Technical and financial parameters for the qualification of bidders were clearly laid down in the tender document, which is even today available in the public domain on the website. Grounds for disqualification were also clearly mentioned in the tender document. Specific reasons were given to such bidders. The initial bid price (applicable floor price) and subsequent bids were also visible to the public. The parameters for determining the floor price and subsequent bids were part of the methodology and on public display on the website. Thus, each and every data point was actually available in the public domain.

### **Statement**

#### *Details of auctioned Coal Mines*

Sl. No.	Name of Coal Mine	State	Successful Allottee	Sch.	Bal. Geo. Reserve (MT)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chotia	Chhattisgarh	Bharat Aluminum Co. Ltd (BALCO)	II	31.56
2.	Gare Palma IV-4	Chhattisgarh	HINDALCO (HIL)	II	35.74
3.	Gare Palma IV-5	Chhattisgarh	HINDALCO (HIL)	II	92.05
4.	Gare-Palma Sector-IV/8	Chhattisgarh	Ambuja Cements Ltd	III	107.20
5.	Kathautia	Jharkhand	HINDALCO (HIL)	II	27.25
6.	Tokisud North	Jharkhand	Essar power MP Ltd	II	92.92
7-8	Brinda and Sasai	Jharkhand	Usha Martin Ltd	III	Brinda-17.81 Sasai-26.34
9.	Dumri	Jharkhand	HINDALCO (HIL)	III	55.99
10.	Lohari	Jharkhand	Aranya Mines Pvt Ltd	III	9.99
11.	Meral	Jharkhand	Trimula Industries Limited	III	17.05
12.	Moitra	Jharkhand	JSW Steel Ltd	III	215.78
13.	Ganeshpur	Jharkhand	GMR Chhattisgarh Energy Limited (GMR)	III	137.89
14.	Jitpur	Jharkhand	Adani Power Limited	III	81.09
15.	Bicharpur	Madhya Pradesh	Ultra Tech Cement Limited	II	56.20
16.	Sial Ghoghri	Madhya Pradesh	Reliance Cement Co Pvt Ltd (RCCPL)	II	29.38

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Amelia North	Madhya Pradesh	Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd. (JPVL)	II	119.54
18.	Belgaon	Maharashtra	Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Limited (SIL)	II	19.86
19.	Marki Mangli-III	Maharashtra	B.S. Ispat Limited	II	5.76
20.	Nerad Malegaon	Maharashtra	Indrajit Power Pvt Ltd	III	20.36
21.	MarkiMangli-I	Maharashtra	Topworth Urja and Metals Ltd (TUML)		24.11
22.	Majra	Maharashtra	Jaypee Cement Corporation Limited	III	31.04
23.	Talabira-I	Odisha	GMR Chhattisgarh Energy Limited (GMR)	II	19.62
24.	Ardhagram	West Bengal	OCL Iron & Steel Ltd.	II	109.24
25.	Sarisatolli	West Bengal	CESC Limited (CESC)	II	139.83
26.	Trans Damodar	West Bengal	The Durgapur Projects Limited	II	97.15

For schedule-II coal blocks, the reserve already extracted till 31.03.2014 has been deducted from the total reserve and the reserve shown in the table is the balance reserve for these blocks.

#### Promotion Policy

3451. SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army has worked out and implemented and also revised promotion policy to benefit officers of the ranks of Major General and Lieutenant General and others for fast track promotions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) In order to bring more objectivity, transparency and fairness in Promotion of Indian Army officers and stability in higher ranks, the Government has reviewed the promotion policy for the ranks of Major General and Lieutenant General in consultation with Army Headquarters. The Policy has been approved by the Government in December, 2017.

#### Violation of Article 16 (4a) by MTNL

3452. DR. UDIT RAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) with reference to reply given in Lok Sabha on 21st March, 2018 by Ministry of Communications to the unstarred question (USQ) 4230, whether the Government's attention is drawn towards the fact that Article 16 (4a) of the Constitution has been violated by Department of Telecom

(DoT) and MTNL by defying instructions issued *vide* DoP&T OM No. 2001/1/2001-Estt. (D) dated 21st January, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether contradictory replies have been given by the Ministry to Parts (c) & (d) of USQ 4230 and part (b) of USQ 2852 by M/o Social Justice and Empowerment and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Caste (NCSC) has failed in discharging its duty required to be performed under Article 338 (5) (a) & (b) to safeguard consequential seniority of MTNL officers belonging to SC category and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure implementation of the said DoP&T instructions along with the action taken by the Government against the errant officials of DoT and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Seniority list of TES Group 'B' officers was finalized by DoT on 17.01.2007 in pursuant to 85th Amendment Act, 2001 and in consonance with verdicts pronounced by various Courts of law. Based on this, MTNL implemented seniority list of their officers by circulating on 05.03.2009.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected.

(e) DoP&T instructions are adhered to by Department of Telecom in letter and spirit. In case of any court judgement and its implementation which differs from DoP&T instructions, advice of DoPT is taken.

#### **Shortfall of Trained Employees**

3453. SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN:  
SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to include in industry the "Train the Trainee"(TTT) programme due to shortfall of trained employees in the sector.

(b) if so, the details and fund allocation thereof and steps being taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Government proposes to appoint any committee to observe the standardisation of skills;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government so far; and

(e) the fund allocation in this regard for the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) In the coal sector, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has entered into a tripartite MoU with National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Center (NSDC) under Skill India Mission of Govt. of India for standardization of Skills and Training & Assessment of their employees as well as Contractual Workers, Project Affected Persons (PAP), Youth & Women in its command area to bring them in line with NSDC Qualifications. Till date, Rs.15 crore (approx.) have been spent on the project to impart training to 39953 persons (including 4700 contractual workers).

(e) The details of training expenditure in CIL and its subsidiaries for the last three years and allocation for the current year is as under:-

Total Expenditure (Rs. in crores)			
2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Fund Allocation)
56.32	70.27	72.76	106.02

#### **Shifting of Border Pillar**

3454. PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international border pillar no. 81 at India-Myanmar border has been shifted 8 km inside India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether Manipur Government has requested Union Government for time bound action; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to reinstall the border pillar at its previous place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) No. International border pillar no. 81 at India-Myanmar border has not been shifted.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

#### **Notice to Website**

3455. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of show cause notices which have been issued to the websites for spreading hatred during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether any such websites have been shut down till date;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (d) No show cause notice has been issued to websites by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in last three years.

Section 69A of the IT Act provides for blocking any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of-(i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii)

security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States, (v) public order, or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules 2009, notified under section 69A provides detailed process including checks-and-balances for blocking of information. The website/webpage is blocked following the due process prescribed in these Rules.

#### **Cost Effectiveness and Health Hazards of NPP**

3456. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made to assess the cost effectiveness and the health hazards from the nuclear power plants *vis-à-vis* renewable sources 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 IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) 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 (ESL) 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 (NPP) 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.

#### **Legal Steps to Guard Digital Payments**

3457. SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking any legal steps to guard digital payments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has appointed any committee for monitoring of measures for safety of digital payment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any complaints have been registered in their regard so far;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the steps taken by Government to guard the digital payments

are mentioned in Statement-I. In addition, the steps taken by RBI to guard the digital payments are mentioned in Statement-II.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from Ministry of Home Affairs, an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Phone Frauds has been constituted under the Ministry of Home Affairs which is periodically reviewing various aspects of dealing with phone frauds in pursuance of these reviews, FCORD-FICN Coordination Agency of Intelligence Bureau has been designated as central Nodal Agency to coordinate with States/UTs for facilitating investigations. In this connection MHA *vide* letter dated 12th February, 2018 has issued an advisory to all States/UTs.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **Statement-I**

In addition, steps taken by Government to secure digital payment system are as under:

1. Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber-attacks for implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
2. CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities along with countermeasures to create awareness among stakeholders to take appropriate measures to ensure safe usage of digital technologies. Regarding securing digital payments, 27 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.
3. CERT-In has empanelled 67 security auditing organizations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
4. All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
5. Cyber security exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 25 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-

In where organisations from different States and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc. participated.

6. Cyber security awareness sessions are conducted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the Digishala Awareness Campaign.
7. Government has established Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre to detect and clean infected systems in the country. The project is initiated in coordination with the Internet Service Providers and Industry.
8. Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance.
9. CERT-In is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for IT/cyber security professionals including CISOs of Government and critical sector organisations to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures. In addition, CERT-In has also conducted a workshop on security of digital payments systems for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.

#### **Statement-II**

Some of the measures taken by RBI are as follows-

1. A comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks issued on June 2, 2016 (DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16), includes section on '**Arrangement for continuous surveillance**' in banks and also covers best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security.
2. RBI has also set up a Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond. Based on market intelligence and incidents reported by the banks, advisories are issued to the banks for sensitizing them about various threats and ensure prompt preventive/corrective action.

3. Department of Banking Supervision under RBI, with the help of Indian-Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios.

4. RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detective measures to tackle phishing attacks. Banks have also been following the same with their users.

5. RBI has set up a Cyber Security and IT Examination (CSITE) cell in 2015 and carries out Information Technology (IT) Examination of banks separately from the regular financial examination of the banks to assess their cyber resilience. The examination, *inter alia*, evaluates the processes implemented by banks for security checks like Vulnerability Assessment (VA)/Penetration Testing (PT) etc. and their follow up action.

6. An inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security at RBI, reviews the threats inherent in the existing/emerging technology and suggests appropriate policy interventions to strengthen cyber security and resilience.

7. RBI has set up an Information Technology (IT) Subsidiary, which would focus, among other things, on cyber security within RBI as well as in regulated entities.

8. Banks and Payment System Operators have been advised to enhance the security and risk mitigation measures for (a) card transactions (includes card based online transactions) and (b) electronic payment transactions (includes e-banking transactions) by taking following measures:-

- (a) Banks have been advised to provide **online alerts** for all card transactions (card present and card not present), *vide*, RBI circular dated February 18, 2009 (RBI/DPSS No. 1501/02.14.003/2008-2009) and March 29, 2011 (DPSS. CO. PD 2224 /02.14.003/2010-2011).
- (b) Banks have been advised, *vide*, circular February 18, 2009 (RBI/DPSS No. 1501/02.14.003/2008-2009) and December 31, 2010 (DPSS. CO.No.1503/02.14.003/2010-2011) to put in place a system of providing additional factor

of authentication (2FA) for all card not present transactions using the information which is not available on the card.

- (c) Banks have also been advised *vide* circulars dated February 28, 2013 (DPSS (CO) PD No.1462/02.14.003/2012-13) and June 24, 2013 (DPSS (CO) PD No.2377/02.14.003/2012-13) for securing electronic (online and e-banking) transactions, to introduce **additional security measures**.

9. For Non-Bank Entities operating Payment Systems in India, in order to ensure that the technology deployed to operate the payment system/s authorised is/are being operated in a safe, secure, sound and efficient manner, RBI has, *vide* circulars DPSS. AD.No.1206/02.27.005/2009-2010 dated December 7, 2009 and DPSS.1444/06.11.001/2010-2011 dated December 27, 2010, which was subsequently amended *vide* circular DPSS.CO.OSD.No.2374/06.11.001/2010-2011 dated April 15, 2011 (copy is available on [https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS\\_Notification.aspx?Id =6344&fn=9&Mode=0](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id =6344&fn=9&Mode=0)), mandated System Audit to be done on an annual basis by Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), registered with Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) or by a holder of a Diploma in Information System Audit (DISA) qualification of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Further, the scope of the System Audit should include evaluation of the hardware structure, operating systems and critical applications, security and controls in place, including access controls on key applications, disaster recovery plans, training of personnel managing systems and applications, documentation, etc. The audit should also comment on the deviations, if any, in the processes followed from the process flow submitted to the Reserve Bank while seeking authorization.

10. With a view to address the issue of cyber resilience, RBI had, *vide* circular DPSS.CO.OSD. No.1485/06.08.005/2016-17 dated December 9, 2016 (copy is available on [https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS\\_Notification.aspx ?Id =10772&fn =9&Mode=0](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx ?Id =10772&fn =9&Mode=0)), instructed all authorised entities/banks issuing PPIs in the country to carry out special audit by empanelled CERT-In auditors and take appropriate measures on mitigating phishing attacks.

In addition, details of direction pertaining to security for PPI transactions, are available in section 'Security, Fraud prevention and Risk Management Framework' of the Master Directions for PPI issued by RBI (DPSS.CO.PD. No.1164/02.14.006/2017-18).

11. RBI has issued various circulars wherein customer banks are advised to educate customers. These circulars are as follows:

- (a) Card Payments-Relaxation in requirement of Additional Factor of Authentication for small value card present transactions dated May 14, 2015 (DPSS.CO.PD.No.2163/02.14.003/2014-2015).
- (b) Cash Withdrawal at Point-of-Sale (POS)-Enhanced limit at Tier III to VI Centres dated August 27, 2015 (DPSS.CO.PD. No.449/02.14.003/2015-16).
- (c) Card Not Present transactions-Relaxation in Additional Factor of Authentication for payments upto 2000/- for card network provided authentication solutions dated December 6, 2016 (DPSS.CO.PD.No.1431/02.14.003/2016-17).
- (d) Master Direction on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments dated October 11, 2017 (DPSS.CO.PD.No.1164/02.14.006/2017-18).
- (e) Banks have also been requested to educate customers about cyber security risks, as per the circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks dated June 2, 2016 (DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16).

#### **Start-ups in Space Sector**

3458. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of start-ups involved in space sector that have been registered in the country during each of the last ten years, year-wise;

(b) the efforts made by the Government towards creating a vision/roadmap in developing foundation for start-ups involved in space sector in the country;

(c) whether the Government has received proposals for Foreign Direct Investment in the space sector during each of the last five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) ISRO has a Technology Transfer System functioning since 1975, where many a technologies related to space is transferred to Indian industries for commercial applications.

Several companies including start-ups have utilised and got benefitted from this technology transfer programme. ISRO has transferred nearly 340 technologies so far.

(b) Department of Space/ISRO has mooted a Capacity Building Programme with one of the core area as setting up Technology Incubation centres on Space Technology. These will connect ISRO with the academia and local industries in each region.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam. Government has received proposals for Foreign Direct Investment in the space sector. The details are as follows:—

Sl.No.	Name	Year
1.	ANIARA Communications India Pvt. Ltd.	June, 2016
2.	Jupiter Satellite India Ltd.	June, 2016
3.	SES-World Skies Singapore Pte Ltd.	August, 2016

[Translation]

#### **Reservation in Promotion**

3459. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:  
SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued guidelines to all its departments and State Governments to implement

quota in promotion for employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this move is the outcome of a recent verdict of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court in Special Leave Petition (Civil) No.30621/2011 has passed the following order on 17.5.2018:-

"It is directed that the pendency of this Special Leave Petition shall not stand in the way of Union of India taking steps for the purpose of promotion from 'reserved to reserved' and 'unreserved to unreserved' and also in the matter of promotion on merits..".

Further, in the matter related to Special Leave Petition (Civil) No.31288/2017 connected to Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No.28306/2017, the Supreme Court held as under on 05.06.2018:-

"Heard learned counsel for the parties, Learned ASG has referred to order dated 17.05.2018 in SLP(C) No.30621/2011. It is made clear that the Union of India is not debarred from making promotions in accordance with law, subject to further orders, pending further consideration of the matter. Tag to SLP (C) No.30621 of 2011."

Based on interim Orders/directions of the Supreme Court dated 17.05.2018 and 05.6.2018, Department of Personnel and Training *vide* Office Memorandum No. 36012/11/2016- Estt.(Res-I) {Pt-II} dated 15.06.2018 requested all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India to carry out promotions in accordance with above directions of the Supreme Court on existing seniority/select lists subject to further orders which may be passed by the Supreme Court. The State Governments were advised

to take necessary action in accordance with the above-mentioned orders passed by the Supreme Court.

[English]

### **Functioning of Churches**

3460. SHRI R. P. MARUTHARAJAA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of churches functioning in the country as on date, church-wise and State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government has any criteria/policy with regard to starting new churches in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has received complaints on any issue from churches in the country, if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) The Constitution of India provides Right to Freedom of practice and propagation of religion. This Ministry does not maintain information on the number of churches functioning in India

(c) Complaints/grievances from different religious communities/groups/ individual on various issues including churches are received in this Ministry and National Commission for Minorities (NCM) etc. on which appropriate action as per provision are taken.

### **OBC Employees**

3461. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employment level of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Central Government services is far below the recommended quota of 27 per cent and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the employment level of the OBC employees in Group A cadre in Government departments and Constitutional bodies stands at mere 17 per cent and 14 per cent and the employment level of the OBC employees in Group B cadre stands at 14 per cent and 15 per cent respectively and the employment level of the OBC employees in Group C and D cadre is not much different;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the 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) to (d) As per information received from 78 Ministries/ Departments and their attached/subordinate offices including Union Public Service Commission and Election Commission, the representation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the posts and services of the Central Government as on 01.01.2016 is 13.01% in Group A, 14.78% in Group B, 22.65% in Group C (excluding Safai Karamchari) and 14.46% in Group C (Safai Karamchari) which makes the representation of OBCs in the posts and services of the Central Government to 21.57%.

Representation of OBCs in the Central Government services is yet to reach 27% prescribed for them, because reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) started only in September, 1993.

In December, 2014 instructions were issued to the Central Government Ministries/Departments to constitute in-house Committee to identify backlog reserved vacancies, study of the root cause of backlog reserved vacancies, initiation of measures to remove such factors and to fill up such vacancies through Special Recruitment Drive.

Representation of OBCs as on 1.1.2012 was 16.55% which has increased to 21.57% as on 01.01.2016. Therefore, there is an increasing trend in the representation of OBCs in the posts and services of the Central Government.

#### **Change in Passport Laws**

3462. SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring a change in passport laws to exempt infants from being physically present for a biometric finger print;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any representations in this regard; 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) The Ministry issued policy direction on 28 September, 2017 exempting infants/minor children below the age of five years from giving biometrics (10 fingerprints) to the Passport Issuing Authority for processing of their applications related to passport services. The infant/minor children upto the age of 5 years are, however, required to be physically present at the Passport Seva Kendra for capturing their photograph to be printed on the passport.

(c) and (d) Yes. The Ministry of External Affairs received a representation requesting for exemption of new borns being physically present at the Passport Seva Kendra for biometric finger print for issue of passports.

#### **Mathematical Olympiad**

3463. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:  
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:  
SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR:  
SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) the number of students who have been awarded medals in International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) during each of the last three years;

(b) the criteria fixed by the Government for selection of students to participate in IMO;

(c) whether India has participated in 59th IMO held in Romania recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of Indian students who participated in the said Olympiad;

(e) the performance of Indian students in the above said event; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the performance of students?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The number of students who have been awarded medals for the last three years in IMO.

IMO-2016 (Hong Kong July 6-16, 2016)

Silver Medal 1

Bronze Medals 5

IMO-2017 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 12-23, 2017)

Bronze Medals 3

Honourable Mention 3

IMO-2018 (Cluj-Napoca, Romania, July 3-14, 2018)

Silver Medals 3

Bronze Medals 2

Honourable Mention 1

(b) The selection process for the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) in India consists of four stages of examination.

**Stage I Pre-Regional Mathematical Olympiad (PRMO)** is held at centres across India. Students fulfilling the age criteria (for IMO 2019, they should have been born on or after August 1, 1999) and studying in Class 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 are eligible to write PRMO.

**Stage II Regional Mathematical Olympiad (RMO)** is held at smaller number of centres in the region. The country is divided into 26 regions. Based on the performance of PRMO, up to 300 students from Classes 8, 9, 10, 11 and up to 60 students from class 12 are selected to appear in RMO from each region.

**Stage III Indian National Mathematical Olympiad (INMO)** is held at 30 centres across India. On the basis of the performance in RMO upto 30 students from classes 8,9,10,11 and up to 6 students from class 12 from each region are selected to appear for stage 3 (INMO) examination. On the basis of the INMO, the top 30 students from classes 8, 9, 10, 11 and top 6 students from class 12 in merit from all over the country are selected for the training camp at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Mumbai.

**Stage IV International Mathematical Olympiad Training Camp (INMO):** The INMO awardees are invited to a month long training camp in April-May each year at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai.

On the basis of a number of selection tests during the camp, a team of the best 6 students is selected as the IMO Indian team.

(c) Yes, Madam. India has participated in 59th IMO held in Romania from July 3 to July 14, 2018.

(d) Indian team consisting of 6 students participated in the 59th IMO held in Romania. The names of the students, the school and class in which they are studying are given below:

1. Amit Kumar Mallik  
Class 11th  
Sri Chaitanya Junior College,  
Telangana
2. Pranjal Srivastava  
Class 8th  
National Public School, Koramangala,  
Karnataka
3. Spandan Ghosh  
Class 11th  
South Point High School  
West Bengal
4. Anant Mudgal  
Class 12th  
Delhi Public School, Faridabad,  
New Delhi
5. Pulkit Sinha  
Class 12th  
St. Francis School Indirapuram, Ghaziabad  
Uttar Pradesh
6. Sutanay Bhattacharya  
Class 12th  
Bishnupur High School,  
West Bengal

(e) The performance of the Indian team in Romania at the 59th IMO is as follows :

Silver Medals 3

Bronze Medals 2

Honourable Mention 1

(f) The steps taken by Government to improve the performance:

- (1) From the year 2017 a nation wide examination Pre Regional Mathematical Olympiad (PRMO) has been initiated. This will be the first stage of selection to participate in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). In 2017, one lakh students registered for the examination and approximately 85,000 students appeared for the same. In 2018, the PRMO will be held on 19 August across the country. Approximately 1.6 lakh students have registered for the exam. The question paper is bilingual.
- (2) The Training Camp for Indian National Mathematical Olympiad (INMOTC) is now organised in many regions and planned to extend the facility to all regions.

[Translation]

#### **CCTV at Surat Station**

3464. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any policy regarding installation of CCTV surveillance system in parcel office, goods yard and Head TC room for the security of passengers; and

(b) if so, the time by when this policy is likely to be implemented at Surat railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Zonal Railways have been allowed to provide Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras at Parcel Office, Goods Yard, etc. as per Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) approved specification or as per Railway's own specification, based on threat perception and vulnerability analysis done at regular intervals. Presently 43 CCTV cameras are available at Surat station for round the clock surveillance.

[English]

#### **War Memorial**

3465. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of construction of India's first war memorial to remember soldiers who have sacrificed their lives since 1947, around the national capital's India Gate;

(b) the salient features of the war memorial;

(c) the time by which the war memorial is likely to be completed and opened for general public;

(d) whether the entry to the memorial complex is likely to be free for public and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to display the arsenals including tanks captured from Pakistan during war and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The construction work of National War Memorial at 'C' Hexagon of India Gate is under progress. Bulk of Civil work is completed. Finishing work is concurrently underway including landscaping.

(b) The layout of the Memorial comprises four concentric circles *i.e.* Amar Chakra (Circle of Immortality), Veer Chakra (Circle of Bravery), Tyag Chakra (Circle of Sacrifice) and Rakshak Chakra (Circle of Protection). The Memorial Complex will include a central obelisk, an eternal flame, murals, graphic panels, inscription of names of martyrs, busts of winners of Param Veer Chakra among other features.

(c) The expected date for completion of the National War Memorial is October 2018.

(d) Yes, Madam. No entry fee is proposed to be charged. However, appropriate mechanism for security of the complex will be put in place.

(e) No, Madam.

#### **Migration to OECD**

3466. KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR

SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR:

SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of EXTENAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Outlook 2018, the number of Indians migrating to rich countries belonging to the OECD has doubled since the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same, OECD country-wise;

(c) whether the Government has noticed any decline in migration to OECD and other countries by Indian nationals during each of the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same;

(d) the progress so far achieved by India Centre For Migration and its role in curbing migration or facilitating in migration of Indians; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop brain-drain from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) The Government is aware of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) International Migration Outlook 2018 wherein it can be inferred that inflows of Indian nationals to OECD countries have more than doubled during the 2000-2016 period.

(b) and (c) As India is not a member of OECD, the Government is not in a position to comment on the report further. At its end, the Government maintains the data in respect of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders proceeding for overseas employment to ECR countries only. The numbers, year-wise, in this respect from January, 2015 till date are as follows: 7,84,152 (2015), 5,20,938 (2016), 3,91,024 (2017) and 172,320 (till end July, 2018). At the same time, a significant number of Indian passport holders of ECNR category also migrate to various countries around the world.

(d) The India Centre for Migration (ICM) serves as a research think-tank of the Ministry of External Affairs on all matters related to International Migration. The

broad areas of ICM's activities include research, capacity building and assisting the Ministry on matters relating to international migration. Since its establishment, ICM has also collaborated with other organizations such as the European Commission (EC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Women and International Labour Organization (ILO).

Presently, ICM has also been closely involved with Ministry's outreach efforts in partnership with State Governments for generating awareness on issues related to safe and legal migration, skilling and predeparture orientation programmes.

ICM has also brought out comprehensive Training Modules on Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) and handbooks for migrant workers leaving for Gulf countries. ICM in collaboration with IOM has also conducted workshops in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh to generate awareness on safe and legal migration and training of Master Trainers and State Government Officials on Pre Departure Orientation.

(e) The Government is taking all possible steps towards creating an enabling framework to harness its demographic dividend. Ongoing economic reforms, various initiatives and flagship programmes viz Swachh Bharat Mission, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, Stand up India undertaken by the Government and sustained high rate of economic growth in India are providing an enabling environment to our youth.

[*Translation*]

### **Performance of Employees**

3467. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any data is prepared by the Government for rewarding or punishing the railway employees/officers on the basis of their good or bad performance and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the conspiracy for effecting accident in 13237 Patna-Kota express at Duriabad in Barabanki district was foiled by the train driver in May, 2018, but the engine of the train got derailed;

(c) if so, whether cases of such vigilant and efficient personnel, who have protected the assets of the Railways have been reviewed during the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, whether zone-wise data has been collected for rewarding or punishing such employees; and

(e) if so, the details of the policy of the Government for rewarding and promoting personnel rendering excellent work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Separate data is not prepared for rewarding or punishing Railway employees on the basis of their good or bad performance. Awards are given to Railway employees individually as well as in groups in appreciation of their sincere contribution in the form of Cash Awards/Shields/Merit Certificates/Medals/Commendation Letters/Insignia/etc.

Penalties as prescribed under the statutory provisions contained in Railway Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1968 can be imposed on Railway employees by the prescribed statutory authority based on the facts and circumstances in the individual cases.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. As per the conclusion/findings of the Inquiry Committee formed to investigate the matter, the cause of derailment was due to obstruction on track by tree which had fallen down accidentally in front of the approaching Train No.13237.

(d) No zone-wise data is collected at Ministry level for either rewarding or punishing employees.

(e) Annual awards are given during the Railway Week to meritorious employees for excellent work. Besides, individual cash awards are also given during the year for doing excellent work. The annual awards given during Railway Week are at Railway Board, Zonal Railways and Divisional level.

In addition, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Minister of State of Railways, Chairman/Railway Board, Board Members and Director Generals also sanction group/individual cash award to employees for their meritorious performance/timely completion/commissioning of the project/successful organisation of any event.

There is no policy for promoting such personnel, on out of turn basis.

[English]

### **Net Neutrality**

3468. ADV. JOICE GEORGE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for telecom companies to treat the internet as a public utility and not a luxury;

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

(c) whether the Government is planning any revision in net neutrality framework; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of Net Neutrality *i.e.* to keep the Internet accessible and available to all without discrimination.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure that the regulatory framework adheres to the fundamental principles and concepts of Net Neutrality, the policy directives on Net Neutrality incorporating the principles of non-discriminatory treatment of content have recently been issued, a copy of which is attached as Statement. As per the directives, the Internet Access Services are to be governed by a principle that restricts any form of discrimination, restriction or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content.

### **Statement**

No 12-30/NT/2015/OTT (Pt)  
Ministry of Communications  
Department of Telecommunications  
Networks & Technologies (NT) Cell

Dated: 31st July, 2018

**Subject: Regulatory Framework on 'Net Neutrality'**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Internet is increasingly becoming Central to the lives of citizens, consumers and industry. It has emerged as a transformative medium for innovation and economic growth. It has revolutionized not only our lifestyles but also the way governance is done and public services are delivered.
- 1.2 The future growth of telecom sector is largely contingent upon innovation and growth of the Internet infrastructure and many applications, content and services linked to it. However, increasingly, concerns have been raised globally as well as in India relating to the potential for discriminatory treatment of Internet traffic by the entities that control access to the Internet. These concerns regarding non-discriminatory access have become the centre of a global policy debate, often referred to as the debate on 'network or net neutrality'.
- 1.3 'Net-Neutrality' refers to the concept of non-discrimination of Internet traffic by intermediate networks on any criteria. The network should be neutral to all the information being transmitted through it. All communication passing through a network should be treated equally *i.e.* independent of its content, application, service, device, sender or recipient address.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 In the Indian context, there have been multiple consultations on the issue of net neutrality and related aspects. Various initiatives taken by TRAI as well as DoT on the subject are as below:
  - 2.1.1 A Committee was established by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 19th January, 2015 to provide recommendations on Net Neutrality. The Committee submitted its recommendations in May 2015.
  - 2.1.2 TRAI issued a consultation paper on 'Regulatory Framework for Over-The-Top (OTT) Services' on 27th March, 2015.

This paper raised issues relating to the regulatory framework for OTT Services and included questions on the principles of net neutrality, reasonableness of traffic management practices, non-price based discrimination of services and transparency requirements.

- 2.1.3 On 9th December, 2015, TRAI issued a consultation paper on 'Differential Pricing of Data Services'. After a detailed and widespread consultation process, TRAI issued the 'Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations', 2016 in February, 2016. The regulations restricted TSPs from directly or indirectly charging discriminatory prices to consumers based on the content, applications, services or any other data being used by them.
- 2.1.4 In response to request of DoT *vide* letter dated 3rd March, 2016, TRAI initiated a detailed consultation on issues relating to Net Neutrality. This included publication of a pre-consultation paper on 30th May, 2016, followed by a detailed consultation paper on 4th January, 2017.
- 2.1.5 TRAI provided to DoT its recommendations on 'Net Neutrality' dated 28.11.2017.

## 3. Policy Directives on Net Neutrality:

- 3.1 The Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concepts of Net Neutrality *i.e.* keep the Internet accessible and available to all without discrimination. Internet Access Services, therefore, need to be governed by a principle that restricts any form of discrimination, restriction or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content. To ensure that the regulatory framework on Net Neutrality adheres to the fundamental principles and concepts of Net Neutrality, the policy directives as mentioned in the succeeding paras are hereby issued.

3.2 *Principle of non-discriminatory treatment, application, exclusions and exceptions:*

- 3.2.1 It has been decided to amend the terms of various license agreements governing the provision of Internet services in India (UL, VNO license, UASL and CMTS) in order to incorporate the principles of non-discriminatory treatment of content by Internet Access Services along with the appropriate exclusions and exceptions. This will also help in building uniformity in the terms governing the provision of Internet services by different categories of licensees. The specific amendments to be made in each of the license agreements are listed in Table 1 of Annexure-I.
- 3.2.2 The amendments of licence agreements as above shall be issued by the respective licensing wings of DoT hereafter.
- 3.2.3 The necessary Traffic Management Practices (TMPs) shall be formulated by DoT after recommendations of TRAI in this regard.
- 3.2.4 In case of the UASL and the CMTS License, which do not contain a definition of Internet, the definition of Internet shall also be included along with the new definition of Internet Access Service.

3.3 *Applicability to Internet of Things (IoT) and Specialized Services:*

- 3.3.1 The provision of any specialised services, as defined in Table 1 of Annexure-I shall be explicitly excluded from the principle of non-discrimination.
- 3.3.2 However, IoT as a class of services shall not be specifically excluded from the scope of the restrictions on non-discriminatory treatment.
- 3.3.3 Those critical IoT services, which shall be identified by DoT as satisfying the definition of specialised services (as stated above), would be automatically excluded.

- 3.3.4 The classification of critical IoT services shall be done by DoT in consultation with/other departments/stakeholders/for incorporation in license agreements from time to time.
- 3.3.5 The specialised services should be provided only if:
- i. such services are not usable or offered as a replacement for Internet Access Services; and
  - ii. the provision of such services should not be detrimental to the availability and overall quality of Internet Access Services. This could be monitored using various quality of service parameters.
- 3.3.6 The Content Delivery Networks (CDNs) shall not be included within the scope of any restrictions on non-discriminatory treatment, which are designed specifically to cover the providers of Internet Access Services.

3.4 *Transparency and Disclosures:*

TRAI shall supplement its existing disclosure and transparency requirements by framing additional regulations in this regard.

3.5 *Monitoring and Enforcement:*

- 3.5.1 DoT shall establish a multi-stakeholder body with framework for collaborative mechanism among the stakeholders. The body shall have an advisory role.
- 3.5.2 DoT shall seek recommendations of TRAI on the composition, functions, role and responsibilities of the multi stake-holder body.
- 3.5.3 The monitoring and enforcement functions with respect to Net Neutrality shall rest with DoT.

This is issued with the approval of competent authority.  
Encl: As above

(Prashik Jawade)

ADG (NT-II), DoT  
Ph: 011-23719585

Copy to:

1. PS to MoS (IC), MoC
2. PSO to Secretary (T)
3. Special Secretary (T)
4. Member (T)/Member (F)/DGT/Member(S)
5. Secretary, TRAI
6. All Advisors, DoT
7. All TSPs/ISPs
8. DDG (AS/CS/DS), DoT with a request to issue amendments of licence agreements as above.
9. COAI

**Annexure-I**

**Table-I**

*The specific amendments to be made in each of the license agreements are listed in the table below:*

Subject	License and Provision to be Inserted	Text
1	2	3
Principle of non-discriminatory treatment	UL-Insertion of new Clause 2.3 in Chapter IX	(i) A Licensee providing Internet Access Service shall not engage in any discriminatory treatment of content, including based on the sender or receiver, the protocols being used or the user equipment.
Definition of specialised services	VNO License-Insertion of new Clause 2.3 in Chapter IX	(ii) The Licensee is prohibited from entering into any arrangement, agreement or contract, by whatever name called, with any person, natural or legal, that has the effect of discriminatory treatment of content.
Reasonable traffic management and other exceptions	ISP License-Insertion of new Clause 2.5	(iii) Nothing contained in this provision shall restrict: (a) the provision of any Specialised Services by a Licensee, provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Specialised Services are not usable or offered as a replacement for Internet Access Services; and</li> <li>• the provision of the Specialised Services is not detrimental to the availability and overall quality of Internet Access Service.</li> </ul> (b) any measures adopted by the Licensee that are proportionate, transient and transparent in nature and fall under any of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonable traffic management practices, as may be specified from time to time;</li> <li>• Provision of emergency services or any services provided during times of grave public emergency, as per the process laid down by the Licensor/TRAI;</li> <li>• Implementation of any order of a court or direction issued by the Government, in accordance with law;</li> <li>• Measures taken in pursuance of preserving the integrity and security of the network and equipment; and</li> </ul>

1	2	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures taken in pursuance of an international treaty, as may be specified by the Government.</li> </ul>
		(iv) For the purpose of this provision:
		(a) "Content" shall include all content, applications, services and any other data, including its end-point information, which can be accessed or transmitted over the internet.
		(b) "Discriminatory treatment" shall include any form of discrimination, restriction of interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds of treatment to any content.
		(c) "Specialised services" shall mean services other than Internet Access Services that are optimised for specific content, protocols or user equipment, where the optimisation is necessary in order to meet specific quality of service requirements.
		Provided that the Licensee is authorised to provide such services in accordance with the provisions contained in this License, as modified from time to time.
Definition of Internet Access Service UL	UL-Insertion of new Clause 44A in Annexure-I	Internet Access Service is a serviceto access the Internet that is:
	VNO License-Insertion of new Clause 45A in Annexure-I	(i) generally available to the public;and
	ISP License-Insertion of new Clause 16A in Annexure-I	(ii) designed to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all end points on the Internet
	UASL-Insertion of new Clause 26A in Annexure-I	Explanation: Any service that offers capabilities that are incidental to or provide the functional equivalent of Internet Access Services, shall also be included within the scope of this definition Measures taken in pursuance of an international treaty, as may be specified by the Government.
	CMTS-Insertion of new Clause 16A in Annexure-I	

Note: In case of the UASL and the CMTS License, which do not contain a definition of Internet, the definition of Internet shall also be included along with the new definition of Internet Access Service.

#### **Upgradation of Small Stations in Assam**

3469. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to upgrade the small stations in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways has any proposal to upgrade the small stations of Assam;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to upgrade facilities like passenger waiting rooms etc. at such stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Modernisation/upgradation of Railway station in Indian Railways is a continuous and on-going process. At present,

upgradation of stations has been undertaken under Adarsh Station Scheme. The Scheme provides for development of stations, including small stations in the country. Selection of Railway stations under Adarsh Station Scheme is based on the identified need for upgradation of amenities. 1253 stations including 28 stations in Assam have been identified for development under this Scheme. Out of 28 stations in Assam, 27 stations have been developed so far and the remaining 01 station is planned to be developed by 2018-19. With a view to meet the expectations of the passengers, Indian Railways is making all out effort to provide improved facilities at all stations including those located in Assam.

List of 28 stations identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme in Assam is as under:

Badarpur, Barpeta Road, Basugaon, Bijni, Fakiragram Jn., Goreswar, Gosaigaonhat, Hojai, Jakhlabandha, Jorhat Town, Karimganj Jn., Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Rangapara North, Rangiya, Rowta Bagan, Salakati, Silchar, Srirampur, Tangla, Tihu, Tipkai, Udalguri, Bongaigaon, Jagi Road, Furkating, Tatibahar and Narangi.

*[Translation]*

#### **Dedicated Freight Corridors**

3470. SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:  
KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:  
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:  
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the Eastern and Western Freight Corridors;
- (b) the time frame fixed for the completion of these projects initially;
- (c) the expenditure incurred on the projects so far;
- (d) the original cost of the project and the revised cost due to delay in its completion and the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(e) the names of the funding agencies of the two projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Overall progress in land acquisition on both the corridors is 98.7%. All Civil contracts for Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (Sonnagar to Ludhiana) and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal to Dadri) have been awarded. Overall 97.2% of total contracts have been awarded.

(b) At the time of conception of the project, the completion period of the project was expected to be 5 years after start of the construction.

(c) Total expenditure (including land) incurred as on 30.06.2018 is Rs. 39,139 crore.

(d) The original cost of the project was Rs. 28,181 crore. The cost of the project has increased on account of increase in cost of land, change of scope of the project and some other technical requirements.

The revised estimated cost is about Rs. 81,459 crore, which includes price escalation and interest during construction. The project started in 2007, however, the pace of the project has accelerated during the last four years with the infusion of adequate funds and the completion of the Eastern and the Western. Dedicated Freight Corridors are targeted in phases from 2018 to 2020.

(e) The Eastern Corridor is being constructed predominantly with World Bank funding except for 538 Kms section between Sonnagar and Dankuni which is to be constructed through PPP. The Western Corridor is being constructed with funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

*[English]*

#### **Artificial Intelligence**

3471. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of thrust areas identified for employing Artificial Intelligence in Armed Forces; and
- (b) the extent of use of drones in Armed Forces and feed back obtained on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The thrust areas identified by the Task Force constituted by the Government to study the strategic implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the perspective of national security and other related aspects and also identified by the Armed Forces for employing Artificial Intelligence to enhance future capabilities include:—

- (i) Object identifications and image classifications;
- (ii) Network centric operations;
- (iii) Predictive maintenance;
- (iv) Censor data and performance analysis;
- (v) Intelligence & autonomous unmanned systems;
- (vi) Data analysis, information processing, and intelligence analysis;
- (vii) War gaming, simulation and training;
- (viii) Defence, offence and Command Information Warfare;
- (ix) Intelligence support to command decision making;
- (x) War fighting capabilities;
- (xi) Cyber Security Operations;
- (xii) Autonomous underwater vehicle;
- (xiii) Medical diagnostics;
- (xiv) Multi-platform, multi-censor data fusion etc.

(b) Unarmed Vehicles (UAVs) in the Armed Forces are being effectively used for surveillance, fleet support, battle damage assessment, coastal surveillance, search,

rescue and disaster management etc. The performance of UAVs is satisfactory.

[Translation]

#### Proposals by Gujarat Government

3472. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals pertaining to Railways the Government has received from the Government of Gujarat during the last three years, proposal-wise;
- (b) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of proposals of the Government of Gujarat which are pending at present; and
- (d) the location-wise details of the said proposals along with the reasons behind the pendency of each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Requests for Railway proposals, both formal as well as informal, are received by Railways at various levels *i.e.* Railway Board, Zonal Railways and Divisional Headquarters, etc. As receipt of such requests/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained. However, two new line, eighteen gauge conversion and five doubling projects covering a length of 117.38 km., 828.51 km and 388.67 km respectively falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat have been taken up for implementation in the last three years and the current year *i.e.* from 2015-16 to 2017-18 & 2018-19. The details of the projects are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Inclusion in the Budget	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Status
1	2	3	4	5
<b>New Line</b>				
1.	Bhimnath-Dholera (28 KM)	2016-17	280.00	Project to be undertaken by Dholera Industrial City Development Ltd. (DICDL). The Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared.
2.	Taranga-Hill-Abu Road <i>via</i> Ambaji (89.38 km)	2017-18	1879.15	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals from the Government. Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared. The rate of return of the project is (-) 6.59%.

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>				
1.	Ahmedabad-Mehsana (68.78 KM)	2015-16	477.56	Work taken up.
2.	Kalol-Kadi-Katosan Road (37.23 KM)	2017-18	238	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
3.	Kotasan Road-Chansama (51.79KM)	2017-18	313	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
4.	Chansama-Ranuj (12.64 KM)	2017-18	85.00	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
5.	Adraj Moti-Vijaypur (39.75 KM)	2017-18	229.00	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
6.	Vijaypur-Ambliyan (41.43 KM)	2017-18	243.00	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
7.	Khijadiya-Visavadar (91.27 KM)	2017-18	547.62	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
8.	Junagadh-Visavadar (42.28 KM)	2017-18	253.68	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
9.	Veraval-Talala-Visavadar (71.95 KM)	2017-18	460.23	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
10.	Samni-Jambusar (24.08 KM)	2017-18	251.00	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
11.	Jambusar-Visvamitri (48.20 KM)	2017-18	433.80	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
12.	Samlaya-Timba Road (53.53 KM)	2017-18	401.48	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
13.	Nadiad-Petlad (22.50 KM)	2017-18	403.00	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
14.	Petlad-Bhadran (22.50 KM)	2017-18	236.95	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
15.	Dabhoi-Chandod-Kevadiya (49.75 KM)	2017-18	663.00	Work taken up.
16.	Talala-Delvada (70.00 KM)	2017-18	525.30	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
17.	Prachi Road-Kodinar (26.00 KM)	2017-18	193.20	The project has been shelved as operationally and financially not viable.
18.	Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma (54.83 Km)	2017-18	354.89	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
<b>Doubling</b>				
1	Surendranagar-Rajkot (116.17 Km.)	2015-16	1002.39	Work taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Vatva-Ahmedabad-Sabarmati 4th Line (17.20 Km.)	2015-16	231.43	Work taken up.
3.	Anand-Godra (79.00 Km.)	2017-18	683.00	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
4.	Mehsana-Palanpur (65.10 Km)	2018-19	529.30	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.
5.	Rajkot-Kanalus (111.20 Km)	2018-19	1011.72	The project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals.

It is Railway's endeavour to complete all the ongoing projects. Various steps taken/being taken by the Government to fast-track implementation of projects include substantial increase in allocation of funds, prioritization of projects, delegation of powers at field level, nomination of nodal officers for improved co-ordination with the State Governments, etc.

#### **Promoting Relations with China**

3473. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to evolve new methods to promote relations between people of India and China and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard till now;

(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) to (d) During the meetings between Prime Minister and the Chinese President in Wuhan (27-28 April) and Qingdao (9 June) earlier this year, the two leaders agreed that people-to-people exchanges were a significant part of India-China relations and that in order to achieve sustained progress in bilateral ties, it was important to build greater mutual understanding between the people of the two countries through cooperation and exchanges in diverse areas such as films, culture, yoga, sports, art, museums, traditional medicine etc. In this context, the two leaders agreed to establish a High-Level Mechanism for People-

to-People Exchanges Co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries. The first meeting of the High-Level Mechanism is proposed to be held later this year.

[English]

#### **Shortage of Coal**

3474. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU:

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of coal by various power plants and supply made to them during each of the last three years and the current year, plant/State-wise

(b) whether there is coal shortage in the country which is likely to persist for the next 2-3 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to enhance production of coal and improve supply of coal to power sector;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps and directed CIL and State to import coal to bridge the gap between the demand and supply and if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(e) if so, the price at which coal is being imported from external agencies; and

(f) whether the private companies or captive miners have been allowed selling coal in open market and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Plant-wise and State-wise coal supplies for the last three years and the current year from Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are at Statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) There is no shortage of coal for the Power Sector. In the beginning of 2018-19, Coal India Limited (CIL) had a pithead stock of 55.55 Million Tonne (MT) and stock at power house end was 16.27 MT. In the 2018-19 (up to 05.08.2018), CIL dispatched 167.86 MT (provisional) coal to Power Sector, thereby achieving a growth of 15% over the dispatch in the corresponding period of last year. The growth in dispatch of coal to Power Sector has helped coal based generation to achieve positive growth of 5.3% and 101.3% of the programme in the 1st Quarter of 2018-19. This is despite the fact that generation from imported coal based plants was 66% of the programme in the first quarter of 2018-19. This shows that shortfall in generation from imported coal based plants was also compensated by increased power generation from plants based on domestic coal.

The progress of production and offtake of CIL is reviewed regularly. New rail lines are being laid for smooth evacuation of increased coal production from the mines of growing coalfields of SECL, MCL and CCL. Further, coal supplies to Power sector is monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Sub Group comprising representatives of Ministries of Power, Coal, Railways, Shipping, Central Electricity Authority, NITI Aayog, CIL etc. A Committee of Secretary (Coal), Secretary (Power) and Member (Traffic),

Railway Board has also been jointly reviewing the coal transportation and supply on a regular basis.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Power has advised on 30.05.2018 to Energy Department of State Governments to assess their requirement in respect of import of coal and plan accordingly. Considering the demand projection of power sector by CEA and production plan of CIL, no shortage of domestic coal in power sector is anticipated in the coming years. For the Financial Year 2018-19, Ministry of Power has projected annual domestic coal requirement 615 MT (525 MT from Coal India Limited, 53 MT from SCCL and 37 MT from Captive mines). This requirement is being met by supply of coal from domestic sources. Due to these efforts of enhanced domestic coal supply to power plants, the coal import by power plants has been reducing during last three years. The coal imported for blending purposes during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 have been 37.1 Million Tonnes (MT), 19.8 MT and 17.0 MT respectively. Coal and coke, being under Open General License as per import policy of the Government, are imported by various traders and consuming industries as per their requirements. However, the gap between demand and domestic supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient availability of coking coal and power plant designed on imported coal will continue to import coal for their production.

(f) The methodology for auction of coal mines/blocks for sale of coal under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has been approved by the Government. No coal mines have so far been auctioned under this methodology.

#### **Statement-I**

*Power House/State-wise despatches from CIL Sources for the last three years and current year (upto July 2018)*  
(in lakh tonnes)

Name of TPP	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (till July'18)	
	FSA Qty	Despatch	FSA Qty	Despatch	FSA Qty	Despatch	Prorata FSA Qty	Despatch
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Santaldih	11.16	26.57	11.16	23.57	11.16	15.81	3.61	7.84
Bandel	16.00	8.57	16.00	11.89	16.00	10.15	5.17	3.38
Kolaghat	53.00	51.09	53.00	44.71	53.00	32.01	17.14	14.30
Bakreswar	44.10	47.78	44.10	47.49	44.10	42.64	14.26	11.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sagardighi	16.50	22.01	16.50	31.03	16.50	31.87	5.34	6.29
Farakka/NTPC	93.12	82.49	93.12	95.76	93.12	83.69	30.11	31.84
Budge Budge	17.45	16.49	11.70	15.80	7.95	13.37	2.57	3.19
CESC	0.50	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
CESC/South Gen	2.50	2.48	2.50	2.79	2.50	1.94	0.81	0.69
Titagarh	5.50	3.89	5.50	0.89	5.50	0.00	1.78	0.00
DPL	22.00	14.50	18.40	13.14	18.40	14.85	5.95	5.73
DVC/Durgapur	10.00	7.18	10.00	3.79	10.00	3.69	3.23	1.93
DVC/Mejia	56.00	86.86	56.00	81.90	58.23	83.68	18.11	24.94
Durgapur Steel Tpp	37.25	32.96	37.25	46.10	37.25	41.78	12.04	16.03
DVC Raghunathpur	-	4.51	-	4.10	18.65	5.89	12.70	6.41
Haldia Energy	23.64	19.13	25.70	23.77	25.70	23.17	8.31	7.61
<b>Total West Bengal</b>	<b>408.72</b>	<b>426.53</b>	<b>400.93</b>	<b>446.73</b>	<b>418.06</b>	<b>404.54</b>	<b>141.13</b>	<b>141.50</b>
Muzaffarpur	11.60	6.23	11.74	7.02	17.11	13.77	8.97	5.41
Barauni	11.00	0.00	11.00	1.53	11.00	0.61	3.56	0.14
NTPC Barh	-	32.13	-	37.17	-	35.31	-	6.86
NTPC Kahalgaon	103.12	117.39	109.18	125.88	113.12	126.36	36.58	39.14
NTPC Nabi Nagar	-	0.08	2.00	1.10	14.54	6.74	8.08	4.19
<b>Total Bihar</b>	<b>125.72</b>	<b>155.83</b>	<b>133.92</b>	<b>172.70</b>	<b>155.77</b>	<b>182.79</b>	<b>57.19</b>	<b>55.74</b>
Patratu/JSEB	10.00	3.52	10.00	3.50	10.00	0.00	3.23	0.00
Tenughat	20.00	21.51	20.00	11.40	20.00	14.17	6.47	4.49
Bokaro	30.00	13.89	30.00	11.14	49.70	21.44	16.09	7.17
Chandrapura/DVC	27.30	33.84	27.30	29.65	27.30	19.45	8.83	5.57
Maithon Power Ltd.	36.34	39.46	36.34	36.92	36.34	36.40	11.75	13.21
Koderma (DVC)	37.10	24.22	37.03	23.96	37.03	34.69	11.97	16.94
Adhunik Power	-	9.39	-	2.37	-	0.04	-	0.00
<b>Total Jharkhand</b>	<b>160.74</b>	<b>145.83</b>	<b>160.67</b>	<b>118.94</b>	<b>180.37</b>	<b>126.19</b>	<b>58.34</b>	<b>47.38</b>
TTPS	25.00	29.05	27.65	31.43	30.00	30.72	9.70	9.51
TTPS/STPS	173.00	158.98	176.38	181.24	178.00	185.15	57.55	58.92
IB Valley/OPGC	27.00	27.00	27.00	28.59	27.00	25.83	8.73	9.23
Sterlite Energy	56.56	39.78	25.70	22.45	25.70	15.75	8.31	0.21
Gmr Kamalanga (IPP)	30.07	25.22	21.40	25.05	21.40	21.75	6.92	8.06
Jindal India Thermal	-	0.30	3.51	2.75	19.26	8.47	6.22	2.27
Ind Bharath Energy(Utkal) Ltd	-	1.00	-	0.50	15.08	1.16	4.88	0.00
<b>Total Odisha</b>	<b>311.63</b>	<b>281.33</b>	<b>281.64</b>	<b>292.01</b>	<b>316.44</b>	<b>288.83</b>	<b>102.31</b>	<b>88.20</b>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NTPC Bongaigaon	-	1.14	2.00	6.76	10.69	7.35	5.34	4.38
Total Assam	0.00	1.14	2.00	6.76	10.69	7.35	5.34	4.38
Rihand	138.65	130.10	140.45	143.47	142.05	148.55	45.93	43.94
Unchahar	57.00	50.24	55.19	45.19	54.00	43.93	17.46	6.30
Dadri	77.32	72.10	80.10	57.51	80.10	62.11	25.90	28.55
Tanda	24.38	24.86	24.62	19.45	23.00	19.69	7.44	4.61
Singrauli	110.00	115.82	112.65	108.76	115.00	100.80	37.18	29.89
Harduaganj	29.54	28.37	27.90	24.14	27.90	20.44	9.02	6.92
Parichha	50.63	59.37	50.63	41.52	50.63	43.48	16.37	13.01
Panki Extn.	9.00	6.70	9.00	5.97	9.00	1.49	2.91	0.00
Prayagraj (Jaypee)	-	2.62	23.40	26.95	70.20	23.65	22.47	12.66
OBRA	39.80	35.09	46.67	32.93	46.57	34.81	15.06	6.61
Anpara	85.00	94.87	94.99	104.09	118.64	113.26	38.36	43.63
Rosa (IPP), UP	46.89	45.03	46.89	44.36	46.89	38.86	15.16	10.62
Lanco Anpara	41.82	47.72	41.82	51.41	41.82	47.67	13.52	17.30
Bajaj Energy	19.50	17.26	19.50	13.70	19.50	5.00	6.31	3.26
Lalitpur Power	-	5.43	-	2.15	-	0.71	-	0.00
Meja Urja Nigam	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.52	-	0.19
Total U.P.	729.53	735.59	773.81	721.60	845.30	704.97	273.09	227.49
PSPCL (Bhatinda, LHM, Ropar)	66.00	55.98	66.00	40.81	66.00	33.16	21.34	12.77
Nabha Power (IPP)	55.50	42.40	55.50	50.34	55.50	48.34	17.95	16.49
Talwandi Sabo	25.73	18.31	66.99	48.91	77.20	47.88	24.96	18.11
Total Punjab	147.23	116.69	188.49	140.06	198.70	129.38	64.25	47.37
Panipat	66.00	28.41	44.65	15.45	44.65	20.22	14.44	10.78
Yamunanagar	28.00	24.43	28.00	21.59	28.00	16.39	9.05	6.03
RGTPS, Hissar	47.88	17.39	47.88	27.74	47.02	26.83	15.20	13.03
IGTPP, Jhajjar	58.01	34.45	59.07	33.04	56.23	49.01	18.18	15.03
MGTPP, Jhajjar	49.37	29.99	49.37	16.84	49.37	34.80	15.96	11.36
Total Haryana	249.26	134.68	228.97	114.66	225.27	147.25	72.83	56.23
Rajghat	8.00	0.39	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Badarpur	42.00	13.65	27.47	11.92	17.20	10.65	5.56	4.69
Total Delhi	50.00	1404.02	35.47	11.92	17.20	10.65	5.56	4.69
Kota	69.58	52.40	69.58	41.62	69.58	45.08	22.50	18.91
Chabra	23.12	20.32	23.12	22.06	23.12	14.55	7.48	4.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Suratgarh	78.04	39.15	78.04	26.49	78.04	28.88	25.23	15.80
Adani Power Kawai	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.68	-	0.00
Kalisindh Unit-1	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	1.02	-	0.26
<b>Total Rajasthan</b>	<b>170.74</b>	<b>111.87</b>	<b>170.74</b>	<b>90.17</b>	<b>170.74</b>	<b>90.21</b>	<b>55.21</b>	<b>39.19</b>
Sikka	12.20	2.93	12.20	1.03	12.20	0.00	3.94	0.00
Ukai	41.70	42.18	41.70	41.20	41.70	42.12	13.48	13.11
Gandhinagar	34.60	20.50	34.60	17.34	34.60	25.67	11.19	8.13
Wanakbori	85.20	46.93	85.20	28.87	85.20	47.38	27.55	22.63
Ahmedabad (Torrent)	13.40	8.89	13.40	11.06	13.40	10.36	4.33	3.63
Adani-Mundra	64.05	40.36	40.90	28.29	64.05	49.01	20.71	11.33
<b>Total Gujarat</b>	<b>251.15</b>	<b>161.78</b>	<b>228.00</b>	<b>127.80</b>	<b>251.15</b>	<b>174.54</b>	<b>81.20</b>	<b>58.83</b>
Korba (E) & Exp	53.00	51.53	53.00	48.56	53.00	43.51	17.14	14.25
Korba (W)	70.99	71.60	70.12	74.25	70.12	64.74	22.67	26.55
Korba (W) Power Co Ltd Raigarh	0.52	0.27	1.25	0.00	1.16	0.00	0.38	0.00
Marwa TPS	-	1.30	-	19.39	-	40.55	-	14.69
Korba/STPS (NTPC)	145.12	142.40	145.12	135.94	145.12	126.10	46.92	44.72
Seepat (NTPC)	149.56	133.15	149.56	138.36	149.56	136.07	48.36	48.97
Lanco Amarkantak	20.04	18.48	27.85	23.32	27.85	22.02	9.00	6.99
DB Power	6.65	3.22	20.28	10.46	20.28	16.58	6.56	4.26
NSPCL, Bhilai	24.08	19.82	24.08	22.59	24.08	21.77	7.79	7.02
Maruti Clean Coal Power Limited	0.00	0.20	12.69	3.04	12.69	9.19	4.10	3.17
KSK Mahanadi Ltd	29.87	26.64	8.38	9.03	0.00	0.39	-	-
Balco IPP	5.53	4.43	12.13	9.69	15.59	9.58	5.04	3.65
Jindal Tamnar	8.38	11.42	28.25	17.10	34.80	27.86	10.20	8.37
RKM Power Co Ltd	0.00	0.99	0.00	0.73	16.99	7.58	5.49	4.12
TRN Energy Pvt. Ltd.	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.40	19.87	10.52	6.43	3.73
SKS Power	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.84
NTPC Lara	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	2.00	-	-
ACB India Ltd.	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.65	0.29
<b>Total Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>513.74</b>	<b>485.45</b>	<b>552.71</b>	<b>514.86</b>	<b>591.11</b>	<b>538.80</b>	<b>190.73</b>	<b>191.62</b>
Amarkantak	20.00	9.76	20.00	8.54	20.00	9.84	6.47	2.87
Sarni	66.45	59.75	69.62	21.51	69.62	41.52	22.51	18.66
Birsinghpur (MP)	64.00	52.39	64.00	49.25	64.00	52.02	20.69	18.51

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Vindhyachal (NTPC)	203.89	202.67	205.75	214.01	207.39	257.40	67.06	79.50
JP Bina (IPP)	15.42	8.93	15.42	4.06	15.42	12.06	4.99	4.75
Shri Singaji Khandwa	49.94	27.63	46.78	13.09	46.78	26.90	15.13	16.62
MB Power Limited	18.03	18.40	35.04	24.55	35.04	31.21	11.33	9.37
Jhabua Power Limited	-	0.11	13.28	2.43	18.98	9.61	6.14	4.71
<b>Total Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>437.73</b>	<b>379.64</b>	<b>469.89</b>	<b>337.44</b>	<b>477.23</b>	<b>440.56</b>	<b>154.32</b>	<b>154.99</b>
Chandrapur	128.00	95.98	128.00	92.70	128.00	94.22	41.39	24.45
Paras	26.79	28.14	26.79	19.25	25.03	18.64	8.09	7.33
Khaparkheda.	72.04	64.65	73.12	48.16	73.12	47.28	23.64	18.58
Nasik	33.56	33.40	33.56	22.52	30.78	23.18	9.95	6.71
Koradih	31.60	30.13	31.60	34.09	34.51	52.04	11.16	15.54
Bhusawal	69.21	56.52	71.00	30.82	67.63	59.84	21.87	19.17
Parli	47.04	7.05	35.95	3.73	34.19	15.41	11.05	4.99
Dahanu	24.50	24.27	24.50	22.48	24.50	19.53	7.92	7.31
Wardha Warora	16.25	11.17	16.25	0.00	16.25	3.10	5.25	2.69
Purti Power IPP	1.10	1.12	1.10	0.91	1.10	0.28	0.36	0.00
NTPC-Mouda	25.07	12.77	25.17	23.18	62.98	24.35	11.95	10.63
EMCO Warora (IPP)	26.00	21.40	26.00	17.30	26.00	18.78	8.41	5.76
Adani Power Tiroda	49.10	66.71	49.12	68.55	49.12	39.91	15.88	11.57
Ratanindia (Amravati) TPP (IPP)	68.36	37.17	54.93	5.86	54.93	35.24	17.76	19.01
Vidarbha IPP (Butibori)	11.11	11.02	11.11	12.21	11.11	12.85	3.59	3.50
Dhariwal Infrasture	0.28	0.23	14.14	4.85	14.14	10.65	4.57	3.65
Solapur STPP (NTPC)	-	0.00	-	0.58	13.02	0.77	8.24	2.59
<b>Total Maharashtra</b>	<b>630.01</b>	<b>501.74</b>	<b>622.34</b>	<b>407.18</b>	<b>653.39</b>	<b>476.07</b>	<b>202.84</b>	<b>163.48</b>
TNEB/Tangendco: Mettur, Ennore, North Chennai, Tuticorin	204.45	158.75	204.45	125.17	204.45	137.94	66.11	53.34
Vallur-TNECL	63.95	33.00	62.39	45.18	62.39	52.60	19.20	14.37
NLCTPL, Tuticorin	8.40	5.89	26.31	16.40	34.81	34.32	12.50	10.71
<b>Total Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>276.80</b>	<b>197.64</b>	<b>293.15</b>	<b>186.75</b>	<b>301.65</b>	<b>224.86</b>	<b>97.81</b>	<b>78.42</b>
Raichur (KPCL)	51.21	54.39	51.21	45.51	51.21	42.30	16.56	16.18
Bellary (KPCL)	-	8.18	-	0.92	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Karnataka</b>	<b>51.21</b>	<b>62.57</b>	<b>51.21</b>	<b>46.43</b>	<b>51.21</b>	<b>42.30</b>	<b>16.56</b>	<b>16.18</b>
Kothagudem TPS	-	0.07	-	0.12	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ramagundem/STPS	10.00	3.10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Telengana	10.00	3.18	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Simhadri	98.22	59.73	98.22	66.68	98.20	79.17	31.75	26.96
Mudannur	18.80	23.22	18.80	22.02	18.80	15.45	6.08	3.38
Vijaywada	83.12	61.21	83.12	59.15	83.12	65.36	26.88	21.79
Hinduja	-	1.70	35.37	20.83	46.24	26.32	14.95	0.04
APPDCL, Sridamodaram Sanjeevia TPS-(U 1&2)	19.87	14.15	50.00	35.94	50.00	30.41	16.17	13.20
Painampuram (Thermal Power Tech)	19.66	11.96	33.47	22.38	42.73	24.68	13.82	9.66
Andhra Pradesh	239.67	171.99	318.99	227.00	339.09	241.39	109.65	75.03
Total CIL	4763.87	5477.49	4912.92	3963.12	5203.37	4230.68	1688.36	1450.72

**Statement-II**

*Power House/State-wise despatches from SCCL sources for the last three years and current year (upto July 2018)*

(in lakh tonnes)

Power House	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (Apr-Jul '18)	
	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply	Prorata Linkage	Supply
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Kothagudem	59.00	95.58	82.12	89.95	82.12	99.52	27.45	28.87
RDM B	3.00	2.72	3.00	3.30	3.00	3.29	1.00	1.01
Kakatiya	21.60	23.34	21.60	25.93	21.60	27.69	7.22	9.75
KTPS STGE-VII			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bhadradi TPS			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
N.T.P.C., RGM	102.00	121.55	112.00	124.27	112.00	122.06	37.44	38.33
KTPP-Stage-II			22.00	14.98	22.00	17.92	5.01	4.84
Singareni T P Project	0.00	1.82	35.00	26.23	45.00	59.31	16.38	13.56
Total Telangana	185.60	245.01	275.72	284.65	285.72	329.79	94.50	96.36
RTPP Muddanur	38.80	35.87	38.80	31.14	38.80	34.87	12.97	10.02
NTPC (Simhadri)	15.00	17.29	25.00	24.02	10.00	10.61	3.34	2.36
Sri Damodaram STPP	0.00	0.33	10.00	1.26	0.50	0.11	0.00	0.00
VTPS	0.00	64.15	50.00	39.27	25.00	29.38	7.34	22.03
Total Andhra Pradesh	53.80	117.64	123.80	95.70	74.30	74.97	23.65	34.41
Parli TPS/Mahagenco (Old)	22.60	7.62	22.60	0.08	0.00		0.00	0.00
Koradi TPS	0.00	5.20	6.50	11.40	13.00	16.32	3.26	6.35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Parli (Unit-8)			4.33	3.87	8.65	8.03	2.17	3.05
NTPC Mouda	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.27	10.00	7.58	3.34	4.82
NTPC Ltd., Solapur Sup.Thermal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	4.29	0.84	2.33
M S E B Bhusawal	0.00	0.00	5.00	2.90	1.64	0.56	0.00	0.96
Chendrapur (CSTPS)	0.00	16.09	10.00	19.23	10.00	11.22	0.84	0.00
Khaperkheda TPP	0.00	3.70	5.00	7.85	1.03	0.23	0.00	0.00
Paras TPS	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.84	0.90
Power E-Auction	0.00	0.00	25.00	8.39	0.00	1.45	1.67	1.18
<b>Total Maharashtra</b>	<b>22.60</b>	<b>33.09</b>	<b>78.43</b>	<b>55.97</b>	<b>49.32</b>	<b>51.27</b>	<b>12.95</b>	<b>19.59</b>
Bellary (KPCL)	24.00	23.47	50.00	29.69	20.00	17.07	5.74	3.60
Yermarus TPP			5.00	3.73	20.00	7.54	13.04	3.99
NTPC Kudgi	0.00	0.24	5.00	0.82	25.00	19.56	13.04	6.16
Raichur/KPCL	24.00	40.91	30.10	38.06	30.10	31.11	10.06	9.37
<b>Total Karnataka</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>64.62</b>	<b>90.10</b>	<b>72.30</b>	<b>95.10</b>	<b>75.29</b>	<b>41.87</b>	<b>23.12</b>
Tangedco (MTPS I & II)	0.00	0.00	10.00	4.91	3.00	2.07	0.00	0.00
NTPC Vallur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Aravally TPS	15.00	9.85	5.00	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.72
<b>Total Haryana</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>9.85</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.72</b>
NSPCL (NTPC&SAIL)	10.00	3.10	10.00	0.40	1.00	1.11	1.67	0.88
NTPC Korba Sup.Ther.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	1.67	0.39
NTPC Ltd-Sipat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.04	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>1.27</b>
<b>Total Power</b>	<b>335.00</b>	<b>473.31</b>	<b>593.05</b>	<b>514.97</b>	<b>508.63</b>	<b>534.72</b>	<b>177.15</b>	<b>175.47</b>

### National Transporter's Revenues

3475. SHRI J. J. T. NATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set a target of doubling the national transporter's revenues to Rs. 4 lakh crore by 2025 to make it profitable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether over this period, the total investment by the Railways would be about Rs. 9 lakh crore and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether full electrification was planned by the Government to save around Rs. 15,000 crore in fuel bill; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The Indian Railways aims to maximise its revenues by capacity enhancement on the Railways network. The capacity enhancement measures include expansion in rail network through new lines, doubling, tripling, etc., development of improved signalling system, expansion in electrified network and enhancing utilization of assets.

(c) The total capital investment by the Railways is expected to be about approximately Rs. 8.56 lakh crore by the year 2020 under the following heads:

(i) Network Decongestion, (ii) Network Expansion, (iii) National Projects (Northeastern and Kashmir Connectivity Projects), (iv) Safety, (v) Information Technology and Research, (vi) Rolling Stock, (vii) Passenger Amenities, (viii) High Speed Rail and Elevated Corridor, (ix) Station Redevelopment and Logistics Parks and (x) Others.

(d) and (e) Targeted electrification of network has been planned by Indian Railways and is expected to be completed by the year 2022. With this targeted electrification, Indian Railways is likely to save an amount of Rs. 13,000 crore on fuel bill by then.

#### **Merger of Passport Office**

3476. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passport employees have demanded that the authorities should consider merger of the passport office with the Ministry of External Affairs.

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

(c) whether many proposals approved by the cabinet are yet to be implemented in the passport offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not implementing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Yes, the All India Passport Employees Association, a recognized staff association of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO), has requested the Ministry to consider merger of the CPO with the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The Central Passport Organisation (CPO) was established in 1959 as a Subordinate Office of the Ministry. A Subordinate Office functions as a field establishment which is responsible for the execution of the policies of the Government. Accordingly, the Ministry set up the CPO as a Subordinate Office for delivery of passport related services as per the policies framed by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) No proposal approved by the Cabinet is pending for implementation by the Passport Offices under the CPO.

#### **Indian Workers in USA**

3477. SHRI M. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of skilled professionals from India working in the USA, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government in tackling the recent visa restrictions imposed by the American Government under the H1B and H4 categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) The U.S. Government does not provide State-wise data regarding the number of skilled professionals from India working in the U.S.

Government of India has closely consulted all stakeholders and has engaged with the U.S. Administration and Congress at all levels on all issues relating to movement of Indian professionals, including those pertaining to the H-1B visa programme. External Affairs Minister took up the matter with the U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in New York (September 21, 2017) and New Delhi (October 25, 2017) as well as with the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley in New Delhi (June 28, 2018).

In our engagements, we have emphasized to the U.S. side that movement of Indian skilled professionals to the U.S. has been a mutually-beneficial partnership which should be nurtured.

#### **Privacy of User Data**

3478. SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:  
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
 SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:  
 SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
 SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR:  
 SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) whether huge chunk of data is being generated on smart phone and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the data collated by mobile application over a period of time can be used to profile people which poses a risk to data privacy and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing framework for protection of personal data of telecom consumer is sufficient and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same;

(d) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has made recommendation that all entities that process personal user data should be brought under a data protection framework and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the mobile operators thereto;

(e) whether the Government had set up a committee under Justice B. M. Srikrishna to deliberate on a data protection framework for the country which has submitted its report to the Government and if not, the reasons for delay along with the time by which it is likely to be submitted;

(f) whether entities controlling and processing user data do not have primary rights over the data and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) whether there is a need to spread awareness about data protection and privacy issues so that the users can take well informed decisions about their personal data and if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The data traffic per smart phone in India is currently estimated\* to be 5.7 GB per month.

(b) Mobile applications access user data after seeking explicit consent of the user. The user always has the option to decide what permission to be given to enable application to access data, and such permission can also be modified/revoked. The report mentioned at (e) below proposes criminal liabilities on entities that violate privacy and profile people.

(c) and (d) As per the Recommendations made by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, 'Privacy, Security and Ownership of the Data in the Telecom Sector' dated 16th July, 2018, There are a number of applicable legislation and policies that contain provisions with a bearing on the right to privacy and data security in the telecom sector in India. These include:

- IT Act, 2000: Sec 43A, Sec 69, Sec 69B, Sec 72A, Sec 67C, and
- Sec 79.
- IT Rules
- Indian Telegraph Act, 1885: Sec 5 and Sec 26,
- Indian Telegraph Rule 419A.
- Unified License condition 37, 38, 39 and 40.
- Guidelines, circulars, direction, and notifications issued by DoT and TRAI

The said recommendation States under 3.2 (a). Summary of recommendations-"The existing framework for protection of the personal information/data of telecom consumers is not sufficient. To protect telecom consumers against the misuse of their personal data by the broad range of data controllers and processors in the digital ecosystem, all entities in the digital ecosystem, which control or process their personal data should be brought under a data protection framework".

*\*Ericsson mobility report-June, 2018.*

(e) Yes, Madam. Government proposes to bring out data protection legislation in the country. A Committee of Experts on Data Protection chaired by Justice Shri. B.N Srikrishna (Retd.) had been constituted to look into the aspects pertaining to Data Protection. The Committee has submitted its report along with draft Bill to Government on 27.07.2018.

(f) Entities controlling and processing user data do not have primary rights over user data but their role is limited as a data fiduciary. This has also been stressed by the committee of Experts on Data Protection.

(g) Yes, Madam. There is a need to spread awareness about data protection and privacy issues so that the users can take well informed decisions about their personal data. Towards this, the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology undertakes multiple awareness activities via CERT-In Awareness Programs & Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project.

#### **Examination-Based Cadre/Service Allocation**

3479. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes for examination-based cadre and service allocation to UPSC qualified probationers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present practice and the divergent plan therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the new system is likely to pay weightage and thus respect position to the topmost posts of civil servants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Infection of Cows at Sainik Dairy Farm**

3480. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cows at defence dairy farm situated in Jabalpur have been infected with a communicable disease;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to sell those cows;

(d) if so, whether the institutions have refused to buy these cows because of this deadly disease; and

(e) if so, whether treatment for the said disease is not available and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE) (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Southern Railways**

3481. SHRIMATI P. K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal of bringing Mangaluru Central and Mangaluru Junction of Mangaluru railway region under the Konkan Railway or the South Western Railway from the Palakkad Division of Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to separate Thiruvananthapuram-Tirunelveli and Nagercoil-Kanyakumari lines from the Thiruvananthapuram Division of Southern Railway and bring them under the Madurai Division of Southern Railway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Jan Aushadhi Kendras**

3482. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of railway stations of Maharashtra where medical stores have been opened;

(b) whether licence to open a medical store at railway platforms for facilitating passengers can be given to the unemployed graduates and the stakeholder pharmaceutical firms; and

(c) if so, the prospective scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Specific Jan Aushadhi Kendras have not been opened. However, Railway Board has decided that a policy provision will be made that existing Multi Purpose Stalls (MPS) at Railway stations may be authorized to stock generic low-cost medicines also in accordance with the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Scheme. At present 03 chemist stalls are operational one each at (i) Mumbai Churchgate, (ii) Mumbai Central and (iii) Andheri Railway stations.

The 01 chemist stall earlier operated at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus has been converted to Multi Purpose Stall under the existing Multi Purpose Stall (MPS) policy. The 01 chemist stall operational at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus is under process of conversion to Multi Purpose Stall. All these stations are within the territorial jurisdiction of Maharashtra State.

(b) and (c) No new chemists stall/medical stores will be opened. Under the existing Multi Purpose Stall (MPS) policy, in order to have single outlet/stall at platforms for non catering items required during travelling, it has been decided to set up Multi Purpose Stalls (MPS) at Railway stations wherein items permitted for sale are miscellaneous items, books/magazines/news paper, chemist stall items-OTC (Over The Counter) medicines and non-pharmacy items viz.dry/spray milk powder etc. Allotment of Multi Purpose Stalls will be done by E-Tendering/normal Tendering.

In the MPS policy, Retailers/Individuals/Self Help Groups (SHGs)/registered sole proprietorship firms or a partnership firm/company, incorporated under Partnership Act 1932/Companies Act 1956 amended from time to time are eligible to participate in the bidding process.

[English]

### **Train Captain Service**

3483. SHRI G. HARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Railways is considering to deploy onboard Train Captains who will solely handle the responsibility to redress the problems of the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the Railways has identified trains for introduction of Train Captains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) In order to introduce the concept of a single person/leader responsible for coordinating the entire team and facilitating all services during the complete journey of the train, instructions have been issued introducing the concept of Train Captain. In trains like Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto and other trains where a Train Superintendent (TS) is on end to end basis, TS shall be nominated as "Train Captain" and made responsible for all the facilities on train. In all other trains, where TS is not present, Zonal Railways are to nominate the senior most ticket checking staff as Train Captain.

### **Internet Filtering System**

3484. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian internet service providers have installed the highest number of internet filtering system and blocked the maximum number of web pages;

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

(c) whether an investigation has been conducted by overseas agencies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcomes 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) Internet Service Providers implement blocking/filtering

of Internet websites/Uniform Resource Locators (URLs)/webpages by using suitable technology as per technical requirements. As per Information Technology Act, 2000 [Section 69A] and Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public Rules 2009 made thereunder, the directions for blocking for public access of any information including websites/URLs/webpages is issued by Group Coordinator, Cyber Law Division, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). As per the directions of MeitY, instructions for blocking of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs)/websites/webpages are issued by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Further, as per the direction of various Hon'ble Courts, instructions are also issued to Internet Service Providers for compliance of the court orders from time to time.

From 01st January 2016 to date, instructions have been issued by the Department of Telecommunications to ISPs for blocking of about 11045 websites/URLs/webpages.

(c) and (d) No such report has been received by the Department.

#### **Study on Cyber Threat**

3485. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to identify the cyber threats in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology and limited window time available for an effective response, continuous efforts are required to be made to detect and prevent cyber attacks by way of continuous threat assessment and near real-time situational awareness. Such timely information enables coordinated actions by the stakeholders to take appropriate proactive and preventive action.

Concerted efforts are made to harvest the requisite information from multiple sources. These include incidents reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency

Response Team (CERT-In), technical measures, security cooperation arrangement with overseas Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and leading security product and service vendors as well as agencies within the Government. In addition, the study reports published by various agencies across the world are also studied to understand the historical data with respect to global threat landscape and threat predictions.

#### **Coal Mine Workers**

3486. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:  
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:  
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:  
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:  
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH  
SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of coal mine workers working in different State owned coal mines across the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the details of the number of facilities including safety facilities being provided to these workers across the country;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints at present in some of the States in connection with violation of safety guidelines in their mines and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make these coal mines/all coal mines as zero accidental; and

(e) whether the Government has issued guidelines to States to provide training to workers for safety during the work time and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The number of coal mine workers working in the subsidiaries of CIL and SCCL located in different States as on 01.07.18 are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The following safety facilities are provided to employees in Coal India Ltd (CIL) and its subsidiaries:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)s to all employees as per requirement of their jobs.
- Round-the-clock Supervision by statutory personnel for ensuring safety of the employees working in the mines.
- System/devices/apparatuses for early detection of different gases present in mine ambience and/or produced in the UG mine environment due to various reasons including mine fire/spontaneous heating.
- Adequate support for overlying roof strata.
- Electrical safety features such as Overload (OL) protection, Earth Leakage (EL) protection, restricted earth neutral system, Lighting Arrester etc.
- Adequate initial, refresher and job-specific training to all employees.
- Adequate fire-fighting arrangement.
- Appropriate fencing against dangerous places at mine.
- Facility of Man Riding System for those UG mines having arduous and long travel.
- Well-equipped Organization for Mine Rescue Services for dealing with Emergency situations.

(c) As informed by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), a subordinate office under Ministry of Labour & Employment, complaints are received from time to time in connection with violation of safety guidelines in the mines. These are dealt by DGMS and the action is taken based on the findings during the inquiry related to the matter. The details of the complaints received, State/UT-wise are attached in Statement-II.

(d) The matters relating to safety, health and welfare of persons employed in the mines are dealt with under the Mines Act, 1952, Rules and Regulations made there under. DGMS administers the Mines Act, 1952 for ensuring safety in the mines in the country. The owner, agent, manager and other statutory persons appointed at the mines are required to comply with the provisions of the

statute. Chief Inspector of Mines and Inspectors of Mines make inspections and enquire whenever it is required to ascertain whether the provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and of the regulations, rules and bye-laws and of any order made there under are observed in the case of any mine.

In order to prevent re-occurrence of accidents in future, Directorate General of Mines Safety issues circular for the mining industry for preventive measures to be taken. To ensure that the mine workers are provided with adequate safety measures while working in the mines, Officers of DGMS undertake inspections of mines and take following measures:

- Pointing out contraventions
- Withdrawal of permission
- Issue of improvement notices
- Prohibition of employment
- Informal stoppages
- Prosecution in the court of law

To prevent accidents in the mines the following steps are also taken/being taken by the Government:

- (i) To promote and propagate safety awareness in mines, National Safety Awards (Mines), National Conference on Safety in Mines are organized by DGMS. The recommendations of National Conference on Safety in Mines go a long way in enhancing safety of mine workers.
- (ii) Workers participation and sensitization in matters of safety are ensured through training in safety and by initiatives like celebration of safety week and safety campaigns, etc.
- (iii) Safety training programmes are organized among Managers and Supervisors for improving safety standards in mines.
- (iv) Introduction of Risk Assessment Techniques and preparation of safety management plan aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen.
- (v) Introduction of standard operating procedures to avoid unsafe practices in mines.

(vi) Time to time, DGMS Circulars are issued as guidelines for safe operations in identified thrust areas.

(e) Training the persons employed in the mines is provided as per the provisions of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966 (a subordinate legislation of The Mines Act, 1952). The salient points of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966 are:

- (i) Provision for training centre as per the provisions of the Rule 18 of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966.
- (ii) Provisions for Training officer as per Rule 20 of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966.
- (iii) Provision of trainer as per Rule 22 of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966.
- (iv) Provision of initial and refresher training as per Rule 6 and 8 of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966.

**Statement-I**

*The number of coal mine workers working in the subsidiaries of CIL is as follows*

State	Subsidiary	No. of workers (Non-Exe.)
1	2	3
Jharkhand	ECL	8164
	BCCL	44667
	CCL	38020
	CMPDIL	911
	NEC	3
	Total	91765
West Bengal	ECL	50729
	BCCL	1268
	CMPDIL	248
	SECL	35
	DCC	292
	CIL(HQ)	431
	NEC	5
Total	53008	

1	2	3
Odisha	MCL	20491
	CMPDIL	293
	Total	20784
Madhya Pradesh	WCL	11982
	NCL	7626
	CMPDIL	187
	SECL	16742
Total	36537	
Uttar Pradesh	NCL	5592
	Total	5592
Chhattishgarh	CMPDIL	492
	SECL	37626
	Total	38118
Maharashtra	WCL	30754
	CMPDIL	293
	Total	31047
Assam	NEC	1343
	Total	1343
Meghalaya	NEC	13
	Total	13
Total Man Power	(CIL)	278207
Telangana	SCCL	52649

**Statement-II**

*Details of the complaints received in connection with violation of safety guidelines in State owned coal mines:*

Sl. No.	State	No. of Complaints	Reasons of Complaints
1	2	3	4
1.	Chhattisgarh	NIL	NIL
2.	Gujarat	NIL	NIL
3.	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	NIL
5.	Madhya Pradesh	NIL	NIL
6.	Rajasthan	NIL	NIL

1	2	3	4
7.	Telangana	11	1. Damages to the nearest hut-men/houses due to blasting in mines. 2. Related to accidents 3. Unsafe practices 4. Pollution. 5. Long working hours.
8.	West Bengal	NIL	NIL

[Translation]

#### Cases Disposed Off by Courts

3487. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state. the average number of cases disposed off in the lower Court/ High Court and the Supreme Court across the country

during each of the last three years, 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): Data on disposal of cases is maintained by Supreme Court and High Courts. As per information made available by Supreme Court, details of cases disposed by the Supreme Court during the three years (2015, 2016 and 2017) are as below:—

Year	Number of cases disposed of in Supreme Court.
2015	82,092
2016	75,979
2017	63,053

As per the information made available by High Courts, details of cases disposed by various High Courts during three years (2014, 2015 and 2016) are given in Statement-I, and State/UT-wise details of cases disposed in District and Subordinate Courts during three years (2014, 2015 and 2016) are given in Statement-II.

#### Statement-I

*Details of number of cases disposed in High Courts during 3 years (2014, 2015, 2016)*

Sl. No.	High Court	2014	2015	2016
		Disposal of cases	Disposal of cases	Disposal of cases
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	3,10,294	2,65,298	2,80,986
2.	Andhra Pradesh	66,239	61,690	69,639
3.	Bombay	1,30,580	81,809	82,484
4.	Calcutta	95,656	75,248	70,862
5.	Delhi	40,154	44,184	46,027
6.	Gujarat	74,444	61,405	47,735
7.	Gauhati	27,467	14,191	11,601
8.	Himachal Pradesh	62,270	19,307	13,317
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	23,151	12,761	12,293
10.	Karnataka	1,19,824	1,21,951	1,16,951
11.	Kerala	72,173	81,452	80,188
12.	Madras	1,29,954	1,41,154	1,45,261

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1,29,373	1,17,860	1,20,020
14.	Odisha	76,523	1,05,104	71,329
15.	Patna	1,04,955	99,530	87,482
16.	Punjab and Haryana	1,14,801	1,19,968	1,14,486
17.	Rajasthan	83,792	80,341	93,879
18.	Sikkim	230	201	169
19.	Uttarakhand	13,386	13,696	12,884
20.	Chhattisgarh	28,155	25,892	28,085
21.	Jharkhand	22,327	31,314	28,725
22.	Tripura*	5,144	4,372	2,574
23.	Manipur*	1,926	1,611	1,726
24.	Meghalaya*	1,724	572	612
Total		17,34,542	15,80,911	15,39,315

**Statement-II**

*Details of number of cases disposed in District and Subordinate Courts during 3 years (2014, 2015 and 2016).*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Disposal of cases		
		2014	2015	2016
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	6,47,130	6,58,713	6,03,017
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7,615	3,588	4,384
3.	Assam	2,76,138	2,72,538	2,51,119
4.	Bihar	3,05,583	2,92,678	3,44,683
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,76,144	1,95,174	1,95,495
6.	Goa	30,625	34,765	34,130
7.	Gujarat	11,32,433	10,93,664	15,86,926
8.	Haryana	5,87,385	5,42,440	5,93,132
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4,09,732	1,94,803	2,17,568
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2,97,507	87,687	98,638
11.	Jharkhand	1,10,068	1,18,845	1,04,284
12.	Karnataka	13,67,041	12,09,127	10,79,586
13.	Kerala	13,55,926	13,38,443	11,93,996
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11,13,382	10,73,584	7,84,077
15.	Maharashtra	15,36,322	16,49,187	22,81,027
16.	Manipur	14,257	7,395	6,588

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Meghalaya	11,691	9,215	11,396
18.	Mizoram	10,747	10,355	10,906
19.	Nagaland	3,047	4,826	4,215
20.	Odisha	4,70,085	4,08,261	4,69,571
21.	Punjab	5,49,300	5,78,681	6,05,324
22.	Rajasthan	11,32,028	13,71,762	8,16,129
23.	Sikkim	2,008	1,725	2,142
24.	Tamil Nadu	16,45,329	11,51,349	@10,43,172
25.	Tripura	1,93,003	1,92,081	67,385
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31,82,318	33,13,424	36,18,460
27.	Uttarakhand	2,20,660	2,00,947	1,75,464
28.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10,89,309	10,99,743	10,59,641
29.	Chandigarh	1,80,616	1,45,990	1,43,520
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2,771	3,323	3,810
31.	Delhi	9,30,732	6,12,553	6,18,618
32.	Lakshadweep	95	280	269
33.	Puducherry	28,631	20,409	@
	Total	1,90,19,658	1,78,97,555	1,80,28,672

@Figures of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are combined in respect of the year 2016

[English]

**Pay Revision Committee for BSNL**

3488. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted third Pay Revision Committee for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) employees and if so, the details and the major recommendations thereof along with the time by which

the said committee is likely to submit its recommendations to the Government;

(b) whether the Government has implemented the said recommendations of the committee and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from employee unions and Members of Parliament for early implementation of the said committee report in BSNL and sorting out pending issues with regard to the pay revision and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government has implemented the recommendations of the second Pay Revision Committee in its entirety and there are no left over issues thereof and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government has proposed to create a separate mobile tower subsidiary for hiving off BSNL's mobile tower infrastructure and if so, the details and the status thereof along with the time by which the said subsidiary is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):  
 (a) Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) constituted the Third Pay Revision Committee (3rd PRC) to review the structure of pay scales, allowances, perquisites and other benefits for Board level functionaries, below Board level executives and non-unionized supervisory staff of all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The recommendations of 3rd PRC were conveyed by DPE *vide* Office Memorandum (OM) No.W-02/0028/2017-DPE(WC)-GL-XIII/17 dated 03.08.2017 which are given in the enclosed Statement. No separate 3rd PRC was set up for BSNL.

(b) and (c) BSNL is not covered by affordability clause of DPE OM dated 03.08.2017 as it has been incurring losses for 2016-17, 2015-16 and 2014-15. Based on proposals and representations received, a reference was sent to DPE whether the affordability criteria can be relaxed for implementing pay scale revision in BSNL as per 3rd PRC. DPE has clarified that BSNL does not fall under the category mentioned in Para 5 of DPE's OM dated 03.08.2017 and indicated that any relaxation/amendment in the extant guidelines would require the approval of the cabinet and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has to examine issue at its end. The matter is under examination.

(d) The Government had issued Presidential Directive dated 27.02.2009 based on recommendations of 2nd PRC for BSNL and the same has been implemented in BSNL.

(e) In September, 2017, Cabinet gave its approval for "Hiving off Mobile tower assets of BSNL into a separate subsidiary company fully owned by BSNL". A new tower company named BSNL Tower Corporation Ltd., fully owned by BSNL has been incorporated on 04.01.2018.

### **Statement**

No. W-02/0028/2017-DPE (WC)-GL-XIII/17

Government of India

Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises  
 Department of Public Enterprises

Public Enterprises Bhawan  
 Block No. 14, C. G. O. Complex,  
 Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110008

Dated: 3rd August, 2017

### **OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:- Pay Revision of Board level and below Board level Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) w.e.f. 01.01.2017.**

The last revision of the scale of pay of Board level and below Board level Executives and Non-Unionized Supervisors of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) was made effective from 01.01.2007 for a period of 10 years. As the next Pay Revision became due from 01.01.2017, the Government had set up the 3rd Pay Revision Committee (PRC) under the Chairmanship of Justice Satish Chandra (Retd.) to recommend revision of pay and allowances for above categories of employees following IDA pattern of pay scales with effect from 01.01.2017. The Government, after due consideration of the recommendations of the 3rd PRC have decided as follows:

2. **Revised Pay Scales:-** The revised pay scales for Board and below Board level executives would be as indicated in Annexure-I. There will be no change in the number and structure of pay scales and every executive has to be fitted into the corresponding new pay scale. In case of CPSEs which are yet to be categorized, the revised pay scales as applicable to the Schedule 'D' CPSEs would be applicable.

3. **Affordability:** The revised pay scales would be implemented subject to the condition that the additional financial impact in the year of implementing the revised pay-package for Board level executives, Below Board level executives and Non-Unionized Supervisors should not be more than 20% of the average Profit Before Tax (PBT) of the last three financial years preceding the year of implementation.

**Fitment Benefit:**

- (i) In case additional financial impact in the year of implementing the revised pay-package of a CPSE is within 20% of average PBT of last 3 years, a uniform full fitment benefit of 15% would be provided.
- (ii) If the additional financial impact in the year of implementing the revised pay-package is more than 20% of the average PBT of last 3 Financial Years (FYs), then the revised pay-package with recommended fitment benefit of 15% of BP+DA should not be implemented in full but only partly, as per the part-stages recommended below:—

Part stages	Additional financial impact of the full revised pay package as a % of average PBT of last 3 FYs	Fitment benefit (% of BP+DA)
I	More than 20% but upto 30% of average PBT of last 3 FYs	10%
II	More than 20% but upto 40% of average PBT of last 3 FYs	5%

*No fitment or any other benefit of pay revision will be implemented in the CPSEs where the additional financial impact of the revised pay package is more than 40% if the average PBT of last 3 financial years.*

A	B	C	D
			[Revised BP as on 1.1.2017] *
Basic Pay + Stagnation increment(s) as on 31.12.2016 (Personal Pay/Special Pay not to be included)	+ Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) @119.5% as applicable on 1.1.2017 computation methodology linked to All India Cumulative Price Index (AICPI) 2001=100 series]	+ 15%/10%/5% of (A+B)	= Aggregate amount rounded off to the next Rs.10/-.

\* In case revised BP as on 1.1.2017 arrived so is less than the minimum of the revised pay scale, pay will be fixed at the minimum of the revised pay scale.

**4. Pay revision in respect of Non-unionized Supervisors of CPSEs:** The revision of scales of pay for Non-unionized Supervisory staff would be decided by the respective Board of Directors.

5. The applicability of affordability clause in respect of certain types of CPSEs is given at Annexure-II

(iii) At the time of implementation of pay revision, if the additional financial impact after allowing full/part fitment exceeds 20% of the average PBT of last 3 years, then PRP payout/allowances should be reduced so as to restrict impact of pay revision within 20%.

(iv) Subsequent to implementation of pay revision, the profitability of a CPSE would be reviewed after every 3 years and

(a) if there is improvement in the average PBT of the last 3 years, then full pay package/higher stage of pay package would be implemented while ensuring that total additional impact (sum total of previously implemented part pay package and proposed additional package) stays within 20% of the average of PBT of last 3 years

(b) if the profitability of a CPSE falls in such a way that the earlier pay revision now entails impact of more than 20% of average PBT of last 3 year, then PRP/allowances will have to be reduced to bring down impact

**3. Methodology for pay fixation:** To arrive at the revised Basic Pay as on 1.1.2017 fitment methodology shall be as under:—

**6. Increment:-** A uniform rate of 3% of BP will be applicable for both annual increment as well as promotion increment. The details regarding Stagnation Increment and Bunching of pay are given at Annexure-III (A)

**7. Dearness Allowance:** 100% DA neutralization would be continued for all the executives and non-unionised

supervisors, who are on IDA pattern of scales of pay *w.e.f* 01.01.2017. Thus, DA as on 01.01.2017 will become zero with link point of All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) 2001=100, which is 277.33 (Average of AICPI for the months of September, October & November, 2016) as on 01.01.2017. The periodicity of adjustment will be once in three months as per the existing practice.

The quarterly DA payable from 01.01.2017 will be as per new DA given at Annexure-III(B).

**8. House Rent Allowance (HRA)/Lease Accommodation and House Rent Recovery (HRR):** Separate guidelines would be issued later on these allowances. Till then, the existing allowance at the existing rate may be continued to be paid at pre-revised pay scales.

**9. Perks & Allowances:** The Board of Directors of CPSEs are empowered to decide on the perks and allowance admissible to the different categories of the executives, under the concept of 'Cafeteria Approach', subject to a ceiling of 35% of BP. Under the concept of 'Cafeteria Approach' the executives are allowed to choose from a set of perks and allowances. The recurring cost incurred on running and maintaining of infrastructure facilities like hospitals, colleges, schools etc. would be outside the ceiling of 35% of BP. As regards company owned accommodation provided to executives, CPSEs would be allowed to bear the Income Tax liability on the 'non-monetary perquisite' of which 50% shall be loaded within the ceiling of 35% of BP on perks and allowances.

**10. Certain Other Perks & Allowances:** Separate guidelines would be issued on location based Compensatory Allowance, Work based Hardship Duty Allowances and Non-Practicing Allowance. Till then the existing allowances at the existing rate would continue to be paid at the pre-revised pay scales.

**11. Performance Related Pay (PRP):-** The admissibility, quantum and procedure for determination of PRP has been given in Annexure- IV. The PRP model will be effective from FY 2017-18 and onwards. For the FY 2017-18, the incremental profit will be based on previous FY 2016-17. The PRP model will be applicable only to those CPSEs which sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and have a Remuneration Committee (headed by

an Independent Director) in place to decide on the payment of PRP within the prescribed limits and guidelines.

**12. Superannuation Benefits:** The existing provisions regarding superannuation benefits have been retained as per which CPSEs can contribute upto 30% of BP plus DA towards Provident Fund (PF), Gratuity, Post-Superannuation Medical Benefits (PRMB) and Pension of their employees.

12.1 The ceiling of gratuity of the executives and non-unionised supervisors of the CPSEs would be raised from Rs 10 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs with effect from 01.01.2017 and the funding for the entire amount of Gratuity would be met from within the ceiling of 30% of BP plus DA. Besides, the ceiling of gratuity shall increase by 26% whenever IDA rises by 50%.

12.2 The existing requirement of superannuation and of minimum of 15 years of service in the CPSE has been dispensed with for the pension.

12.3 The existing Post-Retirement Medical Benefits will continue to be linked to requirement of superannuation and minimum of 16 years of continuous service for other than Board level Executives. The Post-Retirement Medical Benefits shall be allowed to Board level executives (without any linkage to provision of 15 years of service) upon completion of their tenure or upon attaining the age of retirement, whichever is earlier.

**13. Corpus for medical benefits for retirees of CPSEs:** The corpus for post retirement medical benefits and other emergency needs for the employees of CPSEs who have retired prior to 01.01.2007 would be created by contributing the existing ceiling of 1.5% of PBT. The formulation of suitable scheme in this regard by CPSEs has to be ensured by the Administrative Ministries/Departments.

**14. Club Membership:** The CPSEs will be allowed to provide Board level executives with the Corporate Club Membership (upto maximum of two clubs), co-terminus with their tenure.

**15. Leave Regulations/Management:** CPSEs would be allowed to frame their own leave management policies and the same can be decided based on CPSEs operational and administrative requirements subject to the principles that:

- a. Maximum accumulation of Earned Leave available are not permitted beyond 300 days for an employee of CPSE. The same shall not be permitted for encashment beyond 300 days at the time of retirement.
- b. CPSEs should adopt 30 day's month for the purpose of calculating leave encashment.
- c. Casual and Restricted Leave will continue to be lapsed at the end of the calendar year:

16. **Periodicity:** The next pay revision would take place in line with the periodicity as decided for Central Government employees but not later than 10 years.

17. **Financial Implications:** Expenditure on account of pay revision is to be entirely borne by the CPSEs out of their earnings and no budgetary support will be provided by the Government.

18. **Issue of Presidential Directive, effective Date of implementation and payment of allowances.** The revised pay scales will be effective from 01.01.2017(except the allowances mentioned in the paras 8 and 10 above). The Board of Directors of each CPSE would be required to consider the proposal of pay revision based on their affordability to pay, and submit the same to the Administrative Ministry for approval. The Administrative Ministry concerned will issue the Presidential Directive with the concurrence of its Financial Adviser in respect of each CPSE separately. Similarly Presidential Directives would be issued by the Administrative Ministry concerned based on the result of review which is to be done after every 3 years subsequent to implementation. A copy of the Presidential Directives, issued by the Administrative Ministry/Department concerned may be endorsed to the Department of Public Enterprises.

19. **Issue of instructions/clarification and provision of Anomalies Committee:** The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) will issue necessary instructions/clarifications wherever required, for implementation of the above decisions. An Anomalies Committee consisting of Secretaries of Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Department of Expenditure and Department of Personnel & Training is being constituted for a period of two years to look into further specific issues/problems that may arise in implementation of the Government's Decision on 3rd

pay revision. Any anomaly should be forwarded with the approval of Board of Directors to the Administrative Ministry/Department who will examine the same and dispose of the same. However, if it is not possible for the Administrative Ministry/Department to sort out the issue, they may refer the matter to DPE, with their views for consideration of the Anomalies Committee.

(Rajesh Kumar Chaudhry)  
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Administrative Ministry/Department (Secretary by Name) of the Government of India

Copy to Chief Executives of CPSEs.

Copy also to:

- (i) Financial Advisors in the Administrative Ministry/Department
- (ii) Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 9 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi
- (iii) Department of Expenditure, EV Branch, North Block, New Delhi
- (iv) Department of Personnel & Training (CPC Pay 1), North Block, New Delhi
- (v) Chairman, PESB/Secretary, PESB, CGO Complex New Delhi

Copy also to

- (i) Prime Minister's Office (Shri Tarun Bajaj, Addl. Secretary)
- (ii) Cabinet Secretariat (Shri S.A.M. Rizvi, Joint Secretary)

Copy for information to

- (i) PS to Minister (HI&PE)
- (ii) PS to MoS (HI&PE)
- (iii) PS to Secretary, PE
- (iv) AS & FA (PE)
- (v) All Officers of DPE
- (vi) NIC Cell, DPE with the request to upload the OM on the DPE website.

(Samsul Haque)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

**Annexure-I**

Grade	Existing(Rs)	Revised(Rs)
Eo	12600-32500	30000-120000
E1	16400-40500	40000-140000
E2	20600-46500	50000-160000
E3	24900-50500	60000-180000
E4	29100-54500	70000-200000
E5	32900-58000	80000-220000
E6	36600-62000	90000-240000
E7	43200-66000	100000-260000
E8	51300-73000	120000-280000
E9	62000-80000	150000-300000
Grade	Existing (Rs)	Revised (Rs)
Director(Sch-D)	43200-66000	100000-260000
CMD(D)	51300-73000	120000-280000
Director(Sch-C)	51300-73000	120000-280000
CMD(C)	65000-75000	160000-290000
Director(Sch-B)	65000-75000	160000-290000
CMD(B)	75000-90000	180000-320000
Director(Sch-A)	75000-100000	1 80000-340000
CMD(A)	80000-125000	200000-370000

\*E7 only in CPSEs of Schedule A, B & C

\*Es only in CPSEs of Schedule A & B

\*E9 only in CPSEs of Schedule A

**Annexure-II****Affordability to certain types of CPSEs:**

(a) In respect of Sick CPSEs referred to erstwhile Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)/Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR), the revision of pay scales should be in accordance with rehabilitation packages approved by the Government after providing for the additional expenditure on account of pay revision in these packages.

(b) The affordability condition shall also be applicable to the CPSEs registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, or under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (which by the very nature of their business are not-for profit companies) for implementation of the revised

compensation structure (including Performance Related Pay) as being recommended for other CPSEs.

(c) There are also certain CPSEs which have been formed as independent Government companies under a statute to perform a specific agenda/regulatory functions. The revenue stream of such CPSEs are not linked to profits from the open market in a competitive scenario but are governed through the fees & charges, as prescribed and amended from time to time by the Government. There is no budgetary support provided by the Government to such CPSEs. In consideration that the impact of the revised compensation structure (including Performance Related Pay) would supposedly form the part of revenue stream for such CPSEs, the affordability condition shall not be applicable to these CPSEs; however the implementation of same shall be subject to the approval of Administrative Ministry upon agreeing and ensuring to incorporate the impact of the revised compensation structure into the revenue stream.

(d) As regards the CPSEs under construction which are yet to start their commercial operations, the implementation of pay-revision would be decided by the Government based on the proposal of concerned Administrative Ministry and after consideration of their financial viability.

(e) In case of Coal India Limited (CIL), the holding company and its subsidiaries would be considered as a single unit for the affordability clause as per past precedent.

**Annexure-III**

**Stagnation Increment:** In case of reaching the end point of pay scale, an executive would be allowed to draw stagnation increment, one after every two years upto a maximum of three such increments provided the executives gets a performance rating of 'Good' or above.

**Bunching of Pay:-** In CPSEs where a lower fitment benefit (*i.e.* 10% or 5%) is granted due to affordability, there is a possibility of bunching at different grades due to revised Basic Pay falling short of reaching starting point of revised pay-scale. The revised BP due to bunching of pay in these cases would be the higher of the followings—

- Adding the difference between the 'pre-revised Basic Pay' and 'the minimum of the pre-revised pay scale' to the starting point of revised pay scale.

- The revised BP as arrived after applying the fitment benefit (*i.e.* 10% or 5% of BP plus DA).  
[Example for Basic Pay revision in cases of bunching in a Grade/level]

Sl. No.	Parameters	Pre-revised pay-scale of E-6 level (in Rs.)				
		Minimum/ Starting of pay-scale	Minimum+1 increment @ 3%	Minimum+2 increments @ 3%	Minimum + 3 increments @ 3%	
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	
1.	E-6 level: Pre-revised BP	(31.12.16)	36600	37700	38840	40010
2.	DA (1.1.2017)	Say: 120%	43920	45240	46608	48012
3.	Total	(1) +(2)	80520	82940	85448	88022
4.	Fitment benefit	% of BP+DA	5%	5%	5%	5%
5.	Fitment benefit	(4)x(3)	4026.0	4147.0	4272.4	4401.1
6.	Net amount to arrive at revised BP	(3) +(5)	84546.0	87087.0	89720.4	92423.1
7.	Rounded off	Nex Rs. 10/-	84550	87090	98730	92430
8.	Minimum of E-6's revised pay-scale	Starting point	90000	90000	90000	90000
9.	Difference between the 'pre-revised Basic Pay' and the 'minimum of the pre-revised pay scale	Linked to figure at Column (A) mentioned at Sl. No. 1.	(A)-(A) <i>i.e.</i> 36600-36600	(B)-(A) <i>i.e.</i> 37700-36600	(C)-(A) <i>i.e.</i> 38840-36600	(D)-(A) <i>i.e.</i> 40010-36600
10.	Difference amount	=	0	1100	2240	3410
11.	Net of difference added to starting point of revised pay-scale	(8)+(10)	90000	91100	92240	93410
12.	Revised Pay-scale	Higher of (7) or (11)	90000	91100	92240	93410

**Annexure-III (B)****Para 11****Performance Related Pay**

*Rates of Dearness Allowances for the employees of CPSEs following IDA pattern*

Effective Date	Rate of Dearness Allowance (in percentage)
01.01.2017	0
01.04.2017	-1.1
01.07.2017	-0.2

**Annexure-IV****(I) Allocable profits:**

a. The overall profits for distribution of PRP shall be limited to 5% of the year's profit accruing only from core business activities (without consideration of interest on idle cash/bank balances), which will be exclusively for executives and for non-unionized supervisors of the CPSE. The ratio of break-up of profit accruing from core business activities for payment of PRP between relevant year's profit to Incremental profit shall be 6.5:35 to arrive at the Allocable profits and the Kitty factor.

**(I) PRP differentiator components:**

- (A) PRP payout is to be distributed based on the addition of following parts/components:-

**Part-1: CPSE's performance component:-**

- (a) Weightage=50% of PRP payout  
(b) Based on CPSE's MOU rating:

MOU rating	% age eligibility of PRP
Excellent	100%
Very Good	75%
Good	50%
Fair	2.5%
Poor	Nil

**Part-2: Team's performance component:-\***

- (a) Weightage=30% of PRP payout  
(b) Based on Team rating (*i.e.* linked to Plant/Unit's productivity measures and operational/physical performance):

Team rating	% age eligibility of PRP
Excellent	100%
Very Good	80%
Good/Average	60%
Fair	40%
Poor	Nil

(c) The Team rating shall be linked to individual Plant/Unit's productivity measures and operational/physical performance, as primarily derived from CPSEs' MOU parameters and as identified by CPSE depending on the nature of industry/business under the following suggested performance areas:-

- 'Achievement Areas', in which performance has to be maximized (*e.g.* market shares, sales volume growth, product output/generation, innovations in design or operation, awards and other competitive recognition, etc.); and

- 'Control Areas' in which control has to be maximized (*e.g.* stock/fuel loss, operating cost control, litigation cost, safety, etc.).

(d) For office locations of CPSEs, the Team rating should be linked to the Plant/Unit as attached to the said office; and if there is more than one Plant/Unit attached to an office or in case of Head Office/Corporate Office of the CPSE, the Team rating shall be the weighted average of all such Plants/Units. The weighted average shall be based on the employee manpower strength of the respective Plants/Units.

[Plants/Units shall primarily mean the work place where industry's manufacturing process is carried out and in case of a CPSE not having any manufacturing process, it shall mean the work place where the main business is carried out. The individual department/section within a work place shall not be recognized as a Plant/Unit].

**Part-3: Individual's performance component:-**

- (a) Weightage=20% of PRP payout  
(b) Based on Individual performance rating (*i.e.* as per the CPSE's Performance Management System):

Individual performance rating	% age eligibility of PRP
Excellent	100%
Very Good	80%
Good/Average	60%
Fair	40%
Poor	Nil

(c) The forced rating of 10% as below par/Poor performer shall not be made mandatory. Consequently, there shall be discontinuation of Bell-curve. The CPSEs are empowered to decide on the ratings to be given to the executives; however, capping of giving Excellent rating to not more than 15% of the total executive's in the grade (at below Board level) should be adhered to.

**(II) Percentage ceiling of PRP (% age of BP):**

(a) The grade-wise percentage ceiling for drawal of PRP within the allocable profits has been rationalized as under:-

\* In case of a CPSE not having Plants/Units and if there is a no Team Performance areas/rating, then the PRP for such CPSE will be determined based specifically on MoU rating after merging the weightage of Team performance component to the Company's performance component.

Grade	Ceiling (% of BP)
E0	40%
E1	40%
E2	40%
E3	40%
E4	50%
E5	50%
E6	60%
E7	70%
E8	80%
E9	90%
Director (C&D)	100%
Director (A&B)	125%
CMD/MD (C&D)	12.5%
CMD/MD (A&B)	150%

Note:

I. For Non-Unionized supervisors, the PRP as percentage of BP will be decided by the respective Board of Directors of the CPSE.

III. **Kitty factor:** After considering the relevant year's profit, incremental profit and the full PRP payout requirement (computed for all executives based on Grade-wise ceilings, CPSE's MOO rating, Team rating & Individual performance rating). there will be two cut-off factors worked out based on the PRP distribution of 65:35. The first cut-off shall be in respect of PRP amount required out of year's profit, and the second cut off shall be in respect of PRP amount required out of incremental profit, which shall be computable based on the break-up of allocable profit (*i.e.* year's 5% of profit bifurcated into the ratio of 65:35 towards year's profit and incremental profit).

The sum of first cut-off factor applied on 65% of Grade PRP ceiling and the second cut-off factor applied on 35% of Grade PRP ceiling will result in Kitty factor. The Kitty factor shall not exceed 100%.

IV. **Based on the PRP components specified above, the PRP pay-out to the executives should be computed upon addition of the following three elements:-**

(a) **Factor-X (% of BP):** Weightage of 50% **Multiplied with** Part-1 (CPSE's MOU rating) **Multiplied with** Kitty factor

(b) **Factor-Y (% of BP):** Weightage of 30% **Multiplied with** Part-2 (Team's performance) **Multiplied with** Kitty factor.

(c) **Factor-Z (% of BP):** Weightage of 20% **Multiplied with** Part-3 (Individual's performance) **Multiplied with** Kitty factor.

(d) Net PRP = Factor X + Factor Y + Factor Z = Net % age of Annual BP.

#### Examples

#### Performance Related Pay (PRP): Examples for calculating Kitty factor/Allocable profit

- **PRP Kitty Distribution: within 5% of profit accruing from core business activities** (hereinafter, for brevity, referred to as Profit).
- **Ratio of relevant year's profit: incremental profit=65 : 85**

#### Example-1:

Sl.No.	Parameters	Amount (Rs.)/% age
1.	FY 2016-17	Profit= 5000 crore
2.	FY 2017-18 [for which PRP is to be distributed]	Profit = 6000 crore
3.	Incremental profit	1000 crore
4.	5% of the year's profit	300 crore
5.	<i>Allocable profit out of current year's 5% of profit based on distribution in the ratio of 65:35 towards the year's profit and incremental profit:</i>	
a.	PRP payout from year's profit	195 crore [ <i>i.e.</i> 65% out of 300 crore]
b.	PRP payout from incremental profit	105 crore [ <i>i.e.</i> 35% out of 300 crore]: [105 crore can be fully utilized as incremental profit is 1000 crore]

Sl.No.	Parameters	Amount (Rs.)/% age
6.	Full PRP Payout requirement (computed for all executives based on Grade-wise ceilings, CPSE's MOU rating, Team rating & Individual performance rating)-but without applying kitty factor related to year's profit or Incremental profit	500 crore
7.	PRP payout break-up based on 65:35 distribution out of year's profit and incremental profit:	
a	PRP amount required out of year's profit (i.e. 65% of Sl. No. 6)	65% of 500 crore=325 crore
a 1	Cut-off factor(1) (in % age) for year's PRP payout with reference to Sl. No. 5(a) & 7(a)	195 crore/325 crore=60.00%
b	PRP amount required out of incremental profit (i.e. 35% of Sl. No.6)	35% of 500 crore=175 crore
b 1	Cut-off factor(2) (in % age) for incremental PRP payout with reference to Sl. No. 5(b) & 7(b)	105 crore/175 crore=60.00%
8.	Thus, total Profit amount allocated for PRP distribution	195 crore + 105 crore=300 crore [i.e. 5% of Core business/ operating profit]
9.	Kitty factor for respective Grade (in %age)	[65% x Grade PRP ceiling (%) x Cut-off factor(1)] Plus(+) [35% x Grade PRP ceiling x Cut-off factor(2)] =Kitty factor

**PRP Payout to Individual Executives  
Example-1:For Grade E-1**

Sl. No.	Parameter	Amount (Rs.)/% age payout
1	2	3
A	CPSE's MOU rating [Weightage = 50%]	75% (Very Good)

1	2	3
B	Team's rating [Weightage = 50%]	100% (Excellent)
c	Individual's performance rating [Weightage = 20%]	60% (Good/Average)
D	Grade ceiling (E1) (Max. of 40% of BP)	40% of BP
E	Cut-off factor (1)	60.0%
F	Cut-off factor (2)	00.0%
G	Kitty Factor for Grade E1 i.e. [65% x D (Grade PRP ceiling) x E (Cut-off factor(1)) Plus (+) [35% x D (Grade PRP ceiling) x F (Cut-offfactor(2))]	[65% x 40% x 60.00%] + [35% x 40% x 0.00%] = 15.60%+0.00% = 15.60%
E	<b>Net PRP</b>	
i	Factor-X [Company's performance component] i.e.	Wtg.(50%) x A x G 50% x 75% x 15.60% = 5.85%
ii	Factor-Y [Team's performance component] i.e.	Wtg.(30%) x B x G 30%x100% x 15.60% = 4.68%
iii	Factor-Z [Individual's performance component] i.e.	Wtg.(20%) x C x G 20% x 60% x 15.60% = 1.87%
H	PRP payout distribution	Factor X + Factor Y + Factor Z =12.40% of Basic Pay

**PRP Payout to Individual Executives  
Example-2: For Grade E-1**

Sl. No.	Parameter	Amount (Rs.)/ % age payout
1	2	3
A	CPSE's MOU rating [Weightage =50%]	75% (Very Good)
B	Team's rating [Weightage =30 %]	100% (Excellent)

1	2	3
C	Individual's performance rating [Weightage = 20%]	60% (Good/Average)
D	Grade ceiling (E1) (Max. of 40% of BP)	40% of BP
E	Cut-off factor (1)	60.0%
F	Cut-off factor (2)	00.0%
G	Kitty Factor for Grade E1 <i>i.e.</i> [65% x D (Grade PRP ceiling) x E (Cut-off factor(1))] Plus(+) [35% x D (Grade PRP ceiling) x F (Cut-off factor(2))]	[65% x 40% x 60.00%] + [35% x 40% x 0.00%] = 15.60% + 0.00% = 15.60%
E	Net PRP	
i	Factor-X [Company's performance component] <i>i.e.</i>	Wtg.(50%) x A x G 50% x 75% x 15.60% = 5.85%
ii	Factor-Y [Team's performance component] <i>i.e.</i>	Wtg.(30%) x B x G 30% x 100% x 15.60% = 4.68%
iii	Factor-Z [Individual's performance component] <i>i.e.</i>	Wtg.(20%) x C x G 20% x 60% x 15.60% = 1.87%
H	PRP payout distribution	Factor X+ FactorY+ Factor Z = 1 .40% of Basic Pay

**Performance Related Pay (PRP): Examples for calculating Kitty factor/Allocable profit**

- **PRP Kitty Distribution:** within 5% of profit accruing from core business activities (hereinafter, for brevity, referred to as Profit).
- **Ratio of relevant year's profit:** incremental profit= 65:35

**Example-2:**

Sl. No.	Parameters	Amount (Rs.)/% age
1	2	3
1.	FY 2016-17	PBT-7000 crore
2.	FY 2017-18 [for which PRP is to be distributed]	PBT-6000 crore
3.	Incremental profit	Nil
4.	5% of the year's profit	300 crore
5.	<i>Allocable profit out of current year's 5% of profit based on distribution in the ratio of 65:35 towards the year's profit and incremental profit:</i>	
a.	PRP payout from year's profit	195 crore [ <i>i.e.</i> 65% out of 300 crore]
b.	PRP payout from incremental profit	105 crore [ <i>i.e.</i> 35% out of 300 crore]: [Nil amount to be allocated as profit is Nil.]
6	<i>Full PRP Payout requirement (computed for all executives based on Grade-wise ceilings, CPSE's MOU rating, Team rating &amp; Individual performance rating)-but without applying kitty factor related to year's profit or Incremental profit</i>	500 crore
7	<i>PRP payout break-up based on 65:35 distribution out of year's profit and incremental profit:</i>	
a	PRP amount required out of year's profit ( <i>i.e.</i> 65% of Sl. No.6)	65% of 500 crore = 525 crore
a1	Cut-off factor(1) (in % age) for year's PRP payout with reference to Sl. No. 5(a) & 7(a)	195 crore/325 crore = 60.00%
b	PRP amount required out of incremental profit ( <i>i.e.</i> 35% of Sl. No. 6)	35% of 500 crore = 175 crore

1	2	3
b1	Cut-of factor(2) (in % age) for incremental PRP payout with reference to Sl. No. 5(b) & 7(b)	Nil 175 crore = 0.00%
8.	Thus, total Profit amount allocated for PRP distribution	195 crore+0 crore = 195 crore [i.e. 3.25% of Core business/ operating profit]
9.	Kitty factor for respective Grade (in % age)	[65% $\times$ Grade PRP ceiling (%) $\times$ Cut-off factor(1)] Plus (+) [35% $\times$ Grade PRP ceiling $\times$ Cut-off factor(2)] =Kitty factor

#### Technology for Lethal Weapons

3489. SHRI R. K. BHARATHI MOHAN:  
SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN:  
SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ordnance factories has adequate technological knowhow and capacity to produce different types of lethal weapons required for the Defence and Home

Affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of such types of weapons produced by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) during the last three years and the current year, year, company and type-wise;

(d) the revenue generated through the sale of such weapons during the above period, year-wise; and

(e) whether the Government has imported lethal weapons and if so, the quantity of lethal weapons imported during the above period, year, company and type-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam. Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) undertakes manufacture of lethal weapons required by Armed Forces and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as per laid down specifications.

(b) The present Lethal Weapon range of OFB is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The quantity of such types of weapons produced by OFB during the last three years and the current year, is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Value of issue of Weapons, Ammunitions and other miscellaneous items to Defence and MHA during last 3 years and Current year of lethal weapons are stated below:-

(Value Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total Value of Issue	13047.38	14824.90	14121.90 (Provisional)**	2475.77 (Up to 28.7.2018)
Value of Lethal Weapons and related spares issued to Defence & MHA).	543	728	672 (Provisional)**	57.41 (Up to 28.7.2018)

\*\*Annual account is under approval for 2017-18.

(e) Maintaining stock of armaments/arms and ammunition to desired level as per the operational requirement of the Armed Forces is a continuous process. The requirements are identified every year and procurements

are undertaken accordingly after following due procedure prescribed in Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM).

**Statement-I***Present lethal weapon range of OFB*

Small Calibre	Mortar Equipment
0.22 Sporting Rifle	Equipment 51 MM Mortar
0.22 Revolver	Equipment 81 MM Mortar
Revolver 0.32	Equipment 120 MM Mortar
Pistol 0.32	Equipment 81 mm Long Range Mortar
0.315 Sporting Rifle	--
30.06 Sporting Rifle	Medium Calibre
12 Bore Pump Action Gun	14.5 MM Artillery Trainer
Pistol Auto 9 MM 1A	14.5 MM Sub Calibre Device
Sub Machine Gun Carbine 9 MM 1A1	Equipment 40 MM L70 GU AAE1
Sub Machine Gun Carbine 9 MM 2A1	Equipment 40 MM L-70 Upgraded Gun
5.56 MM Assault Rifle (Fixed Butt)	Anti Material Rifle Vidhwanshak
5.56 MM Insas Rifle (Fixed Butt)	Multi Grenade Launcher 40 MM
5.56 MM Insas Rifle (Foldable Butt)	Under Barrel Grenade Launcher 40 MM

Small Calibre	Mortar Equipment
5.56 MM Excalibur Rifle	CRN 91 Naval Gun
5.56 MM Kalantak Micro Assault Rifle	AK 630 Gun
Amogh 5.56 x 30 MM Carbine	--
Lmg 5.56 MM INSAS (Fixed Butt)	Large Calibre
Lmg 5.56 MM INSAS (Foldable Butt)	84 mm RCL Gun Mk II
Rifle 7.62 MM 1A1	84 mm RCL Gun Mk III
Gun Machine 7.62 MM 1B	Equipment 106 MM RCL Gun
Gun Machine 7.62 MM (Mag) 2A1	Equipment 105 MM LFG E1 AD 105 MM LFG E2
Gun Machine 7.62 MM (Mag) 6A	Metamorphosis 155 MM Gun
Assault Rifle 7.62 MM	Kavach Launcher
12.7 MM AA Gun	--
Projector Pyrotechnic Hand, 13 MM, 1A	--

**Statement-II***Quantity of Lethal Weapons produced by OFB*

Sl. No.	Type of Weapon	Manufacturer	Issued Qty (Nos.)			
			2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1.	Small Calibre	Ordnance Factory Board	47,509	67,283	53,905	8089
2.	Medium Calibre		1,723	228	1,610	73
3.	Mortar Equipment		255	657	178	0
4.	Large Calibre		1,243	1,580	1,277	62

[Translation]

**Development of Railway Facilities in Sri Lanka**

3490. KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed an

agreement for the development of railway facilities in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Two

Public Sector Undertakings, namely IRCON International Limited and RITES Limited, have signed agreement with Government of Sri Lanka for development of railway facilities.

IRCON International Limited has signed agreement in following areas:

- (i) Rehabilitation of Colombo-Matara Coastal Railway line on 06.03.2009;
- (ii) Restoration of Medawachchiya-Madhu Road Railway line in Northern province of Sri Lanka on 17.08.2010;
- (iii) Restoration of Madhu Road-Talai Mannar Pier Railway line in Northern province of Sri Lanka on 09.06.2010;
- (iv) Restoration of Omanthai-Pallai Railway line in Northern province of Sri Lanka on 10.01.2010;
- (v) Restoration of Pallai-KKS Railway line in Northern province of Sri Lanka on 26.06.2012;
- (vi) Installation of signalling and telecommunication system in Railway line in Northern province of Sri Lanka on 17.08.2012.

RITES Limited has signed agreement with Government of Sri Lanka for supply of rolling stock, manufactured by Indian Railways, including six sets of Diesel Multiple Units (DMU) with air conditioned compartments (2 AC compartments per DMU) comprising of seventy eight coaches and ten numbers Diesel Electric Locomotives with AC-AC traction system.

#### **Demographic Data of UIDAI**

3491. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to share the demographic data of UIDAI with the State of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) No, Madam.

(c) Sharing of Aadhaar data is dealt only in accordance with Aadhaar Act, 2016 and the Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016 framed there under.

*[English]*

#### **Agreements for Coal Mining**

3492. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/Coal India Limited (CIL) has carried out/proposes to carry out any agreement with the foreign companies for both open and underground coal mining in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the percentage stake held by such countries in coal mining in the country, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Presently there are no ongoing agreements executed between CIL and foreign companies on the basis of bilateral cooperation, for carrying out either open cast or underground coal mining in its mines.

#### **Setting up of Residential Schools**

3493. SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:  
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:  
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:  
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved for setting up of residential schools and other schools, on the lines of concentrated blocks/towns under its flagship scheme of multi-sectoral development programme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of schools that have been set up in various State Government till date;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to set up more such schools in minority dominated States;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to formulate any action plan for setting up 100 Kendriya Vidyalayas in minority dominated areas; and

(e) if so, the names of locations where work has been started under PPP model in regard to the said action plan?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) The Government has recently approved the restructured Multi-sectoral Development Programme called the "Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(PMJVK)" for implementation during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission. Under the erstwhile MsDP, projects for construction of Residential Schools and other schools in identified Minority Concentration Areas have been approved by the Ministry. The State/UT-wise number of residential schools & other schools sanctioned is given in enclosed Statement. More details are available in the website of Ministry at <http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/schemesperformance/multi-sectoral-development-programme/empowered-committee-minutes>. PMJVK provides that 80% of the resources will be utilized for projects related to sector of education, health and skill and at least 33-40% of this will be utilized for facilities and assets that benefit women/girls. The number of identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) under MsDP were 789 falling in 27 States/UTs which has been increased to 1300 MCAs falling in 32 States/UTs in the restructured programme called the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram enabling the State Governments/UT to widen the coverage.

(d) The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and working under the aegis of Ministry of Minority Affairs, had constituted a Committee to go into the modalities for establishment of educational institutions in different parts of the country with a view to facilitate educational development of the minorities. This Committee in its report has recommended for a three tier model of educational institutions for minorities having 211 Central Schools at the bottom, 25 Community Colleges at the middle and 05 National Institutes at the top level.

(e) There is no proposal with Ministry for implementation of projects under PMJVK on the basis of PPP model as of now.

### **Statement**

#### *State-wise number of Residential Schools and other schools*

Sl. No.	State	Number for School buildings/Residential Schools sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	325
2.	West Bengal	109
3.	Assam	275
4.	Bihar	342
5.	Manipur	552
6.	Haryana	10
7.	Jharkhand	8
8.	Uttarakhand	14
9.	Maharashtra	6
10.	Karnataka	81
11.	Meghalaya	2
12.	Kerala	46
13.	Mizoram	38
14.	Delhi	2
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3
16.	Sikkim	11
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	110
18.	Andhra Pradesh	22
19.	Telangana	17
20.	Tripura	29
21.	Rajasthan	61
22.	Chhattisgarh	23
Total		2086

### **Technology for Rural People**

3494. PROF. RICHARD HAY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has succeeded in promoting low cost technology based initiative in rural

sector in the whole country in terms of fulfilling the rural people's aspirations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the assessment regarding the success of UMANG App;

(c) whether Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs) are being properly utilized in systematic growths of e-platform for service delivery, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the details of start-up enterprises registered under Digital India programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Madam. Some of the key initiatives implemented by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India in rural sector of the country are as follows

**Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0:** The key objective of CSCs is to deliver various citizen centric services, such as, Government to Citizen (G2C), Business to Citizen (B2C) services, financial inclusion services, educational services, skill development services etc.

CSCs are internet enabled centres operated by local entrepreneur, called Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). CSC has the capability in extending the information technology for access by the people, thereby, bridging the digital divide, with a particular emphasis on the provision of effective online services for the inclusion of the societies, thus digitally empowering the citizens, especially in rural & other inaccessible areas. Till June, 2018, there are 3,05,226 Common Services Centres (CSCs) functioning across the country; among which 2,10,314 CSCs are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.

**e-District MMP:** The objectives of the e-District project are to ensure: end-to-end workflow to ensure delivery of e-Services by undertaking Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) of services, providing easy, anywhere and anytime access to Government services. This MMP is being implemented by State Governments/ UT Administrations through their designated agencies. e-District services have been launched in 649 districts across all States/UTs.

**Mobile Seva Platform:** Mobile governance (m-governance) aims to leverage wireless and new media technology platforms, mobile devices and applications for delivery of public information and services to all citizens and businesses. It aims at widening the reach of, and access to, public services to all citizens in the country, especially in the rural areas by exploiting the much greater penetration of mobile phones in the country. It also leverages the innovative potential of mobile applications in providing public services. Around 3992 Government departments and agencies integrated with the Mobile Seva platform. The total number of services available to citizens and businesses over Pull SMS has reached 705. On the Mobile Seva AppStore, total 1017 live mobile Apps have been developed and hosted.

**Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG):** Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) has been developed as a single mobile platform to deliver major Government services with Core Platform integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, PayGov, Rapid Assessment System (RAS) etc. Citizens can access pan India Government services from the Central Government, State Governments, local bodies and their agencies and some important utility services from corporate. About 276 services from 62 departments and 14 States are available on UMANG platform.

**Vikaspedia:** Vikaspedia is a knowledge portal targeting specific country needs in the domain of social development. This multilingual portal is developed as a single-window access to information, products and services, with specific objective of reaching the 'un-reached' communities of India, especially poor. It catalyses the use of ICT tools for knowledge sharing, leading to development. Vikaspedia seeks to bridge the gap between the poor and development, by providing links to Government, civil society groups/NGOs and private institutions. The ultimate goal is to create a service-oriented, people-friendly and demystified Information Technology (ICT) for Development in service of communities through country-wide collaborations.

National Informatics Centre (NIC), an attached office of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has its State Centres at State level and District level all over India. These State and District Centres continuously guide

and assist the Government Officers in ICT applications. NIC also provides various citizen centric services through its products and platforms such as e-Hospital, e-Counseling, Service plus, e-Transport, Jeevan Pramaan, National Scholarship Portal etc. which can also be used by rural people and thus fulfilling their aspiration.

(b) 276 services of 62 departments and 14 States are available on UMANG platform. Though, no external agency has been hired so far for doing the impact assessment, the internal assessment shows that it has been downloaded more than 72 Lakh times and has a rating of 4.44 on a scale of 5 on Google Play Store with 72% ratings of 5 indicating a very good feedback from the citizens. More than 3 crore transactions have been executed on UMANG since its inception and it has an Average Monthly Active User Base of 19 Lakh. UMANG was given the "Best m-Government Service Award" in the "Accessible Government Category" during the 6th edition of the World Government Summit on 13th February, 2018 in Dubai by UAE Government.

(c) To facilitate on line procurement of Goods & Services required by various Government Departments/Organizations/PSUs Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has been implemented. The GeM platform, which provides for procurement of goods and services required by Central & State/UT Government organizations. GeM SPV provides an end-to-end online Marketplace for Central and State Government Ministries/Departments, Central & State Public Undertakings (CPSUs & SPSUs), Autonomous institutions and Local bodies, for procurement of common use goods & services in transparent and efficient manner. Presently, 3,93,000+ products & 20+ Services offered by 131,000+ Sellers & Service Providers.

(d) No start-up enterprise is being registered under the Digital India programme.

[Translation]

#### **Mobile Connectivity in Uttar Pradesh**

3495. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient network range is available for providing easy connectivity in all the areas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether effective steps are being taken by the Government for addressing the complaints regarding the services of BSNL in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh 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) and (b) The Government is making all efforts along with the stakeholders, to provide affordable tele-connectivity to all inhabited areas of the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh (UP).

As a result of the continuous efforts put-in by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), there has been an addition of about 1.2 lakh Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in UP for GSM, 3G, & 4G services during April 2014 to July 2018. Accordingly, total tele-density of wireless subscribers has shown an increase from 57.27% in March 2014 to 70.86% in March 2018. A total of 97518 villages out of total 97813 inhabited villages in UP have registered mobile service connectivity, as on 28th July, 2018.

However, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and sparsely populated rural areas in the State pose some challenges for installation & operations of mobile networks on sustainable basis. Hence, the Government has provided necessary support through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF). As a result, 78 BTS have been already installed under Phase-I in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas of UP and approval for additional 179 tower-locations under Phase-II has been accorded.

As part of on-going Bharat-Net project to connect 250,000 GPs in the country, Optical Fiber Cable has been laid to connect 27999 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in UP out of which 27843 GPs are service-ready, as on 29th July, 2018. This infrastructure is available to all TSPs on non-discriminatory basis. Besides, public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set-up to provide internet services at village-level under which 9278 hotspots have already been set-up under 'Wi-Fi Choupal' Scheme.

(c) In order to provide effective redressal to consumer grievances, M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), has set-up the procedure of handling the

grievances in accordance with 'The Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal Regulations 2012' as notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Every complaint at Complaint Centre (Call Centre) is registered by giving Unique Docket Number, which is maintained in the system for at least three months and can be monitored online by the customer to ascertain its status.

As per TRAI Performance Indicator Report for quarter ending March, 2018, BSNL complies with all 'Customer Quality Service Parameters' for mobile services in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

BSNL provides telecom services in 90,573 villages in UP, as on 31st May, 2018. It has undertaken further network expansion to improve services and reduce complaints. Addition of 4570 BTS (2457 for 2G and 2113 for 3G services) is on-going, out of which 1902 BTS have been installed by 30th June, 2018.

[English]

#### Project in Neighbouring Countries

3496. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to complete all foreign projects committed during the last five years in the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details of bilateral projects with their present status;

(c) the funds allocated for the said projects and utilized during the above period, year-wise; and

(d) the timeline fixed for the completion of these projects and the funds required therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government has committed to a number of bilateral projects in the last five years under various modalities in our neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In these countries, out of 167 committed projects, 58 projects have been completed and 109 projects are ongoing or under development, excluding Project Tied Assistance to Bhutan and quick impact Small Development Projects (SDPs). The projects span different sectors such as connectivity, energy, hydropower, roads, agriculture, other infrastructure, culture, capacity building, training and healthcare.

(c) The funds for the said projects are utilized from the budget allocated to the individual country. Details of expenditure incurred on projects during the last five years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Aid to Country	Grant Assistance (GA) (Rs. crore)/Line of Credit (LoC) (US \$ million)	Expenditure				
			2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Afghanistan	GA	585.31	723.52	880.44	263.02	365.96
2.	Nepal	GA	381.37	303.26	309.94	332.72	376.62
		LoC	0.67	9.10	9.19	91.30	16.28
3.	Myanmar	GA	164.86	104.34	117.07	123.62	223.55
		LoC	0	0	6.96	4.48	31.73
4.	Sri Lanka	GA	420.80	499.70	403.80	99.16	77.89
		LoC	2.07	8.21	4.36	5.33	41.61
5.	Maldives	GA	9.67	26.08	55.04	80.03	109.24
6.	Bangladesh	GA	604.66	197.84	155.68	82.59	78.02
		LoC	13.12	13.68	69.63	91.30	40.11
7.	Bhutan	GA	3926.79	4395.17	5368.46	3441.47	2475.87

(d) The total value of all ongoing projects in the neighbourhood committed during the last five years is approximately Rs. 14,393 crore. An assessment on fund requirement is made before each financial year based on progress in execution aligned with project implementation cycle. Timelines fixed for projects vary and are determined based on consultation with host Governments and ground situation. Every effort is made to implement projects as early as possible, in close consultation with the host Governments.

[Translation]

### Open End and Underground Mines

3497. SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of open end coal mines and underground mines are operating for the last several years without getting any environment and forest clearance;

(b) if so, the company-wise details of the such coal mines; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government against such open end coal mines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) In general, mines of coal companies are operated after obtaining prior environmental & forestry Clearances from MoEF & CC. However, a few mines of CIL & its Subsidiaries and SCCL are predated of EIA notification 1994, are operating under valid Consent to Operate obtained from respective State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981. The details are given in enclosed Statement. Applications for grant of EC has been made for all the mines as mentioned is given in enclosed Statement.

### Statement

*List of CIL Mines running under Consent to Operate issued by (SPCB) under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 & predate of MOEF&CC, EIA Notification 1994*

Sl. No.	Consent obtained from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)	Subsidiary/ Unit	Mines running under valid Consent to Operate
1	2	3	4
1.	MPPCB, Bhopal	SECL	Birsinghpur UG
2.			Pali UG
3.			Nowrozabad UG
4.			Piparia UG
5.			Dhanpuri UG
6.			Govinda/Meera UG
7.			Bhadra UG
8.			Somna UG
9.	CECB, Raipur		Surakachar 3/4 & Main UG
10.			Balgi UG
11.			Banki & Surakachar 5/6
12.			Bisrampur OC
13.	SPCB, Dhanbad	BCCL	Cluster XVII
14.	SPCB, Assam	NEC	Tirap Colliery

(ii) List of SCCL Mines which were started prior to EIA notification 1994

Sl.No.	Name of the mine	Date of opening
1.	Venkateshkhani-7 Incline	05.12.1954
2.	Ravindrakhani-8 Incline	03.12.1979
3.	Indaramkhani-1A Incline	20.02.1988
4.	Godavarikhani-7LEP Incline	16.10.1994
	Cluster of -	
5.	Godavarikhani-1 & 3	15.12.1959
6.	Godavarikhani-2 & 2A	08.12.1959
7.	Godavarikhani-5 Incline	09.01.1961

[English]

### Modernisation of Infrastructure in Courts

3498. SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

(a) the details of funds allocated for modernisation and infrastructure development of high courts and lower courts during the last year and the current year, court-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received proposals to increase the said allocation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Government of India has allocated funds for district and subordinate courts across the country for modernization and infrastructure development of lower courts.

The Union Government has been administering a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary since the year 1993-94 in order to augment the resources of State Governments in this regard in association with the States/UT Governments. It covers the construction of court halls and court complexes and residential accommodations of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. As on date, Rs. 6355.79 crores has been sanctioned since the inception of the scheme in the year 1993-94. During 2017-18, Rs. 621.21 crores was allocated, which was fully utilized, and Rs. 622.00 crores has been allocated under the scheme during 2018-19. Details of release of funds under the scheme to States/UTs during last year (2017-18) and current year (2018-19) is given in Statement-I.

The Government is also implementing eCourts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of district and subordinate courts across the country, in association with the eCommittee, of the Supreme Court of India. The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-I was implemented during 2010-2015, wherein Rs. 639.41 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, LAN 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 (CIS) as System Administrators. Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding jails.

Under the Phase-II of eCourts Project (2015-19) till date, Rs. 1073.18 crores has been released 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 (LAN), and installation of standard application software in district and subordinate courts. Details of funds released to High Courts for computerization of lower courts during last year (2017-18) and current year (2018-19) are given in Statement-II.

#### **Statement-I**

##### *Under CSS Scheme for Infrastructural Facilities for Judiciary*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Release in 2017-18	Release in 2018-19
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	NIL	NIL
2.	Bihar	4290.00	3202.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	NIL	NIL
4.	Goa	NIL	NIL
5.	Gujarat	5000.00	1502.00
6.	Haryana	1500.00	NIL
7.	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1000.00	1021.00
9.	Jharkhand	5000.00	959.00
10.	Karnataka	5000.00	3812.00

1	2	3	4
11.	Kerala	2500.00	NIL
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5000.00	NIL
13.	Maharashtra	5000.00	1058.00
14.	Odisha	NIL	NIL
15.	Punjab	5000.00	1447.00
16.	Rajasthan	1734.00	
17.	Tamil Nadu	NIL	NIL
18.	Uttarakhand	2500.00	1321.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	7500.00	6403.00
20.	West Bengal	1734.00	3522.00
Total (A)		52758.00	24247.00
<b>NE States</b>			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL
2.	Assam	2000.00	1308.00
3.	Manipur	NIL	NIL
4.	Meghalaya	863.00	NIL
5.	Mizoram	2000.00	NIL
6.	Nagaland	2000.00	NIL
7.	Sikkim	NIL	NIL
8.	Tripura	NIL	NIL
Total (B)		6863.00	1308.00
<b>UTs</b>			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NIL	NIL
2.	Chandigarh	NIL	NIL
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NIL	NIL
4.	Daman and Diu	NIL	NIL
5.	Delhi	2500.00	NIL
6.	Lakshadweep	NIL	NIL
7.	Puducherry	NIL	NIL
Total (C)		2500.00	0.00
Grand Total (A+B+C)		62121.00	25555.00

**Statement-II**

*Funds released to High Courts for computerisation of Lower Courts*

Sl. No.	High Courts	Release in 2017-18	Release in 2018-19
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	2057.00	85.00
2.	Bombay	4722.00	NIL
3.	Calcutta	1072.00	NIL
4.	Chhattisgarh	934.00	NIL
5.	Delhi	897.00	NIL
6.	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	137.00	75.00
7.	Gauhati (Assam)	813.00	NIL
8.	Gauhati (Mizoram)	247.00	NIL
9.	Gauhati (Nagaland)	183.00	55.00
10.	Gujarat	2906.00	1060.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	405.00	NIL
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1059.00	NIL
13.	Jharkhand	292.00	440.00
14.	Karnataka	2204.00	NIL
15.	Kerala	1473.00	448.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2251.00	NIL
17.	Madras	2545.00	NIL
18.	Manipur	119.00	47.00
19.	Meghalaya	365.00	47.00
20.	Odisha	1270.00	146.00
21.	Patna	872.00	NIL
22.	Punjab and Haryana	1154.00	836.00
23.	Rajasthan	2505.00	275.00
24.	Sikkim	140.00	20.00
25.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	3395.00	800.00
26.	Tripura	286.00	15.00
27.	Uttarakhand	460.00	NIL
Total		34763.00	4349.00

**Fake Certificates/Documents**

3499. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:  
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed 16 cases against persons who have secured Government jobs by submitting fake certificates;

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

(c) the reasons, if any, for delay in the said cases;

(d) whether the Government has taken a decision to sack officials who got jobs using fake certificates/documents and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Ministries/Departments have been asked to compile information of candidates who got their jobs with fake certificates and initiate the process for their dismissal, 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) Yes, Madam. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered 16 cases against persons who have secured Government jobs by submitting fake caste certificates during the period from 01.01.2010 to 30.06.2018. One case PE 11(A)/13-ACB Mumbai was converted into a Regular Case *vide* RC 6(A)/18-ACB Mumbai on 19.02.2018 which is added separately. The State-wise details in respect of the said 17 cases are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of cases registered by CBI
1	2	3
1.	Madhya Pradesh	01
2.	Maharashtra	03
3.	Tamil Nadu	01

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	02
5.	Delhi	06
6.	Assam	01
7.	Uttarakhand	01
8.	Jharkhand	02
Total		17

CBI has reported that there has been no delay in the said cases.

(d) Department of Personnel and Training's Office Memorandum of 19.5.1993 provides that wherever it is found that a Government servant, who was not qualified or ineligible in terms of the recruitment rules etc. for initial recruitment in service or had furnished false information or produced a false certificate in order to secure appointment should not be retained in service. If she/he is a probationer or a temporary Government servant, she/he should be discharged or his/her services should be terminated. If she/he has become a permanent Government servant, an inquiry as prescribed in Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 be held and if the charges are proved, the Government servant should be removed or dismissed from service.

Department of Personnel and Training's another Office Memorandum of 9.9.2005 provides that appointing authority should verify the caste status of SC/ST/OBC candidates at the time of initial appointment as well as every important turn of the employee's career through the District Magistrate of the place where the candidate and/or his/her family ordinarily resides.

(e) On 23rd February, 2018, the Department of Personnel and Training sought data from Central Government Ministries/Departments regarding appointments made on the basis of fake/false caste certificates and follow up action taken by them thereon. As per information received till 31.07.2018, 469 cases of fake/false caste certificates have been reported, of which 50 employees have reportedly been dismissed/terminated from service.

**Submission of OBC Certificate**

3500. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether candidates have been facing difficulties in obtaining/submitted OBC Certificate in prescribed format for applying/joining Government jobs due to the rule that OBC Certificates should be updated about the current financial status the income criteria for exclusion of creamy layer as result of which many OBC candidates are denied the opportunity for further improving their career prospects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even those candidates, who have been selected on the basis of valid OBC Certificate and joined Government service, face the problem of producing latest Certificate when they further apply for jobs in other government organizations and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is urgent need for simplification of rules regarding requirement of producing OBC certificate for Government employees by exempting them from it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) As per instructions issued *vide* Department of Personnel and Training's OM No. 36033/4/97-Estt.(Res.) dated 25.07.2003, every candidate seeking reservation as Other Backward Class (OBC) is required to submit a certificate regarding his/her 'OBC status and Non-creamy layer' status issued by the prescribed authority. The OBC status of a candidate may change only when the community of the concerned candidate is removed from the OBC list but his/her creamy layer status may change any time. In view of this, it is not possible to determine a fixed validity period for the OBC certificate.

The appointing authority before appointing a person on the basis of reservation to OBCs should verify the veracity of the community certificate submitted by the candidate and also the fact that he/she does not fall in creamy layer on the crucial date. The crucial date for this

purpose is the closing date for receipt of applications for the post except in cases where crucial date is fixed otherwise.

(c) to (e) Keeping in view the problems faced by OBC candidates, Department of Personnel and Training, *vide* letter no. 36036/2/2013-Estt.(Res.) dated 30.05.2014, revised the format for issue of OBC caste certificate to mention the details of Resolution by which caste/community of the candidate has been added in the Central list of OBCs and also to ensure that he/she does not belong to creamy layer.

Instructions have also been issued by Department of Personnel and Training, *vide* OM No. 36011/1/2012-Estt.(Res.) dated 08.10.2015, to the effect that where a candidate belonging to a Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes is unable to produce a certificate from any of the prescribed authorities, he/she may be appointed provisionally on the basis of whatever *prima-facie* proof he/she is able to produce in support of his/her claim subject to his/her furnishing the prescribed certificate within a reasonable time and if there is genuine difficulty in his/her obtaining a certificate, the appointing authority should itself verify his/her claim through the District Magistrate concerned.

#### **Mobile Internet Download Speed**

3501. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's average mobile internet download speed is around 9.01 Megabyte Per Second (Mbps) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether as per a survey, the country ranks 109th in terms of average mobile internet download speed and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the ranks of other developed and developing countries in the said survey; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the said mobile internet download speed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) analytics portal, the details of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)-wise average mobile internet download speed for 4G technology are given in enclosed Statement. No authentic information is available to the Government on the average mobile internet download speed in other countries.

(d) Internet speed depends on various parameters such as technology deployed, network coverage, number of simultaneous users accessing the internet, connectivity to the website being accessed etc. The speed of mobile internet is further dependent on a number of factors such as distance from Base Transceiver Station (BTS) serving the customer, the number of simultaneous users being served by the BTS, the traffic handled by the BTS etc. As such, the mobile users may experience different speeds at different location and time of usage.

In order to facilitate improvement in Quality of Services and expansion of telecommunication services including mobile internet services, the Department of Telecommunications has initiated a series of policy initiatives and development programs as below :-

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz across different bands (700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands) in 2016.
- (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per guidelines.
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for achieving higher utilisation efficiency.
- (iv) permitting Internet Protocol (IP) based interconnections between TSPs in addition to the prevailing arrangements.
- (v) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November, 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers).
- (vi) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks

and related improvements carried out by TSPs.

A total of 798,054 additional BTS have been installed by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the country from July, 2015 to June, 2018.

As on 1st July, 2018, About 18.33 lakh BTS have been installed in the country.

Network upgradation and improvement is an ongoing process for each TSP, based on changing traffic volumes, customer needs and market competition.

#### **Statement**

*Telecom Service Provider-wise average mobile internet download speed on 4G technology for the month of June' 2018*

Name of 4G Telecom Service Provider	Average Download 4G Speed (in Mbps)
M/s. Reliance Jio	18.6
M/s. Airtel	9.2
M/s. Vodafone	7.2
M/s. Idea	6.8

#### **Weather Satellites**

3502. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of satellites launched by ISRO specifically to predict accurate weather forecast, rainfall, cyclones etc. with a view to helping common man, farmers and fishermen;

(b) whether the Government proposes to launch more satellites in the country to provide all useful information for common people, agriculturists, fishermen and rural industries; and

(c) 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) At present, India has four satellites operational in the orbit namely, INSAT-3D, INSAT-3DR, Megha-tropiques and Scatsat-1 providing data on various weather parameters viz. clouds, outgoing long-wave radiation, atmospheric motion vector, vertical profiles of temperature & humidity, sea surface temperature, ocean surface winds, radiation budget etc. The meteorological data obtained from INSAT-3D & 3DR every 15 minutes and humidity profile data of SAPHIR on-board Megha-tropiques is being operationally assimilated in the numerical weather models by India Meteorological Department (IMD) for improving weather forecast. The Ocean surface wind vector data from SCATSAT-1 is also being used operationally for prediction of cyclone track, its intensity & landfall with improved accuracy. The fishing sector is being supported through advisories on Potential Fishing Zones and the ocean State forecast generated by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) ISRO proposes to launch 17 satellites for earth observation, including weather satellites during next three years. The data from these satellites will be used to ensure data continuity for operational applications and enhance satellite-enabled services, which include (i) advisories on weather, pest infestation, agro-meteorology to support farming operations; (ii) advisories on potential fishing zones for fishermen; (iii) rural development applications viz. crop intensification, wasteland inventory, identifying ground water prospect zones, inland aquaculture suitability.

#### **Pension Scheme**

3503. SHRI B.V. NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce pension scheme for short service candidates in defence sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to approve pension and other welfare schemes for defence personnel serving less than 15 years and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from Military Service Pensioners Association in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) At present, the Short Service Commissioned officers granted commission from other rank are entitled to pension on completion of 12 years of qualifying service. However, Short Service Commissioned officer who is granted commission from direct civil life is entitled to Terminal Gratuity only. There is no new proposal under consideration.

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

#### **Shortage of Staff in Passport Offices**

3504. SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were 2697 passport office employees in 2009-10 against approximately 60 lakh applications and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there has been an increase of 65 lakh applications requiring appointment of additional 2080 staff members and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of passport office employees have been posted at various other offices on deputation resulting in shortage of staff at passport offices; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) The sanctioned strength of the Central Passport Organization (CPO) was 2697 in 2009-10. The number of passport applications received in India in 2009 and 2010 were 51.66 lakh and 55 lakh respectively.

(b) The number of passport applications was 1.17 crore in 2017. The sanctioned strength remains 2697 in 2018-19. In addition, 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project. The working strength of the CPO is 1985 as on 1 August, 2018. As an interim measure, 354 Data Entry Operators and 96 Office Assistants (MTS) have been deployed against the vacant non-Gazetted posts for smooth

functioning of the Passport Offices through an Outsourced Agency to bridge the gap between the sanctioned strength and the working strength of the non-gazetted posts

(c) and (d) No. The employees of the CPO have not been posted to other offices on deputation.

[Translation]

### **Welfare Schemes**

3505. SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the common man is not getting the proper benefit of majority of the welfare schemes due to lack of wide publicity of these schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government proposes to give wide publicity to its ongoing/proposed schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent for this purpose during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the details of the monitoring mechanism put in place for the proper utilisation of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Madam, all Government schemes have budget component for publicity and outreach.

(b) and (c) The expenditure incurred on advertisements issued on behalf of various Ministries/Departments by Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) (erstwhile Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity) through Electronic, Print and other media from 2014-15 onwards is as under:—

Financial Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
2014-15	979.78
2015-16	1160.16
2016-17	1264.26
2017-18	1313.57

(d) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) are reviewed periodically on the basis of guidelines of the

individual Schemes by the implementing Departments/Ministries. Such reviews by Central Ministries ordinarily have the provision of assessing performance under the Schemes for key indicators and measures to rectify any shortfall, including taking the benefit of the scheme to targeted population, subject to overall availability of the budget under the concerned scheme.

[English]

### **Safety in Rail Operations**

3506. DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that laying of new lines and doubling of tracks have suffered because of the focus on safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has asked its zones not to compromise safety while undertaking the work of laying new lines and doubling of tracks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) In the last four years, 2555 km of New Line, 3396 km of Gauge Conversion and 3577 km of Doubling has been commissioned. During 2017-18, 1862 km has been commissioned including 409 km of New Line, 454 km of Gauge Conversion and 999 km of Doubling.

Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are being undertaken on a continual basis including upgradation of technology to aid safe running of trains. Further, during 2017-18, due to highest priority given to safety works of track renewals and capacity constraints of supply of rails, commissioning of Railway Lines was less.

### **Corruption Under MPLAD Schemes**

3507. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of corruption/irregularities in the implementation of schemes under MPLADS have come to

the notice of the Government during the last three years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the punitive action taken by the Government in this regard along with the funds recovered therefrom; and

(c) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the said scheme 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) Implementation of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in the field is undertaken by the District Authorities in accordance with the State Government's technical, administrative and financial rules and in accordance with the Guidelines on MPLADS.

Instances of violation of guidelines/rules/irregularities in the implementation of the Scheme come to notice from time to time. In all such cases, District Authorities/State Governments are advised to take appropriate action in the matter including fund recovery where necessary.

(c) For effective implementation of the scheme, an integrated MPLADS Portal ([www.mplads.gov.in](http://www.mplads.gov.in)) is in operation at macro and micro level. The portal is used for reporting and monitoring of MPLADS funds and status of implementation of works and expenditure incurred. The Ministry also regularly reviews the implementation of the MPLADS through national-level review meeting with officers of State Governments/Districts and visits to States/Districts.

[*Translation*]

### **Rail Neer**

3508. SHRI VIKRAM USENDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to ensure supply of Rail Neer at all major railway stations and trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the sale of local brands and sub-standard bottled water at most of the railway stations and trains;

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

(e) whether there is likelihood of supply of Rail Neer being made mandatory by the Government and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make available either safe drinking water or Rail Neer at all railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) At present Rail Neer is mandatorily supplied to passengers of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duranto/Gatiman/Tejas/Vistadome/ and other premium trains. There is also mandatory supply of Rail Neer in 281 pairs of trains and at more than 235 stations as identified by Ministry of Railways from 05 Rail Neer Plants owned by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) located at Nangloi (Delhi), Danapur (near Patna), Palur (near Chennai) Ambernath (near Mumbai), Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), and 02 plants under Public-Private Partnership mode (PPP) at Amethi (Uttar Pradesh) and Parassala (near Trivandrum).

At present, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is able to produce 22 crore bottles of Rail Neer annually from the 07 existing operational plants which covers 37 per cent of requirement of Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) over Indian Railways. However, with the commissioning of 11 more plants, which is in pipe line, the coverage of Rail Neer Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) on Indian Railways will increase to 85 per cent.

To cover the gap between supply and demand, Zonal Railways have been delegated powers to short list and empanel Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) approved PDW brands of private companies to meet the demand of drinking water on stations and trains.

As only Rail Neer or other shortlisted BIS approved PDW brands of the empanelled private companies have been permitted for supply/sale on mobile units and at Railway stations through authorised static units, there has hardly been any complaint across Zonal Railways with regard to quality of the BIS approved PDW supplied to passengers. However, whenever complaints of unauthorised supply/sale of inferior quality of non approved brands of

PDW are received, suitable action, including imposition of monetary fines is taken as per rules against defaulting licensees depending on the gravity of the lapses.

(f) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has installed approximately 1850 Water Vending Machines at 672 stations across the Indian Railway network for dispensing drinking water to passengers at affordable prices *i.e.* 300 ml @ Rs. 1/- and 1 litre @ Rs. 5/-.

All Railway stations have provision of potable drinking water on platforms to meet the needs of rail passengers, free of cost. On most of the important stations, water cooler and chiller plants are also in operation for providing cool drinking water to passengers during summer season.

[English]

### **eSIM**

3509. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed the use of Embedded Subscriber Identity Module (eSIM);

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

(c) whether eSIM is a virtual equivalent of normal SIM cards and come embedded in the mobile device and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether these eSIM cannot be removed from the device but can be updated over the air 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) to (d) In order to cater to the needs of modern technological developments in Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communications/Internet of Things (IoT), the Department of Telecommunications on 16.05.2018 has permitted the use of 'Embedded-Subscriber Identity Module (E-SIM)' with both Single and Multiple profile configurations with Over the Air (OTA) subscription update facility, as the case may be, as per the prevailing global specifications and standards.

E-SIM performs the same function of authenticating the validity of mobile subscription as that of normal

SIM (Subscriber Identity Module); however, it has better form factor, endurance, temperature and data retention capabilities compared to normal SIM. The normal SIM is pluggable, whereas, the E-SIM is embedded in the devices.

As the E-SIM is not intended to be removed or replaced by the user from the device, it is not easily accessible or replaceable by the user and is generally hard wired (soldered) until the end of life of the device/product by the original equipment manufacturer. In the E-SIM, it is possible to manage (including addition/deletion) the subscriptions/profiles using Subscription Management Tools Over the Air (OTA) securely.

### **Converting Sea Water to Potable Water**

3510. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR has developed a technology to convert sea water into potable water to mitigate the shortage of potable water in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the technology developed by CSIR is too, costly or economically unviable to be used on a large scale; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make it economically more viable?

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, through its constituent laboratory, CSIR-Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSIR-CSMCRI), Bhavnagar has developed a membrane based RO technology for converting sea water into potable water to mitigate the shortage of potable water in the country. CSIR-CSMCRI has developed two stage sea water desalination technology by using the indigenous membranes developed at CSIR-CSMCRI. In the first stage 93%-94% rejection of salt with a flux of 40 to 45 LMH at the pressure of 650-700 psi is achieved while in the second stage 98% of rejection

of salt is achieved with a flux of 65 to 70 LMH at pressure of 400 psi.

(c) and (d) The technology is reasonably viable from an economic standpoint compared to imported desalination units at comparable scales. For a 1000 LPH plant, the cost of 1 litre water complying with the WHO specifications would be around 12-13 paise per litre. CSIR-CSMCRI is continuing its efforts to make the technology more robust and bring down the cost of potable water further.

#### **Biometric Attendance System**

3511. SHRI R. DHUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether biometric attendance system has been introduced in the various departments and offices of the Ministry of Railways to ensure punctuality of employees and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said system has also been introduced in the Customer Care Institute of the Ministry located in Kishanganj, Delhi;

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

(d) the time by which the aforesaid system is likely to be introduced in Customer Care Institute, Kishanganj?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. Biometric attendance system has been introduced in most of the departments and administrative offices of the Ministry of Railways.

(b) to (d) No, Madam. Biometric attendance system is not available in Customer Care Institute, Kishanganj, Delhi at present because only two Group 'C' staff and two Group 'D' staff are working in Customer Care Institute, Kishanganj, Delhi.

#### **Rajdhani Train to Vadodara**

3512. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is contemplating to run Rajdhani Train from Delhi to Mangalore *via* Vadodara and Madgaon and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for not running important trains like Rajdhani on this route so far; and

(c) whether the Ministry is contemplating to run YPR Duranto Express (12214/12213) from weekly to at least thrice a week and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Mangalore is connected to Delhi by 10 pairs of Mail/Express train services including 1 pair of Rajdhani Express and 1 pair of Duronto Express. Of these, 8 pairs of train services are running *via* Vadodara and Madgaon. At present, there is no proposal for introduction of new Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Mangalore due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) No, Madam.

#### **Safety Fund**

3513. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has felt any difficulty to contribute to the rail safety fund namely Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh, as targeted;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of action that has been taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of safety projects undertaken by the Government since creation of the above 'Kosh'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK)' has been introduced, as announced by Hon'ble Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech 2017-18, for works relating to renewal, replacement, upgradation of critical safety assets. The Fund has a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore over a period of five years, having an assured annual outlay of Rs. 20,000 crore with Rs. 15,000 crore as contribution from Gross Budgetary Support and Rs. 5,000 crore from internal resources of the Railways. In 2017-18, out of the outlay of Rs. 20,000 crore, expenditure of Rs. 16091 crore has been incurred out of RRSK. In the current year also a provision of Rs. 20,000 crore has been made in Budget Estimate and Rs. 3256 crore have been spent till end of June, 2018.

(c) The fund under 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK)' is being utilized to finance safety related works under plan-heads 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/HRD.

#### **Look East Agenda**

3514. SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Look East Agenda for the North Eastern Region;

(b) the details of funds allocated and the number of projects under the said agenda till date; and

(c) the future targets under the said agenda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) India's Look East Policy has been a major pillar of our foreign policy since the early 1990s. In the second half of 2014, India announced the transformation of Look East Policy to Act East Policy. Act East Policy focuses on strengthening relations with India's extended neighbourhood in the Indo-Pacific Region. The Policy which was originally conceived as an economic initiative, has gained political, strategic and cultural dimensions.

One of the main Priorities of India's Act East Policy is to enhance connectivity between North Eastern Region of India and the countries neighbouring North Eastern Region. To this effect, steady efforts are being made to strengthen connectivity between North Eastern Region of India and countries neighbouring North Eastern Region through physical infrastructure, trade as also people-to-people contacts.

(b) and (c) Government of India constantly engages with all stakeholders including Chief Ministers of North Eastern Region to review the ongoing projects and to seek inputs on future requirement.

Government is implementing the following projects under grant assistance that will, upon completion, enhance connectivity between North Eastern States of India and Countries neighbouring North Eastern Region:

#### (i) **The Trilateral Highway Project**

The Trilateral Highway Project starts from Moreh (Manipur) in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar. In this regard, Government of India is undertaking construction of 69 Bridges including Approach Roads in the Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa Road Section of Myanmar at the cost of Rs. 371.58 crore and construction/upgradation of 120.74 kms road from Kalewa to Yargi in Myanmar at the cost of Rs. 1459.29 crore.

#### (ii) **Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar**

Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar will create a multi-modal transport corridor for shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar as well as North-Eastern Region of India to Myanmar. The project includes a waterway component of 158 km on Kaladan River from Sittwe to Paletwa in Myanmar and a road component of 109 km from Paletwa to Zorinpui on the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram State at a total cost of Rs. 2904.04 crore. Works under original waterways component have been completed in May, 2017. The rest of the work is under progress.

#### (iii) **Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project**

The Akhaura-Agartala rail link project at the total cost of Rs. 972.52 crore under implementation will connect Agartala (Tripura) with the main Dhaka-Chittagong rail line in Bangladesh.

#### (iv) **Dredging of Rivers**

India and Bangladesh signed an MoU on 8 April, 2017 wherein it has been decided that the Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch (309 km) of Kushiya river and Sirajganj-Daikhowa stretch (146 km) of Jamuna river in the India-Bangladesh protocol route will be developed for round the year navigation. It will facilitate round the year navigation on these routes and also help strengthen the link between National Waterways-1 and National Waterway-2 in India to waterways of Bangladesh. The cost of the project would be Rs. 245 crore.

#### (v) **Construction of Bridge Over River Feni**

Feni bridge is proposed on river Feni on the Tripura-Bangladesh border. Once completed, the bridge will

connect Tripura to Bangladesh through Sabroom (Tripura, India)-Ramgarh (Khagrachari District, Bangladesh). The location of the bridge is around 100 km from Chittagong. The cost of the project would be Rs. 82.57 crore.

The following projects under line of credit to Bangladesh are expected to improve connectivity between North Eastern States and Bangladesh:

(i) **Rehabilitation of the Railway Track**

Rehabilitation of the Railway Track from Shabazpur to Kulaura (about 45 Km) in Bangladesh will establish railway connectivity between Karimganj/Mahisasan (Assam, India-Shahbazpur (Bangladesh). The line of credit component for this project is USD 78.10 million (approximately Rs. 523 crores).

(ii) **Road Project for Improved Connectivity**

The road in Bangladesh connecting Ashuganj River Port-Sarail-Darkhar-Akhaura Land Port Road will be upgraded to 4 lane National Highway. This will strengthen connectivity between Bangladesh and Tripura border. The line of credit component for this project is USD 283.66 million (approximately Rs. 1896 crores).

**Profiling of Citizens**

3515. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to electronically profile the DNA of citizens in the country with an intension of incorporating the data captured into the Aadhaar database; and

(b) if so, the objectives and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

**Extension of Railway Lines in Rajasthan**

3516. SHRI OM BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the increase in the railway line

networks during the current year and the previous three years along with the average increase in the railway lines per month during these periods;

(b) the details of the length of railway lines replaced/upgraded during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of the current number of projects for extension of railway lines which had been initiated and where survey to ascertain cost and feasibility has been done around the country and specifically in Rajasthan;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to start railway project in Rajganjmandi-Neemuch-Bedi Sadri and if so, the details of the progress made, budget allocated along with the estimated time period which has been fixed for the completion of the project; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Details of Commissioning of Railway Lines along with average increase per month for the last three years and current year up to June, 2018 are as under:—

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (up to June, 2018)
Commissioning in (in km)	2828	2855	1861.82	245.8
Average increase per month (in km)	235.66	237.92	155.15	81.9

(b) The details of track renewal and rail renewal for the last three years and current year are as under:—

Year	Track Renewal in Complete track renewal units (CTR)	Rail Renewal (in Km)
2015-16	2794	2729
2016-17	2487	2597
2017-18	4023	4405
2018-19 (up to June' 2018)	964	1104

(c) As on 01.04.2018, 180 New Line projects

costing 356120 cr. having length 21443 km, 57 Gauge Conversion projects costing Rs. 54425 cr. having length 7995 km and 263 Doubling projects costing Rs. 211541 cr. having length 21093 km are in different stage of approval/planning/execution. This includes 32 projects in Rajasthan costing Rs. 41812 cr. having total length of 4663 km.

Further, 272 surveys (including New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) costing Rs. 789622 cr. having total length 36154 km have been sanctioned in last three years and current year. This includes 23 projects in Rajasthan costing Rs. 23904 cr. having length 2648 km.

(d) and (e) Ramganjmandi-Neemuch (111 km) New Line survey has been taken up.

Neemuch-Badi Sadri (48.35 km) New Line has been included in Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite clearance. Detailed Project Report is under examination.

#### **Covered Platforms**

3517. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations in the country specially in Odisha;

(b) the number out of them which have covered platforms particularly in Odisha;

(c) the number of covered platform stations which can accommodate 20 to 23 coach train in Odisha; and

(d) the details of measures taken to provide roof in all railway stations and to extend the covered platforms to accommodate all coaches in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) There are 8738 stations in Indian Railways, out of which, 293 stations are in the State of Odisha. These 293 stations are of different categories from Non-Suburban Grade (NSG) (1-6), Suburban Grade (SG) (1-3) & Halt Grade (HG) (1-3) depending upon the outward number of passengers/earnings of the station. All these 293 stations are having Platform shelters/sheds as per norms befitting the categories of stations.

(c) Platform shelters/sheds have been provided

at all stations as per norms. However, 11 stations with covered platforms can accommodate 20 to 23 coach train in the State of Odisha.

(d) Upgradation of Passenger Amenities including platforms shelters at Railway stations is a continuous process and works in this regard are undertaken depending upon need, volume of the passenger traffic and inter-se priority subject to availability of funds.

*[Translation]*

#### **Letter from MPs**

3518. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:  
DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued/likely to issue instructions to all Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings/bodies to immediately issue proper acknowledgement and take speedy action within stipulated time period on all the letters of the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such advisory has been issued/likely to be issued to State Governments also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances in the Government of India has laid down the procedure and guidelines as contained in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure for dealing with letters received from VIPs/MPs by the various Ministries/Departments. The Department has reiterated the instructions contained in the CSMOP from time to time stressing on the need of following its provision including acknowledging the communication received from MPs

within 15 days, followed by a reply within next 15 days of acknowledgement sent. It is for the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Public Sector Undertakings to take follow up action as per the CSMOP.

(c) and (d) The State/UT Governments have their own separate sets of Manuals of Office Procedure for their offices.

### **Regional Imbalances**

3519. SHRI ALOK SANJAR:

SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether regional imbalance still exists in various States despite implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and the other measures taken by the Government;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to identify regional imbalances among the States;

(d) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government to remove such imbalances; and

(e) whether the Government has decided to increase the funds under (CSS) for backward districts in these States and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The sub-continental dimensions of India diversified with inherent differences in geographical conditions resulted in differential resource endowment, infrastructure and socioeconomic parameters led to regional disparities in terms of development of different regions. To redress regional imbalances, an Inter-Ministerial Task Group was constituted in August, 2004, which submitted its report in January, 2005. This group identified 170 backward districts including 55 extremists affected districts, and *inter alia* recommended for setting up a Backward District Grant Fund (BRGF). The BRGF Programme was launched in 2006-07 for providing financial assistance for

supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows in the identified 250 districts including 170 districts identified by the Inter-Ministry Task Group (IMTG) with a view to redressing regional imbalances in development. Till Financial Year 2014-15, financial assistance was given to accelerate socio-economic development of the Most Backward Regions/Districts in the country under the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme. Central funds are mainly released to States under various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Following the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission for biggest ever increase in States' share in the divisible pool of Central taxes and duties from 32% to 42%, numerous Schemes including BRGF along with other State Plan Schemes stand subsumed in the larger devolution to States since 2015.

[English]

### **Funds for Development of NER**

3520. SHRIMATI ANJU BALA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to bring the North Eastern Council under the direct control of the Home Ministry and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has formulated the first-ever Regional Road Corporation in the form of North-East Road Development Scheme to boost development and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any new policy/scheme to make funds available for projects critical to the development of North-Eastern States and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has approved a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth Rs. 480 crore for the development of cooperative sector in the State of Manipur and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken to create a platform towards awareness and initiation of entrepreneurship development based on natural resources of the above region?

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 Government has not taken any such decision. However, *vide* Gazette of India Notification dated 7th July, 2018, the Union Home Minister has been notified as ex officio Chairman of North Eastern Council.

(b) Government has formulated a Scheme titled North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) to undertake upgradation of neglected roads on inter-State borders and also roads on international borders.

(c) Government has given approval for continuation of Schemes of North Eastern Council from 1st April, 2017 to 31st March, 2020 at a total outlay of Rs. 4500 crore for various focus areas, including bamboo development, value chain in piggery sector, regional tourism, higher education, tertiary healthcare (including health education) & special intervention in backward areas, Sixth Schedule Areas, Livelihood Projects, Science & Technology Interventions in the North Eastern Region (NER), Surveys & Investigations of projects in power, irrigation and flood control, promotion of the North Eastern Region and North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS).

(d) No, Madam.

(e) The Ministry has supported several awareness programmes for entrepreneurship development including workshops conducted by North East Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI), North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), etc. Besides, under the livelihood programmes North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) & North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) entrepreneurship development based on natural resources is encouraged.

#### **Usttad Scheme**

3521. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:  
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Usttad scheme and if so, the details thereof and the aims and objective behind the move;

(b) the total number of artisans who received assistance under Usttad scheme since the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether any assessment is being made on the level of attainment the artisans have gained out of this and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has decided to add a component Usttad Samman Samagam in the existing scheme of Usttad and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government is also considering to felicitate veteran artisans from the minority communities and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Yes, Madam. Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) Scheme was launched on 14th May, 2015 to preserve the rich heritage of traditional arts/crafts of minorities. The Scheme aims at capacity building and updating the traditional skills of master craftsmen/artisans; documentation of identified traditional arts/crafts of minorities; set standards for traditional skills; training of minority youths in various identified traditional arts/crafts through master craftsmen; and develop national and international market linkages. The PIA has to organize training programme which shall be supported with following activities to ensure that the desired outcomes are achieved for preservation of traditional art/craft, establishment of market linkages and generating interest among young generation for taking up traditional arts/crafts as a profession. Detailed guidelines are available on the Ministry's website *viz.* [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

(b) The training component of the scheme was started from 2016-17. The training is imparted through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). During 2016-17, 16,200 trainees have been trained by 38 PIAs. 3456 trainees have been allocated to 216 selected PIAs during 2017-18.

Further, Hunar Haat and ShilpUtsav component of the scheme has been implemented through National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), in exhibition format wherein opportunity is given to the artisans from across the country to showcase and market their finest handicraft and handloom products. Artisans from different crafts including culinary crafts and States are selected to present their exquisite craftsmanship, refined over generations. Number of artisans who received assistance under Usttad scheme during the F.Y. 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 is as follows:—

Financial	Year No. of Artisans
2015-16	443
2016-17	352
2017-18	376

(c) The training component was started only during 2016-17 and the scheme is still in its initial stage for assessment. However, Hunar Haat enables the artisans to sell their products directly during the exhibition and at the same time develop forward marketing linkages with the domestic as well as foreign buyers visiting Hunar Haat.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The USTTAD SAMMAN awards for minority craftsmen have been introduced in the revised guidelines of USTTAD Scheme during the year 2017. The purposes for the Awards is to honour the Craftpersons in recognition of their outstanding contribution, craftsmanship & development of craft. This award will encourage them to continue with the craft in a more enthusiastic and productive manner and will ultimately encourage other to emulate them. Craftpersons belonging to Minority community residing in India and who are above the age of 30 years and are having 10 years' experience in the field of crafts as on 31st December of previous year of USTTAD SAMMAN are eligible to apply for this award which will be 10 for each year.

#### **Lithium-Ion Batteries**

3522. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO is offering production technology for producing lithium-ion batteries to Indian industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ISRO has also invited industries to take up other new technologies from its centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by it from the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, ISRO is offering the technology for Li-Ion cell manufacture to Indian industries. A Request For Qualification (RFQ) document for selecting the industries is already prepared in consultation with NITI Aayog and is released through ISRO website.

(b) ISRO/DOS has taken initiatives for transfer of technology for Li-Ion cell manufacture to Indian industries through a Request For Qualification (RFQ). The proceedings are based on guidelines from NITI Aayog. There has been overwhelming response to this and nearly 140 industries (big/medium/small/start-ups) have responded for this Technology Transfer and have purchased the RFQ document. Currently ISRO is awaiting the submission of RFQ by these companies, the due date for which is 13th August, 2018. Subsequently, review of RFQs and short listing of industries that are eligible for this Technology Transfer shall be done through a two stage process involving ISRO team along with members from NITI Aayog, Ministry of Law and Justice (MOLJ) and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

(c) ISRO has been inviting industries to transfer various technologies developed by them for the Space Programme. This process started as early as 1975 and is continuing till now.

(d) ISRO has carried out nearly 345 technology transfers so far to various Indian industries on a wide range of areas. This is a continuing activity.

#### **Doubling of Railway Lines in Gujarat**

3523. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has received representations from various organisations/road users as well as from the Government of Gujarat for doubling of railway lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon along with the time-frame fixed for each project;

(c) the number of surveys that have been proposed for doubling of railway lines in Gujarat during the last three years *i.e.* from 2011-12 to 2016-17;

(d) the number of surveys of doubling of railway lines started and completed along with the time by which the remaining projects will be started and completed; and

(e) the status of work related to doubling of Rajkot-

Veraval railway line that has been taken up and the time-frame fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Requests for doubling, both formal as well as informal, are received by Railways at various levels *i.e.* Railway Board, Zonal Railways and Divisional Headquarters, etc. As receipt of such requests/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained.

(b) to (d) Surveys for 9 doubling projects falling fully/ partly in the State of Gujarat have been completed during the last five years *i.e.* 2011-12 to 2016-17. All the surveys have been completed. The details of the surveys and their status are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of sanction	Year of Completion	KMS	Cost	Status
1.	Vatva-Ahemdabad-Sabarmati 4th line	2015-16	2016-17	18	231	Work sanctioned in 2015-16. Earthwork, bridges works, ballast supply etc. are in different stages of progress.
2.	Surendranagar-Rajkot doubling	2015-16	2016-17	116	1002	Work sanctioned in 2015-16. Earthwork, bridges works, ballast supply etc. are in different stages of progress.
3.	Anand-Godhara doubling	2017-18		79	683	Work included in Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals from the Government. Detailed Project Report (DPR) under preparation.
4.	Rajkot-Okha doubling	2012-13	2016-17	252	1997	Survey completed & report under examination.
5.	Rajkot-Junagarh (Ahmedabad-Junagarh doubling)	2011-12	2017-18	103	812	Survey completed and the proposal could not be taken forward due to its un-remunerative nature.
6.	Rajkot-Veraval (Junagarh-Veraval) doubling	2013-14		85		Survey taken up.
7.	Makarpura-Vadodara 'P' (8.5 km) 3rd line & 4th line	2015-16		9		Survey taken up.
8.	Utran-Ankleshwar (46 km) 3rd & 4th line	2015-16		46		Survey taken up.
9.	Mehsana-Palanpur doubling	2018-19		65	529.30	Work included in the Budget 2018-19 subject to requisite approvals from the Government. Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under preparation.

(e) As of now, only survey of doubling of Rajkot-Veraval railway line has been taken up in two parts *i.e.* Rajkot-Junagarh (103 km) and Junagarh-Veraval (83 km).

#### **Speed of Swarna Jayanti**

3524. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering of increasing the speed of Swarna Jayanti New Delhi-Ahmedabad Rajdhani Express trains and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is aware that increasing the speed of Swarna Jayanti New Delhi-Ahmedabad Rajdhani Express trains would benefit a large number of passengers if it is extended upto Rajkot;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Extension of 12957/12958 Ahmedabad-New Delhi Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani Express is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints, including non-availability of terminal/maintenance facility at Rajkot and path constraints on Ahmedabad-Rajkot section.

#### **Import of Uranium**

3525. SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN:

SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI R. K. BHARATHI MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any MoU

with foreign countries for the import of Uranium and other Nuclear Fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantity of uranium imported from various countries and the expenditure incurred thereon during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether there is shortage of fuel for Atomic/Nuclear Power plants in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the country is likely to become self-dependent in the field of atomic/Nuclear fuel?

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) At present, Directorate of Purchase and Stores (DPS), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy has signed contracts with firms from Kazakhstan and Canada for supply of Natural Uranium Ore concentrate. Apart from these ongoing contracts, DPS completed the execution of contracts with firms from France and Kazakhstan for supply of Natural Uranium Ore concentrate and with firms from Russia for supply of Natural Uranium di Oxide pellets and enriched Uranium di Oxide pellets.

The details of imported uranium and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year is as under:—

Sl. No.	Agency	Description	Year	Quantity received in MTU	Expenditure incurred (in crore)
1.	M/s JSC NAC, Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan	Uranium Ore Concentrate	2016-17	1923.663	893.76
			2017-18	1489.999	592.44
			2018-19	392.753	0.17 *
2.	M/s CAMECO Inc., Canada	Uranium Ore Concentrate	2015-16	250.743	158.28
			2016-17	1233.681	534.51
			2017-18	989.452	373.83

3. M/s JSC TVEL, Russia	Enriched Uranium Pellets	2015-16	42.150	303.65
	Fuel Pellets of Natural Uranium	2015-16	303.787	565.13
	Di-oxide	2016-17	187.334	395.32

\*1. No payment has been made as bills have not been received for the materials

2. Clearance and container transportation charges Rs. 17,00,000/-.

(c) No, Madam. The Government has provided fuel from both indigenous and imported sources in required quantities for operation of nuclear power reactors at their rated power.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) As per the vision plan prepared, in order to fulfil the requirement of Uranium to fuel nuclear power plants, Department of Atomic Energy will achieve nearly ten-fold rise in uranium production in next 15 years (by 2031-2032). The uranium mining projects have been planned in three phases. On completion of the projects in first phase, it is expected to produce 3.5 times of existing uranium production by the 12th year. On completion of the projects in second phase, uranium production is expected to achieve seven times of existing production. With the completion of phase three projects uranium production of the country is expected to record ten-fold increase by 2031-32.

#### **Ghatak Project**

3526. SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ghatak project of stealth combat drones with initial Rs. 2650 crore is years away from completion;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has now fixed any target to complete the said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) At present, there is no project sanction for the development of GHATAK Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV).

#### **Expansion of Railway Network**

3527. SHRI RAM CHANDRA HANSDAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has any plans for expansion of Railway network in Mayurbhanj, being a tribal and backward district of Odisha and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are plans for connecting Bangriposi to Gorumahisani, Badampahar to Rairangpur and Buramara to Chakulia; and

(c) if so, the details and the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Railway projects are not sanctioned area-wise or State-wise, but Zonal Railway-wise. The following Railway lines are already passing through Mayurbhanj District:—

(1) Tatanagar-Badampahar Railway line and (2) Rupsa-Bangriposi Railway line.

In addition, the following Survey has been taken up for projects falling fully/partly in Mayurbhanj District:—

1. Bangriposi-Badampahar (50 Km): This New Line has been included in Capital Investment Programme of 2017-18 through Joint Ventures/SPVs/Partnerships with State Governments and Stake Holders. A Joint Venture Company with Odisha Government has already been incorporated for taking up projects under Joint Venture.

2. Buramara-Chakulia (50 Km) New line: Bankability study for Rupsa-Bangriposi Project was entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) for execution under SPV mode. However, RVNL has advised that the project is not economically viable.

3. Belda-Baripada via Nayagram (77 Km): Survey for this new line was completed in 2012-13 and the Survey Report was examined in Railway Board. However, due to its unremunerative nature and large shelf of ongoing railway projects, the project could not be taken forward.

4. Bangriposi-Gorumahisani (42 Km): Survey for this new line has been completed and the Survey Report

has been examined in Railway Board. However, due to its unremunerative nature, poor traffic potential, and large shelf of ongoing railway projects, the proposal could not be taken forward.

5. Keonjhar (Kendujhargarh) & Badampahar (80 Km): Updating survey for this new line proposal has been completed and the survey report has been examined in Railway Board. However, due to its unremunerative nature and large shelf of ongoing projects, the project could not be taken forward.

6. Jashipur-Jajpur Road (151.570 Km): Survey for this New Line proposal has been completed and the survey report has been taken up. The cost of the project has been assessed Rs. 2656 crore with a Rate of Return (ROR) of (-)4.27%.

Badampahar is already connected to Rairangpur with a single Railway line.

#### **BPL People in NER**

3528. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the average monthly annual income of BPL people/families in NER;

(b) whether due to shortage of industrial units in the region, the population of BPL families are increasing;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the socio-religious category; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure overall improvement in the living standard of BPL population in the region 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) This Ministry is not concerned with the maintenance of such data.

(d) Several steps have been taken by the Government to improve the living standard of BPL population in the country including the North Eastern Region. These include Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Mission (AMRUT), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All Yojana (UJALA), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Saubhagya Scheme etc.

The North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP), being implemented by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, aims to transform the lives of the poor and marginalized families in North Eastern States in a sustainable manner. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is also implementing the North Eastern Region Livelihood Project (NERLP), which addresses the needs of employment, income and natural resource sustainability of the rural population of the North Eastern Region.

#### **New Era of Digital Communication**

3529. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any concrete action plan/scheme to usher India into a new era of digital communications; 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 has released the draft National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP-2018) on 1st May, 2018 for public consultations. The process of finalizing the NDCP-2018 is currently in progress within the Department.

The Policy aims to fulfil the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises by establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient, secure and affordable Digital Communications Infrastructure and Services; and in the process, support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society. The draft policy also recognizes the importance of emerging technologies and has laid down several strategies to achieve its overall objectives. The Missions, goals and key strategies of the draft policy are given in the enclosed Statement.

Further, BharatNet project, which aims to connect 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) is targeted to be completed by March, 2019 providing high speed broadband connectivity to these GPs. Also as last mile connectivity, on an average five Access Points in each GP shall be provided, wherein, three Access Points shall be setup in Government Institutions at GP level and two for public use. This project is targeted to be completed by June, 2019.

### **Statement**

#### *Missions & Goals of Draft National Digital Communications Policy-2018*

#### **1. Connect India: Creating a Robust Digital Communication Infrastructure 2022 Goals:**

- a. Provide Universal broadband coverage at 50Mbps to every citizen
- b. Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022
- c. Enable 100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions; including all educational institutions
- d. Enable fixed line broadband access to 50% of households
- e. Achieve 'unique mobile subscriber density' of 55 by 2020 and 65 by 2022
- f. Enable deployment of public Wi-Fi Hotspots; to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022
- g. Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas

#### **2. Propel India: Enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments,**

#### **Innovation, Indigenous Manufacturing and IPR Generation 2022 Goals:**

- a. Attract investments of USD 100 Billion in the Digital Communications Sector
- b. Increase India's contribution to Global Value Chains
- c. Creation of innovation led Start-ups in Digital Communications Sector
- d. Creation of Globally recognized Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in India
- e. Development of Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) in the field of digital communication technologies
- f. Train/Re-skill 1 Million manpower for building New Age Skills
- g. Expand Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem to 5 Billion connected devices
- h. Accelerate transition to Industry 4.0

#### **3. Secure India: Ensuring Digital Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications 2022 Goals:**

- a. Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals and facilitates India's effective participation in the global digital economy
- b. Ensure that net neutrality principles are upheld and aligned with service requirements, bandwidth availability and network capabilities including next generation access technologies
- c. Develop and deploy robust digital communication network security frameworks
- d. Build capacity for security testing and establish appropriate security standards
- e. Address security issues relating to encryption and security clearances
- f. Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens

of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

### **Mumbai's Congested Railway Network**

3530. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the huge congestion, line crack and mechanical failure in the Mumbai Suburban Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measure being contemplated by the Government to decongest these lines;

(d) whether proposals of executing two new major lines to decongest the rail network of Mumbai on cost sharing basis with the Government of Maharashtra are under consideration of the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by when these proposals will be approved to provide relief to Mumbai Railway commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Mumbai Suburban Railway network caters to approximately 8.0 million commuters every day resulting in overcrowding. A total of 18 line crack cases (Rail fracture/Weld failure) and 127 Mechanical failures (C&W/Diesel loco failure) were reported by the Central Railway in Mumbai suburban area for the period April to July, 2018. As regards, Western Railway Rail fractures were nil and Unit failure in 2017-18 were 40 cases and in 2018-19 till date-42 cases were reported.

Counter measures against line crack and mechanical failures are taken round the clock with a view to cause no hardship to the commuters and related Rail/Road traffic.

(c) The measures being contemplated by the Railways to decongest these lines in Mumbai are as under:-

(i) Provision of 4 aspect signals in place of 3 Aspect signals in Churchgate-Borivali section has been completed.

(ii) Extension of suburban platform for running of 15 car EMU trains on slow corridor of Andheri-Virar section is sanctioned in Preliminary Works Programme 2017-18 on Out Of Turn basis.

(iii) Extension of Harbour Line from Andheri to Goregaon, executed by MRVC-Completed.

Following further steps have been contemplated by the railways to reduce overcrowding on Mumbai Suburban:

- Additional 5th & 6th Lines between Kurla-Thane on Central Railway.
- 3rd & 4th Lines between Borivali-Virar on Western Railway.
- 5th Line between Santacruz-Borivali on Western Railway.
- Procurement of 909 new EMU coaches and inducted in the system.
- 6th Line between Mumbai Central-Borivali being executed by Western Railway.
- 5th and 6th Line Thane-Diva Central Railway being executed by MRVC.
- 5th and 6th Lines between CSTM-Kurla being executed by Central Railway.

(d) and (e) New lines which are proposed under MUTP 3A on cost sharing basis are as follows:-

#### **(i) Western Line (Projects under Sanction)-**

- New Suburban corridor between Panvel-Virar.
- Extension of Harbour Line between Goregaon to Borivali.
- 5th & 6th Line between Borivali to Virar.

#### **(ii) Central Line (Projects under Sanction) -**

- Fast elevated corridor between CSMT-Panvel.
- 4th Line between Kalyan-Asangaon.
- 3rd & 4th Line between Kalyan-Badlapur.

Kalyan Yard-Segregation of long distance and suburban traffic.

(f) Detailed plan for execution and targets dates will be finalized only after approval of Niti Aayog and Cabinet Committee. Hence, time frame cannot be given.

#### **Four Railway Zones**

3531. SHRI PRATAP SIMHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are States which have been placed under more than one railway zone;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and also the reasons for placing Karnataka under four railway zones, *i.e.* south western, southern, south central and central railway;

(c) whether representatives of the State especially MPs had requested to keep Karnataka under one railway zone; and

(d) if so, the reservations the Government has about placing the State under one Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Zones and Division on Indian Railways are not based on the State or District boundaries. The jurisdiction of a Zone/Division is decided on the basis of operational/administrative requirements, without any regional considerations, keeping in view the geographical contiguity of the divisions forming a zone; smooth movement of traffic operations; with a view to provide better control and to improve the efficiency of the system.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Closure of Coal Mines**

3532. SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines closed during the last three years and the current year, State and subsidiary-wise;

(b) whether the Government has examined the proposal regarding the viability of these mines or made efforts for the revival of these units before taking the decision to close them down; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The details of coal mines closed during the last three years and the current year, State and Subsidiary-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Most of the mines which have been closed in the subsidiary companies are either due to depletion of reserve or unsafe mining condition arising due to fire, spontaneous heating, inundation, adverse geo-mining condition etc.

Some of the closed UG mines, wherever feasible, have already been converted to OC mines wherever feasible.

#### **Statement**

*Details of Coal Mines closed during the last three years and current year*

#### **Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.:**

Sl.No.	Name of the mines	Year	State
1.	Godhar UG	2015-16	Jharkhand
2.	Sudamdih Incline		Jharkhand
3.	Murulidih 20/21 Pit		Jharkhand
4.	Burragarh	2016-17	Jharkhand
5.	Bararee		Jharkhand
6.	Kuiya UG		Jharkhand
7.	Damoda		Jharkhand
8.	Bhatdih		Jharkhand
9.	Bera	2017-18	Jharkhand
10.	Simlabahal		Jharkhand
11.	Lohapatti	2018-19	Jharkhand
12.	Basantimata		Jharkhand
13.	Amalgamated Block IV Govindpur UG		Jharkhand

**Central Coalfields Ltd.:**

Sl.No.	Name of the Mine	Year	State
1.	Karo Special UG	2015-16	Jharkhand
2.	NIL	2016-17	
3.	Ray Bachra UG	2017-18	Jharkhand
4.	Topa UG		Jharkhand
5.	Sirka UG		Jharkhand
6.	Jarangdih UG		Jharkhand
7.	Saunda-D UG		Jharkhand
8.	Kuju UG		Jharkhand
9.	Swang UG		Jharkhand
10.	Sayal-D UG		Jharkhand
11.	Kargali (BSI) UG		Jharkhand
12.	Argada UG		Jharkhand
13.	Pindra UG		
14.	NIL	2018-19	

**Western Coalfields Ltd.:**

Sl.No.	Name of the Mine	Year	State
1.	New Majri No.3	2015-16	Maharashtra
2.	Hindustan Lalpeth No.3	2016-17	Maharashtra
3.	Rawanwada Khas		Madhya Pradesh
4.	Thesgora		Madhya Pradesh
5.	Dhoptala		Maharashtra
6.	Ghugus		Maharashtra
7.	Makardhokada-II		Maharashtra
8.	Bhajipani	2017-18	Madhya Pradesh
	Nil	2018-19	

**South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.:**

Sl. No.	Name of Mine Closed/ Abandoned	Year	Name of State
1	2	3	4
1.	Kotma West UG	2015-16	Madhya Pradesh
2.	North Chirmiri UG	2016-17	Chhattisgarh
3.	Surakachhar 5&6 UG		Chhattisgarh

1	2	3	4
4.	North Jhagrakhand		Chhattisgarh
5.	Palkimara UG		Chhattisgarh
6.	Kurasia OC		Chhattisgarh
7.	Jamuna OC		Madhya Pradesh
8.	Birsingpur UG		Madhya Pradesh
9.	Govinda UG		Madhya Pradesh
10.	Kalyani UG		Chhattisgarh
11.	Dugga OC		Chhattisgarh
12.	Banki Main	2017-18	Chhattisgarh
13.	Malga UG		Madhya Pradesh
14.	Somna UG		Madhya Pradesh
15.	Anjanhill UG		Chhattisgarh
16.	Dharam UG		Chhattisgarh
17.	Katkona 3&4 UG	2018-19	Chhattisgarh
18.	Dhanpuri UG		Madhya Pradesh

**Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.:**

Sl.No.	Name of the Mine	Year	State
1.	NIL	2015-16	
2.	Chhendipada OCP	2016-17	Odisha
3.	NIL	2017-18	
4.	NIL	2018-19	

**Welfare of Minorities**

3533. SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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

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

(c) the reasons for pendency of proposals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (d) During the last three years, 12 proposals including 24 units of Residential Schools were received from the State Government of Telangana by this Ministry for construction of infrastructure for educational institutions in Blocks and Towns under erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme(MsDP). Out of these, 13 units of Residential Schools having Central share of Rs. 14040 lakhs were approved by the Empowered Committee on MsDP and Rs. 8099.36 was released during the last three years. Information regarding the number of units under various projects taken up since inception till date is uploaded under the heading "Data related to Parliament Questions" at <http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/data-related-parliament-questions>. No viable project proposal received by this Ministry during the above period in respect of Telanganais pending for approval. The number of identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) under MsDP in the State of Telangana were 11 falling in 04 districts which has been increased to 12 MCAs falling in 06 districts in the restructured programme called the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram enabling the State Government to widen the coverage.

[Translation]

#### **Proposals from Maharashtra**

3534. PROF. RAVINDRA VISHHWANATH GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from the Government of Maharashtra for approval during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the number of proposals out of the same that has been accorded approval?

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 discontinued

the approval of One Time Additional Central Assistance (OTACA) proposals from 2015-16 following the acceptance of the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission for increased devolution to the States from 32% to 42%..

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Online RTI Applications**

3535. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the applications under the Right to Information (RTI) Act can be filed online by the Indian Nationals and if so, the details of the process;

(b) whether Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are also eligible to file online RTI application; and

(c) if so, the procedure laid down 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) Subject to the provisions of the Act, Citizens of India can file online application under the Right to Information Act, 2005. Currently, systems of 2200 Public Authorities have been aligned to receive, process and reply to Online RTIs from the applicants.

Any applicant can visit the portal [www.rtionline.gov.in](http://www.rtionline.gov.in) and select the desired Ministry or Department under Central Government and file an Online RTI Application. A detailed user manual and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available on the website to help in filing the application. Applicant can pay the requisite fee through Online Payment in this portal and submit the RTI application.

(b) All citizens of India have the right to seek information under the provisions of RTI Act, 2005. Non-Resident Indian citizens are eligible to file RTI applications.

(c) The same process is required to be followed as mentioned in answer to part (a) of the Question.

**Arms in Space**

3536. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is concerned about the use of arms in space;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to avoid such situation;

(c) whether the Government has discussed/ proposes to discuss the said matter with other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes Madam. The Government is against the weaponisation of Outer Space and supports international efforts to reinforce the safety and security of space based assets.

India is party to all the major international treaties relating to Outer Space and Government believes that this international legal framework needs to be strengthened to enhance the security of space assets for all users and to prevent the weaponisation of Outer Space. To this end, Government is actively engaged in international forums such as Conference on Disarmament (CD), United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and the UN General Assembly. India has contributed in particular to the discussions in the Working Group on Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space activities for peaceful purposes in the Legal Sub-committee of UNCOPUOS and the discussions on the Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) in Conference on Disarmament. India has also participated actively in discussions led by the European

Union on a draft International Code of Conduct for Outer space activities since 2012.

[English]

**MPLADS Funds for Railway Projects**

3537. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to allow Members of Parliament to use funds provided under the MPLAD Scheme for construction of railway projects in their constituencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received requests from the Members of Parliament seeking financial assistance for railway projects taken under MPLADS;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the present status of such requests; and

(e) the details of financial assistance provided to such projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (e) The works under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) are taken up after obtaining consent from Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs), deposit of centage charges (for works involving detailed planning, survey, etc.) by concerned local authorities, preparation & sanction of Estimate by Railway and receiving funds for the works from local authorities. In a bid to encourage inclusion of MPLAD Funds for Passenger Amenity items like benches, a policy has been circulated by Railway Ministry to incur equal expenditure as given by Hon'ble MPs and provide two benches at the fund provision of one bench.

Status of provision of additional seating arrangements made at Railway stations under MPLAD Funds are as under:—

No. of MPs	No. of Stations	No. of Seats for which Funds received	Total amount Consented (Rs. in lakhs)	Total amount received (Rs. in lakhs)	Total no. of seats fixed
109	351	23457	1727.1	1226.66	17336

The details of Hon'ble Members of Parliament along with the development works recommended by them under MPLADS and the status of such works are given in enclosed Statement.

Instructions already exist that all the Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) to liaise with concerned

MPs and to take pro-active actions for provision of various passenger amenities work to be carried out at the stations pertaining to their constituencies under MPLAD Scheme. Regular inspections are conducted by concerned Railway authorities to monitor the progress of execution of work.

**Statement**

*Details of development works recommended by Hon'ble Members of Parliament under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme along with the status*

Sl.No.	Name of MP	Work proposed	Present Status
1.	Dr. T.N. Seema	Provision of 50 No. of 3 seater chairs at Thiruvananthapuram Central station.	Chairs fixed in May 2015.
		Provision of two touch screen Kiosks at Thiruvananthapuram.	Work completed and inaugurated in 2014.
2.	Dr. T.N. Seema and Shri C.P. Narayanan	Construction of Toilet Complex at Thiruvananthapuram Central station.	Amount deposited with Railways-Tender awarded and work taken up.
3.	Shri P.C. Chacko	Provision of Mini Type platform shelter at Thrisur station.	Work completed.
4.	Shri P. Rajeev	Construction of approach road at Tripunittura station.	Work completed.
		Provision of E Toilet at Tripunittura station.	Work completed-in augurated in August, 2015.
5.	Shri Innocent	Construction of Subway at Km. 90/8-9 near Aluva.	Contract awarded. Work to be started.
6.	Shri C.N. Jayadevan	Construction of platform roof at Pudukud station.	Work completed.
7.	Shri K.C. Venugopal	Construction of 5 Nos. of mini platform shelters at Kizhapuliyur station.	Amount deposited with Railway. Work started.
8.	Shri Anto Antony	Installation of one escalator unit at Tiruvalla station.	Work sanctioned including for civil work from Railway funds. Work to start after award of contract.
9.	Shri A.K. Antony	Provision of 300 Nos. of stainless steel chairs at Thiruvananthapuram Central station.	Estimate submitted to District Planning Officer-Funds awaited.
10.	Shri Suresh Gopi	Provision of benches and chairs at Alappuzha station.	Estimate submitted to District Collector-Funds awaited.
		Provision of benches and chairs at Quilon station.	Estimate submitted to District Collector-Fund awaited.

Sl.No.	Name of MP	Work proposed	Present Status
11.	Shri P. Karunakaran	Extension of FOB at Cheruvathur from Platform No.2/3 to Eastern side. (By Cheruvathur Grama Panchayat)	Centage charge of 56,000/- deposited by Cheruvathur Grama Panchayat. Estimate finalized and concerned authorities have been requested to deposit balance amount of Rs. 42,81,933/-
		Extension of FOB at Neeleshwar	Funds awaited from District Collector, Kasargod.
		Extension of FOB at Payyanur	The Chairman, Payyanaur Municipality remitted centage charges of Rs. 1,73,509/-. Preparation of Estimate taken up.
		Construction of under bridge near Mogral Puthur by Puthur Grama Panchayat	The President, Mogral Puthur Grama Panchayat remitted centage charges of Rs. 6,17,561/-. Preparation of estimate taken up.
		Construction of under bridge at Mogral (by Kumbala Grama Panchayat)	The Secretary, Kumabal Grama Panchayat has remitted the centage charges of Rs. 3,39,940/-. Estimate finalized and concerned authorities have been requested to deposit the balance amount of Rs. 2,16,54,043/-
12.	Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher	Provision of benches at Kannur station.	Estimate sanctioned.
13.	Shri Ramachandran Mullappally	Provision of Escalator at Vadagara and Thalassery	Escalator at Thalassery Station is completed. Escalator at Vadagara Station is planned for completion by October, 2018.

[Translation]

### **Sri Ram Temple Case**

3538. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any arrangement for early disposal or hearing of the case in Supreme Court pertaining to Sri Ram Temple in Ayodhya;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan and the action taken therein; and

(c) the time by which the judgement in the said case is likely to be delivered?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to

(c) Sri Ram Temple Case has been registered as Civil Appeal No. 10866-10867/2010, M.SIDDIQ (D) THR. LR'S VS. MAHANT SURESH DAS AND ORS.ETC. along with other Civil Appeals before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The matter is presently *sub-judice* with the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The last hearing in the case has taken place on 20.07.2018.

The Judiciary is an independent body and the disposal of the case is within the ambit of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

### **Ongoing Railway Projects**

3539. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether delay in completion of several ongoing railway projects is escalating the cost thereof;

(b) if so, the zone-wise details of such projects and the reasons for the delay;

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred on the said projects so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the completion of these projects to avoid any further increase in the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities etc. leading to delay and cost overrun of projects. Further, zone-wise details of works in progress and new works including, funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e.* [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) and are also available in Pink Books presented before the House along with Budget every year.

(d) For timely completion of the projects, Railway is holding regular meetings with State Government and concerned Central Government officials on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law & order problems, shifting of utilities etc.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc. institutional financing has been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for 1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

[English]

### **Privacy of Citizens**

3540. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that any information stored by people in servers can be accessed by others and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the extent to which the Government has ensured privacy of citizens information stored in the IT apparatus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Any information stored by people in servers is not supposed to be accessed by others unless otherwise specifically authorized by the user. Information Technology Act, 2000 provides punishment and penalty for any unauthorized access of information.

(b) The Government websites host information for public dissemination and no sensitive information is hosted on such portals. As per the guidelines of the Government, the computer systems with sensitive information are isolated from the Internet. Also, user level access control is built into the systems so that only authorized users can access information to the extent intended. In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology and emerging cyber threats, continuous efforts are required to be made to protect information stored on servers by way of appropriate security controls.

Government has taken the following measures to protect information and securing Information Technology infrastructure:—

(i) National Information Centre (NIC), which provides IT/e-Governance related services to Government departments, protects the cyber resources from possible compromises through a layered security approach in the form of practices, procedures and technologies that are put in place. NIC has deployed state-of-the-art security solutions including firewalls, intrusion prevention systems, and antivirus solution. Additionally, periodic security audits of resources are performed followed by subsequent hardening. These are complemented by round-the-clock monitoring of security events and remedial measures are carried out for solving the problems subsequently.

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

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

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

(v) Cyber security exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 30 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In wherein organisations from different sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS etc. participated.

#### **Postal Store Depot**

3541. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Stores Depot (PSD) of Madurai Postal Region is proposed to be shifted/merged with the PSD of Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) whether the said move of the Government will affect the efficient functioning of the post office and related offices under the Postal Region of exponentially growing Madurai and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to undo the decision made by them with regard to the said merging/shifting of PSD, Madurai 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) In the year 2016, for preparing a Board Memo for consideration by the Postal Services Board (PSB) for consolidation of Postal Stores Depots (PSDs) and Circle Stamps Depots (CSDs) of the Department located in various Circles, with a view to economize the cost of procurement and distribution and saving in manpower, views of all Postal Circles were called for. In response, Tamil Nadu Postal Circle had recommended merger of Madurai PSD with Tirunelveli PSD. Thereafter, the PSB had directed the Circle to carry out cost benefit analysis before the proposal is further deliberated. No further decision has been taken in this regard, so far.

*[Translation]*

#### **Stoppage at Sirohi Station**

3542. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide stoppage of important trains such as Ashram Express (12915/12916), Garib Rath Express (12215/12216), Ahmedabad Agra Superfast (12547/12548) and Surya Nagri Express (12479/12480) at Sirohi Road Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) It has been decided to provide experimental stoppage of 12547/12548 Agra Fort-Ahmedabad Express (Daily) at Sirohi Road.

Stoppages of 12915/12916 Ahmedabad-Delhi Ashram Express (Daily), 12215/12216 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Bandra (T) Garib Rath Express (Four-days-a-week) and 12479/12480 Jodhpur-Bandra (T) Suryanagari Express (Daily), at Sirohi Road, have however, not been found feasible.

#### **New Train from Dhanbad to Surat**

3543. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a new train from Dhanbad to Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Owing to operational and resource constraints, at present, there is no proposal for introduction of a new train between Dhanbad and Surat. However, introduction of new train is an ongoing process over Indian Railways and is done keeping in view the operational feasibility, traffic justification, resource availability, competing demands etc.

*[English]*

#### **Training to Space Scientists**

3544. DR. K. GOPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to train space scientists of countries that lack satellite building capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India would not charge for this capacity building programme but will play a role in short listing scientists for the training programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Madam.

(b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) of Department of Space (DOS), Government of India has offered to conduct capacity building programme on small satellite development for the participants from developing countries who are interested in developing their space programme. An announcement in this regard was made at Vienna on June 18, 2018 during the Symposium to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the First United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50). The programme, named as 'India-UN Small Satellites Programme (INDOUNSSP)', will be conducted at ISRO's U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) at Bengaluru every year for next 3 years, starting from November, 2018. This 8-Week Programme will comprise of theoretical coursework and hands-on-training on Assembly, Integration and Testing (AIT) of small satellite.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) ISRO will bear travel, accommodation and living expenses for the selected candidates to attend the course as per the prevailing norms. The candidates will be shortlisted by a screening committee involving officials from ISRO and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

#### **Shortage of Coal**

3545. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is facing shortage of coal for its thermal power plants and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total amount of coal allocated to Delhi in last six months; and

(c) the details regarding yearly allocation of coal to Delhi as against its total requirement?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) In 2018-19 (up to 31.07.2018), 4.69 Lakh Tonnes (LT) of coal was supplied to Badarpur TPS. Further, Delhi Discoms have sold 784.311 MU of power in the Day Ahead Market (DAM) at IEX Platform in this Financial Year (up to 31.07.2018). Also, Delhi State has surrendered 2,128 MW of power as on 20.04.18 from different power stations.

(b) In the last six months (from 01.02.2018 to 31.07.2018), total quantity of 8.77 LT coal was allocated to Badarpur TPS as per its Annual Contracted Quantity.

(c) The total Annual Contracted Quantity with Badarpur TPS is 17.20 LT. In the year 2018-19 (up to 31.07.2018), CIL has dispatched 4.69 LT (provisional).

*[Translation]*

#### **Permission to Pilgrims**

3546. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army is utilising and staying in the Fort built by Akbar at the confluence of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna at Allahabad;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to relocate them elsewhere;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to permanently allow the pilgrims to visit hundreds of temples and 'Akshayvat Vriksh' located in the Fort; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) There is no plan for shifting the units presently located in Allahabad Fort.

(c) Does not rise.

(d) and (e) Pilgrims are given free access to majority of religious/historical places located inside Allahabad Fort including Akshay Vat throughout the year. There are two 'Akshay Vat' trees, one in Patalpuri temple and the other in Ordnance Depot (OD) Fort. Pilgrims have free access to 'Akshay Vat' in Patalpuri temple. The tree located inside the OD Fort premises is maintained by the Army. Access to common people/pilgrims inside the OD Fort is regulated due to security reasons.

[English]

**Data Protection Framework**

3547. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:  
PROF. SAUGATA ROY:

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

(a) whether the expert Committee on Data Protection Framework of India has released a white paper and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its final report and if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government is bringing forward a legislation on data protection and whether a draft bill in this regard has been sent to the Committee and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are cases of breach of privacy and security of biometric data in possession of UIDAI reported so far; and

(e) if so, the number of breaches along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. A Committee of Experts on Data Protection Chaired by Justice Shri. B.N Srikrishna (Retd.) had been constituted to look into the aspects pertaining to Data Protection. The Expert Committee on Data Protection Framework has released a 'White Paper on Data Protection Framework for India' on 27th November, 2017 to solicit public comments. The White Paper outlined key data protection issues and international best practices. The deadline for submission of responses was 31st January, 2018. The Committee deliberated on various inputs & has submitted its report along with draft Bill to Government, that have been uploaded on MeitY website. After a consultative process, the data protection legislation will be brought out.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

**Railway Projects in Kerala**

3548. SHRI M. B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of various projects including wagon factory, medical college and bottling plant in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government has abandoned or deferred these projects; and

(c) if so, the present status of these projects along with funds allocated for the same and utilised in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Details of New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling Projects falling fully/partly in Kerala are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Anticipated cost	Expenditure incurred during last three years	Outlay 2018-19	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>New Line</b>					

1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tirunavaya-Guruvayur (35 Km)	477	8.83	10	Government of Kerala has approved alignment in 2009 and Final Location Survey (FLS) for first 8 Km completed. Balance FLS is held up due to public protest.
2.	Angamali-Sabrimala (116 Km)	2815.62	84.44	219.90	On this project, work on Angamali-Kaladi section (7 Km) is stuck for want of 0.6 hectare land. For balance length, land acquisition has delayed due to protest by local people against fixing of alignment of the project in Kottayam District. In view of considerable increase in project cost due to abnormal increase in land cost, Government of Kerala has been requested for their consent to share 50% cost of the project.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>					
1.	Quilon-Tirunelveli- Tiruchendur & Tenkasi- Virudhunagar (357 Km)	1220	251.25	48	Commissioned
2.	Dindigul-Pollachi- Palghat and Pollachi- Coimbatore (225 Km)	1120	123.23	22.87	Commissioned
<b>Doubling</b>					
1.	Mulanturutti- Kuruppantara (24 Km)	241.48	71.58	5.50	Commissioned
2.	Kuruppantara -Chingavanam (27 Km)	457	246.5	56.50	Work on Kuruppantara-Ettumannur (8 Km) taken up. State Government has to expedite handing over of 7.49 hectare of land to Railways.
3.	Chingavanam- Chengannur (27 Km)	436	126.28	17.90	Chengannur-Changanassery section (17 Km) commissioned. Work on balance section taken up.
4.	Ernakulam-Kumbalam (7.71 Km)	189	0.34	6	In view of considerable increase in project cost due to abnormal rise in cost of land, Government of Kerala was requested for free land and sharing 50% of construction cost of the project. However, State Government has not agreed to Railway's request.
5.	Kumbalam-Turavur (15.59 Km)	253	2.9	15	In view of considerable increase in project cost due to abnormal rise in cost of land, Government of Kerala was requested for free land and sharing 50% of construction cost of the project. However, State Government has not agreed to Railway's request.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Turavur-Ambalapuzha (50 Km)	829	0.55	5.15	The consent of State Government for cost sharing and providing free land is awaited.
7.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad (18.13 Km)	289	133.16	10.5	Earthwork, bridges & ballast supply works have been taken up.
8.	Thiruvananthapuram- Kanniyakumari (86.50 Km)	1432	0.92	110	Earthwork, bridges & ballast supply works have been taken up.
9.	Shoranur-Ernakulam (107 Km)	1518	...	0.1	New project included in the Budget 2018-19.

The proposal of setting up of Railway Medical Colleges including in Trivandrum (Kerala) on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode as announced in Railway Budget Speech of 2009-10, has been dropped by the Ministry because as per Medical Council of India rules, Public Private Partnership with Government (Railways) hospital is not permitted.

No project for wagon factory in Kerala is sanctioned. However, a coach factory at Palakkad has been sanctioned. Land has been acquired at Palakkad against full payment to the State Government and boundary wall has been erected around the acquired land. Total Budget Grant of Rs. 8.54 lakh has been made for this project during the last three years.

As the requirement of mainline train coaches in the near future can be met by the existing production units of Indian Railways, it is not intended to set up new coach factories for mainline train coaches in the immediate future.

The Rail Neer Plant at Parassala (near Trivandrum) set up under PPP model with capital expenditure by private party has started production of Rail Neer from March, 2016.

#### **New Rail Lines in Maharashtra**

3549. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct new rail lines from Vaibhavwadi to Kolhapur and Chiplun to Karad in order to provide better connectivity;

(b) if so, whether the feasibility/viability survey has

been conducted for the above lines and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is no progress so far in this regard and if so, the details and the reasons therefor along with the present status;

(d) whether the Government has received requests/representations from the people of the area and MPs in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) the steps taken by the Government for construction of these new rail lines at the earliest so that the project may be executed within the stipulated time; and

(f) the details of the plan, if any, to connect Nagpur and Mumbai through a high speed corridor to reduce the travel time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) and (e) Vaibhavwadi-Kolhapur (107 km) new line was included in Budget 2016-17 at a cost of Rs. 2750 crore subject to requisite Government approvals. Government of Maharashtra has proposed for execution of this project through Indian Port Railway Corporation Ltd. (IPRCL), a PSU of Ministry of Shipping. IPRCL has been requested to give consent and mode of execution of this project.

Karad-Chiplun (112 km) new line was included in Budget 2015-16 at a cost of Rs. 1200 crore subject to requisite Government approvals. This new line has been proposed to be developed under SPV model on cost sharing basis subject to confirmation of Government of Maharashtra.

(d) Proposals/requests/representations from State Governments or various public representatives and other organizations for construction of railway projects are received at Divisional Offices, Zonal Offices and in the Ministry from time to time. As receipt of such proposals is a continuous and dynamic process, compendium of such proposals is not maintained. However, Vaibhavwadi-Kolhapur and Karad-Chiplun new lines will be processed for approvals of NITI Aayog and CCEA once the decision of executing body is finalized.

(f) A feasibility study has been carried out for a high speed corridor between Mumbai and Nagpur. No decision has been taken on sanction of the project.

#### **Ocean Observation System**

3550. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Ocean Observation Systems set up so far in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to develop further Ocean Observation Systems across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise and benefits thereof;

(d) whether any funds have been sanctioned for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by when they are likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The Ministry has been implementing a major program on Ocean Observations System. The

ocean observation system has been designed to acquire real-time, time series data on surface meteorological and upper oceanographic parameters from the seas around India including from the Indian Ocean Region. A wide range of ocean observation systems are deployed in different parts of the Indian Ocean for acquisition of specific ocean parameters on different spatial and temporal scales. These include moored buoys, drifters, current meters, wave rider buoys, argo floats, tide gauges, coastal radars and Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP), which are broadly classified into two categories *viz.* drifters and moored. The primary purpose of acquiring a suite of accurate measurements of ocean parameters is to cater research and a wide range of operational services including issue of issue of early warning to tsunami and storm surges. Besides, the information from the seas around India is extremely useful of Ocean-atmospheric modelling purposes and validation of satellite data. One of the major observing systems is moored buoy network, equipped with deployment and maintenance of a set of buoys at fixed locations in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India (EEZ) for obtaining long term data. These buoys are capable of collecting data upto 76 parameters and transmitting the information in real time through satellites. The ocean observing systems are primarily deployed, operated and maintained by four organizations *viz.*, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad and Survey of India, Dehradun. All the systems except Tide gauges and coastal Radar are deployed in the EEZ of India, outside jurisdiction of Coastal States/UT of India. The details of major observations systems deployed, operated, maintained and supported by India and their current status are as under:—

Type of Platform	Target	Commissioned till June, 2018	Data received during June, 2018
Argo Floats *	200	323	147
Drifters*	150	108	4
Moored Buoys	16	20	20
Tide Gauges	36	35	27
High Frequency (HF) Radars	10	10	10
Current Meter Array	10	11	2

Type of Platform	Target	Commissioned till June, 2018	Data received during June, 2018
Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP)	20	20	15
Tsunami Buoys	7	9	5
Wave Rider Buoy	16	17	10

\*The remaining floats/drifters have completed their life time and as such no data can be received from them.

(b) No Madam. There is no proposal to further develop the existing Ocean Observing Systems across the country other than continuing the maintenance of the present installed systems.

(c) Doesn't arise.

(d) The details of fund allocated for 12th Plan Period (2012-17) and 2017-18 (Rs. in crores) are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Type of Observing System/Institute	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-16	2016-17	Total
1.	Argo profiling floats (INCOIS)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
2.	Drifters (INCOIS)	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00
3.	XBT/XCTD (INCOIS)	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	12.50
4.	Equatorial and Coastal current meter array (INCOIS)	4.10	5.60	4.10	2.60	2.60	19.00
5.	Coastal ADCP Moorings (INCOIS)	3.00	4.50	4.50	3.50	3.00	18.50
6.	Marine met. Ocean parameters on Board Ships/Rigs (AWS & wave) (INCOIS)	2.10	2.10	2.10	0.60	0.60	7.50
7.	Wave rider buoys along the Coast of India (INCOIS)	1.60	2.10	2.10	0.60	0.60	7.00
8.	Bay of Bengal Observatory (INCOIS)	1.45	2.45	1.70	0.70	0.70	7.00
9.	Other Observation Network-(INCOIS)	2.84	4.64	5.54	2.84	1.09	16.95
10.	Calibration and Validation Site (NIOT)	1.18	1.42	4.30	1.33	1.50	9.73
11.	Coastal Radar (NIOT)	2.40	2.40	2.90	2.90	3.40	14.00
12.	Moored Data Buoys (Met-Ocean and Tsunami) and Gliders (NIOT)	6.00	29.75	30.75	43.00	37.00	146.50
	Grand Total	35.17	65.46	68.49	68.57	60.99	298.68

Sl.No.	Type of Observing System	2017-18
1.	Argo profiling floats, Drifters, XBT/XCTD, Equatorial and Coastal current meter array, Coastal ADCP moorings, Marine met. Ocean parameters onboard Ships/Rigs (AWS & wave), Wave rider buoys, and Bay of Bengal Observatory	23.68
2.	Moored Data Buoys (Met-Ocean and Tsunami) and Gliders	31.50
3.	Coastal Radar (NIOT)	3.50

(e) This is an ongoing programme. The various ocean observing systems installed at selected locations have been functional over a period time.

(a) the steps taken by the Government to establish a National Geographic Information System (GIS) under the National GIS Organization;

#### **National Geographic Information System**

3551. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(b) whether the Government is considering allowing private sector GIS application and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide

GIS solutions to Ministries like Urban Development; and

(d) whether the Government is considering making GIS mapping mandatory for land registration 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) There is no national GIS organization established by the Government. However a National Centre of Geo-Informatics (NCOG) has been established by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to provide GIS based solutions to Central Government Ministries, organizations and State Governments. A large number of Ministries & State Governments are using this Centre for GIS based applications.

(b) Government is developing their own GIS applications for Ministries and State Governments. However, there is no restriction on allowing private sector for development of GIS applications by any Government Ministry/Organization.

(c) Government under different organizations such as Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)/National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Department of Science & Technology (DST)/Survey of India (SOI), National Centre of Geo-informatics (NCOG) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology etc. are providing technical support to Ministry of Urban Development for GIS based solutions. Survey of India has already covered large scale mapping of 152 towns for Ministry of Urban Development.

(d) The registration of land is governed by the land registration Act. At present, there is no provision to make GIS mapping mandatory.

[Translation]

#### **Railway Lines in Jharkhand**

3552. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of the work pertaining to doubling of railway lines in the country especially in Jharkhand;

(b) the amount of funds allocated during the last three years for the doubling of the railway lines in Jharkhand indicating the locations of the same; and

(c) the works relating to the doubling of railway lines in Jharkhand which are likely to be completed in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Location-wise details of doubling in progress and new works including funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e.* [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) and are also available in Pink Books presented before the House along with Budget every year. 18 Doubling projects of 1241 km costing 15,237 crore falling fully/partly in Jharkhand are in different stages of execution/planning. Completion of railway projects involves several factors such as shifting utilities, yard remodelling, speed restriction etc., which affect train operations. Therefore, timeline for completion cannot be given.

#### **Illegal Immigrants**

3553. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indians in America are being seen suspiciously as a rapidly increasing community of illegal immigrants;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the rate of increase in the number of illegal Indian immigrants in America;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to preserve the image of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) There are no authoritative figures on the number of undocumented Indian immigrants in the U.S. The U.S. Government does not release a comprehensive list, by nationality, of aliens detained for entering or staying in the U.S. without valid documents.

The entrepreneurship and innovation of Indians and Indian-Americans has directly benefitted both nations. 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. In our engagements with the U.S. side, we have emphasized that this has been a mutually-beneficial partnership which should be nurtured.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government does not encourage illegal migration of Indian citizens into other countries. From time to time, our Embassy and Consulates in the U.S. facilitate repatriation of undocumented Indian immigrants after their nationality verification.

#### **Facilities to BRO Officials**

3554. SHRI NABA KUMAR SARNIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities given to the working employees and officers of Border Roads Organisation (BRO);

(b) whether different type of facilities are provided to such employees and officers in different States and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of hill allowance given to these employees and officers, State-wise;

(d) the process of recruiting casual labourers for constructing the roads in difficult areas by BRO and the manner in which these are arranged;

(e) the number of bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan Yojana in BRO so far, Statewise; and

(f) whether any difficulties are faced by casual labourers of BRO in getting transferred their salaries to their bank accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are governed by CCS

Rules. Certain sections of Army Act are also applicable. Considering the difficult working conditions in BRO, some additional facilities such as Mess facility, CSD facility, Ration in kind at Army scale, Dress Allowance, Medical treatment in Army hospitals in field areas are also extended to GREF personnel, besides special allowances in difficult areas.

(c) In High Altitude Areas, GREF personnel of BRO are entitled to High Altitude Allowance Category-I (9000 to 15000 feet) and High Altitude Allowance Category-II (15000 feet & above) based on their rank/post held.

(d) The Casual Paid Labourers (CPLs) are initially recruited for a maximum period of six months by executive units on ground on requirement basis to complete the assigned tasks/projects. Preference in recruitment is given to local population.

(e) and (f) Bank accounts of Casual Paid Labourers in BRO are opened at the time of their enrolment. The salary of the CPLs is credited directly to their bank account. No difficulties are being faced by casual labour of BRO in getting their wages transferred to their bank accounts. No record of accounts opened under Jan Dhan Yojana is available.

#### **Survey for Laying Railway Projects in Madhya Pradesh**

3555. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for laying of railway lines, gauge conversion and electrification in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the said survey, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Surveys for 24 new line and 1 gauge conversion project falling fully/partly in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been sanctioned/completed during the last three years and current year *i.e.* 2015-16 to 2017-18 & 2018-19. The details are as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Status
<b>New Line</b>		
1.	Jabalpur-Pendra <i>via</i> Dindori (240 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2015-16. Survey taken up.
2.	Jaisingh Nagar-Rewa (130 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2016-17. Survey taken up.
3.	Jhansi-Shivpuri-Sheopur-Sawai Madhopur (290 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2016-17. Survey taken up.
4.	Alot-Tal-Jaora (44 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2016-17. Survey taken up.
5.	Dewas-Sonkachh-Asta-Sehore (112 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2016-17. Survey taken up.
6.	Pendra-Amarkantaka-Dindori-Mandla-Ghansour (200 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2017-18. Survey taken up.
7.	Waraseoni-Khairlanji-Tiroda (50 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2017-18. Survey taken up.
8.	Maksi-Harda (140 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2017-18. Survey taken up.
9.	Ujjain-Ramganjmandi <i>via</i> Agar, Susner Jhalawar (190 Km)	Survey sanctioned in Budget 2017-18. Survey taken up.
10.	Mirzapur-Rewa (185 Km)	Survey completed in 2017-18. Survey report is under examination.
11.	Chindwara-Kareli-Sagar (279 Km)	Survey completed in 2017-18. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throw forward of ongoing new line projects.
12.	Damoh-Hatanagar-Kajuraho (162 Km)	Survey completed in 2017-18. Survey report is under examination.
13.	Jabalpur-Panna <i>via</i> Damoh (246 Km)	Survey completed in 2017-18. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throw forward of ongoing new line projects.
14.	Jabalpur-Rajnandgaon <i>via</i> Bemetra: Kawardha-Mandla (430 Km)	Survey completed in 2016-17. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.
15.	Lamta-Paraswada-Baihar-Malajkhand (82 Km)	Survey completed in 2015-16. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throw forward of ongoing new line projects.
16.	Pendra Road-Gotegaon (Shreedham) (406 Km)	Survey completed in 2015-16. Survey report is under examination.
17.	Seoni-Barghat-Katangji (92 Km)	Survey completed in 2015-16. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.
18.	Raipur-Jabalpur <i>via</i> Khairagarh, Kawardha, Borla (460 Km)	Survey completed in 2015-16. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.
19.	Seoni-Chhapra-Lakhnadaun (73 Km)	Survey completed in 2015-16. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Status
20.	Pratapgarh-Mandsaur (33 Km)	Survey completed in 2016-17. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.
21.	Ujjain-Ramganjmandi (190 Km)	Survey completed in 2016-17. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.
22.	Sagar to Bandri Malthon-Lalitpur railway line (121 Km)	Survey completed in 2017-18. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.
23.	Singrauli-Ghorawal-Lusa (85 KM)	Survey completed in 2017-18. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.
24.	Bhind-Konch via Lahar (89 Km)	Survey completed in 2017-18. Project shelved due to unremunerative nature and huge throwforward of ongoing new line projects.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>		
1.	Fatehabad Chandravatiganj (20 Km) with Ratlam-Indore Project (GC of FTD-Ujjain) (23 Km)	Work included in the Budget 2017-18 at a cost of Rs. 245.08 crore.

So far as electrification is concerned, it has been planned to optimally electrify entire Broad Gauge (BG) route of Indian Railways including State of Madhya Pradesh. Electrification of total 13675 Route Km has been included in the Budget 2018-19. Out of this, 416 Route Km falls in Madhya Pradesh. Section-wise details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the section	Section falling fully/ partly in the State of Madhya Pradesh	Route Kilometre
1.	Mahoba-Udaipura	Fully	196
2.	Tumsar Road-Tirodi	Partly	20
3.	Balaghat-Katangji	Fully	47
4.	Tirodi-Katangji	Fully	15
5.	Mhow-Khandwa	Fully	138
Total			416

[English]

#### Compensation on Delay of Trains

3556. SHRI ANOOP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of TDRs filed against train delays in the last year;

(b) the major reasons for delay in trains in the past year;

(c) the steps the Government has taken to maintain punctuality of trains;

(d) whether the Government plans to bring in a policy to offer compensation for delayed trains or refund superfast surcharge in case of delayed superfast trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Total number of 6,84,519 TDRs were filed in the year 2017-18 against delay of trains by more than three hours, which is the criterion for admissibility of refund under the extant rules.

(b) and (c) In the past years, trains got delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but also external factors which are beyond the control

of Railways. In addition to asset failures, certain factors such as line capacity and terminal capacity constraints on account of increasing passenger and freight traffic, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches), intermittent natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates across the Indian Railways network, mid-section run over cases involving cattle and humans etc. also adversely affect the Punctuality of trains over Indian Railways.

Indian Railways have taken various initiatives such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement of projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of limited height subway to replace level crossings, Road Under Bridges (RUB) and Road Over Bridges (ROB) etc. In addition, Zonal Railways have also been advised to have better coordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with situations arising out of law and order problems. In order to avoid passenger inconvenience due to late running of trains, sending of intimation through SMS regarding late running of trains has also been introduced in some trains.

Further, provision of extra rakes wherever operationally feasible, is also undertaken to ensure that minimum inconvenience is caused to passengers.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

#### **New Ranchi-Surat Train**

3557. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new Ranchi-Surat train in view of overcrowding or proposes to run train Nos. 13425/13426 on daily basis;

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

(c) whether the Government, keeping in view the problems faced by the passengers, has collected the data regarding the number of passengers travelling in the above weekly trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) The occupancy of train 13425/13426 Malda Town-Surat Express (via Ranchi) during the Financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19 (up to June) was more than 100%. The number of passengers who travelled between Surat and Ranchi by these trains during the Financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19 were 22,439 and 6,652 respectively. However, introduction of a new train between Ranchi and Surat is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

#### **Market Share of BSNL and MTNL**

3558. SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR:  
DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in number of mobile users in the country during each of the last three years and the current year State/UT-wise including Uttar Pradesh and telecom company-wise;

(b) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have been incurring losses and in comparison to Private Telecom operators, their share in market is quite less during the said period and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the market share of the telecom companies including BSNL and MTNL during the said period State/UT-wise;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to promote competition among BSNL, MTNL and these private telecom operators;

(e) whether the entry of a private sector telecom company in the telecom sector has accentuated the possibility of more losses to BSNL and MTNL and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(f) whether the Government proposes to further strengthen the network of public sector telecom companies across the country 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) The Service Area wise and the company-wise details of increase in number of mobile telephone connections in the country during each of the last three years and the current year are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) The details of losses incurred by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years are as under:—

Financial year	(Rs. in crore)	
	MTNL	BSNL
2015-16	2006	4859
2016-17	2971	4786
2017-18	2971	4785*

\* financial figures of BSNL for 2017-18 are provisional and unaudited

Major reasons for losses to BSNL and MTNL are as follows:

- One time upfront cost of spectrum for 3G and BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) required to be paid in 2010 for the amount of Rs. 11097.97 crores by MTNL and Rs. 18500.38 crores by BSNL which has eroded their reserves. MTNL had to take loan to meet this expenditure. This has created financial stress on both PSUs.
- Both the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are also burdened with salary payments of the legacy DOT (Department of Telecommunications) employees, who are now working as absorbed employees in these PSUs.
- The market dynamics have changed in last 5 to 6 years in telecom sector because of the entry of more number of operators, which have garnered major market share and put a lot of pressure on the revenues of these PSUs.
- Both the PSUs could not invest timely in upgradation of their infrastructure.
- BSNL is providing telecom services in non-profitable areas like remote and hilly regions

in various states *e.g.* Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, North East, Chhattisgarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

- Both the PSUs have to follow the prescribed guidelines and procedures which sometimes leads to inherent delays in taking decisions.
- MTNL is providing its services only in Delhi and Mumbai Service Areas unlike other major Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

(c) Service area wise market share of the telecom companies including BSNL and MTNL during the last three years and the current year are placed at Statement III to VI.

(d) to (f) It is a fact that entry of a new operator in the market has resulted in intense competition among all operators, with the existing operators also offering voice and data service at competitive rates. The resultant fall in tariff has an impact on the revenue of some of the telecom operators including BSNL and MTNL. However, both the PSUs are taking all steps to remain competitive. The details of measures taken by the PSUs for strengthening network and benefiting consumers are given at Statement-VII.

#### **Statement-I**

*Service Area wise increase in mobile telephone connections (in million) during the last three years and current year (April-May, 2018)*

Sl. No.	Service Area	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	April-May, 2018*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.70	10.29	0.82	-1.18
2.	Assam	1.41	3.28	3.54	-4.78
3.	Bihar	5.20	10.10	4.04	-5.90
4.	Gujarat	3.70	9.57	0.08	-1.14
5.	Haryana	1.25	1.79	-1.46	3.09
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.03	1.54	2.02	-2.54

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.50	2.09	1.82	-2.95
13.	Odisha	1.19	5.23	0.08	-2.95
14.	Punjab	1.12	4.22	2.17	-0.17
15.	Rajasthan	4.89	7.27	-2.12	-4.22
16.	Tamil Nadu	1.03	7.91	6.44	-15.88
17.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	8.84	12.32	-0.37	-4.39

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	5.58	9.08	-3.28	0.59
19.	West Bengal	2.43	8.75	0.62	-2.59
20.	Kolkata	2.47	4.29	-0.50	-3.13
21.	Delhi	1.06	6.11	0.91	-5.32
22.	Mumbai	1.13	4.78	-0.06	-1.60
Total		64.57	136.48	18.40	-57.96

Source: DoT

\*As Aircel has filed for bankruptcy, its subscription data for April and May, 2018 is not available and therefore taken as zero.

### **Statement-II**

*Operator wise increase in mobile telephone connections (in million) during the last three years and current year (April-May, 2018).*

Telecom Operators	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	April-May, 2018*
Bharti Airtel Limited	25.22	22.41	30.54	40.36
RelianceTelecom LTD+Reliance Communications Ltd.	-7.06	-18.91	-83.32	-0.11
Rjio	0.00	108.68	77.88	18.98
Vodafone Essar	14.14	11.12	13.63	-0.24
TATA Teleservices Ltd	-6.22	-11.10	-17.81	-3.56
Idea mobile Communication	17.27	20.29	15.84	3.02
Aircel	5.69	3.81	-11.98	-78.92
Quardrant Televentures Ltd	0.43	-3.16	0.00	0.00
Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd.	-1.17	-2.78	-4.91	0.00
Telewings (Telenor)	6.84	-1.96	-12.51	-37.98
Videocon	-0.57	-6.56	0.00	0.00
BSNL	10.00	14.58	11.09	0.52
MTNL	0.01	0.07	-0.07	-0.02
Total increase	64.57	136.48	18.40	-57.96

Source: DoT\* As Aircel has filed for bankruptcy, its subscription data for April and May, 2018 is not available and therefore taken as zero.

**Statement-III**

Service area-wise market share (in %) of telecom operators as on 31.03.2016.

Sl. No.	Service area	Airtel	TATA Teleservices Ltd.	Quadrant Televentures Ltd.	Aircel	Reliance Essar	Vodafone	Telenor	Idea	Videocon	Sistema Shyam Tele-services Ltd.	BSNL	MTNL
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.08	6.71	0.00	3.57	7.45	9.22	7.44	20.15	0.00	0.00	14.39	0.00
2.	Assam	31.75	0.00	0.00	27.29	7.15	19.50	0.00	6.28	0.00	0.00	8.03	0.00
3.	Bihar	37.98	2.27	0.00	9.44	6.01	12.69	11.77	14.94	0.01	0.00	4.88	0.00
4.	Gujarat	13.51	4.66	0.00	0.03	9.42	30.40	13.98	18.98	1.18	0.32	7.51	0.00
5.	Haryana	12.51	11.95	0.00	0.01	8.31	23.18	0.00	19.65	9.53	0.00	14.86	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	30.27	0.80	0.00	12.06	19.36	7.91	0.00	8.84	0.00	0.00	20.76	0.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	33.58	0.00	0.00	25.59	9.35	10.68	0.00	6.40	0.00	0.00	14.40	0.00
8.	Karnataka	33.76	11.76	0.00	4.87	9.50	12.08	0.00	13.23	0.00	1.83	12.97	0.00
9.	Kerala	12.21	4.35	0.00	0.80	6.08	20.47	0.00	28.40	0.00	0.97	26.72	0.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	19.32	7.16	0.00	0.03	18.21	10.32	0.00	31.95	5.29	0.00	7.72	0.00
11.	Maharashtra	15.69	7.97	0.00	3.03	6.61	21.49	9.48	27.14	0.00	0.00	8.58	0.00
12.	North East	34.85	0.00	0.00	27.98	3.35	13.67	0.00	4.50	0.00	0.00	15.65	0.00
13.	Odisha	35.12	7.69	0.00	15.75	6.40	14.01	0.00	5.93	0.00	0.00	15.10	0.00
14.	Punjab	24.76	8.26	10.42	3.23	5.10	15.59	0.00	19.71	0.00	0.00	12.93	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	31.90	2.49	0.00	10.58	11.01	19.98	0.00	12.81	0.00	3.56	7.66	0.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	21.13	5.84	0.00	25.71	8.28	18.50	0.00	6.98	0.00	0.89	12.67	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	22.55	4.42	0.00	7.44	10.12	20.49	13.27	11.68	0.01	0.00	10.02	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	14.40	6.00	0.00	1.17	10.40	19.94	14.80	24.97	0.02	0.26	8.03	0.00
19.	West Bengal	29.45	0.91	0.00	9.66	6.59	35.13	0.00	11.03	0.00	3.00	4.24	0.00
20.	Kolkata	18.45	10.89	0.00	15.74	18.23	20.76	0.00	8.27	0.00	2.06	5.60	0.00
21.	Delhi	24.66	4.61	0.00	12.55	16.41	19.97	0.00	12.16	0.00	1.83	0.00	7.80
22.	Mumbai	17.60	11.02	0.00	8.21	17.26	24.86	0.00	12.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.99
	Total	24.06	5.84	0.32	8.22	9.78	18.69	4.95	16.53	0.62	0.73	9.59	0.67

Source: DoT

**Statement-IV**

Service area-wise market share (in %) of telecom operators as on 31.03.2017

Sl. No.	Service area	Airtel	TATA	Quadrant	Aircel	Reliance	Vodafone	Telenor	Idea	Sistema	Shyam	Reliance	BSNL	MTNL
		Teleservices Ltd.	Teleservices Ltd.	Televentures Ltd.	Teleservices Ltd.									
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.06	4.51	0.00	3.02	4.25	8.04	6.12	20.31	0.00	0.00	10.82	12.86	0.00
2.	Assam	29.30	0.00	0.00	26.49	5.12	18.31	0.00	6.14	0.00	0.00	6.97	7.68	0.00
3.	Bihar	36.47	1.59	0.00	8.90	3.76	11.46	10.71	14.92	0.00	0.00	7.07	5.12	0.00
4.	Gujarat	12.65	3.50	0.00	0.02	7.53	27.40	11.58	17.98	0.18	0.00	11.00	8.15	0.00
5.	Haryana	13.91	9.63	0.00	0.01	5.84	23.81	0.00	20.18	0.00	0.00	10.88	15.75	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	28.14	0.45	0.00	10.61	14.58	6.87	0.00	7.68	0.00	0.00	9.84	21.84	0.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	30.10	0.00	0.00	24.85	7.25	8.26	0.00	5.77	0.00	0.00	10.39	13.38	0.00
8.	Karnataka	32.02	9.04	0.00	4.82	7.48	10.95	0.00	13.39	1.01	0.00	9.72	11.57	0.00
9.	Kerala	11.17	3.14	0.00	0.90	3.37	18.59	0.00	26.68	0.57	0.00	8.66	26.91	0.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	20.20	5.96	0.00	0.03	13.08	9.65	0.00	34.04	0.00	0.00	8.65	8.38	0.00
11.	Maharashtra	15.14	5.73	0.00	2.81	4.18	20.21	8.04	27.65	0.00	0.00	7.98	8.27	0.00
12.	North East	33.39	0.00	0.00	25.85	2.04	12.75	0.00	5.03	0.00	0.00	6.84	14.10	0.00
13.	Odisha	33.26	5.27	0.00	13.39	6.17	13.11	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	7.45	15.35	0.00
14.	Punjab	24.43	6.21	0.71	3.07	4.60	14.76	0.00	19.10	0.00	0.00	13.25	13.87	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	31.00	1.58	0.00	9.81	8.28	18.07	0.00	12.32	1.99	0.00	7.89	9.05	0.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	20.63	4.37	0.00	23.27	6.00	17.74	0.00	6.72	0.52	0.00	8.81	11.95	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	22.42	3.13	0.00	6.61	7.75	19.59	11.21	11.71	0.00	0.00	6.57	11.00	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	13.39	4.31	0.00	1.30	8.13	18.45	12.14	24.43	0.14	0.00	8.59	9.11	0.00
19.	West Bengal	27.70	0.58	0.00	8.80	5.87	34.58	0.00	10.87	1.76	0.00	6.03	3.80	0.00
20.	Kolkata	17.06	8.27	0.00	14.62	13.77	18.98	0.00	8.76	1.25	0.00	12.09	5.20	0.00
21.	Delhi	22.80	2.78	0.00	12.16	10.24	19.07	0.00	11.46	0.95	0.00	13.59	0.00	6.94
22.	Mumbai	17.19	8.07	0.00	7.32	12.77	22.86	0.00	11.04	0.00	0.00	12.77	0.00	7.98
	Total	23.22	4.25	0.02	7.61	7.09	17.51	4.23	16.35	0.42	0.00	9.09	9.63	0.59

Source: DoT

**Statement-V**  
Service area-wise market share (in %) of telecom operators as on 31.03.2018

Sl. No.	Service area	Airtel	TATA Teleservices Ltd.	Quadrant Televentures Ltd.	Aircel	Reliance	Vodafone	Telenor	Idea	Reliance Jio	BSNL	MTNL
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.51	3.29	0.00	2.61	0.07	7.37	4.29	20.34	17.70	12.82	0.00
2.	Assam	30.58	0.00	0.00	22.77	0.00	16.55	0.00	5.47	13.83	10.79	0.00
3.	Bihar	36.34	0.77	0.00	8.21	0.01	11.59	7.95	15.96	13.90	5.27	0.00
4.	Gujarat	13.36	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.04	28.42	8.55	19.90	18.03	9.38	0.00
5.	Haryana	16.85	5.69	0.00	0.00	0.01	27.03	0.00	22.45	8.21	19.75	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	28.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.03	4.69	0.00	7.80	37.92	21.39	0.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	34.78	0.00	0.00	24.91	0.00	6.46	0.00	5.07	16.40	12.36	0.00
8.	Karnataka	36.80	6.98	0.00	3.91	0.25	11.26	0.00	13.78	14.98	12.03	0.00
9.	Kerala	11.31	1.56	0.00	0.53	0.06	18.04	0.00	27.81	12.51	28.18	0.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	21.80	4.14	0.00	0.00	0.10	9.15	0.00	39.15	16.25	9.40	0.00
11.	Maharashtra	15.26	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.07	21.41	5.01	31.82	14.00	8.69	0.00
12.	North East	35.09	0.00	0.00	23.91	0.00	12.54	0.00	3.93	12.02	12.51	0.00
13.	Odisha	35.74	2.88	0.00	11.36	0.01	13.10	0.00	5.74	14.76	16.41	0.00
14.	Punjab	25.62	3.29	0.63	2.06	0.03	12.61	0.00	19.67	21.19	14.91	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	34.31	0.58	0.00	9.29	0.05	18.54	0.00	12.56	15.42	9.24	0.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	25.13	2.42	0.00	19.84	0.10	20.62	0.00	6.21	12.76	12.91	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	25.00	1.98	0.00	5.90	0.01	22.72	8.90	12.05	11.76	11.69	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	14.88	2.88	0.00	0.00	0.01	19.61	10.62	27.48	14.97	9.55	0.00
19.	West Bengal	29.82	0.18	0.00	7.47	0.00	36.49	0.00	10.55	12.10	3.39	0.00
20.	Kolkata	21.34	5.58	0.00	13.91	0.17	22.40	0.00	9.61	20.15	6.83	0.00
21.	Delhi	26.52	2.09	0.00	11.25	0.36	21.43	0.00	12.84	18.86	0.00	6.65
22.	Mumbai	21.01	6.17	0.00	5.88	0.60	25.05	0.00	11.89	21.58	0.00	7.81
	Total	25.43	2.73	0.02	6.51	0.09	18.40	3.13	17.43	15.40	10.29	0.57

**Statement-VI**

Service area-wise market share (in %) of telecom operators as on 31.05.2018

Sl. No.	Service area	Airtel	TATA Teleservices Ltd.	Quadrant Televentures Ltd.	Aircel*	Reliance Jio	Vodafone	Idea	Reliance Jio	BSNL	MTNL
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36.06	3.09	0.00	0.00	0.07	7.25	20.92	19.64	12.97	0.00
2.	Assam	40.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.20	7.15	19.71	11.60	0.00
3.	Bihar	47.09	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.01	12.31	17.08	16.89	5.89	0.00
4.	Gujarat	20.16	2.01	0.00	0.00	0.04	28.45	20.26	19.82	9.26	0.00
5.	Haryana	15.15	4.58	0.00	0.00	0.01	23.40	19.81	19.20	17.84	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	35.92	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.03	5.32	10.04	21.19	27.33	0.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	48.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.95	6.59	22.75	14.39	0.00
8.	Karnataka	38.71	6.37	0.00	0.00	0.24	11.60	14.24	16.61	12.22	0.00
9.	Kerala	11.46	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.05	17.99	27.99	13.08	28.22	0.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	21.63	3.59	0.00	0.00	0.02	8.44	38.90	18.05	9.38	0.00
11.	Maharashtra	19.29	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.07	21.11	32.03	15.65	8.52	0.00
12.	North East	46.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.85	5.08	16.66	16.13	0.00
13.	Odisha	39.96	2.79	0.00	0.00	0.01	14.19	6.77	18.15	18.14	0.00
14.	Punjab	26.06	3.04	0.62	0.00	0.03	12.43	19.91	22.81	15.08	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	37.69	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.04	20.14	13.49	18.23	9.90	0.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	31.65	2.53	0.00	0.00	0.12	25.45	7.76	16.62	15.87	0.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	34.84	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.01	23.90	13.21	13.91	12.16	0.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	24.77	2.65	0.00	0.00	0.01	19.15	27.54	16.34	9.54	0.00
19.	West Bengal	31.78	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.53	11.60	14.49	3.44	0.00
20.	Kolkata	24.93	5.70	0.00	0.00	0.17	25.46	11.43	24.28	8.04	0.00
21.	Delhi	30.19	1.82	0.00	0.00	0.32	23.57	14.29	22.55	0.00	7.26
22.	Mumbai	22.52	5.90	0.00	0.00	0.60	26.36	12.56	23.95	0.00	8.10
	Total	30.21	2.56	0.02	0.00	0.08	19.31	18.57	17.82	10.84	0.59

Source: DoT\* As Aircel has filed for bankruptcy, its subscription data for April and May, 2018 is not available and therefore taken as zero.

**Statement-VII****Initiatives Taken by BSNL****Augmentation of GSM Mobile Network capacity-****BSNL is enhancing 2G and 3G coverage through:**

- Replacement of old equipment having high operational cost & AMC.
- Addition of 3G capacity for increasing 3G footprints.
- Introduction of 4G services.
- The project is presently envisaged to provide about 20035 2G BTSs, 22517, 3G Node Bs and 10000 4G E-Node Bs.

**Replacement of legacy Wireline exchanges by Next Generation Network (NGN) Switches**

- Phase I: Total capacity of 1 million line IMS equipment has been commissioned in Phase-I class-5 based New Generation Network (NGN). Implementation of Phase-II, 3 Million (core & access) equipment is in progress. These equipments are against replacement of TDM based NT switches (Non-CDOT).
- NIT for access equipment of C-DOT MAX NG has been floated for up gradation of CDOT-MAX Switches (1974 no's) to CDOTMAX NG. PO has been issued to L1 & L2 bidders. Supply of access equipment completed and installation under progress. 2 Core sites have been commissioned by CDOT under Phase-I. Phase-II PO for core equipment of C-DOT MAX NGN placed on M/s C-DOT. All core sites have been commissioned.
- A Tender for 2.4 million NGN core, 5 million POTS & 2 million ADSL2+ports has been finalized.

**Roll-out of Wi-Fi Service:** BSNL has so far installed and radiated 22071 Wi-Fi Hotspots under various Wi Fi Hotspots Projects.

**Execution of Government Projects:** BSNL is executing following Government Projects.

- Laying of O.F. Cable under Network for Spectrum (NFS) for Defence Project.
- Laying of O.F. Cable to connect Gram Panchayats under National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN)
- Installation of Mobile Towers in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas.
- Implementation of North-East GSM Project to Provide GSM Coverage in uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two Districts of Assam.

**Customer Centric Initiatives**

- Unlimited free night calling from Landline to any network between 2230 Hrs to 0600 Hrs in India by BSNL to its landline customers.
- BSNL introduced unlimited free calling during day & night on all Sundays on PAN India (except HP Circle).
- BSNL has introduced Virtual landline Connection under plan "ÄSEEM" in which customer can get a Virtual Landline number & get diverted all the calls received on that number to a mobile number of his/her choice. This plan can also be provided in TNF areas. The tariff plan is applicable *w.e.f.* 01.09.2017.
- BSNL has introduced Replacement of Instrument Free of cost for existing customers, who has paid last six months bill for Landline/Combo connection with total amount of Rs. 3600/- or above & having Landline for last three years.
- BSNL Landline may be booked through facebook/ Twitter. One month Fixed Monthly Charge on landline booked through facebook/Twitter is being waived off. The scheme is applicable for one year *w.e.f.* 30.10.2017.
- BSNL has introduced new STV plan "BSNL CHAUKKA" "444' Unlimited data (Speed reduced to 80 Kbps after 4GB/day) offer under prepaid mobile service.
- BSNL has introduced new plan "BSNL SIXER" "666" Unlimited data (Speed reduced to 80 Kbps

after 2GB/day) & Unlimited free voice (Local/STD) for 60 days any net in HPLMN under prepaid mobile service.

- BSNL has introduced the New plan is of rupees 429/ only which is giving Free voice (Local/STD) on any network and 90 GB data @ 1GB per day) for 81 days on PAN India basis (except Kerala Circle).
- BSNL has introduced the New plan is of rupees 1099 Unlimited data without speed restriction+ unlimited voice (Home/National Roaming)+free 100 SMS/day+free PRVT for 84 days.

#### **Initiatives Taken by MTNL**

MTNL has planned several initiatives/projects to improve its network capabilities and provide better quality of service to its customers. Some of the initiatives are as under:

##### **Landline Network:**

- Refurbishing of 20% Pillars and DPs every year, is planned in phased manner. 2662 Pillar and 52907 DP have been refurbished by MTNL last year as on 31.03.2018
- To improve copper pair quality, 81,492 mtr existing Drop Wires have been replaced with twisted drop wires or thermo sleeves have been put at open joints at DPs by MTNL this year, as on 31.03.2018.

##### **Broadband Network:**

- To give boost to customer experience, Download Speed of Broadband subscribers is being upgraded upto 8 Mbps progressively without any additional cost depending upon feasibility and line parameters.
- Tariff re-balancing of Broadband service has been done for giving more competitive and attractive tariff package to the customers.
- Societies/Areas where OFC/FTTH is already available, BB Subscribers are being migrated to FTTH free of cost and work has been started.

- To improve QOS and speed of Broadband service, DSLAMs are being redeployed near customer premise. In 2017, 47 DSLAMs in Delhi and 22 in Mumbai have been redeployed thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of Broadband service.
- Proactive Monitoring of Broadband Faults through Radius attempt.
- On line tool (IPTESTER) used for monitoring on real time basis of the BTS/Node-B, Broadband Equipment and FTTH Customers.
- Trainings have been organized for line staff to improve their skills for greater overall customer satisfaction.

##### **FTTx Network:**

- FTTH (Fibre To The Home) revenue share policy was modified to make it more flexible to attract new partners with enhanced revenue share to encourage partners to rollout more connections; Partners in Delhi and Mumbai have already started operations. Active monitoring is being done to ensure to achieve the envisaged targets of the policy. Regular advisories are being issued to field units. In the year 2017-18, total 922 connections have been provisioned by FTTx partners in Mumbai while 1180 connections were provisioned in Delhi.

##### **Mobile Network:**

MTNL has undertaken the task of improving the Wireless Network in Delhi and Mumbai so as to improve the downlink speed to 21.1 Mbps & uplink speed of 5.76 Mbps which is presently of 3.6 Mbps & 384 Kbps respectively with following major projects:

- **Expansion of GSM/3G RF Network in MTNL Delhi:** MTNL is in the process of expansion of 3G mobile network by adding 1080 nos. of 3G sites, 800 nos. of hybrid microwave to meet the backhaul capacity and Data handling capacity to 10 Gbps.
- **Upgradation/replacement of 3G RF Network in MTNL Delhi:** MTNL is upgrading the existing 3G

network (720 Node-Bs) and 754 nos. of existing 8Mbps Microwave Hops to 400 Mbps capacity to improve network capabilities and provide better speed.

- **3G Network Up-gradation in Mumbai:** MTNL is upgrading the existing 3G network (720 Node-Bs) and 497 nos. of existing 8Mbps Microwave Hops to 400 Mbps capacity to improve network capabilities and provide better speed.

[English]

#### **Performance of BSNL and MTNL**

3559. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the responsible persons/entities for the alleged pitiable condition of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(b) whether the Government proposes to disinvest and/or merge the said telecom service providers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard 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) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) were earning profits since their inception until 2008-09. However, their financial condition has been affected due to various reasons. Major reasons are as follows:

- One time upfront cost of spectrum for 3G and BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) required to be paid in 2010 for the amount of Rs. 11097.97 crores by MTNL and Rs. 18500.38 crores by BSNL which has eroded their reserves. MTNL had to take loan to meet this expenditure. This has created financial stress on both PSUs.
- Both the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are also burdened with salary payments of the legacy DOT (Department of Telecommunications)

employees, who are now working as absorbed employees in these PSUs.

- The market dynamics have changed in last 5 to 6 years in telecom sector because of the entry of more number of operators, which have garnered major market share and put a lot of pressure on the revenues of these PSUs.
- Both the PSUs could not invest timely in upgradation of their infrastructure.
- BSNL is providing telecom services in non-profitable areas like remote and hilly regions in various States *e.g.* Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, North East, Chhattisgarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.
- Both the PSUs have to follow the prescribed guidelines and procedures which sometimes leads to inherent delays in taking decisions.
- MTNL is providing its services only in Delhi and Mumbai Service Areas unlike other major Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

Government has taken various steps to make BSNL and MTNL viable in the background of stiff competition in the telecom sector. Details thereof may be seen in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal for disinvestment or merger of BSNL and MTNL. However, based on the financial results of BSNL and MTNL for last few years, both these PSUs have been classified as "Incipient Sick" as per Department of Public Enterprise (DPE) Guidelines. Accordingly, action has been initiated by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) for preparation of revival/restructuring plan of BSNL and MTNL.

#### **Statement**

*Details of Government support to BSNL and MTNL from time to time to strengthen their financial conditions:*

#### **BSNL:**

- Implementation of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism

(LWE) affected areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 3567.58 crores .

- Refund of surrendered BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) spectrum in 6 service areas held by BSNL. Under this head, Rs. 6724.51 crore was refunded to BSNL through budgetary resources.
- Implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.49 crores.
- Refund of Rs. 169.16 crore to BSNL on account of surrender of CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) spectrum.
- Optical Fibre Cable based Network for Defence Services (NFS Project) has been given to BSNL on nomination basis at the cost of Rs. 24,664 crore.
- For execution of BharatNet Project, Government has provided Rs. 5744 crore in Phase-I and has earmarked Rs. 6500 crore in Phase-II to BSNL.
- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam at an estimated project cost of Rs. 1975.38 crore and implementation of Transmission-Media Plan for North Eastern Region at an estimated cost of Rs. 295.97 crore .
- Submarine Optical Fiber Cable Project at the cost of Rs. 1900 crore has been assigned to BSNL on nomination basis for providing connectivity to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Work of setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi Hotspots at Rural Telephone Exchanges at the cost of Rs. 940 crore has been given to BSNL.
- Work of setting up of Satellite Gateway at the cost of Rs. 68 crore has been given to BSNL on nomination basis.
- Notional loan of Rs. 1411 crore to BSNL which

was due to be paid to the Government was waived-off.

**MTNL:**

- Refund of surrendered BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) spectrum in two service areas held by MTNL. Under this head, Rs. 4533.97 crore has been refunded to MTNL through bonds.
- The pension liability of MTNL staff who were absorbed from Department of Telecommunications (DoT), has been taken over by the Government.
- Financial support of Rs. 492.26 crore was given to MTNL on account of liability arising from levy of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).
- Refund of Rs. 458.04 crore to MTNL on account of surrender of CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) spectrum.
- Provision of High Speed Internet on Fiber To The Home (FTTH) and Wi-Fi at the residences of Hon'ble MPs. The Project cost of Rs. 43.2 crore was funded by DoT.

**Ease of Doing Business**

3560. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a task force to further improve India's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index under the Secretary of Department of Justice;

(b) if so, the number of representatives from different Ministries and advisors who are members of the task force;

(c) whether the Government has asked all the High Courts to monitor court adjournments leading to piling of cases;

(d) the other measures taken by the Government in consultation with other Ministries such as labour reforms, etc. in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the steps are likely to be suggested by the task force 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) Yes, Madam. A Task Force was constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Justice for improving performance on the parameter of "Enforcing Contracts" for ease of doing business in India.

(b) and (e) Representatives from Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Department of Legal Affairs, Legislative Department, Department of Justice, Government of Delhi, Government of Maharashtra, High Court of Delhi and High Court of Bombay and Member, eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India have been included in the Task Force. Seven meetings of the Task Force have been held so far. Activities of the Task Force are of an on-going nature and regular recommendations/directions are given to various stakeholders, so as to improve India's ranking in the ease of doing business index.

(c) The power of granting or refusing adjournments is in the domain of the judiciary. Enforcement as well as monitoring of the said provision also lies in the hands of the judiciary. However, the Government has periodically invited the attention of all High Courts on granting of indiscriminate adjournments which are causing delay in the disposal of cases. Government has also requested Chief Justices of all High Courts to invite the attention of the district judges to these provisions and impress upon them to adhere to them.

(d) The Government has taken the following measures to improve India's ranking in the "Enforcing Contracts" parameter of the World Bank's "Doing Business" Report:

- (i) Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Court Act, 2015 was enacted so as to:
  - (a) Provide a mechanism to ensure speedy disposal of commercial disputes of value of Rs. 1 crore and above [specified value] by setting up Commercial Divisions in High Courts exercising ordinary original civil jurisdiction such as Delhi, Bombay,

Calcutta, Madras, and Himachal Pradesh High Court; and

- (b) Enable setting up of Commercial Courts at the District Judge level in the States and UTs where High Courts do not have ordinary original civil jurisdiction.
- (ii) Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 has been promulgated on 03rd May, 2018 to:
  - (a) Reduce the specified value of a commercial dispute to Rs. 3 lakh from the earlier Rs. 1 crore;
  - (b) Establish Commercial Courts at District Judge level for the territories over which respective High Court have ordinary original civil jurisdiction *i.e.* in the cities of Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and State of Himachal Pradesh; and
  - (c) Introduce Pre-Institution Mediation through the authorities constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 in cases where no urgent, interim relief is contemplated.
- (iii) A Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by Lok Sabha on 01.08. 2018.
- (iv) The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been amended by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 to expedite the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- (v) The Government has introduced a Bill in Lok Sabha on 18.07.2018 for further amending the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, and also for setting up of an independent body namely Arbitration Council of India as an Institutional mechanism to promote and encourage arbitration, conciliation, mediation and other ADR Mechanisms and for that purpose evolve policy and guidelines for the establishment, operation and maintenance of uniform professional stands

in respect of all matters relating to arbitration and ADR mechanism.

- (vi) Furthermore, the Government has introduced a Bill in Lok Sabha on 05.01.2018 to set up an Institute of National Importance namely New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) which would function as a flagship institution for domestic & international arbitration.
- (vii) The Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2018, proposing to bring significant amendments to Specific Relief Act, 1963, was passed by Lok Sabha on March 15, 2018 and by Rajya Sabha on July 23, 2018. The Bill seeks to take away the discretionary power of courts in ordering specific performance of contract, by stating that specific performance of contract should be compulsorily enforced by the Court. Further, compensation need not be sought for as an alternate relief, and can be claimed in addition to specific performance.

[Translation]

#### **Mobile Towers in Singhbhum**

3561. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile towers sanctioned for East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum of Jharkhand during each of the last three years;
- (b) the number of mobile towers out of the total sanctioned towers set up so far, location-wise;
- (c) the reasons for not setting up the remaining towers;
- (d) whether any person/persons has been held responsible for the said shortcoming so far and if so, the details thereof along with the punitive action taken by the Government against them; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Department of Telecom has undertaken the project to provide mobile service in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected area at locations identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) with subsidy support from Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF).

Under LWE Phase I Scheme, total 816 tower locations were identified by MHA for Jharkhand State. All are radiating.

A total of 21 mobile towers (15 towers in the year 2015 & 6 towers in 2016) in East Singhbhum and 128 mobile towers (121 towers in the year 2015 & 7 towers in 2016) in West Singhbhum were sanctioned. List of locations is given in the enclosed Statement. All the towers have since been installed.

A total of 1054 mobile towers are planned in Jharkhand under LWE Phase-II Scheme, out of which 64 mobile towers are planned in East Singhbhum and 81 mobile towers are planned in West Singhbhum. However, actual sites will be finalized after survey.

(c) to (e) Not applicable in view of above.

#### **Statement**

*List of Mobile Towers set-up in East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum in the last 03 years is as follows:*

Sl.No.	Name of District	Location
1.	East Singhbhum	Chunidih
2.	East Singhbhum	Chamra
3.	East Singhbhum	Potkadih
4.	East Singhbhum	Bara Aashthi
5.	East Singhbhum	Gurabandha
6.	East Singhbhum	Matiyabandhi
7.	East Singhbhum	Balidi (Kalchite CRPF)
8.	East Singhbhum	Baljuri
9.	East Singhbhum	Banmakri
10.	East Singhbhum	Bara Bangurda (Makula)
11.	East Singhbhum	Baram (Boram PS-B COY)
12.	East Singhbhum	Basila
13.	East Singhbhum	Bhagabandi
14.	East Singhbhum	Chatani Pani

Sl.No.	Name of District	Location
15.	East Singhbhum	Harina
16.	East Singhbhum	Kamalpur P (Saragdih)
17.	East Singhbhum	Karaduba (Karaduba PKT-Ghatshila PS G COY)
18.	East Singhbhum	Kulamara (Dumariya CRPF)
19.	East Singhbhum	Kuyali
20.	East Singhbhum	Laylam (Bhuyashan CRPF)
21.	East Singhbhum	Lodhashol (Kesarpur CRPF)
1.	West Singhbhum	Tonto
2.	West Singhbhum	Ptajaint
3.	West Singhbhum	Lokesai
4.	West Singhbhum	Patrahatu
5.	West Singhbhum	Padapahar
6.	West Singhbhum	Khasphokaria
7.	West Singhbhum	Bamebasa
8.	West Singhbhum	Anandpur (Anandpur CRPF)
9.	West Singhbhum	Arjunpur
10.	West Singhbhum	Baida
11.	West Singhbhum	Baihatu (Bandgaon CRPF)
12.	West Singhbhum	Bandu
13.	West Singhbhum	Bandunasa
14.	West Singhbhum	Bara Belma
15.	West Singhbhum	Baraebir
16.	West Singhbhum	Baralagra
17.	West Singhbhum	Barkimara
18.	West Singhbhum	Barkundia
19.	West Singhbhum	Benisagar
20.	West Singhbhum	Beraduya
21.	West Singhbhum	Berakayam
22.	West Singhbhum	Berakenduda
23.	West Singhbhum	Beratulunda (Karampada CRPF)
24.	West Singhbhum	Bhalurangi
25.	West Singhbhum	Bharnian
26.	West Singhbhum	Binju

Sl.No.	Name of District	Location
27.	West Singhbhum	Birkel
28.	West Singhbhum	Borotika G
29.	West Singhbhum	Bundu T (Jambaiburu CRPF)
30.	West Singhbhum	Bunumlata
31.	West Singhbhum	Burunkel
32.	West Singhbhum	Champila
33.	West Singhbhum	Chhota Jambani
34.	West Singhbhum	Chhota Nagra (Thalkobad CRPF)
35.	West Singhbhum	Chirumatha
36.	West Singhbhum	Chitpil
37.	West Singhbhum	Chodarapa
38.	West Singhbhum	Deoganw
39.	West Singhbhum	Dhobadhobin
40.	West Singhbhum	Dhodrobaru
41.	West Singhbhum	Diku Balkand
42.	West Singhbhum	Dindapai
43.	West Singhbhum	Dudh jui
44.	West Singhbhum	Dudhkundi
45.	West Singhbhum	Dumuria K
46.	West Singhbhum	Durirta
47.	West Singhbhum	Gitilpi
48.	West Singhbhum	Goirabera
49.	West Singhbhum	Gudri
50.	West Singhbhum	Gula
51.	West Singhbhum	Guli
52.	West Singhbhum	Gulikera
53.	West Singhbhum	Gundiuli
54.	West Singhbhum	Herta
55.	West Singhbhum	Hesadih
56.	West Singhbhum	Hoyohatu
57.	West Singhbhum	Ichapi (Kiriburu CRPF)
58.	West Singhbhum	Ichapir

Sl.No.	Name of District	Location
59.	West Singhbhum	Indrua
60.	West Singhbhum	Jagarnathpur (Bara Nanda-Jagarnathpur)
61.	West Singhbhum	Jaintgarh
62.	West Singhbhum	Jalasar
63.	West Singhbhum	Jamuda
64.	West Singhbhum	Jhaliyamura
65.	West Singhbhum	Jharbera (Jaraikela CRPF)
66.	West Singhbhum	Jhumpura
67.	West Singhbhum	Jomtai
68.	West Singhbhum	Kajomra (Asanthaliya CRPF)
69.	West Singhbhum	Kalaiya
70.	West Singhbhum	Kamai
71.	West Singhbhum	Kansora
72.	West Singhbhum	Kenjra T
73.	West Singhbhum	Kerabir
74.	West Singhbhum	Khajuria
75.	West Singhbhum	Khandadoar
76.	West Singhbhum	Khandkhori
77.	West Singhbhum	Komang
78.	West Singhbhum	Komrora S
79.	West Singhbhum	Kongyseyea
80.	West Singhbhum	Kotagara
81.	West Singhbhum	Koteya
82.	West Singhbhum	Kudahatu M
83.	West Singhbhum	Kulaburu
84.	West Singhbhum	Kundrugutu
85.	West Singhbhum	Kutipi
86.	West Singhbhum	Leangi
87.	West Singhbhum	Mamail
88.	West Singhbhum	Mangapat
89.	West Singhbhum	Meramhonar M
90.	West Singhbhum	Meromgutu
91.	West Singhbhum	Mugadighiya

Sl.No.	Name of District	Location
92.	West Singhbhum	Munduum
93.	West Singhbhum	Nawada B
94.	West Singhbhum	Olhaniyan
95.	West Singhbhum	Olmokol
96.	West Singhbhum	Omra
97.	West Singhbhum	Padam Pur
98.	West Singhbhum	Pansua
99.	West Singhbhum	Paral
100.	West Singhbhum	Patarhatu
101.	West Singhbhum	Posaeta (Posaeta (A COY))
102.	West Singhbhum	Purda
103.	West Singhbhum	Putunga
104.	West Singhbhum	Raidih M
105.	West Singhbhum	Raigara
106.	West Singhbhum	Rangamati G
107.	West Singhbhum	Rayam
108.	West Singhbhum	Rayrona
109.	West Singhbhum	Rengrahatu
110.	West Singhbhum	Ritusai
111.	West Singhbhum	Robkera
112.	West Singhbhum	Rongo
113.	West Singhbhum	Rungi
114.	West Singhbhum	Saidba (Lodahi CRPF)
115.	West Singhbhum	Salikuti
116.	West Singhbhum	Sarugara
117.	West Singhbhum	Shawsol
118.	West Singhbhum	Siyaljora
119.	West Singhbhum	Songra
120.	West Singhbhum	Sonpokhri
121.	West Singhbhum	Takub
122.	West Singhbhum	Tandel
123.	West Singhbhum	Tartaria
124.	West Singhbhum	Tebo B
125.	West Singhbhum	Tensera

Sl.No.	Name of District	Location
126.	West Singhbhum	Toklo
127.	West Singhbhum	Tondanghatu
128.	West Singhbhum	Tunga

[English]

### Quality and Price of Food

3562. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is having any proposal to conduct periodic inspection of food and beverages served in trains supplied by the vendors and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to display the tariff for each food and beverages items in every coach;

(c) whether the Railways is having any proposal to set-up the Railway Police Help Desk at Thanjavur junction, which is important tourism and historical place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Regular checks/inspections are conducted by Railway officials to ensure that quality food is being supplied to the travelling passengers. Feedback forms are collected from the passengers during these inspections. Food samples are collected by Food Safety Officers of Medical Department and sent to accredited laboratories for analysis. During the Financial year 2017-18, overall 45488 inspections and during the current period of Financial year 2018-19 (i.e from 01.04.2018 to 30.06.2018) 9785 inspections (including inspection on food and beverages) were conducted on catering services over Indian Railways.

(b) Instructions have already been issued to Zonal Railways to ensure display of Menu/Tariff list in the coaches of the trains and that the same must be carried by waiter of the train also so that travelling passengers may access the Menu/Tariff list easily.

(c) and (d) Presently there is no proposal to set up

Railway Police Helpdesk at Thanjavur Junction. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) assistance booths are available at Platform No. 01 and 2 of Thanjavur Junction to facilitate and render necessary security related assistance to passengers.

### Maritime Security

3563. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is undertaking review of maritime security to secure country from terrorist attacks and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India's maritime security needs modernization and technology upgraded support system and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of measures being taken to increase the vigil on the international maritime border to thwart any attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS), under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, monitors the progress in respect of coastal security initiatives, any shortfall encountered, and measures to plug the gaps. A coastal security ring all along our coast is provided by Marine Police, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy. Other measures include improving surveillance mechanism, enhanced patrolling and joint operational exercises conducted on regular basis among Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Customs and others. Installation of radars covering the country's entire coastline and islands is also an essential part of this process. Further, continuous review and monitoring mechanisms have been established by the Government at different levels including agencies and State/Union Territory authorities.

### MGPSY

3564. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:  
SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha

Yojana (MGPSY) has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any alternative scheme launched to protect the emigrant workers welfare; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Yes Madam.

(b) The Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY), a voluntary scheme launched in May 2012, suffered from very low subscription. After a comprehensive review, it was found that MGPSY, being a non-attractive scheme, was not taking off. Therefore, a decision was taken to close this scheme *w.e.f* 1st April, 2017 with the approval of the Union Cabinet. In 5 years, there were only 1071 registered subscribers out of which only 443 subscribers were active at the time of closure of the scheme.

(c) and (d) The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY), a mandatory insurance scheme for Emigration Check Required (ECR) category workers that provide an insurance cover of 10 lakhs in case of accidental death or permanent disability and some other benefits at a nominal insurance premium of Rs. 275/Rs. 375 for a period of two/three years is being implemented in a better form.

The earlier scheme faced certain implementation related issues *viz.* scope of coverage, no information to nominees, no facility for on-line renewal and difficulty in certification of accidental death/permanent disability while in employment aboard. After a comprehensive review, all these issues have been addressed in consultation with all stake holders.

The revised scheme, operational *w.e.f.* 1st August, 2017, provides for global coverage irrespective of employer and location, has facility for online renewal and simplifies the process for certification of accidental death/permanent disability. The revised scheme is simpler and more beneficial for emigrant workers and is aimed at ensuring an expeditious settlement of claims.

Emigrant workers in the age group of 18-40 years can also avail the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), which is aimed at providing social security cover to those employed

in unorganized sector through a guaranteed minimum monthly pension.

#### **Recruitment of Minorities**

3565. SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Jains recruited in the Government and Public Sector Undertakings jobs during the last three years;

(b) the number of complaints filed by the members of the minority communities who were denied Government jobs along with the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the employment opportunities for the minorities over the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) is the nodal Department for collection of data and other matters regarding recruitment of minorities in the Central Ministries/Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs), Public Sector Companies and Financial Institutions. The consolidated data on recruitment of minorities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis, in respect of Government services and PSUs, collected from various Ministries/Departments by the DoPT for the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 is as under:

As per information received from 79 Ministries/Departments, for the year 2014-15, 8.56% employees from minority communities were recruited in Government services and PSUs. For the year 2015-16, as per information received so far from 44 Ministries/Departments, 7.5% employees from minority communities were recruited in Government services and PSUs. For 2016-17, information is not available.

National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has informed that they have no information on the number of complaints filed by the members of minority community who were denied Government jobs.

(c) The Coaching Schemes implemented by this Ministry have been strengthened to enhance employment

opportunities. Besides, various measures have been taken under employment-oriented skill development training schemes like Nai Manzil, Seekho-aur-Kamao, USTTAD (Upgradation of Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) NMDFC Schemes and Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for Minorities to empower them to be employed or self-employed. Hunar Haats have also led to effective employment generation in traditional skills.

[Translation]

#### Unpaid Workers in Bahrain

3566. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of Indian workers have not been paid their salaries for the last several months by the companies in Bahrain;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken to help the said workers to get their salaries; 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) It has been informed by the Indian Embassy in Bahrain that 350 Indian expatriate workers from the following three companies had not been paid salaries for four to six months:—

(i) M/s GP Zachariades Overseas Ltd.

(ii) M/s Orlando Construction Company WLL

(iii) M/s First Uniforms Company WLL

(c) and (d) The matter was taken-up by the Indian Embassy with concerned authorities. Part dues have been paid and defaulting companies have agreed to settle the balance amount.

#### Doubling of Rail Line between Tinpahar-Bhagalpur

3567. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded approval for doubling of rail line between Tinpahar and Bhagalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated so far for implementation of this project along with the funds spent out of it; and

(d) the details of items of work undertaken and completed so far on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Doubling between Tinpahar-Bhagalpur Section (99 km) has been sanctioned in three parts *i.e.* (i) Tinpahar-Sahibganj (38 km) Doubling, (ii) Sahibganj-

Pirpainti (10 km) Doubling and (iii) Pirpainti-Bhagalpur (51 km) Doubling. Details of these projects are as under:—

Sl. No.	Projects	Year of Sanction	Funds allocated (upto March, 2018)	Total Expenditure (upto March, 2018)	Status/Remarks
1.	Tinpahar-Sahibganj (38 km) DL	2009-10	Rs. 225 cr	Rs. 233 cr	Entire project has been commissioned.
2.	Sahibganj-Pirpainti (10 km) DL	2010-11	Rs. 157 cr	Rs. 118 cr	Entire project has been commissioned.
3.	Pirpainti-Bhagalpur (51 km) DL	2011-12	Rs. 308 cr	Rs. 277 cr	Pirpainti-Kahalgaon (20 Km) doubling section has been commissioned. Kahalgaon-Bhagalpur (31 Km) doubling section: Work has been taken up.

[English]

### Utilisation of Renewable Energy

3568. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has any plan to utilize renewable sources of energy as fuel for trains in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways proposes to harness 500 Mega Watt (MW) land based solar power for Traction purpose *i.e.* for powering trains which includes 400 MW solar power from solar park in Madhya Pradesh and 50 MW solar power in Chhattisgarh. Indian Railways also proposes to harness wind energy, the bulk of which would be utilized for traction purpose.

26 MW Wind Mill Plant installed at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, is already supplying power for train operations.

### National Digital Communication Policy

3569. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has unveiled National Digital Communication Policy, 2018 recently and if so, the details and the highlights thereof;

(b) whether the said policy envisages to provide job opportunities in the digital communication sector and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the said policy is also expected to contribute more to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 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) The draft National Digital Communications Policy-2018 was released for public consultations on 1st May, 2018. The process of finalizing the NDCP-2018 is currently in progress within the Department. The draft NDCP-2018 recognizes the importance of continued improvement in

the regulatory framework for attracting investments and ensuring fair competition, to serve the needs of citizens. It aims to attract long-term, high quality and sustainable investments by pursuing regulatory reforms to ensure that the regulatory structures and processes remain relevant, transparent, accountable and forward-looking. It also aims to remove regulatory barriers and reduce the regulatory burden that hampers investments, innovation and consumer interest.

(b) and (c) The strategic objectives of the draft NDCP-2018, *inter alia*, include (i) creating, by the Year 2022, 4 Million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector; and (ii) enhancing, by the Year 2022, the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from around 6% in 2017.

### Collegium System

3570. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

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

(a) the total number of recommendations from the collegium of the Supreme Court for appointment of judges to the higher judiciary, which is still pending with the Government since May, 2014 including the names of the persons recommended and the corresponding date of such recommendations;

(b) whether any of the names were sent back to the collegium for reconsideration and if so, out of such names sent back for reconsideration, the number which were reiterated by the Supreme Court collegium including the name of such persons and the dates on which the collegium reiterated their recommendation;

(c) whether the Government is taking steps to dispose off all pending recommendations for appointment to the higher judiciary, in a time bound manner, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government is considering any change in the Collegium System on appointment of judges in higher courts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process of the Judiciary and Executive involving various Constitutional Authorities. Hence, the precise time frame for filling up the post of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts cannot be indicated.

No recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium for the year 2014 is pending with the Government of India. For the year 2015, the Supreme Court Collegium has conveyed on 1st August, 2018 for remitting two names recommended by the Allahabad High Court back to the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court.

The Collegium System of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts ceased to exist consequent upon the coming into force of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 *w.e.f.* 13.04.2015. The Constitution validity of both the Acts was challenged in the Supreme Court. During the period when the relevant case was pending, only those Additional Judges whose terms were expiring were given extension of service.

The Supreme Court of India *vide* order dated 16.10.2015 struck down both the Acts as unconstitutional and void and the Collegium System as existing prior to the enforcement of both the Acts was declared to be operative.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court of India *vide* order dated 16.12.2015 regarding improvement in the "Collegium System", directed the Government to finalize the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) by supplementing it in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium, taking into consideration factors such as eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints.

As the process of finalizing the supplementation of the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) was likely to take some time, at the initiative of the Government, the matter of continuing the appointment process was taken up with Supreme Court, and appointments of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts are being made in accordance with the existing MoP.

The details of the appointments made in the Supreme Court and High Courts are given below:—

*Position on Appointments in Supreme Court  
& High Courts*

	2016	2017	2018
Judges appointed in the Supreme Court	04	05	04
Appointment of Chief Justices	14	08	15
Judges appointed in the High Courts	126	115	36
Additional Judges made Permanent in High Courts	131	31	70

At present, 143 names recommended by the High Court Collegium have been submitted and pending with the Supreme Court Collegium. Further, 5 names recommended by Supreme Court Collegium have been referred back by the Government to Supreme Court for reconsideration and 27 proposals including those names reiterated by Supreme Court Collegium are under various stages of processing with the Government, as per the procedure prescribed in the MoP.

**Linking of Villages with OFC**

3571. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to link all the villages of the country with Optical Fiber Communication (OFC) network in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) BharatNet Project is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats in the country. Phase-I to connect 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Optical Fibre was completed in December, 2017. As on 30.07.2018, the number of Service Ready GPs is 1,13,549. The implementation of Phase II is

being done through States, Private Sector and CPSUs by using an optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and Satellite) for providing connectivity to remaining GPs.

Last mile connectivity under BharatNet is being implemented through Wi-Fi networks and utilisation of BharatNet by Service Providers.

#### **Security of Stations from Terrorists**

3572. SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action plan of the Railways to ensure safety of trains and railway stations from potential terrorist threats;

(b) whether the Government is considering to install metal detectors at all the railway stations of the country; and

(c) if so, the present status of stations having metal detectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As per Crisis Management Plan (CMP) of the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Home Affairs will step into lead role to deal with any terrorism/security related crisis affecting Railways and Railways will render help and assistance at operational level and will facilitate to deal with such crisis situations.

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

Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by the Railways for strengthening and upgradation. Physical security measures initiated to tackle potential terror threat at railway stations include access control at important Railway stations, scanning of baggage through baggage scanners, erection of morchas, guarding of platforms, yards and circulating areas, surveillance through Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras at 436 Railway stations, etc.

Measures initiated to strengthen security in trains include escorting of 2500 trains (on an average daily), in addition to escorting of 2200 trains by GRP, operationalisation and upgradation of Security Help Line Number 182, installation of CCTV cameras in trains, etc.

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

(b) and (c) Based on the threat perception and vulnerability, security gadgets like door frame metal detectors and hand held metal detectors have been provided at Railway stations to strengthen security of passengers. Presently, door frame metal detectors have been installed at 345 Railway stations across Indian Railways. In addition, 4780 hand held metal detectors are also available at different Railway stations for checking of passengers. Since strengthening and upgradation of security infrastructure is an ongoing process, based on the threat perception and vulnerability, more stations may be identified for installation of such equipment in due course.

#### **Improvement in Current Infrastructure for the Minority Communities**

3573. DR. P. K. BIJU: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any proposals/suggestions for the improvement in current infrastructure for the minority communities to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for substantial funds for physical and social infrastructure development for minority communities in the State; and

(d) if so, the details and the steps taken by Union Government for the fulfillment of Kerala Government's request so far during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (d) During the last

two years, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved project proposals having central share of Rs. 10.93 crores received from the State Government of Kerala for construction of infrastructure in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) under the erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) now renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karayakram (PMJVK). Funds to the tune of Rs. 5.46 crores have been released to the State Government for implementation of projects for creation of school infrastructure. The number of identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) under MsDP in the State of Kerala were 05 falling in 02 districts which has been increased to 73 MCAs falling in 13 districts in the restructured programme called the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram enabling the State Government to widen the coverage.

The State Government of Kerala has recently submitted a proposal to this Ministry for sanctioning of two hostels at Aligarh Muslim University Centre at Malappuram. The proposal was examined in the Ministry based on the guidelines of PMJVK. Since there were certain deficiencies in the proposal the same has been returned to the State Government with the request to resubmit after addressing the deficiencies.

#### **Issue of Receipts to Clients**

3574. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any Law/Rules compelling issuance of receipts to the clients by the legal and medical practitioners in the interest of transparency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

#### **Impact of Foreign Investment**

3575. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of foreign investment in defence sector on the security of the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Government *vide* Press Note no. 5 of 2016 Series dated 24.06.2016 has notified revised Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy on various sectors including Defence. According to the new policy, FDI up to 49% is under automatic route and beyond 49% is through Government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.

2. Further, Defence sector is subject to industrial licensing under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and Arms Act, 1959/Arms Rules, 2016. The licensing application under Defence sector are examined and deliberated by Licensing Committee headed by Secretary (IPP) in Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), an inter ministerial body, which among other things, also takes into account security clearance by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and views of Ministry of Defence (MoD).

3. As regards permitting FDI above 49% in the case of access to modern technology or for other reasons through Government route, Ministry of Defence takes security clearance of MHA while considering the proposal for foreign investment.

4. The licensed Defence companies are required to follow detailed security guidelines applicable to them as per security instructions/architectures prescribed in "Security Manual for Licensed Defence Industries" available at [www.ddpmod.gov.in](http://www.ddpmod.gov.in) based on their categorisation. The Manual provides detailed guidelines on physical security/materials security/documents security/information security etc. The companies are also subjected to external audit by Intelligence Agencies once in two years and cyber security audit by CERT-In empanelled auditors once every year.

5. The Defence items as mentioned in the license, produced by such companies will be primarily sold to the

Ministry of Defence. These items are allowed to be sold to other Government entities under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs, State Government, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other valid Defence Licensed Companies without prior approval of Department of Defence Production (DDP). However, for sale of the items to any other entity, the licensees are required to take prior permission from the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

[Translation]

### Per Capita Income

3576. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

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

(a) the data of national income and per capita income in the country during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether national income and per capita income has grown during the said period;

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

(d) whether the average per capita income in the country during the last four years has been much higher than the average per capita income of previous four years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The estimates of Net National Income (NNI) and Per Capita NNI at constant (2011-12) prices are given in Statement-I. Latest available State-wise estimates of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at constant (2011-12) prices along with yearly growth rates are given in Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The average Per Capita NNI in the country during 2011-12 to 2014-15 is estimated at Rs. 67594 whereas the average Per Capita NNI in the country during 2014-15 to 2017-18 is estimated at Rs. 79882.

### Statement-I

*Estimates of All India Net National Income (NNI) (Rs. crore) and Per Capita NNI (Rs.) at constant (2011-12) Prices*

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
NNI	8578417	9224343	9985060	10681594
Per Capita NNI	68572	72805	77826	82229
Percentage Growth in Per Capita NNI as compared to previous year	4.6	6.2	6.9	5.7

### Statement-II

*Per Capita NSDP at constant (2011-12) prices (As on 31.7.2018)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Per Capita NSDP at Constant Prices (Rs.)			Percentage Growth over Previous Year	
		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72254	78039	86118	8.0	10.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	77044	87965	85356	14.2	-3.0
3.	Assam	43002	44809	50642	4.2	13.0
4.	Bihar	22776	23223	23987	2.0	3.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	61409	61146	63791	-0.4	4.3
6.	Goa	188358	241081	278601	28.0	15.6
7.	Gujarat	102589	111370	120683	8.6	8.4
8.	Haryana	119522	124302	133591	4.0	7.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	98816	105241	112723	6.5	7.1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	54088	50724	59924	-6.2	18.1
11.	Jharkhand	43779	48781	44524	11.4	-8.7
12.	Karnataka	101918	106245	113303	4.2	6.6
13.	Kerala	107846	112444	119665	4.3	6.4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42778	44336	47646	3.6	7.5
15.	Maharashtra	109398	114750	122588	4.9	6.8
16.	Manipur	41441	44101	46389	6.4	5.2
17.	Meghalaya	58681	55936	56039	-4.7	0.2
18.	Mizoram	67594	85056	91845	25.8	8.0
19.	Nagaland	58619	60372	60663	3.0	0.5
20.	Odisha	54109	54211	58165	0.2	7.3
21.	Punjab	93238	95807	100141	2.8	4.5
22.	Rajasthan	61053	64522	68048	5.7	5.5
23.	Sikkim	168897	180675	195066	7.0	8.0
24.	Tamil Nadu	101559	106189	114581	4.6	7.9
25.	Telangana	96039	101424	112267	5.6	10.7
26.	Tripura	54429	58033	64173	6.6	10.6
27.	Uttar Pradesh	34044	34583	36923	1.6	6.8
28.	Uttarakhand	112803	118788	126306	5.3	6.3
29.	West Bengal	53811	54520	57255	1.3	5.0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	94570	100754	106031	6.5	5.2
31.	Chandigarh	180779	183029	197663	1.2	8.0
32.	Delhi	202216	216029	234328	6.8	8.5
33.	Puducherry	129127	117102	128142	-9.3	9.4

### NRI Marriages

3577. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of NRI men, who fled out of India after marrying Indian girls that came to light during

the last three years and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make significant changes in the law pertaining to NRI marriages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said law is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) This Ministry does not maintain the data relating to the number of NRI men, who fled India, after marrying Indian girls. However, it has been receiving and redressing grievances from women deserted by their NRI spouses from whole of India which pertains to abandonment, harassment, cheating, domestic violence by their spouses residing abroad, to ascertain whereabouts of NRI husbands, request for extradition, deportation of spouse to India, request for maintenance, support, divorce or child custody and request for legal and financial assistance to file a case against the NRI spouse.

The Government has taken following steps to address such issues;

- (i) Between January, 2015 and 30th July, 2018 this Ministry (including the Indian Missions abroad) has addressed 4257 complaints of distressed Indian women deserted by their NRI spouses by way of providing them counseling, guidance and information about procedures, mechanisms for serving judicial 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 NGOs empanelled with Indian Missions etc.
- (ii) With an aim to provide financial and legal assistance to distressed women married to NRI spouses by all Missions and Posts, the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) Guidelines were revised in September, 2017. The amount of legal & financial assistance to distressed Indian women has also been increased to US\$ 4000 per case. The Assistance is released to the empanelled legal counsel of the applicant or Indian Community Association/Women's Organisation/NGO concerned to enable it to take steps to assist the woman in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case.

(b) and (c) The Government has accepted the recommendation of the Expert Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Justice Arvind Kumar Goel, ex-Chairperson, NRI Commission Punjab, to look into the issues and difficulties faced by Indian nationals married to overseas nationals of Indian origin, and suggested amendments in existing laws/policies/regulation. An Integrated Nodal Agency has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development. The other members of the INA are a) Joint Secretary (Internal Security) & Joint Secretary (Foreigners), Ministry of Home Affairs, (b) Joint Secretary (OIA-II), Ministry of External Affairs, and (c) Joint Secretary (Legal), Ministry of Law & Justice.

The INA is functioning as an effective body and providing a single window timely solution to the problems of affected women. The INA has so far held eight meetings and has issued five Look Out Circulars against the erring spouses.

*[English]*

#### **Promotion of Digital Transaction**

3578. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes and programmes aimed at improving digital transaction in the country including awareness programmes for the rural populace and the trader community engaged in cash based transaction;

(b) the details of the total number of digital transaction recorded in the country for the fiscal year 2016-17;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the usage of digital transactions in the succeeding quarter after demonetization and a reduction in the usage after adequate supply of currency notes were restored; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government of India has been working with various stakeholders including

Ministries, Departments, States, Smart Cities, Banks and Payment Service Providers to promote digital payment transactions. The following measures have been taken by the Government to promote the digital transactions.

i. **Incentive Schemes**

- MeitY *vide* gazette notification No 6(19)/2017-DPD-1 dated 27th December, 2017 has notified the reimbursement of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges on Debit Cards/BHIM-UPI/BHIM Aadhaar Pay transactions of value less than Rs. 2000 to the Banks for a period of two years starting from 1st Jan, 2018.
- The reimbursement of MDR is aimed to improve the adoption of digital payments by merchants.
- 'BHIM Cashback Scheme for Individuals' has been launched to popularize payments through BHIM APP. The Scheme has been modified and is operational till March, 2019.
- The customer on BHIM app can earn an incentive up-to Rs 150 for 10 unique transactions over the BHIM app.
- The BHIM Aadhaar Merchant Incentive Scheme has been re-launched and the incentive has been increased from 0.25% to 0.5%. The Scheme is operational 1st April, 2018 till March, 2019. In this scheme merchant can earn an incentive up-to Rs. 2000 per month.
- To give stimulus to the deployment of BHIM Aadhaar PoS devices, Government through Department of Financial Services has launched a scheme to provide an incentive of up-to Rs 1800 to the Banks on the procurement of each BHIM Aadhaar PoS.

ii. **Coordination with Banks**

- Digital payment transaction targets have been allocated to the Public and Private Sector Banks for FY 2018-19. MeitY has set targets of 3013 crore digital payment transactions.
- The performance of the Banks is also monitored and evaluated by MeitY through a performance scorecard and a Bank ranking system.

iii. **Advisories to Ministries/Departments**

- Government of India has issued advisories to Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs to improve payments acceptance infrastructure, enable the citizens to pay by a variety of modes such as Internet banking, mobile banking, and mobile applications etc. including use of BHIM, integrate on-line payment portals with BHIM/UPI/QR-code/Rupay Card, Printing of QR code on bills, incentivisation of digital payments and publicity and creation of awareness about digital payments among citizens.

iv. **Publicity Campaign**

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology have conducted publicity campaigns over the following media:
  1. Radio (Wireless Media)
  2. Newspaper (Print Media)
  3. Website (Digital Media)
- For promotion of Digital payments, MeitY along with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has prepared videos in 5 languages that makes users aware about digital payments security issues. These videos are available at <http://www.meity.gov.in/awareness-programs-video>.
- Government of India is also implementing a Scheme called "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2019. Special focus of the said Scheme is on training the beneficiaries on use of Electronic Payment System. The outcome measurement criteria would include undertaking at least 5 electronic payments transactions by each beneficiary using UPI (including BHIM app), USSD, PoS, AEPS, Cards, Internet Banking. As on 6th July, 2018, a total of 1.27 crore candidates have been enrolled, out of which training has been imparted to 1.25 crore candidates, out of this more than 65 Lakh candidates have been certified.

v. **Monitoring**

- In order to create a platform for accurate reporting, monitoring and analysis of all digital payment transactions being carried out across the country, GOI has developed a National Digital Payment Dashboard, which was launched by Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and IT on 13th February, 2018. The same could be accessed at <http://www.digipay.gov.in>.
- MeitY has integrated Digital Payment Grievances along with National Consumer Helpline (NCH) platform of Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) in addition to the existing Grievance Redressal Mechanism of digital payments of the respective banks and NPCI. The Platform is live and is handling Digital Payment related grievances of 45 Banks.

(b) Month-wise digital transactions for the year 2016-17 is as under:—

Month/Year	Volume (cr)
April'17	159.74
May'17	156.77
June'17	152.90
July'17	156.58
Aug'17	158.16
Sep'17	158.35
Oct'17	168.79
Nov'17	174.32
Dec'17	193.65
Jan'18	198.70
Feb'18	190.82
Mar'18	202.18

(c) and (d) No, Sir. With increased Digital payments acceptance infrastructure including POS, QR code and others modes, digital transactions are increasing since demonetisation. Month-wise details of Digital payments since Nov, 2016 is as mentioned below:—

Month/Year	Volume (cr)
Nov'16	91.83
Dec'16	132.93
Jan'17	125.60
Feb'17	111.37
Mar'17	130.64
April'17	159.74
May'17	156.77
June'17	152.90
July'17	156.58
Aug'17	158.16
Sep'17	158.35
Oct'17	168.79
Nov'17	174.32
Dec'17	193.65
Jan'18	198.70
Feb'18	190.82
Mar'18	202.18
Apr'18	207.32
May'18	213.30
Jun'18*	124.64
Jul'18 (25th)*	99.53

\*Note-Data for June'18 and July'18 is yet to be published by RBI.

**Prediction of Rainfall**

3579. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the current mechanism being followed to predict the rainfall;

(b) whether his Ministry is considering to take any steps to devise an intelligent prediction/expectation system with modern analytic tools by using local weather information for prediction of rainfall; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF

ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues three types of forecasts during the monsoon season *i.e.*, seasonal forecast (for the whole season), extended range forecast (10- 30 days), short-medium range forecast (0-10 days). Under the National Monsoon Mission, MoES has implemented two state-of-the-art dynamical prediction systems for short range to medium, extended range and seasonal forecasts. All these initiatives have helped to improve the skill of monsoon forecasts over the country. For the first time, India Meteorological Department used the Monsoon Mission dynamical model to prepare operational seasonal forecast of 2017 monsoon rainfall over India.

(b) and (c) An improved suite of prediction models has already been implemented operationally at India Meteorological Department (IMD) for enhanced short range weather forecasting through assimilation of all available Indian and global satellite data in real time.

Since December 2016 India Meteorological Department is using the Global Forecast System (GFS) operationally every day to generate deterministic forecasts at 12 km horizontal resolution in the short to medium range (Up to 10 days). The GFS assimilates global conventional atmospheric data as well data from the data from satellites and weather radars.

In addition, a high resolution (12 km grid scale) state of the art Global Ensemble Prediction System (EPS) was commissioned on 01 June, 2018 for generating operational probabilistic weather forecasts for 10 days. The EPS will enhance the weather information being provided by the current models by quantifying the uncertainties in the weather forecasts. The above mentioned forecast systems will be improved further for better accuracy.

#### **Vigyan Jyoti Project**

3580. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is bringing out the Vigyan Jyoti Project to enhance the scientific attitude of the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which it will be helpful to the students?

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

(b) Vigyan Jyoti Scheme has been launched in pilot mode during the year 2017-18 to enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science and Engineering. Twelve premier academic institutions from different parts of the country are participating in the pilot project. Under this pilot project, residential programme of 3 weeks was conducted for meritorious girls studying in Class XI. The students participated in various activities including hands on experiments and mentored to pursue higher studies and careers in Science and Engineering. In order to inculcate scientific temperament at early stage, one pilot project was also conducted for students of Class VI to VIII.

(c) Vigyan Jyoti aims to facilitate conducive and Science and Technology (S&T) enabling environment to meritorious girls from Class VI onwards to career level. Easy and affordable access to information, best practices, meeting with role models, career counseling, parents' counseling, knowledge sharing, etc. are part and parcel of Vigyan Jyoti along with handholding of beneficiary girls through scholarship/fellowship.

#### **Depression Among Farmers**

3581. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NITI Aayog has issued a consultation paper which says that more than 70% farmers are living in depression and more than 12% farmers are in severe cases of depression which often lead to suicides; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action 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) No consultation paper on depression among farmers has been issued by NITI Aayog.

(b) Question does not arise.

**Women Reservation Bill**

3582. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:  
SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

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

(a) whether the Government is seriously planning to pass the Women's Reservation Bill before the next Lok Sabha elections, 2019;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has started interacting with other political parties for finding a consensus on this bill which has already been passed by the upper house;

(d) whether serious social and economic imbalance has been created due to lack of empowerment to the women; and

(e) the status of the legal efforts being made by the Government to provide financial assistance for the upgradation of social, economic and political status of women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) It has been endeavor of the Government to provide for reservation of one-third seats for women in the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies. The issue involved needs careful consideration on the basis of the consensus among all political parties before a Bill for amendment in the Constitution is brought before Parliament.

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

[Translation]

**Reservation for Sportspersons**

3583. DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of reservation for sportspersons/athletes in different jobs in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide 25% reservation to sportspersons/athletes in armed forces; and

(c) 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) As per extant instructions on recruitment and promotion of sportspersons contained in Department of Personnel & Training Office Memorandum No. 14034/1/2013-Est.(D) dated 3.10.2013, Ministries and Departments can recruit meritorious sportspersons to Group 'C' posts under the Government of India up to 5% of the vacancies in any year subject to the condition that these including all other reservations do not exceed 50% of the total number of vacancies proposed to be filled up by direct recruitment. These instructions are applicable to all Central Government Civilian Employees and posts except Railways Services and services under the control of the Department of Atomic Energy, the erstwhile Department of Electronics, the Department of Space and the Scientific and Technical Services under the Department of Defence Research and Development.

(b) and (c) At present no such proposal is under consideration.

**Effect of GDP on Economy**

3584. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to check the GDP of the country from getting adversely affected during the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adverse impact on GDP is affecting foodgrain production along with severely denting the economy of the country;

(d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the Ministries to stop such adverse effect of GDP on economy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Madam.

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

(c) No, Madam.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above

[English]

#### **Gambling and Betting in Sports**

3585. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended that gambling and betting in sports, including cricket, be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government plans to enact a model law under Article 249 or 252 of the Constitution for regulating gambling that may be adopted by the States and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has also recommended linking Aadhaar or PAN card of an individual indulging in betting and gambling and making the transaction cashless to regulate illegal activities such as money laundering; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The Law Commission of India (L.C.I) submitted its 276th report titled "Legal Framework: Gambling and Sports Betting including in Cricket in India" to Government on 05.07.2018, wherein it has recommended

that legalizing betting and gambling in India in the present scenario is not desirable, and that a complete ban on unlawful betting and gambling must be ensured.

However, the Commission has said that a complete ban may not be possible. In that case it should be regulated by *inter alia* linking all betting and gambling transactions to the Aadhar Card/PAN card of the operator as well as participant/player and also all transactions should be made cashless.

The report is available on the website of the L.C.I ([lawcommissionofindia.nic.in](http://lawcommissionofindia.nic.in)). The L.C.I has also issued a Press Note clarifying the matter. A copy of this Press Note is also available on the website of the L.C.I.

The aforesaid Report is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

#### **Funding for Fast Track Courts**

3586. SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fast Track Court scheme has been launched as 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central assistance regarding this scheme has been reduced substantially during the last few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether extra burden has been borne by the State Governments for extension of this scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (f) Setting up of subordinate courts which includes Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning 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.

The 11th Finance Commission had recommended a scheme for creation of 1,734 FTCs in the country for disposal of long pending cases and the cases involving undertrial prisoners. The scheme recommended by the 11th Finance Commission was for a period of five years upto 2004-05. The Government accorded its approval for the continuation of central funding of 1,562 FTCs that were operational as on 31.3.2005 for a further period of 5 years i.e. up to 31st March, 2010. The scheme was continued for another one year upto 31st March, 2011. An amount of Rs. 870 crore was released to the State Governments for FTCs during a period of 11 years from 2000-01 to 2010-2011 and Central funding was discontinued beyond 31.03.2011.

In its judgment in *Brij Mohan Lal & Others Vs Union of India & Others* on 19.04.2012, Supreme Court endorsed the position of Government of India that continuation of FTCs is within the domain of the States and directed the States that they need to decide either to bring the FTC Scheme to an end or to continue the same as a permanent feature in the State. A number of States have continued FTCs beyond 31.03.2011 with their own resources.

However, the Central Government decided to provide funds upto a maximum of Rs. 80 crore per annum on a matching basis upto 31.03.2015 from the 13th Finance Commission Award for meeting expenditure on salaries of the 10% additional positions of Judges being created in the subordinate judiciary pursuant to the direction of Supreme Court in the case of *Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India*.

The Union Government submitted a Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission for strengthening of the judicial system in States at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 9749.00 crore, which, *inter alia*, included establishment of 1,800 Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes involving senior citizens, women, children etc at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4,144.00 crore. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution (from 32% to 42%) to meet such funding requirements.

The Government has also followed up the matter and requested State Governments/High Courts for setting up FTCs for expeditious disposal of cases of crimes against women, senior citizens and children as per the

recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.

In accordance with a Supreme Court order, Government is providing financial assistance for running 12 FTCs in 11 States to deal with criminal cases of MPs and MLAs.

[English]

#### **Alternative Arrangement in Place of Employees on Child Care Leave**

3587. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the fact that the office work is being totally disrupted due to absence of women employees on account of the long paid maternity leave and child care leave;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has calculated days and assessed working during maternity/child care leave for making provisions of staff to overcome the shortage or cope up with the work in the absence of women employees who are on maternity and child care leave;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) to (e) Disruption in the office work due to absence of women employees on account of the long paid Maternity Leave and Child Care Leave has not come to the notice of the Government. Ministries/Departments are authorized to make suitable leave arrangements to cope up the loss of work hours when an employee proceeds on any kind of leave including Maternity and Child Care Leave. There is also provision for creation of leave reserve posts to cover the leave vacancies. No centralized data is maintained in this regard.

[Translation]

### Call Drops

3588. SHRI HARI MANJHI:  
SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of call drops reported per day across the country, State/UT-wise and Telecom Service Providers (TSP)-wise;

(b) whether the cases of wrongfully hiding the issue of call drops by the TSPs have come to the notice of the Government and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the erring TSPs; and

(c) the manner in which telecom customers are likely to be compensated on account of losses incurred by them?

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

(a) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, the quality of services including assessment of call drops rate in mobile networks is regulated by TRAI through the notified 'Standards for Quality of Services for Basic (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services Regulations' as amended from time to time.

TRAI has revised the Call drop-rate benchmarks and

### Statement

LSA-wise status of compliance by TSPs, as per TRAI Report for quarter ending March 2018 is listed below:

#### Call drop rate benchmarks:

Sl. No.	License Service Area (LSA)	Non-compliant TSPs as per TRAI Call drop-rate benchmarks	
		Spatial distribution measure (benchmark $\leq$ 2%)	Temporal distribution measure (benchmark $\leq$ 3%)
1	2	3	4

#### LSAs with full compliance by all TSPs.

1.	Andhra Pradesh	All TSPs comply.
2.	Chennai	All TSPs comply.
3.	Delhi	All TSPs comply.
4.	Karnataka	All TSPs comply.

its assessment methodology with effect from 1st October, 2017. The first parameter, Call drop-rate Spatial distribution measure (benchmark  $\leq$  2%) mandates that at-least 90% of Cells in the network should perform better than specified 2% benchmark on at-least 90% of days in a quarter. The second parameter, Call drop-rate Temporal distribution measure (benchmark  $\leq$  3%) will give confidence that on at-least 90% of Days in a quarter, network has performed better than specified 3% benchmark for at-least 97% of the Cells.

TRAI undertakes the assessment of Call drop rates in mobile networks against the specified benchmarks on quarterly basis. Accordingly, LSA-wise TSP-wise compliance status as per Report for the quarter ending March, 2018 is placed as Statement.

(b) No such cases have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) In the case of call drops, the customer is charged for the actual duration of the call *i.e.* till the call drops. However, to compensate the consumers for such dropped calls, TRAI through Telecom Consumers Protection (9th Amendment), 2015 dated 16th October, 2015 had mandated the originating service provider to credit the account of the calling consumer by one Rupee for each dropped call within its network, subject to a maximum of Rupees 3/- per day. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has set aside the Regulation *vide* order dated 11th May, 2016.

1	2	3	4
5.	Kolkata		All TSPs comply.
6.	Kerala		All TSPs comply.
7.	Madhya Pradesh		All TSPs comply.
8.	Odisha		All TSPs comply.
9.	Tamil Nadu		All TSPs comply.
<b>LSAs with non-compliance by a few TSPs</b>			
10.	Assam	M/s Idea	M/s Idea
11.	Bihar	M/s BSNL	All TSPs comply
12.	Gujarat	All TSPs comply.	M/s Tata
13.	Himachal Pradesh	M/s Idea	All TSPs comply.
14.	Haryana	M/s Tata	M/s Tata
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	M/s Idea	All TSPs comply.
16.	Mumbai	All TSPs comply.	M/s Tata
17.	Maharashtra	M/s Telenor	M/s Telenor
18.	North-East	M/s Idea	M/s Idea
19.	Punjab	M/s Tata	M/s Tata
20.	Rajasthan	M/s Tata	M/s Tata
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	M/s Tata, M/s Telenor	M/s Tata, M/s Telenor
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	M/s Tata	M/s Tata
23.	West Bengal	M/s BSNL	M/s BSNL

#### Encroachment on Vacant Land

3589. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:  
SHRI P. KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of illegal occupation of vacant railway land have come into light;

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

(c) whether the collusion of certain officers of railway with land mafia have come into light in such cases and if so, the details of the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether such encroachments have been causing serious operational problems and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Railways thereto; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to remove such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) As on

31.03.2018, out of 4.77 lakh hectare land available with Indian Railways, approximately 844.38 hectare (0.18%) land is under encroachment (illegal occupation). Most of the encroachments are in the approaches of the Stations in Metros and big cities in the form of slums.

The zone-wise details of land under encroachment are as under:—

(As on 31.03.2018)

Zonal Railway	Land under encroachment (in Hectares)
1	2
Central	58.05
Eastern	20.52
East Central	1.99
East Coast	14.21
Northern	202.93
North Central	40.94

1	2
North Eastern	25.63
Northeast Frontier	98.50
North Western	18.53
Southern	58.69
South Central	16.98
South Eastern	147.82
South East Central	43.57
South Western	16.26
Western	39.27
West Central	34.75
Production Units	5.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>844.38</b>

As and when any complaint against any Railway official regarding collusion with land mafia is received, the matter is got investigated. If any involvement of the official is found, appropriate action is taken by following prescribed procedure.

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 throughput which ultimately affects the revenue of Railways which may not be feasible to assess.

Railways carry out regular surveys of encroachment and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of a temporary nature (soft encroachments) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopris and squatters, the same are got removed in consultation and with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments, where party is not amenable to persuasion, action is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 [PPE Act, 1971], as amended from time to time. Actual eviction of unauthorized occupants is carried out with the assistance of State Government and Police.

#### **MPLAD Fund for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**

3590. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total sanctioned fund proposed to be spent from MPLAD fund for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan of the Government;

(b) whether the Government proposes to purchase trolleys equipped with pumps for cleaning of septic tanks of the toilets constructed by the Government in urban unauthorised colonies and rural areas under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan from MPLAD funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the provisions in this regard in MPLAD guidelines along with the amount of the funds proposed to be spent in this regard;

(d) whether there is any proposal by the Government to make amendment in the rules of MPLAD to purchase garbage vehicles for collecting garbage under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Guidelines on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) provide for convergence of MPLADS with Central Government Schemes including Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. As per Guidelines, honourable MPs can recommend augmentation of funds for works under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan out of his MPLADS funds indicating the geographical area and the amount recommended.

(b) to (e) The Guidelines permit purchase of Garbage collection and night soil disposal Systems, earth movers including vehicles for local bodies. However, execution of works in unauthorized colonies are prohibited under MPLADS.

[English]

#### **Water Management in NER**

3591. SHRI BALKA SUMAN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a high-level committee for proper management of the water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER) to facilitate

optimising benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydro-electric power, agriculture, bio-diversity, conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery and eco-tourism;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the outcome and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. A High Level Committee for Proper Management of Water Resources in the North Eastern Region has been constituted with the following Terms of Reference:—

- (i) Appraisal of existing mechanism/institutional arrangements for management of water resources of the North Eastern Region.
- (ii) Identification of gaps in the existing mechanism/institutional arrangements for optimum management of water resources of the North Eastern Region.
- (iii) Suggest policy interventions required for optimally harnessing the water resources for accelerating development in the North Eastern Region.
- (iv) Spelling out of actionable measures required for optimizing the management of water resources in the North East.
- (v) Chalking out a Plan of Action for dovetailing of schemes/programmes of concerned Union Ministries, their attached offices and autonomous bodies as well as the schemes of the respective North Eastern State Governments.

The High Level Committee has finalised the draft report on the basis of inputs of specifically constituted Expert Committee and extensive deliberations among the members on all issues pertaining to water resources in the North Eastern Region.

*[Translation]*

### **Plantation of Trees**

3592. SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extant status of plantation of trees along the railway tracks;
- (b) the number of railway tracks along which trees have been planted so far; and
- (c) the manner in which these trees are being watered and fertilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Railways has about 2.97 lakh hectare of land under Railway track, yard and about 45651 hectare of land under afforestation/plantation. Most of the plantation is in the vacant land along the Railway track. The plantation of trees is carried out through State Forest Department, Contractors and deploying departmental resources. The responsibility to water and fertilise the plants for a specific period is of State Forest Department/Contractors. However, in case of departmental plantation, such activities are carried out by Railway staff.

*[English]*

### **Awareness Campaign for Minority Communities**

3593. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has evaluated the performance of its awareness campaign initiated to create awareness of the schemes/programmes among the minority communities meant for their welfare in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is an increase in beneficiaries of the said schemes/programmes after such awareness campaign;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and scheme/programme-wise and if not, the reasons therefor during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) The awareness campaign is carried out under the Scheme of Research/ Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Schemes including Publicity of this Ministry to create awareness among the six Centrally notified minority communities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains, about the schemes/programmes implemented by this Ministry for their welfare in the country. An evaluation study of this scheme has been conducted in 2014. A copy of this Study Report is available on the website of the Ministry at [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in). Based on the recommendations of this Study, the scheme has been revised and approved for implementation during 2017-18 to 2019-20. A copy of the Guidelines of this scheme is also available on the website of the Ministry at [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

(c) to (e) The Government has taken up multi-media campaign to spread awareness of welfare schemes meant for minorities through print and electronic media, All India Radio Network including FM Channels, and websites all over the country. Pocket booklets and pamphlets on various schemes/programmes of the Ministry are published in Hindi, English, Urdu and other regional languages. In order to directly reach out to the public especially minority communities and spread awareness among them, 'Progress Panchayats' are organized in various places. Regional Coordination and Review Conferences are also held with State Governments from time to time where, *inter alia*, information about the Ministry's schemes is provided. In addition, outdoor publicity is also being done by organizing 'Hunar Haat'. Recently, Hunar Haats have been organized at (i) India International Trade Fair 2016 and 2017, (ii) Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi in February, 2017 and 2018, (iii) Puducherry in September, 2017, and at Mumbai in January, 2018, to further promote traditional crafts/arts, generate employment and strengthen their market linkages.

Awareness campaigns carried out by this Ministry have created positive impact on the targeted beneficiaries

which has resulted in increase in the number of applications received in case of the three scholarship schemes, namely, Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means based scholarship schemes, of this Ministry. Similarly, other schemes of the Ministry have also been benefitted through positive impact on the targetted groups through the nationwide awareness campaigns. The State/UT-wise details of applications received and number of beneficiaries under the said three scholarship schemes are available on the website of the Ministry at [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

[Translation]

#### **Land Acquisition for Construction**

3594. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has completed the works of land acquisition for construction of railway line from Basiyarpur to Mananpur *via* Haweli, Khadagpur, Laxmipur Barhat and from Sultanganj to Banka *via* Tarapur, Belhar of Jamalpur-Bhagalpur rail section under Eastern Railway which is approved for ten years; and

(b) if so, the funds released for construction of both the said rail sections and the timeline fixed for completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Details of two Railway projects in the Bhagalpur-Jamalpur section are as under:—

- (i) The Bariarpur-Mananpur *via* Kharagpur, Lachimpur-Barahat (69 km) new line project was sanctioned in 2007-08. Latest cost of the project is Rs. 250.55 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 19.23 crore has been incurred upto March, 2018 and an outlay of Rs. 0.10 crore made for the year 2018-19. Land acquisition process has not been completed for this project.

There is no such project of Basiyarpur-Mananpur new line.

- (ii) The Sultanganj-Katuria *via* Asarganj, Tarapur and Belhar (76.5 Km) new line project was sanctioned in 2007-08. Latest cost of the project is Rs. 1261.34 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 9.31

crore has been incurred upto March, 2018 and an outlay of Rs. 0.1 crore made for the year 2018-19. Land acquisition process has not been completed for this project. Katuria is already connected with Banka.

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

#### **Mobile Towers in Inaccessible Areas**

3595. SHRI KAMAL BHAN SINGH MARABI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down by the Government for installation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) towers in villages located in remote/inaccessible areas especially in hilly regions;

(b) whether population of villages is the basis for the said norms and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement any scheme to address the problems being faced by the residents of naxal affected and farflung villages who do not have access to phone facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), based on technical feasibility and commercial viability sets up Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs). While installing BTS, BSNL gives priority to villages having population of more than 5000.

(c) to (e) Schemes funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for building telecom connectivity in naxal affected and remote villages, are as follows:—

- (i) **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:** Cabinet on 23.05.2018 has approved a project proposal for providing the mobile services in inhabited and uncovered villages of the LWE areas in 4072 tower locations under LWE Phase-II project with timeline of 18 months from the date of signing the agreement with the implementing agency. Implementation of the project has been initiated.
- (ii) **Uncovered Villages:** Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is in the process of identification of uncovered villages in the country to provide mobile coverage in inhabited and uncovered villages in a phased manner subject to availability of funds/resources.
- (iii) **Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** Project for provisioning of mobile services (2G and 4G) to uncovered villages and seamless coverage on NH223 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been formulated. The project will be rolled out within 12 months from the date of signing the agreement.
- (iv) **North Eastern Region (NER):** Following measures have been taken for expansion of mobile coverage in NER:
  - Under Comprehensive Telecom Development for NER, USOF has signed an agreement with BSNL to install 2817 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 4119 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam.
  - USOF signed agreement with M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited to install 2004 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 2128 villages and National Highways in NER (except Meghalaya).
  - On 23.05.2018, Cabinet has approved revised proposal for provision of mobile services on 2G+4G technology for installation of 2173 mobile towers in 2374 uncovered villages and along National Highways in Meghalaya.

- (v) **BharatNet:** BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayat by laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) or any other suitable media. This network is national asset to be provided to service providers on non-discriminatory basis. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are identifying locations to set up their infrastructure, in order to leverage BharatNet to provide telecom services.

#### **Delayed Infrastructure Projects**

3596. SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of infrastructure projects undertaken by the Government during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the number of under construction projects has increased during the said period and if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
- (c) whether seventy five per cent of the projects are running late and there is no timeframe set for them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) whether the cost of construction for the said projects has escalated by Rs. 2 trillion due to the delay and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) 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 through Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) portal.

As on 31st March of 2016, 2017 and 2018, the number of ongoing infrastructure projects on the OCMS portal were 1076, 1231 and 1315 respectively.

(b) The details of the projects added during last three years on the OCMS portal are available at <http://www.cspm.gov.in/english/archive.html>.

(c) and (d) As on 01.05.2018, total 1332 projects are on the monitor of this Ministry. Of these, 253 (19%) projects are running behind their original project implementation schedules. The revised date of completion has been fixed for all projects.

The factors responsible for delay in the execution of these projects are project-specific and depend on a variety of technical, financial and administrative factors. The details of delayed projects including their reasons are available at <http://www.cspm.gov.in/english/publication.html>.

Government has taken a number of steps to ensure timely completion of on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects. These include: (i) Project appraisal by respective Ministries; (ii) On-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS); (iii) Setting up of Revised Cost Committees in the Ministries for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns and (iv) Regular review of infrastructure projects by the concerned Administrative Ministries etc.

(e) Out of 253 projects running behind schedule, 107 projects are showing cost overruns of Rs. 148,591.33 crore. The details of such projects are available in the flash report at [www.cspm.gov.in/publications](http://www.cspm.gov.in/publications).

[English]

#### **Disruption in Digital Infrastructure**

3597. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of disruptions in digital infrastructure caused by infrastructure related construction activities like laying roads, railways etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and measures taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether there is a huge gap in internet connectivity and digital infrastructure between States depending on the State and their network infrastructure; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor, 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) A Committee of Secretaries has been formed

to examine the possibilities of development of common/integrated infrastructure such as common ducts for utilities. Laying of such utility ducts will address disruption in digital infrastructure caused by infrastructure related construction activities.

(c) and (d) For internet connectivity availability of telecom network is required. The growth of telecom network infrastructure has made possible connectivity throughout the country. However, there are 43,088 inhabited villages in the country which do not have mobile connectivity. The State/UT-wise details of villages not covered by mobile connectivity are given in enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*State/UT-wise details of villages not covered by mobile connectivity*

Sl. No.	State	Number of inhabited villages as per Census 2011	Number of uncovered inhabited villages as per Census 2011
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	396	165
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16158	2745
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	2215
4.	Assam	25372	915
5.	Bihar	39073	263
6.	Chandigarh	5	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	19567	3563
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	65	0
9.	Daman and Diu	19	0
10.	Delhi	103	0
11.	Goa	320	47
12.	Gujarat	17843	1262
13.	Haryana	6642	8
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	211
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6337	328

1	2	3	4
16.	Jharkhand	29492	1222
17.	Karnataka	27397	869
18.	Kerala	1017	0
19.	Lakshadweep	6	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	5558
21.	Maharashtra	40959	6117
22.	Manipur	2515	877
23.	Meghalaya	6459	2691
24.	Mizoram	704	314
25.	Nagaland	1400	328
26.	Odisha	47677	9940
27.	Punjab	12168	4
28.	Puducherry	90	0
29.	Rajasthan	43264	1402
30.	Sikkim	425	13
31.	Tamil Nadu	15049	83
32.	Telangana	10128	647
33.	Tripura	863	16
34.	Uttarakhand	15745	552
35.	Uttar Pradesh	97813	295
36.	West Bengal	37478	437
Total		5,97,618	43,088

**Satellite Driven Surveillance System**

3598. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a satellite driven surveillance system has been developed to detect the illegal mining at various coalfields across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the surveillance system;

(c) whether illegal coal mining at coalfields across the country has caused losses to the Government/exchequer to the tune of crores of rupees every year; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to check pilferage of coal from coalfields across the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS) and 'Khanan Prahari' App have been launched on 4th July, 2018 to monitor unauthorized coal mining activities. The Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) is a web based application which can be used to detect, monitor and take action on any kind of illegal coal mining activities being carried on within the leasehold boundaries in the coalfield areas.

**Salient features of CMSMS:** It uses the platform of National Centre of Geo-Informatics (NCoG), which is a Platform of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY). On this platform, Village level GIS map of India is already available which are being used for e-governance applications of various Government Departments. Coal mining related information has been provided in the form of layers. Presently the layers available on this system are-Coalfield Boundaries, Boundaries of geological Coal blocks (CIL and SCCL), Leasehold Boundaries and Information/report of land reclamation.

Illegal coal mining activity can be detected in 2 ways:-

- Through scanning of satellite data-This will be done at CMPDI wherein satellite data will be scanned to detect any coal mining activity which is extending outside the authorised leasehold area.
- Through report by citizens by 'Khanan Prahari' Mobile application-Any citizen can report any illegal coal mining activity through the mobile app in the form of textual or geo-tagged photographs.

Reports generated through the above sources will be automatically forwarded to Nodal Officers who have been nominated by CIL/SCCL as well as various State Governments. The Nodal Officers will verify the reported activity and take action like filing a police report for taking

action as per law or informing the law enforcing agencies. The action taken will also be fed into the system so that any person can see the status of his complaint through the complaint tracking system in the CMSMS. The identity of the complainant shall not be revealed.

(c) and (d) Law and Order is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State/District Administration to take necessary deterrent action against the persons involved in such unauthorised and illegal activities. As informed by Coal India Ltd., it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal on account unauthorized coal mining activities, however, as per raids conducted by security personnel of CIL as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value during the last three years are as under:-

*Theft/Pilferage of Coal-Subsidiarywise and State-wise*

Co.	State	Qty. Recovered(te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3	4
<b>2015-16</b>			
ECL	WB	4993.27	249.670
	Jharkhand	2645.78	132.320
		7639.05	381.990
BCCL	Jharkhand	12071.40	529.670
	WB	445.84	20.544
		12517.24	550.214
CCL	Jharkhand	99.00	1.050
NCL	MP	0.00	0.000
	UP	0.00	0.000
		0.00	0.000
WCL	Maharashtra	53.00	1.120
	MP	0.00	0.000
		53.00	1.120
SECL	MP	0.00	0.000
	Chhattisgarh	57.50	2.105
		57.50	2.105
MCL	Odisha	63.10	0.631

1	2	3	4
NEC	Assam	0.00	0.000
	Coal India	20428.89	937.110
<b>2015-16</b>			
ECL	WB	7804.76	390.230
	Jharkhand	3500.66	175.030
		11305.42	565.260
BCCL	Jharkhand	12718.85	549.604
	WB	810.44	33.601
		13529.29	583.206
CCL	Jharkhand	147.00	1.470
NCL	MP	0.00	0.000
	UP	3.00	0.042
		3.00	0.042
WCL	Maharashtra	225.15	5.420
	MP	3.00	0.180
		228.15	5.600
SECL	MP	3.50	0.140
	Chhattisgarh	25.00	1.500
		28.50	1.640
MCL	Odisha	57.80	0.380
NEC	Assam	0.00	0.000
	Coal India	25296.16	1157.556
<b>2015-16</b>			
ECL	WB	8667.24	433.362
	Jharkhand	2346.53	117.327
		11013.77	550.689
BCCL	Jharkhand	5093.34	199.113
	WB	537.35	20.198
		5630.69	219.311
CCL	Jharkhand	539.97	15.791
NCL	MP	0.00	0.000
	UP	0.00	0.000
		0.00	0.000
WCL	Maharashtra	261.96	7.634

1	2	3	4
	MP	0.00	0.000
		261.96	7.634
SECL	MP	26.00	0.570
	Chhattisgarh	38.00	0.770
		64.00	1.340
MCL	Odisha	92.53	0.925
NEC	Assam	0.00	0.000
	Coal India	17602.92	795.690

Following suitable steps are being taken by the coal companies to check such incidents:-

- i. Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- ii. Surprise raids/checks are being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.
- iii. Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones.
- iv. Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- v. Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points.
- vi. Training of existing security/CISF personnel, refresher training and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup;
- vii. Maintaining close liaison with the State authorities.
- viii. Committee/task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, State level) in some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.

[Translation]

#### **Toll Free Number Facility**

3599. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any registration charges and monthly fee is paid to BSNL and other Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for toll free number facility provided by them and to continue this facility and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the documents required by BSNL and other TSPs for providing the toll free number facility to any Government and Private company;

(c) whether any fee is charged by BSNL and other TSPs to provide toll free number facility to Government Service like Police (100), Fire (101) and Ambulance (102) and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any kind of instructions have been given to TRAI in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No Madam, there is no registration and monthly fee being charged by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) (including BSNL) for Toll Free Number facility. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) allots toll free numbers to Government agencies. Emergency services (100,101,102,108) are allocated by DoT as non-metered (*i.e.* toll-free for subscribers to dial these short codes). However, Government agencies (Police/Fire/Ambulance) have to procure a landline/mobile telephone connection from any TSP in order to receive the short code calls and to make calls to the subscribers, for which charges are applied by the TSPs as per the applicable tariff plan (that include monthly rental and usage charges, deposits and processing/installation charges).

(b) Toll free numbers are only provided to Government agencies for emergency and public utility services. No documents are required by TSPs for providing Toll free services on the orders issued by DoT.

(c) Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) do not charge any fee for providing toll free number facility for Government services like Police 100, Fire 101 and Ambulance 102.

(d) and (e) No instructions have been given to TRAI by DoT in this regard.

### **Illegal Migration**

3600. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a number of Indians who are migrating to other countries illegally/living in other countries illegally are facing the repatriation process;

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

(c) the procedure being followed to repatriate the illegal Indian migrants;

(d) whether any financial assistance is being given to the people being repatriated; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) Many foreign countries do not provide information on illegal stay or work of Indian nationals in their countries readily, except when they are under orders of deportation. As such, our Missions and Posts do not have any reliable data on the number of Indians staying or working illegally in foreign countries.

When a particular country approaches or informs the concerned Indian Missions abroad about need to deport Indian nationals, the concerned Indian Mission, as per laid down procedures of the Government of India, first verifies the Nationalities of the persons to be deported. After that, if any document is required to facilitate repatriation, such as, issue of Emergency Certificate, if the person/persons do not have Indian passports, the same is issued, so that he/they can be repatriated.

(d) and (e) The Government enables legal travel and stay of Indian nationals abroad. Whenever any detention of an Indian national for violation of immigration and other laws is brought to our notice, our Missions/Posts abroad seek consular access and visit detention centres where Indian nationals are detained. The Mission/Post officials abroad also attend to labour/general court hearings against Indian nationals for violation of immigration laws from time to time. Some of

our Missions/Posts also issue advisories to Indian nationals counselling them to regularize their visas and residency documents in the country of their stay.

Financial Assistance is provided to the people being repatriated whenever a deserving case is brought to the attention of the concerned Indian Mission. This includes, if necessary, bearing legal fees, payment of fine, air fare for return to India. Financial Assistance is provided through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF).

[English]

### Backlog Vacancies

3601. PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has more than one lakh job vacancies presently and if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(b) whether this huge vacancy backlog has had severe impact on rail safety issues and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent rail accidents and take care of rail safety issues with such a serious manpower shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The vacancies of non gazetted staff against sanctioned strength on Zonal Railways as on 01.04.2018 were 2,50,410, the details of which are as under:—

Zonal Railways	Number of Vacancies
Central	21359
East Coast	8731
East Central	18465
Eastern	19558
Metro	798
North Central	16840
North Eastern	13003
Northeast Frontier	16278
Northern	31222
North Western	14402
South Central	16218

Zonal Railways	Number of Vacancies
South East Central	7477
South Eastern	14279
Southern	15700
South Western	5923
West Central	11105
Western	19052
Total	250410

(b) and (c) No, Madam. Sanctioned posts in all categories are more than the actual operational requirement as they also include an element of Leave Reserve and Rest Giver which varies from 12.5% to 30% in safety categories.

Arising 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 requirement.

Further, two employment notifications have recently been issued to fill up 89,409 vacancies. These include 26,502 vacancies of Assistant Loco Pilots & Technicians and 62,907 vacancies of various Level-1 posts, mainly in safety categories.

All possible steps like timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies, safety drives, training of officials, safety inspection at regular interval etc., are undertaken on continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance rail safety.

### Screening of Whatsapp Messages

3602. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to tap citizen's whatsapp messages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether tapping of personal and private data is allowed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); and

(d) if so, the details of the plan of the Government in this regard and if not, the basis of such surveillance, if undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA) (a) and (b) No, Madam.

(c) Article 29(2) of United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 states that "In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society."

(d) Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers Government to issue direction for interception or monitoring or decryption of information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of: (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States, or (v) public order, or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above, or (vii) for investigation of any offence.

#### **Bird Menace**

3603. SHRI P.C. MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether birds are posing a threat to flights including military aircraft and VVIP jets operating from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport due to clogged drain and garbage adjacent to the airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with the Karnataka Government to lean the area to facilitate safe operation of flights;

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

(e) whether HAL is having any other option or alternate schemes to prevent the bird menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) No, Madam. There is no accumulation of garbage adjacent to airport and clogging in the adjacent storm water drain is periodically cleaned.

(c) and (d) HAL has taken up the matter with Civic Authorities *i.e.*, Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) of State Government of Karnataka through Airport Environment Management Committee (AEMC).

Regular Joint Inspection including Aerial Survey by the Sub-Committee of HAL, BBMP & AEMC is conducted to ensure cleaning of area in and around HAL airport, which has led to reduction in bird activities. Further, BBMP has issued notice to Karnataka Golf Association, which is outside the boundary of HAL on the Western Side to keep the water bodies clean and streamline the functioning of Sewage Treatment Plant inside Golf ground.

Several preventive measures including deployment of a Bird Hazard Control Team (BHCT) which also reports exact bird position to Air Traffic Tower Control have also been taken.

(e) In order to prevent the Bird menace within airport, HAL has undertaken the following measures:-

- (i) Periodical Grass cutting, covering of drains inside the airfield with mesh and cleaning of drains to the Airport on need basis.
- (ii) Deployment of Bird Chasers/Zon Guns/Vehicles with Radio Telephone/Bird Hazard Control Team (BHCT) along the runway.

#### **Corps of Military Police**

3604. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives and salient features of the Corps of Military Police (CMP);

(b) whether women are not permitted to join the CMP;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to induct women into the CMP and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has received any proposal regarding the recruitment of women into the CMP and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The role of the Corps of Military Police (CMP) is to assist the Army in maintenance of good order, discipline and prevent breaches of rules and orders by military personnel.

(b) and (c) Women Officers are already serving in CMP.

(d) and (e) Indian Army has a plan for phased induction of women in below Officer Rank in the CMP.

[Translation]

#### **Motihari-Sitamarhi Rail Line**

3605. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:  
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Motihari-Sitamarhi railway line *via* Sheohar which is approximately 68 km long stretch was sanctioned in the year 2007 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether ever after spending approximately 100 crore, Railways have cancelled the project;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is not aware that Sheohar is a very backward region adjacent to border of Nepal and it is still deprived of railway facility since the independence; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) The Motihari-Sitamarhi (78 km) new line project was included in supplementary Budget 2006-07 at an estimated cost of Rs. 211 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 24 crore has been incurred on this project upto 31.03.2018.

The Motihari-Sitamarhi (78 km) new line project was put on hold in view of available railway routes in the adjoining area and negative rate of return of the project. Now a proposal for part execution of the project from Sitamarhi to Shivhar (28 m) is under examination.

[Translation]

#### **Mobile Towers in Madhya Pradesh**

3606. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the

Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken/being taken by the Government to install mobile towers in the remote areas of Madhya Pradesh which are still deprived of them and the time by when the communication revolution is likely to be realised in such far flung areas; and

(b) the time by which Digital India Programme is likely to achieve its objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Government is making all efforts to provide affordable tele-connectivity to all inhabited areas of the country including Madhya Pradesh.

As a result of the continuous efforts put-in by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), total tele-density of wireless subscribers in Madhya Pradesh License Service Area, comprising of States of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh, has shown an improvement from 56.06% in March, 2014 to 66.10% in March, 2018. Rural wireless tele-density has proportionally increased from 33.67% to 43.69%.

Out of 51929 inhabited villages in the State, 46371 villages are provided with mobile services, as on 28th July, 2018 (based on 2018 survey). Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and sparsely populated areas in the State pose some challenges for installation and operations of mobile networks on sustainable basis.

Hence, the Government has been providing necessary support through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) to establish telecom facilities in un-connected areas of the State. As a result, 22 BTS have been already installed under Phase-I of Scheme for mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and approval for additional 26 tower-locations under Phase-II has been accorded.

As part of on-going Bharat-Net project to connect 250,000 GPs in the country, Optical Fiber Cable has been laid to connect 12685 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the State out of which 12661 GPs are service-ready, as on 29th July, 2018. This infrastructure is available to all TSPs on non-discriminatory basis.

BSNL is also expanding its mobile network by undertaking addition of 3021 BTS for 2G/3G services, of which 1120 have been installed by 30th June, 2018.

(b) The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP) envisages Mission 'Connect India' for creating a robust digital communication infrastructure by providing universal broadband coverage at 50 Mbps to every citizen, 10 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and public Wi-Fi hotspots to reach 10 million by the year 2022. The Mission is aimed at promoting Broadband for All as a tool for socio-economic development while ensuring service quality and environmental sustainability.

[English]

#### **Regional Trade Pact**

3607. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Singapore prodded India to speedily conclude a regional trade pact with South East Asian countries and its partners in East Asia including China against backdrop of a push back against free flowing trade by some countries;

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

(c) the time by which the regional trade pact with these countries would be signed keeping in view India's trade interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between sixteen countries namely the 10 countries of ASEAN (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and their 6 FTA partners (also known as AFP's or ASEAN FTA Partners) namely India, Australia, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. All member countries are working towards early conclusion of RCEP. India looks forward to conclude a balanced agreement which would enable gains for all participating countries and help synergize complementarities across the region for greater economic

growth, development and prosperity for our people. India has been striving to strike a balance across key pillars of the negotiations namely goods, services and investments.

(c) The trade pact would be concluded once an agreement is reached among all member countries.

[Translation]

#### **Reconstitution of Railway Zones and Divisions**

3608. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:  
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:  
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the need for reconstitution of railway divisions and zones has been felt in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any demands for new railway divisions and zones have been made in the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken by the Government on the same so far?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Demands for creation of new zones and divisions from various State Governments, elected representatives etc. is a continuous process. After considering the demands received so far, there is no plan for creation of new zones and divisions on Indian Railways at present. However, the feasibility of establishing a new zone in the State of Andhra Pradesh is being examined in the Ministry of Railways, in terms of Item No. 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

#### **Accurate Signalling System**

3609. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken to make railway signalling system more accurate;

(b) whether the Government proposes to use foreign technique in the new Railway signalling system;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated for the new Railway signalling system during the last four years and the details of works undertaken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Signaling system design is a fail-safe design. Any failure of signaling equipment will lead to only safe side failure and will not cause any unsafe situation unless the system is interfered by human being.

In signaling, there is continuous improvement through technological upgradation. The best equipments suitable for Indian conditions available world-wide are being adopted as a continuous process. However, whenever such systems are provided it is ensured that indigenization of the systems takes place in phased manner.

A work for modernization of complete Signaling system on Indian Railways, which includes works of Automatic Train Protection (ATP) has been included in the works programme 2018-19 for implementation on complete 60,000 Route Kilometres (RKMs) on Broad Gauge (BG) network of Indian Railways subject to expenditure on this project to be made only after following due processes/mandatory approvals and sanctions.

(d) Details of the fund allocated and expenditure thereon for Railway Signalling System during the last four years and the current year (upto June, 2018) are as follows:—

Years	Budget Grant (T Rs. in crore)	Funds Utilized (T Rs. in Crore)	Progress of Panel Interlocking/Electronic Interlocking/Route Relay Interlocking (Stations)
2014-15	966.0	1006.0	244
2015-16	853.0	886.3	279
2016-17	958.0	954.2	346
2017-18	2331.3	1256.8	329
2018-19	2025.0	253.84 (upto June-18)	73 (upto June-18)

[English]

### Modernisation of Railway Stations

3610. SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a major programme for modernisation of railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of stations identified and total cost of the projects;

(c) whether any stations in Punjab have been identified for the purpose and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the timelimit fixed for completing the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Modernisation/upgradation of Railway stations is a continuous and on-going process. At present, modernisation/upgradation of stations is undertaken under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. Selection of Railway stations under Adarsh Station Scheme is based on the identified need for upgradation of amenities at the station. No separate fund is allocated for development of stations identified under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. The expenditure on works of development of Railway stations is generally funded under Plan Head-'Passenger Amenities'.

State-wise number of stations identified to be developed under this scheme is as under:—

State	No. of Stations
Andhra Pradesh	46
Assam	28
Bihar	59
Chhattisgarh	17
Delhi	04
Goa	02
Gujarat	32
Haryana	16
Himachal Pradesh	02
Jammu and Kashmir	05
Jharkhand	29

State	No. of Stations
Karnataka	44
Kerala	75
Madhya Pradesh	44
Maharashtra	108
Nagaland	01
Odisha	47
Puducherry	02
Punjab	32
Rajasthan	40
Telangana	25
Tamil Nadu	50
Tripura	01
Uttar Pradesh	152
Uttarakhand	08
West Bengal	384

(c) and (d) At present, 1253 stations including 32 stations in the State of Punjab have been identified under this scheme.

List of 32 stations in Punjab identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme is as under:-

Abohar, Anandpur Sahib, Bareta, Barnala, Bathinda, Dera Baba Nanak, Dhuri Jn., Fazilka, Faridkot, Giddar Baha, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Khanna, Lehrogaga, Maler Kotla, Mansa, Maur, Moga, Muktsar, Phagwara, Rajpura, Sangrur, Sunam, Tapa, Taran Taran, Dhandari Kalan, Bathinda Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot, Mohali, Batala and Tanda Umar.

Out of 32 stations in Punjab, 25 stations have been already developed under this scheme. The remaining 07 stations are planned to be developed by 2018-19.

[Translation]

#### ITI in Rajasthan

3611. DR. RAGHU SHARMA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on construction of information technology institute in Kohda village under Kekadi Tehsil in Ajmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) the number of students who are being taught at information and technology institute every year;

(c) the details of annual budget allocated for the said institute and courses being taught in the said institute at present;

(d) whether the Government intends to start more courses in the said institute; and

(e) the number of staff working in the said institute, faculty-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government has setup a Centre of National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) at Ajmer in Kohda village under Kekri Tehsil in Ajmer district of Rajasthan. The expenditure incurred towards construction this NIELIT campus is approximately Rs. 28.12 crore.

(b) NIELIT Ajmer Centre has trained 317 and 57 students respectively during the Years 2016-17 and 2017-18.

(c) NIELIT has approved a budget estimate of Rs. 371.80 Lakh for 2018-2019 for NIELIT Ajmer Centre. The courses taught at NIELIT Ajmer and various activities undertaken are as follows:-

- NIELIT 'O' Level; (ii) NIELIT 'A' Level; (iii) CHM 'O' Level; (iv) CCC (Course on Computer Concepts); (v) BCC (Basic Computer Course); (vi) PC Hardware & Networking; (vii) Industrial Training in JAVA; (viii) O level Software and Hardware Courses under Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE&T) Project for SC/ST job seekers; (ix) National Digital Literacy Mission Courses; (x) Electronics System Design for Manufacturing Courses (ESDM).
- Apart from above, NIELIT Ajmer Centre is conducting CCC Examination at various Centres on monthly basis and has also organised 11 DigiDhan camps, 3 State level

Workshops and 01 Regional Workshop; Workshop on Swatch Bharat Mission Portal; and National Career Service (NCS) Portal training to Employment Exchange Employees.

(d) NIELIT Ajmer Centre envisages starting Certificate Course in Mobile Repairing and Maintenance, Programming through C/C++, Certificate Course in Android and Certificate Course in Web Designing courses.

(e) NIELIT Ajmer Centre is operated through 03 permanent and 06 contractual staff.

[English]

#### **ICT in Government Offices of North-East**

3612. SHRI NINONG ERING: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for the establishment of Information and Communication Technology in the Government offices of North-Eastern States of India;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in the last three years, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the incentivizing tools and directives issued to reduce the corruption in Government offices by use of IT and IT enabled services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Madam. National Informatics Centre (NIC) has its State Centres at State level and District Centres at District level in North Eastern States. These State and District Centres continuously guide and assist the Government offices in ICT applications.

(b) Details of some of the key ICT projects running in the North Eastern States since last three years are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The above mentioned ICT projects bring in transparency, effective service delivery, good governance and hence reduce corruption in Government offices.

#### **Statement**

State	ICT Projects/Activities in Last three years
Assam	ePDS, Dharitree and Property Registration, Vahan & Sarathi (e-Transport). eProcurement, National Knowledge Network (NKN). eOffice, ePrastuti (203 Govt. websites for transparency). Secretariat Local Area Network (LAN), Websites for districts and sub divisions.
Arunachal Pradesh	Treasury computerization, Vahan (Vehicle Registration) and Sarathi (Driving License) applications RTOs, e-Procurement portal operational for Departments. e-File (eOffice) operational in Civil Secretary CPGRAMS and DC Capital office. Six e-Services launched using Service Plus framework, Information System operationalised. State DBT portal operationalised, Public Finance Management System (successfully integrated with State Treasury), National Scholarship Portal operationalised, GST-GR System (Implemented for Finance Department). eHospital in one hospital.
Manipur	Employment Exchange; IVFRT; Land Records, Registration, Mother Child Tracking; MNREGA. e-District; e-Court CPIS (Personnel Information System); Online GPF; e-Hospital at RIMS-Imphal; Jeevan Pramaan National Scholarship Portal 2.0; e-PDS; Biometric Attendance, e-Office; PFMS; GST Accounting Software, NGDRS, VAHAN 4.0 SARATHI 4.0, Online Treasuries at 18 Treasuries; CMIS e-Salary, e-Way Bill.
Meghalaya	Commissioning of NKN NOC at NIC Meghalaya State Centre. Establishment of VC studio in Main Secretariat Building and Setting up of Video Conferencing at various District Jails and District Courts. Commission

State	ICT Projects/Activities in Last three years
	of the NIC Data Centre. Implementation of e-Gov application for various departments such as: Meghalaya Employee Information System, Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Portal. VAT Computerisation (e-Registration, e-Payment, e>Returns, e-Waybill etc.) Treasury NET Computerisation, e-Skilled Hands Portal, automated Pension Payment System & Live Certificate verification using Bio-metrics, e-Hospitals-ORS (Online Registration System, Online Scholarship Application and Processing System for ST/SC/OBC Students, experts SMS Services to Farmers under ICAR. Setting up of LAN infrastructure in the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADD). Setting up of ICT infrastructure for implementation of e-Prison project at Shillong, Tura and Jowai District Jails. Implementation of the Meghalaya E-Payment System.
Mizoram	CONFONET Consumer Forum network used at 8 districts and State HQ. AGMARKNET for Agriculture Marketing. Mother & Child Tracking. E-Procurement system used. Treasury computerization using Compact. GPF for accounts and Treasuries. Vahan and Sarathi. eRAM Land records application for Land Records & Settlement Department. DM dashboard implemented all districts. Govt. Receipt Accounting System (GRAS for GST) implemented. Public Distribution System (PDS) for Food and Civil Supplies Department. GPF for Accounts and Treasuries. S3waaS project for district websites for 8 districts. CCTNS for Police Department, SPARROW and E-Court implemented. IVFRT/NDAL (Foreigners registration and arms license) implemented.
Nagaland	CM/DM Dashboard, Land Records Computerisation Project (LaPaMs), TPDS- Online Allocation of Food Grains and Supply Chain Management System, Service Plus, Framework based-Online Trade License Application and Issuance System under eMaaS, Online VAHAN 4.0 and SARATHI 4.0, Online GPF System, NDAL-ALIS, AEBAS, Treasury Net (Treasury Computerisation)-Integration with PFMS, Payment Gateway and Rollout, MDM-ARMS, District Website, Mobile application for Online GPF System, NSAP (National Social Assistance Programme), e-Prisons, Issue Management System Plan Track-Application for Tracking and Status Report on Approved Plans/Works/Projects etc., e-Office, Secretariat Gate Pass Application, Online Application Submission and Processing System for Recruitment, Information System(CIS 2.0) and e-Hospital.
Sikkim	Land Records Computerisation implemented in all the Office of District Collectors and Sub Divisional Magistrates. VAHAN 4.0 and SARATHI 4.0 applications implemented in all 7 Regional Transport Offices. All 43 branches of State Bank of Sikkim are under core banking. Sikkim Financial Management System is running in all DDO offices of the State. Online Application Management System for Sikkim Public Service Commission. Seven eDistrict services have been rolled out for District Collectors, SDMs and BDOs and Gangtok Municipal Trade License made completely online. Nine institutes connected through NKN connectivity. State and Central Government offices are connected through lease line or Wimax for e-governance purposes. Six VC Studios have been established in various Governments' buildings to support the departments for VC Session within and outside the State for meetings/workshops/seminars etc.
Tripura	State Data Centre (SDC)-Operational. National Knowledge Network (NKN)-10 links to institutions. E-Office-Implemented. E-Hospital in 21 State Government Hospitals implemented. Vahan & Sarathi is operational.

### Reservation in Jobs

3613. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 49.5% reservation has been provided for the reserved categories in the Government posts;

(b) if so, the percentage of reservation provided

by the Government when a particular designation in a Department has a total number of posts *viz.* four and six, for direct recruitment;

(c) the percentage of posts left for the Unreserved Category/General Category in such allocation; and

(d) the details of provision of the Constitution for lesser percentage of reservation for the reserved categories and consequent disproportionate reverse reservation for the General Category?

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) Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in case of direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition is 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively which comes to 49.5%. In case of direct recruitment on all India basis otherwise than by open competition reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs is 16.66%, 7.5% and 25.84% respectively, which comes to around 50%.

(b) and (c) The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court, in the case of R. K. Sabharwal vs. State of Punjab as well as J. C. Mallick Vs. Ministry of Railways has held that the reservation of jobs for the backward classes SC/ST/OBC should apply to posts and not to vacancies. Accordingly, instructions were issued by Department of Personnel & Training *vide* OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res.) dated 02.07.1997. These instructions provide that for cadres of 2 to 13 posts, L shaped roster will be adopted and in respect of cadres having more than 13 posts, 200 point roster shall be adopted. However, the percentage of reservation remains same.

As per these instructions, the method for making a roster is to multiply each post by the prescribed percentage of reservation for the different reserved categories and the point at which the multiple for a community gets a complete number or oversteps the number will be reserved

for that community, while taking care to evenly space out the different reserved categories and that the percentage of reservation does not exceed 50%. Instructions of 02.07.1997 also provide that persons belonging to the reserved categories, who are appointed on the basis of merit and not on account of reservation, are not to be counted towards the quota meant for reservation.

(d) Article 16(4) of the Constitution enables provision of reservation to backward class of citizens, who are not adequately represented in the State. As per the 9 judge Bench Constitutional judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney case, total reservation cannot exceed the limit of 50%. In the same judgment, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also observed that clause (4) of Article 16 of Constitution speaks of adequate representation and not proportionate representation.

The unreserved direct recruitment vacancies are open to all, including those reserved category candidates, who are selected on their own merit.

[Translation]

### Digital Voting

3614. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/propose to take any steps to adopt digital voting system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

### Expansion of Telecommunication Services

3615. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated/proposed to formulate any special scheme for expansion of telecommunication services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed by the Government to complete the network rollout at gram panchayat level in the country along with the time by which the said target is likely to be achieved;

(c) whether the Government proposes to convert all gram panchayats into e-panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The following Schemes are being implemented/ planned with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of telecommunication services in the country:—

- I. **BharatNet:** BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is being provided at all the GPs in the country. At each GP, 5 Access Points (APs) are being set up, out of which 3 APs are at Government institutions and 2 APs at public places.

In December, 2017, the Phase-I of the BharatNet project was completed by connecting one lakh GPs. A modified strategy to implement BharatNet has been approved by Cabinet on 19.07.2017, which provides an optimal mix of media to connect GPs, implementation by State-led Model, Private Sector, CPSU Model, laying of fresh fibre from Block to GPs and setting up of last mile architecture at all GPs. As on 30.07.2018, the number of Service Ready GPs are 1,13,549. The project is targeted to be completed by March, 2019.

**II. Provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:**

- (i) **LWE Phase-I:** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has executed the LWE Phase-I project with financial support from USOF for

providing mobile connectivity at 2355 tower locations, identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4081 crore. As on date 2335 tower locations are radiating.

- (ii) **LWE Phase-II:** The Cabinet has approved a project proposal of LWE Phase-II for providing mobile connectivity in inhabited and uncovered villages at 4072 tower locations, identified by MHA, in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas in 10 States with an estimated cost of Rs. 7,330 crores (plus applicable taxes) using 2G + 4G technology. The project is targeted to be rolled out within 18 months from the date of signing the agreement with the implementing agency to be selected through a competitive bidding process.

**(III) Mobile coverage of uncovered villages:** The Government has planned to provide mobile coverage in inhabited and uncovered villages of the country in a phased manner subject to availability of funds/resources. DoT is in the process of identification of uncovered villages of the country.

**(IV) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for Andaman and Nicobar Islands:—**

- (i) **Submarine OFC Connectivity between Mainland India (Chennai) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** A Project on Submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity from mainland India (Chennai) to Andaman and Nicobar Islands is being implemented, which will provide necessary bandwidth for providing broadband connectivity. BSNL has been nominated as project execution agency. On the basis of transparent tendering process, BSNL has awarded the work to its vendor on 26.06.2018. The timelines are 24 Months from date of issue of the work order.

- (ii) **Provision of 2G+4G Mobile Coverage in Uncovered Villages and seamless 2G+4G Mobile coverage of NH 223 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** For provisioning of 2G+4G mobile coverage in 144 uncovered villages and seamless 2G+4G mobile coverage of NH 223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, tender has been floated on 04.06.2018. The tentative timelines are to be 12 Months from date of issue of the work order.

**V. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Lakshadweep Islands:**

- (i) Satellite bandwidth for Lakshadweep Islands is to be augmented from 102 Mbps to 318 Mbps by BSNL. The project is targeted to be completed by September, 2018.
- (ii) The project for Augmentation of 2G Mobile Coverage with EDGE Technology in Lakshadweep Islands is under implementation.

**VI. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region (NER):**

A Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region (NER) to install 6673 mobile towers for 8621 identified uncovered villages, 321 mobile towers for National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the NER is being implemented.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing an e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) under Digital India Programme that seeks to transform the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), making them more transparent, accountable and effective as units of decentralized local self-governments. Under e-Panchayat MMP, a suite of core common software applications has been developed to address various aspects of the Panchayats' functioning, including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates, licences,

etc. For bringing transparency and accountability, all records available in these applications are published online and information is available up to the Gram Panchayat level.

**Law to Curb Molestation/Rape**

3616. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:  
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:

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

(a) whether the present law is proving to be ineffective in preventing molestation/rape of children below 12 years;

(b) if so, whether the Government would consider to make a stringent law to prevent this;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up a Fast Track Court for speedy trial of such accused; and

(d) if so, the time by which such measures are likely to come into effect along with the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The Government of India has enacted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 for more effective action by providing for enhanced punishment for rape, aggravated rape, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty and sexual harassment.

Further, the Union Government had submitted a Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission for strengthening of the judicial system in States at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 9749.00 crore, which, *inter alia*, included establishment of 1800 Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes involving senior citizens, women, children, including rape cases etc at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4144.00 crore. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution (from 32% to 42%) to meet such funding requirements. A total number of 727 Fast Track Courts have been set up in the country.

The Government has decided to prepare a scheme to set up fast track special courts to decide rape cases exclusively and to strengthen such courts where they already exist. The Government has promulgated the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 effecting amendments inter-alia in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 such as in Section 173(1A) to provide that investigation in all rape cases shall be completed within two months from the date on which information was recorded by the Officer-In-Charge of Police Station. In addition to this under Section 309 of the Code, a provision has been made that the trial shall be completed within two months. A Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 30.07.2018.

#### **Irradiated Seeds**

3617. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether advanced varieties of seeds have been developed by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) using radiation and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of such varieties of seeds developed using this technology;

(c) whether these seeds are potentially hazardous to health of humans and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the precautions taken/being taken by the Government to avoid such health risks?

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. Using radiation induced mutagenesis along with cross breeding, BARC has developed 42 notified varieties of oilseeds (15 varieties of groundnut, 3 varieties of mustard, 2 varieties of soybean, one variety of sunflower), pulses (8 varieties of mungbean, 5 varieties each of pigeonpea and urdbean and one variety of cowpea), one variety each of rice and jute, which have been released and notified for commercial cultivation across the country. Details are given in the enclosed Statement. Some of the desirable traits in these crops include higher yield, seed size, improved agronomic and quality traits, early maturity and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses.

(c) No, Madam. Crop varieties developed through mutation along with cross breeding are not hazardous to human beings. From the genetic changes brought by radiation based mutagenesis, only desirable changes in crop plants which are beneficial to the farmers and are suitable to different agro-climatic regions, are incorporated and carried forward. After stabilization of desirable changes, new crop lines are tested rigorously in national or State evaluation trials over the seasons and across the locations. Only those lines which have superiority over the local, zonal and national check varieties are released and notified for commercial cultivation.

(d) The new breeding lines developed using radiations (mutants) are evaluated along with the lines developed by other research centres in the trials conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and/or different State agriculture universities in their respective agro-climatic zones. Hence, mutants are commercialized only after systematic evaluation, their superiority over existing varieties, and approval by the recommendation committees as per the norms set by Central and State Variety Release Committees. In view of the above, there is no health risks associated with the mutant varieties.

**Statement***Trombay crop varieties released and notified for commercial cultivation in India*

Variety	Year of release	States	Special features
<b>Oil Seeds</b>			
<b>Groundnut</b>			
TG 1	1973	All India	High yield, large seed, more branches, 50 days seed dormancy
TG 17	1985	Maharashtra	No secondary branches, 30 days seed dormancy
TG 3	1987	Kerala	High Yield
Somnath (TGS 1)	1991	Gujarat	Large seed (70-80 g/100 seeds), Semi-runner type
TAG 24	1992	Maharashtra, Odisha, Karnataka, West Bengal, Rajasthan	Semi-dwarf, Small dark green thick leaves, Earliness (95-100 days), high harvest index, high partitioning %, wider adaptability
TG 22	1994	Bihar	Medium large seed (55-60g/100 seeds), 50 days seed dormancy
TKG 19A	1996	Maharashtra	Large seed (70-75g/100 seeds), 30 days seed dormancy
TG 26	1996	Gujarat, North Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh	Earliness (95-100 days), high harvest index, 20 days seed dormancy, Smooth pods, Salinity tolerance
TG 37A	2004	Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, North Eastern States	High yield, smooth pods, collar rot and drought tolerance, wider adaptability
TPG 41	2004	All India	Large seed (75-80g/100 seeds), Medium maturity (120 days), 20 days seed dormancy, High oleic acid (60%).
TG 38	2006	Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, North Eastern States	High shelling % (78%), more 3-seeded pods, more round seeds
TLG 45	2007	Maharashtra	Large seed (75-80g/100 seeds), Medium maturity (115-120 days)
TG 39 (Trombay Bikaner)	2008	Rajasthan	Large seed (75-80g/100 seeds), Medium maturity (115-120 days), high oleic acid (59%), more number of branches
TGLPS 3 (TDG 39)	2009	Karnataka	
TG 51	2008	Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, North Eastern States	Early maturity (90 days), medium large seed (50-55g/100 seeds), high shelling % (78%), more 3-seeded pods.

Variety	Year of release	States	Special features
TG 47 (Bheema, RARS-T-1)	2011	Andhra Pradesh	Large seed (65-70g/100 seeds), Maturity of 110-115 days
<b>Mustard</b>			
TM 2	TM 2	TM 2	TM 2
TM 4	TM 4	TM 4	TM 4
TPM 1	TPM 1	TPM 1	TPM 1
<b>Soybean</b>			
TAMS 38	TAMS 38	TAMS 38	TAMS 38
TAMS 98-21	TAMS 98-21	TAMS 98-21	TAMS 98-21
<b>Sunflower</b>			
TAS 82	TAS 82	TAS 82	TAS 82
<b>Pulses</b>			
<b>Mungbean</b>			
TAP-7	1983	Maharashtra, Karnataka	Tolerant to powdery mildew
TARM-2	1992	Maharashtra	Resistant to powdery mildew
TARM-1	1995	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu	Resistant to powdery mildew
TARM-18	1995	Maharashtra	Resistant to powdery mildew
TMB-37	2005	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal	Tolerant to yellow mosaic virus
TJM-3	2007	Madhya Pradesh	Resistant to powdery mildew, Yellow mosaic virus and <i>Rhizoctonia</i> root-rot diseases
TM-96-2 (Trombay Pesara)	2007	Andhra Pradesh	Resistant to powdery mildew and <i>Corynespora</i> leaf spot
TM-2000-2 Pairymung	2010	Chhattisgarh	Suitable for rice fallow and resistant to powdery mildew
<b>Pigeonpea</b>			
TT-6	1983	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala	Large seed
TAT-10	1985	Maharashtra	Early maturing
TT-401	2007	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh	High yielding, tolerant to pod borer and pod fly damage
TJT-501	2009	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh	High yielding, tolerant to <i>Phytophthora</i> blight, early maturing
PKV-TARA	2013	Maharashtra	Resistant to wilt and sterility mosaic

Variety	Year of release	States	Special features
<b>Urdbean</b>			
TAU-1	1985	Maharashtra	Large seed
TPU-4	1992	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh	Large seed
TAU-2	1992	Maharashtra	High yielding
TU 94-2	1999	Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
TU-40	2013	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu	Suitable for rice fallows and resistant to powdery mildew
<b>Cowpea</b>			
TRC-77-4 (Khalleshwari)	TRC-77-4 (Khalle shwari)	TRC-77-4 (Khalleshwari)	TRC-77-4 (Khalleshwari)
<b>Rice</b>			
Hari	1988	Andhra Pradesh	Slender grain type
<b>Jute</b>			
TKJ-40 (Mahadev)	1983	Odisha	High yielding

[English]

### Nuclear Power Generation

3618. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the current nuclear power energy generated in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the nuclear power capacity added to the total energy mixture during each of the last three years;

(c) the per unit cost of atomic power energy in the country; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the said capacity and ensure the availability of raw material for the said capacity addition 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)

The details of current nuclear power capacity State/UT wise are as follows:—

State	Location	Unit	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Tarapur	TAPS-1	160
		TAPS-2	160
		TAPS-3	540
		TAPS-4	540
Rajasthan	Rawatbhata	RAPS-1@	100
		RAPS-2	200
		RAPS-3	220
		RAPS-4	220
		RAPS-5	220
		RAPS-6	220
Tamil Nadu	Kalpakkam	MAPS-1	220
		MAPS-2	220
	Kudankulam	KKNPP-1	1000
		KKNPP-2	1000

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	Narora	NAPS-1	220
		NAPS-2	220
Gujarat	Kakrapar	KAPS-1\$	220
		KAPS-2\$	220
Karnataka	Kaiga	KGS-1	220
		KGS-2	220
		KGS-3	220
		KGS-4	220

@ RAPS-1 is under extended shutdown for techno-economic assessment

\$ KAPS 1&2 are under shutdown for Renovation & Modernization activities

(b) The nuclear power capacity added during each of the last three years is as follows:-

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Capacity Added (MW)	-	1000	-

(c) The average tariff of nuclear power in the year 2017-18 was Rs. 3.55 per unit, tariff rate ranging from Rs. 2.06 per unit (in case of the oldest station, TAPS-1 & 2) to Rs. 4.10 per unit (in respect of the latest station, KKNPP-1 & 2).

(d) Yes, Madam. At present, there are nine (9) nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 6700 MW (including 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor [PFBR], being implemented by BHAVINI), at various stages of construction in the country. On progressive completion of these, the installed capacity will reach to 13480 MW by 2024-25. In addition, twelve (12) nuclear power reactors with an aggregate capacity of 9000 MW have been accorded administrative approval and financial sanction by the Government in June, 2017. On progressive completion of these, the nuclear power capacity in the country will reach 22480 MW by the year 2031. The Government has taken measures to ensure fuel linkages from both domestic and imported sources.

[Translation]

#### **Participation of Private Players in Nuclear Power Generation**

3619. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for establishment of new nuclear power plants finalized by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year along with the number of such proposals sanctioned during the said period;

(b) whether central public sector enterprises are being involved in nuclear power generation projects and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to permit private sector in the area of nuclear power generation and if so, the details thereof including the extent to which the private sector is participating in the supply of equipment and services for nuclear power generation in the country; and

(d) the estimated nuclear power generation capacity expected to be generated by the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) During the last three years and the current year, the Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction of the following proposals:-

- (i) Ten indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) each of 700 MW (10 x 700 MW) to be set up in fleet mode.
- (ii) Kudankulam Units 5&6 (2X1000 MW) in cooperation with Russian Federation.

(b) Yes, Madam. Presently, two Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) are involved in implementation of nuclear power generation projects.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration at present, to permit private sector in the area of nuclear power generation. The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 permits Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in setting up of nuclear power plants as a junior equity partner of a Government company.

The participation of the Indian private sector in indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) programme is substantial. The private sector provides plant components, equipment, services in areas including construction, fabrication & erection of equipments, piping, electrical, instrumentation, and consultancy, auxiliary and logistical services.

In respect of Light Water Reactors (LWR) set up with foreign cooperation, the Indian private sector is involved in supply of some of the equipment and in execution of works contracts. The indigenous content in LWRs is planned to be increased progressively.

Further, at present companies in private sectors in India are participating in a major way in setting up of Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor. They are involved in the manufacturing of major equipment & component. They also participate in the supply, erection, testing & commissioning of different systems.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

#### **Passport From Anywhere**

3620. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a new scheme under which a person can apply for a passport from anywhere in India;

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

(c) whether application for passport can be submitted with a mobile app; 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) Yes, the Ministry has launched a new scheme by which an applicant can apply for passport from anywhere in India. But the Police Verification (PV) would be conducted by the Police Station in whose jurisdiction the address mentioned in the form falls and the passport will also be dispatched at the same address.

(c) and (d) Yes, an application for passport can be submitted with the mobile app mPassport Seva App, which was launched with additional facilities on 26 June, 2018. It is a mobile based application which provides the citizens with an optional facility for accessing passport related services apart from the existing website, *i.e.*, <http://passportindia.gov.in/>. The mPassport Seva App is available in Android and iOS platforms and will have the facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services. With the launch of this mPassport Seva App, citizens would not require access to a computer and printer to apply for passport services.

The mPassport Seva App will now support enhanced set of passport services such as:—

- i. New User Registration
- ii. Sign In to Registered User Account
- iii. Application form filing to apply for Passport and Police Clearance Certificate
- iv. Pay for Passport Services
- v. Appointment Scheduling
- vi. Application Availability Status
- vii. Document Advisor
- viii. Fee Calculator

[Translation]

#### **Use of Vacant Land**

3621. SHRI BHARAT SINGH:  
SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared/proposes to prepare any action plan for commercial use of additional land lying with the Railways;

(b) if so, the benefits likely to accrue to the Railways therefrom and the details of commercial activities for which such land has been given; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Railways has about 0.52 lakh hectare (approximately) of

vacant land, which is mostly in the form of narrow strips along the tracks, and is used for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other railway infrastructure. 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, connectivity to private sidings, connectivity to ports and other infrastructure, commercial plots, vending stalls, etc. for which land is leased/licensed. From such usage of land, Railways earned Rs. 5286.96 crore in last 3 years. 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 by leasing the land through open transparent bidding for activities like Commercial Complexes, Hotel, Malls etc. in order to mobilize additional financial resources. At present, 59 land parcels measuring 214 hectares (approximately) where commercial development seems feasible, have been entrusted to RLDA.

[English]

#### **Trains to Tirupati**

3622. SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of trains running between Hyderabad/Secunderabad to Tirupati and vice versa;
- (b) the average number of passengers per day who travel between Hyderabad/Secunderabad and Tirupati and vice versa by Railways;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to introduce non-stop Durgam Express (Night Train) between Hyderabad and Tirupati and vice versa;
- (d) if so, the time by when the train will be introduced; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Presently, 17 pairs of Mail/Express trains are running between Hyderabad/Secunderabad and Tirupati area.

(b) During the period from April, 2018 to June, 2018, the daily average number of passengers who travelled from Hyderabad/Secunderabad/Kacheguda to Tirupati/Renigunta were 3663 while in reverse direction this figure was 3514.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal to introduce a Durgam Express between Hyderabad and Tirupati due to operational and resource constraints.

#### **NRI Marriages**

3623. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is monitoring the rising complaints of harassment faced by brides in NRI marriages abroad and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formed a special body to help such brides and their families in distress, to ensure help in India and abroad and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would consider freezing of the assets of NRI families in India as a repercussion of misbehavior, harassment and physical/mental abuse of brides abroad and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry of External Affairs would work with Ministry of Women and Child Development to identify the women flying abroad post marriage and could arrange regular feedback and check calls for first few years to ensure their safety; and
- (e) if so, the details of any such action plan and timeline, if any, especially for the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) The Government has been receiving petitions from Indian women deserted or harassed by their NRI spouses. In the year 2017, it received 1022 petitions compared to 1510 in 2016 & 796 in 2015. Between January, 2018 to and 30th July, 2018 the Ministry has received and redressed 765 complaints. Most complaints received from them pertain to:—

- (i) Harassment and ill treatment by the husband and his family;

- (ii) Loss of communication with the spouse after he goes abroad;
- (iii) Request for assistance in serving judicial summons for court proceedings in India
- (iv) Assistance in obtaining maintenance and child support from the spouse;
- (v) Request for impounding or revoking passport of overseas Indian spouse;
- (vi) Request for extradition, deportation of spouse to India; and
- (vii) Child custody issues.

This Ministry (including the Indian Missions abroad) has addressed these complaints of distressed Indian women deserted by their NRI spouses by way of providing them counseling, guidance and information about procedures, mechanisms for serving judicial 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 NGOs empanelled with Indian Missions etc.

In addition, with an aim to provide financial and legal assistance to distressed women married to NRI spouses by all Missions and Posts, the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) Guidelines were revised in September, 2017. The amount of legal & financial assistance to distressed Indian women has also been increased to US\$ 4000 per case. The assistance is released to the empanelled legal counsel of the applicant or Indian Community Association/Women's Organisation/NGO concerned to enable it to take steps to assist the woman in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case.

(b) to (e) The Government has accepted the recommendation of the Expert Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Justice Arvind Kumar Goel, ex-Chairperson, NRI Commission Punjab, to look into the issues and difficulties faced by Indian nationals married to overseas nationals of Indian origin, and suggested amendments in existing laws/policies/regulation. An Integrated Nodal Agency has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development. The other members of the INA are

- (a) Joint Secretary (Internal Security) & Joint Secretary (Foreigners), Ministry of Home Affairs, (b) Joint Secretary (OIA-II), Ministry of External Affairs, and (c) Joint Secretary (Legal), Ministry of Law & Justice.

The INA is functioning as an effective body and providing a single window timely solution to the problems of affected women. The INA has so far held eight meetings and has issued five Look Out Circulars against the erring spouses.

[Translation]

#### **Laying of New Railway Lines**

3624. SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foundation stone was laid at Jhabua for laying of new railway line for the Indore-Godhara *via* Dhar-Sardarpur and Jhabua route and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it was decided to lay a new rail line between Ratlam and Dungerpur and if so, the present estimated cost of the above-mentioned rail line;

(c) whether land acquisition and other formalities have been completed for the said purpose and if so, the present status of the aforesaid project;

(d) whether there has been inordinate delay in completion of the above said projects and if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the progress of the work on the Dhar-Sardarpur-Jhabua block is extremely slow and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether adequate budgetary provisions have not been made by the Government for the said projects and the date by which the said projects are likely to be completed and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Godhra-Dahod section is already an existing double broad gauge electrified section. Further, Dahod-Indore *via* Sardarpur, Jhabua & Dhar (200.97 km) new line project was included in the Budget 2007-08 and foundation stone for this project was laid at Jhabua by the then Hon'ble Prime Minister on 08.02.2008.

(b) to (d) Ratlam-Dungarpur *via* Banswara (188.85 km) new line project was sanctioned in the Budget of 2011-12 with a commitment from Government of Rajasthan to provide land free of cost and to share 50% construction cost of the project as per Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the State Government. Subsequently, State Government did not agree to provide land free of cost and to share 50% construction cost of the project. Hence, construction activities on the project have been stopped on as is where is basis.

(e) and (f) Dhar-Sardarpur-Jhabua section (104.66 km) involves construction of tunnels and viaducts. All land acquisition papers have been submitted to the State Government. Execution at the site will be taken up once the land acquisition is completed.

This project did not get the adequate fund allocation till 2013-14, but subsequently the project is getting enhanced fund allocation. Completion of the project will depend on acquisition and transfer of land.

[English]

#### **Allocation of Funds for Space Technology**

3625. SHRI VINOD LAKHMASHI CHAVDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the funds allocated for the development of space technology during the last three years and the current year?

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): The funds allocated to DOS/ISRO under the head "Space Technology" during the last three years and the current year are as given below:—

Financial year	Allocation (RE) (Rs. in crores)
2015-16	4150.83
2016-17	4586.05
2017-18	5984.42
2018-19 (current year BE)	6576.02

#### **Digital Transaction of Cash**

3626. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for digital transaction of cash in various sectors, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): The steps taken by the Government for Digital Transaction of cash in various sectors as per inputs from Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), the nodal Ministry for digital transactions are:—

Government of India has been working with various stakeholders including Ministries/Departments/State Governments/Banks to promote digital payment transactions to make it more convenient for the citizens. A dedicated DigiDhan mission was set up with an aim to promote digital transactions. Digital payment App 'BHIM-Bharat Interface for Money' was launched on 30th December, 2016. Government has taken following initiatives to encourage digital transactions in the country:

#### **1. Expansion of payment acceptance infrastructure:—**

- As per the budget announcement for FY 2017-18, Banks were allocated a target to deploy 10 Lakh additional Point of Sales (PoS) terminals. Against this target, Banks installed 12.33 Lakh new PoS terminal. Currently a total of 33.20 Lakh PoS (till May, 2018) terminals have been deployed in the country. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has further allocated a target to deploy 20 Lakh additional PoS terminals by the Banks in FY 2018-19.
- BHIM Aadhaar Pay enables citizens without smart phones to make digital payments by using biometric authentication. Around 5.56 Lakh BHIM Aadhaar PoS have been deployed by the Banks till May, 2018.
- Bharat QR 4.0 with a provision of accepting QR based payment payments using UPI was launched on 10th August, 2017. By 30th April, 2018, 26 Banks have been made live

on Bharat QR as acquirer and 38 Banks have been made live on BHIM UPI PSP App. Till May 2018, Bharat QR was installed at 11.08 Lakh merchant locations.

### 1. Incentive Schemes

- MeitY *vide* gazette notification No 6(19)/2017-DPD-1 dated 27th December, 2017 has notified the reimbursement of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges on Debit cards/BHIM-UPI/BHIM Aadhaar Pay based transactions of value less than Rs. 2000 to the Banks for a period of two years starting from 1st Jan, 2018. The reimbursement of MDR is aimed to improve the adoption of digital payments by merchants specially the small and micro merchants.
- 'BHIM Cashback Scheme for Individuals' has been launched to popularize payments through BHIM APP. The Scheme have been modified and is operational till March, 2019. The customer on BHIM app can earn an incentive up-to Rs. 150 on 10 unique transactions over the BHIM app.
- The BHIM Aadhaar Merchant Incentive Scheme has been re-launched and the incentive has been increased from 0.25% to 0.5%. The Scheme is operational 1st April, 2018 till March, 2019. In this scheme merchant can earn an incentive up-to Rs 2000 per month.
- To give impetus to the deployment of BHIM Aadhaar PoS devices, Department of Financial Services has launched a scheme to provide an incentive of up-to Rs 1800 to the Banks on the procurement of each BHIM Aadhaar PoS.

### 2. Coordination with Banks

- Digital payment transaction targets have been allocated to the Public and Private Sector Banks for FY 2018-19 and a target of 3013 crore digital payment transactions has been set.

- The performance of the Banks is also monitored and evaluated by MeitY through a performance scorecard and a Bank ranking system.

### 3. Advisories to Ministries/Departments

- Government of India has issued advisories to Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs to improve payments acceptance infrastructure, enable the citizens to pay by a variety of digital modes such as Internet banking, mobile banking, and mobile applications etc. including use of BHIM, integrate on-line payment portals with BHIM/UPI/QR-code/Rupay Card, printing of QR code on bills, incentivisation of digital payments and publicity and creation of awareness about digital payments among citizens.

#### Publicity Campaign

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has initiated the publicity campaign through following mediums till now:—

1. Radio (Wireless Media)
2. Newspaper (Print Media)
3. Website (Digital Media)

### 4. Monitoring, Analysis and Grievances

- In order to create a platform for accurate reporting, monitoring and analysis of all digital payment transactions being carried out across the country, GOI has developed a National Digital Payment Dashboard, which was launched by Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and IT on 13th February, 2018. The same could be accessed at <http://www.digipay.gov.in>.
- In coordination with Department of Financial Services, necessary instructions have been issued to on board all Banks, Payment Banks and PPI (Pre Paid Instrument)

Service Providers in the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) platform for becoming as convergence partners. Accordingly, almost 56 banks and other financial service institutions have been on boarded into NCH Platform. NPCI has also been integrated as a convergence partner in National Consumer Helpline (NCH) platform. Thus the NCH platform is live and receiving Digital Payment related grievances.

**Additionally, for promotion of Digital Payments the following steps have been taken by the Department of Telecom:—**

1. The Department of Telecom was assigned a target of 563 cr. transactions, which was distributed among the TSPs based on their market share.
2. **Incentives were given to promote Digital Payments**-The Department instructed TSPs to incentivize digital transactions in the form of cash backs, extra talk time and/or extra data to shift customers from cash based to cashless mode.
3. **Advisories were issued to PSUs/TSPs/ISPs on Digital Payments for:—**
  - a. Integration of their system with BHIM/UPI to enable interoperability of applications.
  - b. On boarding the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to enable single window for all utilities.
  - c. Display of BHIM QR/BHARAT QR on its physical/e-bills, retail stores and touch points.
  - d. Circulation and Promotion of MeitY incentive schemes on BHIM and BHIM Merchant Pay to all TSPs/ISPs for dissemination to their consumer base for wider circulation among the public.
  - e. Inclusion of Digital Payments topics as an agenda item in Consumer Advocacy group meetings.
  - f. Advertisements of digital payments through SMS blasts, workshops, display of incentives at touch points (like YouTube, hoardings, visual ads etc.) of TSPs etc.
4. National level workshops were organized by DOT HQ and regional workshops across India were conducted in telecom circles.
5. **For the Department of Telecom:—**
  - (a) 100% of Government receipts to DoT have been enabled digitally via Non Tax Revenue Portal. Collection of DoT revenue is received through the non-tax revenue portal (NTRP) only.
  - (b) Digital Payments constitute 99.3% of all payments from the Department of Telecom.
6. **As a result of the steps taken in 2017-18—**
  - (a) All TSPs have on boarded UPI.
  - (b) TSPs promoted the mandated payment systems by way of SMS blasts issued to their subscribers without any charges.
  - (c) All TSPs except one, offering postpaid services, are on BBPS
  - (d) The target achieved on all digital transactions is 212 crore. by including transactions through mobile balances, the figure comes to 1246 cr transactions, which has exceeded digital transaction targets.
7. **For the current year 2018-19 additional activities will include:—**
  - (a) Launching e-learning module for middle management level officers in conjunction with Niti Aayog at the National Institute of Communication Finance, Delhi.
  - (b) **Digital Payments Mission For Smart Cities** project monitored by the PMO will be launched with special focus on retailers in each telecom circle. Special efforts are being taken by DoT HQ and field offices to collect retailer information, digital enablement and promote digital use at retailer front to ensure acceptance infrastructure is optimum for use of telecom customers.

**Railway Line between Adilabad to Gadchandur**

3627. SHRI GODAM NAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide Railway Line between Adilabad to Gadchandur (Maharashtra); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Survey for new Broad Gauge line between Adilabad to Gadchandur (70.19 Km) at a construction cost of Rs. 448.38 crore and ROR of (+) 3.59% was examined in detail in Railway Board. In view of meager traffic projections, heavy capital outlay and poor ROR, the project could not be taken forward. However, the proposal has been included in Capital Investment Programme 2016-17 at a cost of Rs. 1500 crore in anticipation that JV company of Government of Telangana will take up the project.

**Escalators at Stations**

3628. SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to provide escalators in all those Railway Stations where the foot-fall is more than 25,000 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has made a list of all those Railway Stations where the foot-fall is more than 25,000 and whether any budgetary allocation for this project has been made;

(c) if so, the amount so allocated during the current financial year; and

(d) the period that has been fixed by the Government to complete the project?

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

Madam. Railways does not propose to provide escalators at all railway stations, where the average foot-fall is around 25,000 per day. As per the revised policy guidelines of Indian Railways, Escalators are to be provided at end platforms of railway stations having average footfall of more than one lakh passengers per day. List of all stations on Indian Railways with their corresponding average foot-fall per day is available.

About Rs. 55.90 crore has been allocated for provision of Escalators in the current financial year and all ongoing/sanctioned work for the provision of escalators are targeted to be completed by 2020-21.

*[Translation]*

**Railway Projects**

3629. SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH BHOLE:  
SHRI SARFRAZ ALAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway projects being run across the country;

(b) the State-wise details of the works of construction of new rail lines, gauge conversion, electrification and doubling etc. projects especially of Purnia, Araria and Kishanganj rail line;

(c) the estimated time and cost of completing the said projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the said projects in time especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) State-wise details of projects of New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification including Purnia, Araria and Kishanganj included in Budget which are in different stages of execution/planning are as under:—

Name of State	No. of projects*			
	New Line	Gauge Conversion	Doubling	Electrification
Assam and North Eastern Region	15	-	6	3
Andhra Pradesh	18	-	15	6
Bihar	34	5	14	12
Chhattisgarh	8	-	9	1
Delhi	1	-	5	1
Gujarat	4	25	13	7
Goa	-	-	-	1
Haryana	7	1	4	8
Himachal Pradesh	4	-	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	1	-	2	-
Jharkhand	14	-	18	6
Karnataka	16	-	15	8
Kerala	2	-	8	1
Madhya Pradesh	8	5	25	11
Maharashtra	12	4	18	13
Odisha	10	-	25	4
Punjab	6	-	9	5
Rajasthan	10	6	16	11
Telangana	9	-	5	3
Tamil Nadu	8	5	11	4
Uttar Pradesh	15	8	61	24
Uttarakhand	3	-	1	2
West Bengal	18	4	39	4

\* Some of the projects fall in more than one State.

(c) The completion of Railway projects requires clearance from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities etc., which affect the pace and timely execution of projects, hence no time frame can be given. Further, the details of all works included in budget including funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e.* [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) and are also available in Pink Books presented before the House alongwith Budget every year.

(d) For timely completion of the projects, Railways is holding regular meetings with State Government and concerned Central Government officials on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law & order problems, shifting of utilities etc.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc, institutional financing has been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for 1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

*[English]***NERAMAC**

3630. KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to revive North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC);

(b) if so, the details of the measures being undertaken and expected timeline for its operationalisation; and

(c) the State-wise data on any new food processing units being set up in the region to promote export?

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. A Techno-Economic Viability Study for revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) has been conducted by North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi). The report of NEDFi was sent to IIM Shillong for validation, which has examined the report and submitted its observations.

(c) Data on new food processing unit being set up exclusively to promote exports is not maintained in the Ministry. However, the number of units sanctioned by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries since the last 2 years under their demand driven schemes is 6 in Nagaland, 3 in Manipur, 2 each in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and 1 in Tripura.

**Bio-Metric Attendance System**

3631. SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bio-metric attendance has been made mandatory in Central Government offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of Government offices yet to introduce Bio-metric attendance system;

(c) whether any survey has been undertaken to assess the outcome of manpower before and after introduction of Bio-metric attendance system; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE 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 decided to use an AADHAR Enabled Bio-metric Attendance System (AEBAS) in all offices of Central Government in India as an enabling platform for marking of attendance. Accordingly, instructions were issued to all the Ministries/Departments on 28.01.2015 that necessary directions may be issued to all employees to mark their attendance on the Biometric Attendance Portal on regular basis.

(b) No centralized data is available in respect of number of Government offices yet to introduce Bio-metric attendance system. However, as per the information collected, 5049 Central Government offices are registered on attendance portals as on July, 2018.

(c) No survey has been undertaken by the Government to assess the outcome of manpower before and after introduction of Bio-metric attendance system.

(d) Does not arise.

**Atal Innovation Mission**

3632. SHRI GEORGE BAKER:

SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:

SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Atal Innovation Mission.

(b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under this mission since its inception across the country, State/UT-wise

(c) the details of the targets set and achievements made under this mission so far;

(d) whether the Government has seen steady improvement since its inception across the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the action 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 (e) **Salient Features of Atal Innovation Mission** Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country.

#### **Objective**

Atal Innovation Mission's (AIM) objective is to serve as a platform for promotion and facilitation of Innovation Hubs, Innovation Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

**The Atal Innovation Mission has two core functions:—**

- Entrepreneurship promotion wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs through Startup mentoring;
- Innovation promotion: to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated and nurtured for deployment;

AIM's current flagship Schemes include establishing Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Incubation Centers, providing scaling up support to Established Incubation Centers, and finding ultra-low cost solution to India's most intractable problems through Atal New India Challenges in partnership with 5 Union Government Ministries. Additionally, other programs to support innovation in the country are being designed.

#### **(1) Atal Tinkering Labs:**

ATL is a work space where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands on do-it-yourself mode; and learn innovation skills. Young children will get a chance to work with tools and equipment to understand the concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. ATL would contain educational and learning 'do it yourself' kits and equipment on-science, electronics, robotics, open source microcontroller boards, sensors and 3D printers and computers. Other desirable facilities include meeting rooms and video conferencing facility.

In order to foster inventiveness among students, ATL can conduct different activities ranging from regional and national level competitions, exhibitions, workshops on problem solving, designing and fabrication of products, lecture series etc. at periodic intervals.

#### **Financial Support**

AIM will provide grant-in-aid of Rs. 20 lakh to each school that includes a one-time establishment cost of Rs. 10 lakh and operational expenses of Rs. 10 lakh for a maximum period of 5 years to each ATL. The financial details and targets are given in enclosed Statement.

Till date, AIM has selected 5441 schools for setting up of ATLs in their institution. Out of these, 3000 were selected in June-2018 and are yet to complete their compliance stage for getting the funds; 1877 schools have already been given Grant-in-aid to setup ATL and the rest are in the process of documentary compliance and verification. The total amount disbursed towards this programme is Rs. 225.24 cr. State-wise grant disbursement details are given below:—

State	Number of Schools	Rs. in crores
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Island	3	0.36
Andhra Pradesh	144	17.28
Arunachal Pradesh	12	1.44
Assam	46	5.52
Bihar	39	4.68
Chandigarh	11	1.32
Chhattisgarh	73	8.76
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	0.24
Delhi	83	9.96
Goa	11	1.32
Gujarat	100	12.00
Haryana	79	9.48
Himachal Pradesh	22	2.64
Jammu and Kashmir	27	3.24
Jharkhand	35	4.20
Karnataka	145	17.40
Kerala	160	19.20
Madhya Pradesh	98	11.76
Maharashtra	165	19.80
Manipur	15	1.80
Meghalaya	8	0.96
Mizoram	9	1.08
Nagaland	9	1.08
Odisha	66	7.92
Puducherry	5	0.60
Punjab	57	6.84
Rajasthan	63	7.56
Sikkim	9	1.08
Tamil Nadu	119	14.28
Telangana	47	5.64
Tripura	8	0.96
Uttar Pradesh	133	15.96

1	2	3
Uttarakhand	19	2.28
West Bengal	55	6.60
Grand Total	1877	225.24

### (2) Atal Incubation Centre:

The objective of establishing AICs would be to create incubation facilities across various parts of India with suitable physical infrastructure in terms of capital equipment and operating facilities, coupled with the availability of sectoral experts for mentoring the start-ups, business planning support, access to seed capital, industry partners, trainings and other relevant components required for encouraging innovative start-ups. Moreover, AICs would be established in subject specific areas such as manufacturing, transport, energy, health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation etc.

#### Eligibility

Entities such as higher educational institutions, R&D institutes, corporate sector, alternative investment funds registered with SEBI, business accelerators, group of individuals, and individuals are eligible to apply.

#### Financial Support

AIM will provide a grant-in-aid of upto Rs. 10 crore for a maximum period of 5 years to cover the capital and operational expenditures to establish the AIC.

### (3) Scale-up Support to Established Incubation Centres

AIM envisages to augment capacity of the Established Incubation Centres in the country. It will provide financial scale-up support to enable Established Incubation Centres. The scheme would radically transform the start-up ecosystem in the country by upgrading the Established Incubation Centres to world-class standards.

#### Eligibility

- EIC must have been in operations for a minimum of three years as of 1st August, 2017.
- EIC should be registered in India as public, private or public-private partnership.

**Financial Support**

AIM will provide a grant-in-aid of up to Rs. 10 crore in two or more annual instalments

**Present status of AIM Supported Incubation Centre:**

AIM has shortlisted 101 applicants for its AIC and EIC programmes. Out of these, 18 incubators have already been given Grant-in-aid to establish and scale-up Incubation Centres, and the rest will be provided the Grant-in-aid upon successful completion of their documentary compliance and due diligence as per AIC/EIC Guidelines. The total amount disbursed towards this programme is Rs.49.99 cr. State-wise grant disbursement details are given below:—

State	No. of Incubators	Rs. in cr.
Andhra Pradesh	1	1.69
Chhattisgarh	1	3.86
Delhi	2	3.98
Goa	1	1.82
Gujarat	1	3.06
Karnataka	2	5.00
Kerala	1	2.50
Madhya Pradesh	1	1.19
Maharashtra	1	1.10
Rajasthan	1	1.58
Uttar Pradesh	2	3.69
Tamil Nadu	2	10.73
Telangana	2	9.78
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>49.99</b>

**Statement**

*Details of AIM financials are as follows*

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Rupees in crores
				Actual Expenditure
1.	2016-17	154.00	128.15	76.33
2.	2017-18	115.50	150.00	138.16
3.	2018-19	200.00	200.00	88.96 (as on 30.07.2018)
<b>Total</b>		<b>469.50</b>	<b>478.15</b>	<b>303.45*</b>

\*Out of this 303.45 cr, amount spent on the flagship programmes of AIM is as follows:

- Rs. 225.24 cr has been the disbursed amount for Atal Tinkering Labs

- Rs. 49.99 cr has been disbursed towards setting up Atal Incubation Centres and providing scale-up support to Established Incubation Centres.

*Details of the targets set and achievements made under AIM so far*

Sl.No.	Name of the Initiative	Targets	Achievements
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**2016-17****1. AIM Initiatives (Ongoing Commitments)**

(a)	Established Incubation Centres (EICs)	06	06
(b)	Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)	457	331
(c)	Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)	--	--
(d)	Atal Grand Challenges (AGCs)	02	--

**2017-18**

(a)	Established Incubation Centres (EICs)	--	--
(b)	Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)	--	788
(c)	Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)	14	10
(d)	Atal Grand Challenges (AGCs)	02	--

**2018-19 (as on 30.07.2018)**

(a)	Established Incubation Centres (EICs)	--	--
(b)	Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)	--	758
(c)	Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)	--	02
(d)	Atal Grand Challenges (AGCs)	02	--

**Overall impact of initiatives undertaken by AIM:**

Atal Innovation Mission has been instrumental in driving a tinkering and innovation mindset across the country after successfully setting up of ATLS, AICs and EICs throughout the length and breadth of the country. While the process of setting up of the remaining centres is on-going, the country is witnessing some amazing innovations flourishing from grassroot levels.

AIM has nationwide tinkering marathon to identify the innovations coming through its ATL programme. There have been nationwide 100 remarkable innovations identified for final review of the entries received from schools where ATLS have been functioning in full-swing. Out of these 100, schools with top 30 innovations were called and lauded for their achievement at NITI Aayog in April, 2018.

Further, a broad-level research to study the impact of AIM's programmes will be conducted once the programmes are full-fledged and at least 2 year has passed after establishment and on ground operations of ATLS and AICs/EICs after setup in the country.

*[Translation]*

**Wardha-Nanded Railway Line**

3633. SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to connect Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded railway line with Nagpur-Goa railway line;

(b) whether Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded railway line is being constructed in phases;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the funds allocated by the Government so far for completing this work speedily and the time by which the construction of missing link is likely to be completed; and

(e) the time by which the construction work of above-said line is likely to be completed and whether any time-limit 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) to (e) Wardha-Nanded *via* Yavatmal-Pusad (284 km) new line project

has been taken up on cost sharing basis with Government of Maharashtra (Railways 60% and GoM 40%). Latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 3169 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 714.72 crore has been incurred upto March, 2018 and an outlay of Rs. 379 crore has been provided in 2018-19.

The project is being constructed in two phases as the project is lengthy: (i) Wardha to Yavatmal (78 km) and (ii) Yavatmal to Nanded (206 km).

Earthwork and work of major bridges/minor bridges /RUBs have been taken up in Wardha-Kalamb section of Phase-I.

Target date of completion can be fixed only after complete land acquisition. 694.08 Ha. land has been acquired out of 1678.48 Ha.

*[English]*

**Safety from Fake News**

3634. SHRI HARISH MEENA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to educate people to stay safe from fake information being circulated on social media;

(b) whether the Government proposes to create a platform where a citizen can identify fake news or hoaxes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government has taken several initiatives for user awareness relating to cyber safety. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues advisories about cyber safety and security. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), through a program namely Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using Internet and advice not to share rumours/fake news. Government has also asked WhatsApp to convey various steps taken by them to deal with fake news and also to share learning material to educate the same.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no such proposal with MeitY.

[Translation]

### Passport Seva Kendras

3635. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) running in the country at present;

(b) the State-wise details thereof including Jharkhand;

(c) the places where the service of making passport through post offices has been started in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposals or is considering to set up post office PSKs; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started in Chatra and Latehar districts of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (d) There are 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and 215 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) jointly known as 308 Passport Kendras functioning across the country as on 02 August, 2018 Statement-I and II.

(e) The Ministry has announced opening of ten POPSK in the State of Jharkhand at Bokaro, Chatra, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, Giridih, Hazaribagh, Jamshedpur, Lohardaga and Medininagar. Out of these seven are functional as on 02 August, 2018 at Bokaro, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, Hazaribagh, Jamshedpur and Medininagar. The opening of more Passport Kendras is an on-going activity including in Latehar. The Post Office Passport Seva Kendras are being set up in association with the Department of Posts in order to bring passport services closer to people residing in villages/remote/rural areas of the country including Latehar district of Jharkhand.

### Statement-I

#### State-wise List of Passport Kendras

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number	Location
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Bhimavaram
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Itanagar
3.	Assam*	1	Guwahati
4.	Bihar	2	Patna, Darbhanga
5.	Chandigarh UT**	1	Chandigarh
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur
7.	Delhi NCT***	3	Herald House, Shalimar Place, Bhikaji Cama Place
8.	Goa	1	Panaji
9.	Gujarat	5	Mithakali (Ahmedabad), Vijay Cross Road (Ahmedabad), 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	Lalbagh (Bengaluru), Marathahalli (Bengaluru), Hubli, Mangalore, Kalaburagi.
15.	Kerala	13	Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvananthapuram (Rural), Kollam, Cochin, Ernakulam Rural, Alapuzha, Kottayam, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Vadakara (Kozhikode), Kannur, Payyanur (Kannur).
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Bhopal, Indore.

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number	Location
17.	Maharashtra	8	Andheri (Mumbai), Lower Parel (Mumbai), Malad (Mumbai), Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Solapur, Thane.
18.	Manipur	1	Imphal
19.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
20.	Mizoram	1	Aizawl
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	Aminjikarai (Chennai), Saligramam (Chennai), Tambaram (Chennai), Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore
28.	Telangana	5	Ameerpet (Hyderabad), Begumpet (Hyderabad), Toli Chowki (Hyderabad), 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	

\* RPO Guwahati covers five other North-Eastern States also at present.

\*\*RPO Chandigarh covers parts of Punjab and Haryana.

\*\*\*RPO Delhi covers parts of Haryana.

@RPO Kolkata covers Sikkim and Tripura.

### **Statement-II**

*List of Operational POPSK as on 02nd August, 2018*

Sl. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
1.	Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
2.	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
3.	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
4.	Krishna-Gudivada	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
5.	Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
6.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
7.	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
8.	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
9.	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
10.	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam

Sl. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
11.	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
12.	Changlang	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
13.	Tirap	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
14.	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
15.	Dhubri	Assam	Guwahati
16.	Goalpara	Assam	Guwahati
17.	Karbi Anglong	Assam	Guwahati
18.	Kokrajhar	Assam	Guwahati
19.	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
20.	North Lakhimpur	Assam	Guwahati
21.	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
22.	Sonitpur(Tezpur)	Assam	Guwahati
23.	Tinsukia	Assam	Guwahati
24.	Begusarai	Bihar	Patna
25.	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
26.	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
27.	East Champaran	Bihar	Patna
28.	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
29.	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna
30.	Munger	Bihar	Patna
31.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
32.	Nalanda	Bihar	Patna
33.	Navada	Bihar	Patna
34.	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
35.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
36.	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
37.	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
38.	Bettiah	Bihar	Patna
39.	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
40.	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
41.	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
42.	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
43.	Silvasa	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	Mumbai
44.	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
45.	Janak Puri	Delhi	Delhi
46.	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi

Sl. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
47.	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
48.	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi
49.	South Goa	Goa	Panaji
50.	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
51.	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
52.	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
53.	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
54.	Junagadh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
55.	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
56.	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
57.	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
58.	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
59.	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
60.	Porbandar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
61.	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
62.	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
63.	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat
64.	Bhiwani	Haryana	Chandigarh
65.	Kaithal	Haryana	Chandigarh
66.	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
67.	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
68.	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
69.	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
70.	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
71.	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
72.	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
73.	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
74.	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
75.	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
76.	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
77.	Kathua	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
78.	Rajouri	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
79.	Anantnag	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
80.	Baramulla	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
81.	Udhampur	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
82.	Leh	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar

Sl. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
83.	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
84.	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi
85.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi
86.	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
87.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
88.	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
89.	Medininagar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
90.	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bangaluru
91.	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
92.	Bellary	Karnataka	Bengaluru
93.	Bidar	Karnataka	Bengaluru
94.	Davangere	Karnataka	Bengaluru
95.	Gadag	Karnataka	Bengaluru
96.	Hassan	Karnataka	Bengaluru
97.	Raichur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
98.	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
99.	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
100.	Udupi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
101.	Vijayapur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
102.	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
103.	Idukki (Kattappana)	Kerala	Cochin
104.	Kasargod	Kerala	Kozhikode
105.	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivandrum
106.	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
107.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
108.	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
109.	Damoh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
110.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
111.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
112.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
113.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
114.	Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
115.	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
116.	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	Pune
117.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
118.	Beed	Maharashtra	Pune

Sl. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
119.	Ghatkopar/Vikhroli	Maharashtra	Mumbai
120.	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	Mumbai
121.	Jalna	Maharashtra	Pune
122.	Wardha	Maharashtra	Nagpur
123.	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
124.	Nanded	Maharashtra	Pune
125.	Pandharpur	Maharashtra	Pune
126.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
127.	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
128.	Satara	Maharashtra	Pune
129.	Tura	Meghalaya	Guwahati
130.	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
131.	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
132.	Berhampur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
133.	Bhawanipatna	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
134.	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
135.	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
136.	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
137.	Karaikal	Puducherry	Tiruchirapalli
138.	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
139.	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
140.	Pathankot	Punjab	Jalandhar
141.	Phagwara	Punjab	Jalandhar
142.	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
143.	Ajmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
144.	Alwar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
145.	Banswara	Rajasthan	Jaipur
146.	Barmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
147.	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
148.	Churu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
149.	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
150.	Kota	Rajasthan	Jaipur
151.	Bikaner	Rajasthan	Jaipur
152.	Hanumangarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
153.	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
154.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur

Sl. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
155.	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
156.	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
157.	Pali	Rajasthan	Jaipur
158.	Sriganganagar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
159.	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
160.	Devakottai	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
161.	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
162.	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
163.	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
164.	Rasipuram	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
165.	Salem	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
166.	Kanyakumari	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
167.	Dindigul(Kodairoad)	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
168.	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
169.	Perambalur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli
170.	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
171.	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
172.	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
173.	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
174.	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
175.	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
176.	Warangal (Hanamkonda)	Telangana	Hyderabad
177.	Amethi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
178.	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
179.	Chunar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
180.	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
181.	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
182.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
183.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
184.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
185.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
186.	Balrampur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
187.	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
188.	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
189.	Ayodhya/ Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
190.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow

Sl. No.	Locations	State/UT	Passport Office
191.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
192.	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
193.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
194.	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
195.	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
196.	Mau	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
197.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
198.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
199.	Rae Bareli	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
200.	Rampur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
201.	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
202.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
203.	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
204.	Haldwani (Kathgodam)	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
205.	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
206.	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
207.	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
208.	Srinagar	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
209.	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
210.	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
211.	Raiganj (North Dinajpur)	West Bengal	Kolkata
212.	Nadia (Krishnanagar)	West Bengal	Kolkata
213.	North Kolkata (Beadon Street)	West Bengal	Kolkata
214.	Malda	West Bengal	Kolkata
215.	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata

### Pending Rail Projects

3636. SHRI KIRTI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of ongoing and pending rail projects in the country; State-wise and zone-wise;

(b) whether many ongoing rail projects are getting delayed causing huge escalation in cost;

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

(d) the project-wise and State/zone-wise details of funds expected for completion of such projects and the amount spent till date on these projects; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to complete these projects at the earliest in order to avoid cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) State-wise details of New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling Projects included in Budget in different stage of execution/ planning are as under:—

State	Ongoing projects
Assam and North Eastern Region	21
Andhra Pradesh	33
Bihar	53
Chhattisgarh	17
Delhi	6
Gujarat	42
Haryana	12
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jammu and Kashmir	3
Jharkhand	32
Karnataka	31
Kerala	10
Madhya Pradesh	38
Maharashtra	34
Odisha	35
Punjab	15
Rajasthan	32
Telangana	14
Tamil Nadu	24
Uttar Pradesh	84
Uttarakhand	4
West Bengal	61

The completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities, etc. leading to time and cost overrun of projects. Further, zone-wise details of works in progress and new works including, funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e.* [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) and are also available in Pink Books presented before the House along with Budget every year.

(e) For timely completion of the projects, Railway is holding regular meetings with State Government and concerned Central Government officials on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law and order problems, shifting of utilities etc.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc, institutional financing has been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for 1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

[English]

#### Issues in Judiciary

3637. SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether four senior judges of the Supreme Court came together to flag some issues in January, if so, the details thereof and the steps that have been taken to address those issues; and

(b) the number of vacancies in High Courts for the last five years, court-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) The Government has not received any information from the Judiciary in this regard. However, issues relating to the Judiciary have been highlighted in the media with some related representations. Judiciary being an independent organ under the Indian Constitution is capable of handling its internal matters. The Government is committed to the independence of Judiciary and does not intervene in its functioning.

(b) A Statement showing the number of vacant posts of Judges, High Courts wise for the last five years, is enclosed.

**Statement***Number of Vacant Posts of Judges High Court-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of the High Courts	Vacancies as on 1st January					Vacancies as on 01.08.2018
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
1.	Allahabad	79	80	86	75	52	70
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	13	19	22	38	30	32
3.	Bombay	19	08	35	32	24	25
4.	Calcutta	11	19	16	34	39	35
5.	Chhattisgarh	07	08	13	11	10	06
6.	Delhi	07	19	21	22	23	25
7.	Gauhati	09	12	08	07	06	07
8.	Gujarat	11	12	24	21	21	23
9.	Himachal Pradesh	04	06	06	03	05	05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	04	08	07	07	06	09
11.	Jharkhand	09	11	11	12	11	08
12.	Karnataka	12	27	31	32	37	32
13.	Kerala	06	07	03	10	10	12
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	19	23	14	19	19
15.	Madras	13	17	38	18	15	12
16.	Manipur	02	01	02	02	03	02
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	01	01	02	02
18.	Odisha	05	07	05	09	10	13
19.	Patna	11	11	25	22	20	23
20.	Punjab and Haryana	21	29	35	38	35	35
21.	Rajasthan	11	20	25	16	16	20
22.	Sikkim	01	01	01	01	0	01
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	01	02	01
24.	Uttarakhand	02	05	05	04	02	03
Total		267	346	443	430	398	420

**Rail Connectivity in Telangana**

3638. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to increase the rail connectivity in Telangana State;

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

(c) the efforts made/being made by the Government so that the works allocated in this regard could be completed in time; and

(d) the funds allocated and spent to redevelop the Secunderabad railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 09 new

line projects costing Rs. 14,665 crore having length of 1093 Km and 05 doubling projects costing Rs. 5,267 crore having length 545 Km falling fully/partly in the State of Telangana are in different stages of approval/planning/execution. The

details of new Projects and upgradation of infrastructure through doubling/tripling being taken up in the State of Telangana are as under:-

Sl. No.	Project	Year of sanction	Latest Anticipated Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Exp as on 31.3.2018 (Rs. in cr.)	Outlay 18-19 (Rs. in cr.)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>New Lines</b>						
1.	Munirabad-Mahbubnagar (246 Km)	1997-98	2800	1118.33	275	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krishna-Yeramaras (16 Km): DN line commissioned.</li> <li>• Devakadra-Jaklair (28.55 Km): Commissioned.</li> <li>• Munirabad (Ginigerla)-Budhgumpala-Chikkabenakal (27 Km): Commissioned.</li> <li>• Jaklair-Krishna (35.60 Km): and Chikkabenakal-Yeramaras (138 Km): Land acquisition has been taken up.</li> </ul>
2.	Manoharabad-Kotapalli (148.90 Km)	2006-07	1160	16.74	125	Land acquisition has been taken up.
3.	Bhadrachalam Road-Satupalli (56.25 Km)	2010-11	704.31	69.69	120	Land acquisition has been taken up. Agency finalised for Earthwork, Minor/Major bridges.
4.	Akkanapet-Medak (17.2 Km)	2012-13	126	46.53	130	333 Acre out of 338 Acre of land has been acquired. Earthwork and minor bridge have been taken up.
5.	Bhadrachalam-Kovvur (151 Km)	2012-13	2154	2.38	01	On the request of Government of Telangana, survey for revised alignment has been done and agreed by Government of Telangana. As per revised alignment taking off from Sattupalli, total length in Telangana is 48.58 Km for Rs. 735.70 crore. Government of Telangana has been requested to convey consent for sharing the 50% cost of the project. Andhra Pradesh Government has given consent for cost sharing for the portion falling in their State having length of 70.32 Km costing Rs. 1419.13 crore.
6.	Mannuguru-Ramagundum (200 Km)	2013-14	2911	0.92	0.5	Consent of Telangana Govt. for sharing 50% cost and land free of cost is awaited.
7.	Kondapalli-Kothagudem (125 Km)	2013-14	723	0.0001	0.001	Work included in Budget 2013-14 subject to obtaining requisite approvals. Project length reduced to 81.57 Km between Kondapalli-Penuballi due to common alignment between Kothagudem to Penuballi. Andhra Pradesh Government has agreed for sharing 13% cost of the project cost falling in their portion. State Govt. of Telangana has been requested to share the cost and consent for common alignment from Kothagudem to Penuballi.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Vijayawada-Guntur via Amravati (106 Km)	2017-18	3272	2.1	10	Only 06 Km of length of the Project falls in Telangana. This project was included in Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite Govt. clearances. Revised DPR for Errupalem-Nambur via Amravathi (56.53 Km) single line (56.53 Km) costing Rs. 1732.56 cr. has been taken up.
9.	Macherla-Nalgonda (92 Km)	1997-98	815	3.49	0.1	During bankability study it was found that project is financially unviable even with State Govt. providing free land and sharing 75% of cost of construction.
<b>Doubling</b>						
10.	Mancheryal-Peddampet Patch Tripling (9.02 Km)	2010-11	119.89	108.09	03	Work taken up. Targeted to be completed by September 2018.
11.	Kazipet-Vijaywada 3rd line with Electrification (220 Km)	2012-13	1857	177.58	60	Work taken up.
12.	Byepass at Vijayawada, Kazipet (30 Km)	2015-16	499.29	81.25	6.55	Vijaywada Bye-Pass (19.50 Km) and Kazipet Bye-Pass (10.65 Km): Land acquisition has been taken up.
13.	Kazipet-Balharshah 3rd line (202 Km)	2015-16	2063	306.16	301	Agency for Earthwork, Bridges finalised. Works have been taken up.
14.	Secunderabad (Falaknuma)-Mehboobnagar (85.24 Km)	2015-16	728	112.60	250	Land acquisition, Minor/Major bridge and Earth work has been taken up.

(c) Indian Railways have taken various initiatives to increase pace of execution of projects. These include—

- Institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for Rs. 1.5 lac crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.
- Railway has recently issued policy guidelines for land acquisition. Under this policy, Railway has decided to take up the execution only after complete land acquisition.

(d) Redevelopment of stations is planned through leveraging of commercial development of vacant land/air

space in and around stations. Therefore, no funds have been earmarked for the purpose. Such projects shall generally be cost neutral to Railways. Accordingly, no fund has been allocated for redevelopment of Secunderabad Station.

[Translation]

#### Wrong Information from Enquiry Number

3639. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the wrong information being provided from the online rail enquiry system or enquiry number and is so, the details thereof;

(b) whether exact information is not often provided regarding platform number at the time of arrival of trains and station on national train enquiry system; and

(c) if so, the efforts being taken by the Government to overcome the above-said lacunae?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) and (b) A few cases regarding furnishing of incorrect information related to rail enquiry like train running, platform number at the time of arrival/departure of trains etc. have come to notice. Various factors like terminal congestion, signal failure, accident, alarm chain pulling, improper updation in National Train Enquiry System (NTES), negligence by staff, technological failure, etc. can affect the information being provided through rail enquiry.

(c) In order to make enquiry service more effective, the NTES through which the information is disseminated has been completely integrated with Control Office Application distributed over all Divisions to capture information of trains at each station which is then updated in the NTES. With this integration, it has become feasible to give updated information regarding train running, on near real-time basis along with other train related enquiry. Besides, proper training is imparted to concerned staff and suitable action is taken against the staff if found negligent on duty.

[English]

### High Speed Corridor

3640. DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is working on a plan to connect major cities through a high speed corridor to reduce the travel time;

(b) if so, the details of the aforesaid plan and the names of the cities proposed for linking through the said high speed corridor, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any plan to connect Nagpur-

Mumbai and Lucknow-Delhi through a high speed corridor to reduce the travel time and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways has signed MoU for developing proposed high speed corridors and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Railways has identified more cities for high speed corridors and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) to (e) Government has identified the routes connecting four major metros and growth centres of the country for feasibility studies for high speed rail. Feasibility studies have been taken up for the following routes:-

- (i) Delhi-Mumbai,
- (ii) Delhi-Kolkata (*via* Lucknow),
- (iii) Mumbai-Chennai,
- (iv) Delhi-Nagpur segment of Delhi-Chennai,
- (v) Mumbai-Nagpur segment of Mumbai Kolkata and
- (vi) Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru.

Of the above-mentioned feasibility studies, those for Mumbai-Nagpur, Delhi-Nagpur and Chennai-Bangaluru-Mysuru have been taken up under Government to Government cooperation with the Governments of Spain, China and Germany respectively. Presently, only Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (MAHSR) has been sanctioned with the financial and technical assistance from Government of Japan.

[Translation]

### Abolition of Posts

3641. SHRI SARFARAZ ALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways has decided to abolish ten thousand nine hundred posts in seventeen zonal railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has sent a list of the General Managers regarding the number

of posts to be abolished in zonal railways including Kolkata zone and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any protest, in large scale, has been noticed across the country against this decision;

(e) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to withdraw its decision; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) and (b) The Ministry of Railways has only given the targets for surrender of 11040 posts through work studies to 16 Zonal Railways as a part of on-going rightsizing activity in the organisation for optimisation of man-power deployment. The surrender of posts will be utilized for creating matching money value posts required for maintenance and operation of new assets.

(c) A list showing the targets given to each Zonal Railway for surrender of posts through work studies is as under:—

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Targets for surrender of posts
1	2	3
1.	Central Railway	1000
2.	Eastern Railway	1100
3.	East Central Railway	300
4.	East Coast Railway	700
5.	Northern Railway	1500
6.	North Central Railway	165
7.	North Eastern Railway	700
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway	550
9.	North Western Railway	300
10.	Southern Railway	1500
11.	South Central Railway	800
12.	South Eastern Railway	825
13.	South East Central Railway	400
14.	South Western Railway	200
15.	Western Railway	700
16.	West Central Railway	300
Total (Indian Railways)		11040

The actual surrenders on each Zonal Railway may vary depending on assessment of individual workloads of different activities through work studies.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

### Postal Services

3642. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK": Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the services provided/being provided by the Department of Posts in the country during the last three years along with the revenue earned/being earned therefrom, service-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the use of various postal services during the said period and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to increase the usage of postal services in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of new postal services, if any, introduced/being introduced by the Government during the said period?

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

(a) Details of the services provided/being provided by the Department of Posts in the country during the last three years along with the revenue earned/being earned therefrom, are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The Department of Posts offers various services for the usage of customers. While most of the services have shown an increasing trend during the period, there are also some services which have shown a decline. The increasing and decreasing trend of services varies with requirement of the customers and also has seasonal fluctuations. Department of Posts is closely monitoring the traffic of various postal services and is adjusting to the needs of the customers by adding value to the existing postal services as well as by introducing new services.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to increase the usage of Postal services in the country:—

- (i) IT Modernization Project is being undertaken to improve the services and efficiency of Department of Posts with a total outlay of Rs. 4909 crore. The Project involves computerization and Modernization and networking of ~ 1, 55,000 Post Offices in the country, including ~ 1, 30,000 Branch Post Offices in rural areas run by the Gramin Dak Sevaks.

The project involves providing Central Server based integrated, modular and scalable solution for all the operations of Department of Posts including Mails, Human Resource, Banking, Insurance and Finance & Accounts. It also involves creation of IT Infrastructure like Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre, setting up of a Wide Area Network (WAN) and providing solar powered and portable hand-held computing devices (Micro ATM compliant) to all the Branch Post Offices.

- (ii) Core Banking Solution (CBS) has been implemented in Post Office Savings Bank. This has resulted in enabling anywhere banking, *i.e.* a Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) Customer can transact with their account from any CBS Post Office in India, irrespective of where his/her account stands.

ATMs have been installed and made interoperable, *i.e.* a POSB customer can use his/her ATM card in ATM of any Bank in addition to Postal ATMs. Bank Customers can also use their ATM cards at PO ATMs.

- (iii) IPPB: With the objective of furthering financial Inclusion, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is being set up with 100% Government of India (GOI) equity, under Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications. The roll out will include 650 IPPB branches co-located at District Headquarters Post Office along with all the access points (Post Offices) as linkages. The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched its two branches in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi (Jharkhand) with 6 access points on 30.01.2017.

IPPB would focus on providing basic financial services such as all kinds of payments; including social security payments, person to person remittances (both domestic and cross-border), current and savings accounts up to a balance of Rs. 1 lac, distribution of insurance, mutual funds, pension products and selling of third party products especially in rural areas and among the underserved segments of the society. IPPB will also provide doorstep banking to its customers.

- (iv) All the PLI/RPLI operations have been automated under the Financial Services Integrations (FSI) Project 2012. The business processes developed for the new PLI Software in the FSI Project involve all processing work to be done at Central Processing Centers (CPCs) with provision for online approval by the competent authority without any physical movement of files beyond CPCs.

- Facility of web portal and mobile portal
- Convenient Premium Payment Options
- Customer Care
- Anytime anywhere policy procurement

- Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana-Under Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) has been identified in each of the revenue districts of the country, where in endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of 1 Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) policy each.

- Saansad Adarsh Grams (SAGs) adopted by Members of Parliament have also been brought under the ambit of Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana, where in all households of the villages adopted by Members of Parliament under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be covered by a minimum of 1 RPLI policy each.

- (v) For improving the Mail Operations, the following steps have been taken:—

- Computerization, infrastructure and site upgradation of sorting and mail processing offices has been carried out.
  - End to end tracking facility is provided for accountable articles viz. Speed Post, Registered Post, Parcels etc.
  - Dedicated point to point road transport for fast & secure transmission of Speed Post, Parcels and e-commerce articles has been introduced.
  - Department vehicle have been equipped with Geo Positioning System (GPS) for monitoring on real time basis.
  - Nodal Mechanized Delivery Centers for delivery of parcels and Speed Post have been established.
  - Quality Monitoring Cells have been established in the circle to monitor mail performance.
  - A separate Parcel Directorate has been established in the Department of Posts to holistically manage the sales & marketing activities and operations of the parcel business.
  - The facility of Short Messaging Service (SMS) alerts is also being utilized for giving the delivery status of an article.
  - Cash-on-Delivery facility especially for e-commerce companies has been provided as a value addition to the Speed Post.
  - National Account facility has been introduced under Speed Post for contractual customers.
  - Outsourced Postal Agents Scheme has been introduced with a view to extend door pick-up and delivery of various kinds of articles.
  - Android based mobiles have been provided to postmen for delivery through postman mobile app to capture delivery in real time.
- (vi) Aadhaar Enrolment and Updation-Department of Posts has been mandated to leverage its vast network by providing Aadhaar Enrolment and Updation facilities through Post Offices across the country. 13, 277 Aadhaar Centres have been opened across the country as on date. This will bring the convenience to the residents in generating new Aadhaar and updating their Aadhaar cards in case of any change/mis-match besides improving footfall in post offices and thus generating revenue for the department.
- (vii) Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs)- Department of Posts (DoP) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have mutually agreed for leveraging the network of Post Offices as Passport Seva Kendras for benefit of citizens. The objective of this partnership is to extend passport related services on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage.
- As of now 215 POPSKs (Post Office Passport Seva Kendras) have been opened in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs.
- (viii) Sovereign Gold Bond- Department is actively engaged in the premier Scheme-‘Sale of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)’ introduced in 2015-16 by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, and operated through RBI. The objective of the scheme is to popularize ‘Paper Gold’ among masses and to reach out the small investors at the grass root level.
- (d) The details of new postal services introduced/ being introduced by the Government during the said period are as follows:-
- (i) International Tracked Packet Service *w.e.f* 09.10.2017 (Presently for 12 countries)
  - (ii) Cool EMS Service (one way service from Japan to India) *w.e.f* 31.03.2018. Presently the service is available in Delhi.
  - (iii) Aadhaar Enrolment and Updation-Department of Posts has been mandated to leverage its vast network by providing Aadhaar Enrolment and Updation facilities through Post Offices across the country.
  - (iv) Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs)- Department of Posts (DoP) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have mutually agreed

- for leveraging the network of Post Offices as Passport Seva Kendras for benefit of citizens.
- (v) Sovereign Gold Bond-Department is actively engaged in the premier Scheme-'Sale of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)' introduced in 2015-16 by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, and operated through RBI.
- (vi) India Post Payment Bank-With the objective of furthering financial Inclusion, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been set up with 100% Government of India (GOI) equity, under Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications.
- (vii) Sukanya Samridhi Yojana has been introduced on 22.01.2015 \*\*
- (viii) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha BimaYojna has been introduced on 07.09.2015\*\*
- (ix) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana has been introduced on 07.09.2015\*\*
- (x) Atal Pension Yojana has been introduced on 01.12.2015\*\*

\*\*These services are being undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Finance.

### **Statement**

#### *Details of Revenue Earned by Department of Posts*

(Rs. in crores)

The Services being provided by Department of Posts	Financial Year 2015-16	Financial Year 2016-17	Financial Year 2017-18 up to SY-I
1	2	3	4
Speed Post	1605.77	1785.25	1846.62
Business Post	735.93	752.52	730.72
Express Parcel	58.77	64.18	53.92
Business Parcel	90.22	94.80	85.81
Bill Mail Service	99.04	77.15	56.07
Electronic Post	2.90	1.63	4.78
Postage through Franking Machines and Pre Postage	830.66	777.34	857.87
Sale of Stamps	441.74	470.78	366.77
Commemorative Stamps	33.25	43.30	61.96
My Stamps	2.83	5.33	6.21
Philatelic Ancillaries	2.91	13.54	38.19
Postage-Other Schemes *	9.04	8.50	46.21
Money Order and Indian Postal Orders	464.84	284.62	228.11
Retail Post	76.87	67.68	108.59
Logistic Post	15.52	16.31	15.41
Electronic Bill Collection	30.79	26.34	22.88
Railway Ticket Booking	3.38	2.54	2.25
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme	425.28	48.00	156.9
Other Activities **	446.96	152.57	223.98

1	2	3	4
Net Receipts/Payments to other Postal Administration (Other Countries)	-220.78	-267.22	-192.03
Savings Banks and Cash Certificates Remuneration ***	7783.87	7085.84	8102.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12939.79</b>	<b>11511.00</b>	<b>12823.54</b>
Postal Life Insurance (PLI) Remuneration ****	354.76	394.25	439.04
Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) Remuneration ****	264.9	270.13	277.02

\*Postage-Other schemes includes Greeting Post, Direct Post, National Bill Mail, Fate Rate Parcel, Over Night Parcel, e VPP, e-Commerce Product and International Mails.

\*\*Other activities includes retail activities such as Sale of forms, Examination/Recruitment Fee, Cable TV Registration Fee, Fee from ATM interoperable, Other recoveries from APS, Sale of old records etc.

\*\*\*Savings Accounts, Recurring Deposit (RD), Time Deposit (TD), Monthly Income Scheme (MIS), Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS), Sukanya Samridhi Accounts.

\*\*\*\*PLI and RPLI remuneration are accounted as Recoveries (*i.e.* reduction of Expenditure)

- In addition to the above, some other services like (i) Social Security Schemes like Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), and International Mails Services like Letter, Express Mail Service (EMS) Speed Post, Air Parcel, International Tracked Packets are also provided by Department of Posts.

(d) if so, the time by which the new system is likely to be introduced in the Railways?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Technology upgradation and integration is an ongoing process. In order to strengthen and streamline its system, Railways is continuously adopting latest technology. The potential to adopt modern and latest technology is limitless and therefore it is not possible to quantify the notional revenue losses in the absence of such technology.

[English]

### **Integrated Software System**

3643. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided for massive overhaul of various systems including use of integrated software system in joining hands with Japan and other agencies to optimize punctuality, use of stations and utilization of coaches etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of any latest technology, the railways have been incurring revenue losses; and

### **Road Connectivity in NER**

3644. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of national highways under construction in the north east Tripura;

(b) whether the road connectivity in the North Eastern Region (NER) is not adequate and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the national highways are not fully maintained in the north east and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to improve

the road connectivity and maintenance of the roads in the NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) As per information available, the details of National Highways under construction in the north east Tripura are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) Development and Maintenance of National Highways (NHs) is a continuous process and the highways

are kept in traffic-worthy condition depending upon the availability of funds and inter se priority. Under the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE) including Arunachal Package of Roads and Highways, 6418 km of road stretches of National Highways and State Roads have been taken up to improve the connectivity in the North Eastern Region (NER). In order to expedite road construction, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has set up a company named as "National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited" (NHIDCL) for construction/upgradation/widening of National Highways in the region. Under Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP), road stretches aggregating to about 5301 km in NER have been approved for improvement. Out of this, 3246 km road length has been approved for development of Economic Corridor in North East.

#### Statement

##### *Details of ongoing works on National Highways (NHs) in Tripura*

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Length (in km)
1.	Strengthening including construction of paved shoulder from Km 284.00 to Km 308.00 of NH-8 (Old NH-44) Agartala-Churaibari Section in Tripura	24.00
2.	Construction of RCC bridge of 30 mm span over Sanicherra at Km 291.00 on Churaibari-Agartala section of NH-44 in Tripura.	0.03
3.	Construction of 1.50 m wide paved shoulder on either side of 10 Km stretch from Km 308.00 to Km 318.00 along with widening of intermediate lane to 2-lane from Km 313.00 to Km 318.00 on Churaibari-Agartala section of NH-08 (Old NH-44) in Tripura	10.00
4.	Widening to 2-lane with paved shoulder in/c. Geometric improvement from Km 318.00 to Km 339.94 on Churaibari-Agartala section of NH-44 under EPC mode.	21.94
5.	Improvement/widening to 2-lane with paved shoulders of Agartala-Udaipur section from Km 6.8 to Km 55.00 of NH-44 in the State of Tripura under SARDP-NE Phase "A"	48.36
6.	Construction of cable stayed RCC bridge including viaduct and approaches over river Feni at Sabroom on Indo-Bangladesh border on NH-44 in the State of Tripura on EPC mode	1.89

#### Backward Districts

3645. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for grant of packages to the backward districts;

(b) whether the bigger districts such as Anantpur are treated on equal footing with the smaller ones;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether funds to some backward districts of Andhra Pradesh have been withheld even after submitting utilisation certificate; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to release the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) Following the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission for the biggest ever increase in States' share in the divisible pool of Central taxes and duties from 32% to 42%, numerous Schemes including BRGF meant for the identified backward districts stand subsumed in the larger devolution to States since 2015. Therefore, the Government of India does not release fund under such schemes for any backward district including Ananthapuramu in Andhra Pradesh, and hence no criteria has been laid down for grant of packages to the backward districts including the districts in Andhra Pradesh.

However, as per the provisions under Section 46(3) of AP Reorganization Act, 2014, considering the special development package for the successor State of Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government released an amount of Rs. 350 crore in each year from 2014-15 to 2016-17 for the development of seven backward districts of Andhra Pradesh, including Ananthapuramu district, at the rate of Rs. 50 crore per district. The districts are Ananthapuramu, Chittoor, YSR Kadapa, Kurnool, Vizianagaram, Vishakapatnam and Srikakulam. No funds have been hitherto released during 2017-18 for Andhra Pradesh under AP Reorganization Act, 2014.

*[Translation]*

#### **Irregularities in Station Development Work**

3646. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints of irregularities in the development works of Railway Stations from various States/Union Territories during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fund allocated for the said works by the Government during the above period; and

(c) the strategy/rules formulated by the Governments to check irregularities of any kind in development works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Under the broad plan head "Passenger Amenities", several works

for improvement of passenger amenities are taken up, which includes development of stations also. Rs. 917.91 crores, Rs. 1470.79 crores and Rs. 1657.86 crores have been allocated for the works under the broad plan head "Passenger Amenities" during the year, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

Railway having well established systems, rules and procedures which guide its various functions. The Railways also have a vigilance organization, spread over the entire railway system which conducts preventive, decoy and surprise checks. It also investigates complaints of corruption received. If any irregularity is detected, suitable disciplinary action is taken, depending upon the gravity of the charges.

Twenty complaints on the development works of stations have been reported to Vigilance Organization during the last two years over Indian Railways.

*[English]*

#### **Adarsh Stations**

3647. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:  
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:  
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned, released and expenditure incurred for modernisation of railway stations in the country during the last two years, zone-wise and the funds released during the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether modernisation of stations is undertaken under the Adarsh Station Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Presently, modernisation of Railway stations is taken up under Adarsh Station Scheme. 1253 stations have been identified for development under this Scheme. Out of these, 1065 Railway stations have been developed under this Scheme as per norms. Works of development of Railway stations under Adarsh Station Scheme are generally funded under Plan Head-Passenger Amenities. The details of provision of funds are maintained Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise. The details of zone-wise funds allocated under

budgetary sources under this plan head during the last 2 years and current year are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)		
Zonal Railway	Allocation Revised Estimates	Expenditure (Excluding Public Private Partnership)
1	2	3
<b>2016-17</b>		
Central	73.93	74.07
Eastern	51.85	48.41
East Central	52.78	65.76
East Coast	47.78	56.42
Northern	78.15	94.93
North Central	56.87	60.34
North Eastern	107.69	109.84
Northeast Frontier	50.75	45.81
North Western	53.42	55.60
Southern	61.18	70.68
South Central	64.41	68.56
South Eastern	47.46	60.08
South East Central	29.55	31.49
South Western	42.63	41.93
Western	48.73	47.96
West Central	45.29	43.78
Metro	5.44	5.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>917.91</b>	<b>981.24</b>
<b>2017-18</b>		
Central	141.53	161.89
Eastern	85.21	50.73
East Central	72.03	74.11
East Coast	75.09	59.85
Northern	174.12	171.92
North Central	105.53	66.56
North Eastern	92.81	91.44
Northeast Frontier	56.83	38.16
North Western	57.87	68.09
Southern	148.52	102.00

1	2	3
South Central	90.96	63.80
South Eastern	80.25	81.85
South East Central	32.60	23.50
South Western	64.19	49.77
Western	126.50	134.80
West Central	58.55	44.44
Metro	8.20	3.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>1470.79</b>	<b>1286.80</b>
<b>2018-19</b>		
Central	200.05	24.67
Eastern	77.80	4.66
East Central	69.51	21.95
East Coast	77.38	15.17
Northern	239.46	30.04
North Central	87.25	22.76
North Eastern	91.72	19.17
Northeast Frontier	91.01	3.08
North Western	87.01	12.28
Southern	90.51	6.67
South Central	97.04	8.33
South Eastern	66.40	9.42
South East Central	66.00	5.48
South Western	69.39	3.06
Western	170.63	21.85
West Central	68.82	8.14
Metro	7.87	0.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1657.86</b>	<b>216.88</b>

#### **Indian Trapped in Zimbabwe**

3648. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of Indian citizens trapped in Zimbabwe; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure their safe and secure return to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) As per information and records, no case of Indian national being trapped in Zimbabwe has been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Mechanised Cleaning System**

3649. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced a mechanized cleaning system for comprehensive cleaning of all platforms, circulating areas and foot over bridges in the station premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has ever monitored the progress of cleaning at platforms, circulating areas and foot over bridges in the station premises;

(d) if so, whether any flaws have been found so far; and

(e) if so, whether any action has been taken thereon, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. One of the initiatives taken to maintain cleanliness standard at station premises is introduction of mechanized cleaning at major stations over Indian Railways. The mechanized cleaning system is used for comprehensive cleaning of all platforms, circulating area, foot over bridges, retiring rooms, waiting rooms etc. in the stations premises where conducive surface like tiles/kota stone is available.

The station cleaning activities are carried out through mechanized means by using high pressure water jets, mechanised floor scrubber, flippers, Battery Operated Push /Ride on Scrubber, High Pressure Jet, Wet & Dry vacuum cleaner etc. along with the requisite manpower. The activity is outsourced to professional agencies to maintain high standard of cleanliness on the Railway station and its premises.

In order to have effective waste disposal system, concrete washable aprons on platform tracks with jet cleaning arrangements are provided at important stations where long distance trains stop in the morning hours, to facilitate cleaning of night soil by washing into side drains and its subsequent discharge away from stations.

(c) to (e) Regular inspections are conducted by various officials at the Railway stations to monitor cleanliness and also to identify weak areas to take remedial measures. Cleanliness Drives are launched from time to time particularly during rush seasons to have wider monitoring. Use of CCTVs has been extended for monitoring of cleanliness activities at major stations. Under 'Swachh Bharat Mission' special emphasis is given on clean and Hygienic toilets, public awareness and periodic drives.

Enforcement of Indian Railways (Penalties for activities affecting cleanliness at railway premises) Rules, 2012 has been intensified. Third party audit and ranking of stations on cleanliness is also carried out annually in order to give status check feedback and install healthy competition. This is done at 407 major A1 & A category stations.

#### **Laying New Railway Lines in Punjab**

3650. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is aiming commissioning of 3,500 km new railway lines in the financial year 2018-19;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made in the last two years in laying of new tracks, doubling, gauge conversion and electrification in kilometer, in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways has set the target of commissioning of 4100 km in 2018-19. This includes 1000 km of New Line, 1000 km of Gauge Conversion and 2100 km of Doubling.

(c) In the last two years, 40.5 km of Doubling and 125 km of Electrification was commissioned.

*[Translation]*

**Modernisation of Railway Stations  
in Maharashtra**

3651. SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of stations in Maharashtra targeted for modernization;
- (b) the quantum of funds allocated for modernization of railway stations particularly in backward and rural areas of the country during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;
- (c) the quantum of fund likely to be spent separately on each railway station; and
- (d) the targets fixed for modernization of those railway stations where works are under progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, modernisation/upgradation of stations is undertaken under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. 1253 stations including 108 stations in the State of Maharashtra have been identified for development of stations under this scheme.

(b) and (c) No separate fund is allocated for development of stations identified under 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. The allocation/expenditure on works for development of Railway stations is generally funded under Plan Head-'Passenger Amenities'. State-wise details of funds allocated are not maintained. Allocation (excluding EBR) under Plan Head - 'Passenger Amenities' during the last three years and the current year is as under:—

Budget Estimates	Allocation (Rs. in cr.)
2015-16	1748.50
2016-17	838.28
2017-18	1100.90
2018-19	1657.86

(d) Out of 108 stations in Maharashtra, 104 stations have been already developed under this scheme. The remaining stations are planned to be developed by 2018-19.

*[English]*

**Prototype Lithium-Ion Cells**

3652. SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CSIR has set up a demonstration facility in Chennai to manufacture Prototype Lithium-Ion cells;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether CSIR has secured global IPRs with potential to enable cost reduction, coupled with appropriate supply chain and manufacturing technology; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. CSIR has established a facility at CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Chennai for fabrication of Prototype Li-ion Cells. Prototypes of both 18650 cylindrical as well as pouch Li-ion cells can be fabricated in this facility.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. CSIR has filed/granted patents in major countries, viz., USA, Japan, Korea, China, Europe and Spain besides India.

CN103380529B; EP2630686B1; US9,882,206B2; P5707499B2; KR20137011630A; ES2536250T3; WO2012052810A1; WO2012/052811; JP5765644B2; US9985277B2; EP2630685B1; KR101791524B1; CN103299458B.

CSIR has signed an agreement with a company for commercialization of technology.

**Mining of Coal in Meghalaya**

3653. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of cases in NGT and Supreme Courts regarding mining of coal in Meghalaya;
- (b) whether the Central Government has filed affidavit or counter affidavit in the NGT Court and Supreme Court regarding mining of coal in Meghalaya, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to accept the proposal of Meghalaya State Government and Assembly Resolution to adopt the policy for mining of coal in Meghalaya as a special case; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by the Central Government regarding coal mining in Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Original Application No. 73/2014, filed before the National Green Tribunal, and Civil Appeal Diary No. 3067 of 2018 filed in Supreme Court by All Dimasa Students Union, Dima Hasao District Committee are pending in the courts. In both the cases Ministry of Coal is a respondent. These cases are subjudice.

(b) An affidavit dated 21.07.2014 was filed in OA no. 73/2014 before NGT duly signed by US(PCA), MOC and Affidavit/Status Report dated 24.07.2018 was sent to Central Agency Section, Ministry of Law and Justice, Supreme Court for filing in Civil Appeal Diary No. 3067 of 2018 .

(c) and (d) The proposal received from the Commissioner and Secy., Mining and Geology Deptt., Govt. of Meghalaya *vide* letter dated 18.07.2018 is under examination in the Ministry.

[Translation]

### Conversion of Narrow Gauge into Broad Gauge

3654. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States/UTs of the country for which budget to convert narrow gauge into broad gauge has been sanctioned during the year 2017-18, State and UT-wise;

(b) the details of the lines on which work has been started after formulation of DPR following the sanction of budget, State and UT-wise;

(c) the time by which these sanctioned broad-gauge lines are likely to be completed;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed for the conversion of these lines and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of meter gauge lines likely to be converted into broad-gauge along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Budget for Railway projects are allocated project-wise and not State-wise. Further, the details of all works in progress and new works including, funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e.* [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) and are also available in Pink Books presented before the House along with Budget every year.

(b) State-wise details of Meter Gauge/Narrow Gauge Conversion projects in progress are as under:—

Sl.No.	State	Project/Section	Length in Km
1.	Bihar	Gawnaha (Bikhna Tori)-Narkatiaganj	22
2.	Bihar	Raxaul-Narkatiaganj	42
3.	Bihar	Banmanki-Bihariganj	28
4.	Bihar	Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj	206
5.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur-Dhamtari-Abhanpur-Rajim	67.2
6.	Rajasthan	Udaipur-Himmatnagar	211
7.	Rajasthan	Jaipur-Ringus-Sikar and F.Shekhawati-Churu	80.45
8.	Rajasthan	Mavli-Badisadri	82
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda-Bahraich	60
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow(Aishbagh)-Mailani-Pilibhit <i>via</i> Sitapur, Lakhimpur	262.76

Sl.No.	State	Project/Section	Length in Km
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Mandana-Bahmavart	8
12.	Uttar Pradesh	Indara-Dohrighat	34
13.	Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit-Shahjahanpur	83
14.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai-Bodinayakkanur	90.4
15.	Tamil Nadu	Thiruvarur-Karaikkudi	76
16.	Tamil Nadu	Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli	37
17.	Maharashtra	Akola-Khandawa (Part)	175
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan	190
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Nainpur-Samnapur	61
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara-Nainpur-Mandla Fort	164
21.	Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra	Chindwara-Nagpur	114.9
22.	Gujarat	Bhuj-Naliya	72
23.	Gujarat	Udaipur-Ahmedabad (Part)	88
24.	Gujarat	Mahesana-Tarangahill	57.4
25.	Gujarat	Dhasa-Jetalsar	104
26.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad-Botad	170.48
27.	Gujarat	Mhow-Khandwa	125.74
28.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad-Mahesana	70
29.	Gujarat	Fatehabad Chandrawati Ganj-Ujjain	23
30.	Gujarat	Miyagam-Dabhoi-Samlaya	79
31.	Gujarat	Dabhoi-Chandod	17

(c) to (e) The completion of Gauge conversion projects require land acquisition and shifting of utilities etc. Therefore, timeline for completion of project cannot be fixed.

#### 4G Services

3655. DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 4G services have been launched in the country including in rural and backward areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the BSNL and MTNL have launched the 4G services across the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide 4G services in all the villages of the country within a prescribed time period and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which this facility is likely to be extended in Sawai Madhopur and Tonk districts of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. 4G services have been launched in the country in all 22 Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) including in rural and backward areas. LSA-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are yet to

launch 4G Services across the country.

(d) The following schemes have been formulated by the Government to provide 4G connectivity:—

- (i) **Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas:** Cabinet on 23.05.2018 has approved a Project proposal for providing the mobile services by deploying 2G & 4G technology in inhabited & Uncovered villages of the Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas in 4072 tower locations, as identified by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), with an estimated cost of Rs. 7,330/- crores plus applicable taxes. Implementation of the project has been initiated.
- (ii) **Meghalaya:** Cabinet on 23.05.2018 has approved revised proposal for provision of mobile services on 2G+4G technology for installation of 2173 mobile towers in 2374 uncovered villages and along National Highways in Meghalaya for an estimated cost of Rs. 3911 cr.
- (iii) **Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** Project for provisioning of Mobile services (2G & 4G) to uncovered villages and seamless coverage on NH (National Highway) 223 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been formulated.
- (iv) **Uncovered villages:** Government of India plans to provide mobile coverage in inhabited and uncovered villages of the country in a phased manner subject to availability of funds/resources. Department of Telecommunications is in the process of identification of uncovered villages of the country including those of Sawai Madhopur and Tonk districts of Rajasthan.

#### **Statement**

*LSA-wise 4G BTS (Base Transceiver Station)  
as on 01.July.2018*

Sl.No.	LSA	4G BTS
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70272
2.	Assam	17016
3.	Bihar	46862
4.	Delhi	46231

Sl.No.	LSA	4G BTS
5.	Gujarat	58554
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8906
7.	Haryana	21784
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	14880
9.	Karnataka	64965
10.	Kolkata	19318
11.	Kerala	41624
12.	Mumbai	29888
13.	Maharashtra	72296
14.	Madhya Pradesh	56120
15.	North-East	10222
16.	Odisha	23340
17.	Punjab	40429
18.	Rajasthan	49599
19.	Tamil Nadu	72828
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	56675
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	47739
22.	West Bengal	35867
Grand Total		905415

#### **Awareness of Government Schemes**

3656. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any action plan to make the common people aware of Government schemes and to ensure its benefit to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the benefit of the Government schemes does not reach the common people fully due to lack of awareness about them;

(d) whether the Government is evolving a system to interact directly with the mobile owners to propagate the Government schemes and to ensure that the benefit of schemes reach the common people and also for proper implementation of the schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) The objective of undertaking publicity campaigns of Government programmes/schemes is to enable the intended beneficiaries to become aware of them and utilize the benefits thereof, which is essential for successful implementation of such programmes/schemes. Such campaigns are launched on the basis of decision taken by the concerned Ministries/Departments in respect of schemes administered by them. Bureau of Outreach & Communication (BOC), erstwhile Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, being the nodal agency for release of advertisements on behalf of Ministries/Departments of Government of India, undertakes such publicity campaigns about various policies, programmes and schemes of the Government.

(d) and (e) Awareness campaigns for the schemes/programmes of Government of India through new media like internet websites, SMS etc. is undertaken by BOC as per requirement of the client Ministries/Departments on need basis.

[English]

### **New Railway Projects**

3657. SHRI BALBHADRA MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the following 08 (eight) New Projects are in active consideration for sanction by the Railways:

1. Bhadrachalam Road (Andhra Pradesh)-Malkangiri-Jeypore-Junagarh-Lanjigarh Road-Talcher-Bimlagarh
2. Baragarh-Padmapur-Nuapada (120 Kms)
3. Talcher-Gopalpur (245 Kms)
4. Rupsa-Bangriposi-Gorumahisani (35 Kms)
5. Badampahar-Keonjhar (70 Kms)
6. Rayagada-Gopalapur via Gunupur-Bhismagiri and Digapahandi
7. Paradip Port-Dhamra Port

8. Anandpur-Champua; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b)

1. **Bhadrachalam Road (Andhra Pradesh)-Malkangiri-Jeypore-Junagarh-Lanjigarh Road-Talcher-Bimlagarh:** Two projects forming part of above mentioned proposal namely, Jeypore-Malkangiri (130 Km) and Jeypore-Navarangpur (38 Km) have been sanctioned in the recent past. Junagarh to Lanjigarh Road (55 Km) has already been commissioned. Talcher to Bimlagarh (154 Km) is also a sanctioned project and work has also been taken up. Surveys for balance portion, *i.e.* Bhadrachalam-Malkangiri, Navarangpur-Junagarh, Lanjigarh Road to Talcher have been done, but could not be taken forward due to large shelf of ongoing projects.
2. **Bargarh-Padmapur-Nuapada:** Survey for new line between Bargarh Road-Nawapara Road via Padmapur (136 Km) has already been sanctioned. Field survey for new line has been completed and preparation of abstract estimate has been taken up. The project has now been identified by Orissa Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (ORIDCL), a Joint Venture Company of Government of Odisha and Ministry of Railways, for undertaking studies for taking the proposal forward.
3. **Talcher-Gopalpur (245 Km):** new line has been included in Capital Investment Programme through Joint Ventures/SPVs/Partnerships with State Governments & Stake Holders. A Joint Venture Company has already been incorporated for taking up projects under Joint Venture.
4. **Rupsa-Bangriposi-Gorumahisani (35 Km):** Rupsa-Bangriposi section is already connected by a rail line. Survey for a new line between Bangriposi and Gorumahisani (41.75 Km) has been completed. However, due to its unremunerative nature, low traffic potential,

Railways' huge throwforward of ongoing projects and constraints of resources for new lines, the proposal could not be taken forward.

5. **Badampahar-Keonjhar (70 Km):** An updating survey for new line between Keonjhar (Kendujhargarh) and Badampahar (80 Km) has been completed. However, due to its unremunerative nature and poor freight potential, the project could not be taken forward.
6. **Rayagada-Gopalpur via Gunupur-Bhismagiri and Digapahandi:** A new line from Gopalpur-Singapur Road via Padampur, Ramanguda, Bankili has been included in Capital Investment Programme through Joint Ventures/SPVs/Partnerships with State Governments & Stake Holders. A Joint Venture Company has already been incorporated for taking up projects under Joint Venture.
7. **Paradip Port-Dhamra Port:** Survey for new line between Paradeep Port-Dhamara Port (79.335 Km) has been completed and the survey report has been taken up in Railway Board.
8. **Anandpur-Champua:** No Survey of new line between Anandpur and Champua has been taken up.

[Translation]

### **Tsunami and Earthquake Warning**

3658. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has achieved success in the field of early warning systems of Tsunami and Earthquake;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount allocated/spent on the research during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether any advance warning system is available in the global market which the Government proposes to acquire; 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) Yes Madam.

The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) was established after the deadly Tsunami on 26 December, 2004 at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Sciences (INCOIS), autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences, Hyderabad. The Centre has the latest scientific techniques to provide early warnings of an impending tsunami to the entire Indian Ocean Region and has functioned flawlessly since its establishment in October, 2007.

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 an Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) System was developed in recent times for issue of earthquake alert/warning based on P-wave arrival time after occurrence of an earthquake. The warning time will range from a few seconds to a little more than a minute and will primarily be a function of the distance of the user from the epicenter.

(b) The Indian Tsunami Early Warning System comprises a real-time seismic monitoring network of 17 broadband seismic stations to detect tsunamigenic earthquakes. In addition to that, INCOIS is also receiving data from around 90 national seismic stations which are established by various national local/regional centres. Also, INCOIS has a real-time sea-level network with 7 tsunami buoys in the open ocean and 35 tide gauge stations at different coastal locations to monitor tsunamis, and pre-run scenarios database of tsunami. ITEWC is also receiving data around from 350 seismic stations, 50 tsunami buoys and 300 tide gauges of other international agencies in real time. The Centre is capable of detecting tsunamigenic earthquakes occurring in the Indian Ocean as well as in the Global Oceans within 10 minutes of their occurrence and disseminates the advisories to the concerned authorities.

The National Centre for Seismology (NCS), maintains a country wide national seismological network, to detect and locate earthquakes occurring in and around the country. The network consists of state-of-art digital broadband

seismographs, VSAT based communication systems and latest tools for dissemination of earthquake information to the concern 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.

(c) R & D Projects have been sanctioned to different research organizations, universities to study the paleo-tsunamis and tectonics in the Indian Ocean Region. During the XII Plan Period, 6 projects were funded under the research program "Tsunami & Tectonic Related Studies in the Indian Ocean Region" with a budget outlay of Rs. 550.545 lakhs.

(d) ITEWC is considered as one of the most modern tsunami warning centres of the world. The ITEWC has all necessary infrastructure and capabilities to give tsunami advisories to India as well as to Indian Ocean countries. ITEWC has been designated as one of the Tsunami Service Providers (TSP) for the entire Indian Ocean Region by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO on 12 October, 2011. Since then, it is providing tsunami advisories and related services to all countries in the Indian Ocean Rim (25 Countries). The major highlight

of the warning centre is 100% detection of Tsunamis about threat threshold and no FALSE ALARMS. While acting as one of the TSP for the Indian Ocean Region, ITEWC is also developing its ability to provide tsunami advisories for global ocean events. Hence, there is no proposal to acquire such system.

(e) Does not arise

#### **FOBs in East-Central Zone**

3659. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Foot-Over Bridges (FOBs) and under bridges proposed to be constructed by the Railways in the East-Central railway zone and the locations thereof; and

(b) whether any target has been fixed for completing the construction of all proposed foot over bridges and under bridges and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Total 57 Nos. proposal for construction of Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) works have been approved/sanctioned in 2018-19, details of which alongwith location are as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of Work
1.	Provision of FOB 6.00M wide at Daltonganj for through pass as well as platform landing with Ramp and steps on each platform.
2.	Raising of platform No.2, replacement of FOB with new 6M wide FOB and provision of Platform shed at Garhwa Road station.
3.	Provision of 2nd FOB of 6M wide at Parasnath station.
4.	Provision of FOB at Tankuppa, Bandhua, Choube, Sarnatabd, Herodih, Bhuli, Chowdhari Bandh and Parsabad stations.
5.	Provision of FOB and raising of Up and Down Platform from Rail Level to High Level at Kastha.
6.	Provision of FOB and raising of Up and Down Platform from Rail Level to High Level at Paraiya.
7.	Provision of FOB and raising of Up and Down Platform from Rail Level to High Level at Kumahau.
8.	Provision of FOB at Rafiganj station.
9.	Replacement of old rotten FOB at Gaya station.
10.	Replacement of old rotten FOB at Deen Dayal Upadhyay station.
11.	Replacement of old rotten FOB at Dehri-On-Sone station.

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Sl.No.	Name of Work
12.	Replacement of old rotten FOB at Sasaram station.
13.	Provision of one additional new FOB 6.0m wide at Muzaffarpur Station
14.	Provision of one additional new FOB 6.0m wide at Barauni Station
15.	Provision of one additional new FOB 6.0m wide with Escalator at Sonpur Station
16.	Provision of one additional new FOB at Naugachhia Station
17.	Provision of one additional new FOB at Khagaria Station
18.	Provision of one additional new FOB at Mansi Station
19.	Provision of new FOB and Raising of Platform No. 1 at Bhagwanpur Station
20.	Raising of Platform No.1 and 2 at Turki Station
21.	Construction of 3.66m wide FOB at Chauradano, Kundwachainpur and Dhang in Raxaul-Sitamarhi section.
22.	Extension of FOB at Bapudham Motihari (From Platform no. 1 to Circulating area) and Narkatiaganj (From Platform No.1/2 to Platform No.3)
23.	Provision of 3.0m wide FOB at Raj Nagar and Khajauli Stations.
24.	Provision of 3.60m wide FOB at Motipur and Mehesi Stations
25.	Additional 6.10 m wide Foot Over Bridge along with re-development of circulating area at Saharsa Station
26.	Provision of FOB connecting Platform No. 6, 2 and 3, 4 and 5 at Danapur station.
27.	Provision of 20 feet wide FOB at Jhajha station.
28.	Proposal for construction of 01 High Level island Platform (24 coaches length) with cover shed with loop line and extended connection of Delhi end and Howrah end FOB along proposed Platform at Danapur Station.
29.	Provision of one additional new FOB at Begusarai Station
30.	Provision of 10 feet wide FOB including raising of up Platform to High Level Platform at Sachivalaya Halt station
31.	Provision of 10 feet wide FOB at Twinninganj and Kulharia station
32.	Extension of existing FOB at Ragunathpur, Zamania and Patliputra station
33.	Provision of 20 feet wide additional FOB at Patliputra station.
34.	Provision of 10 feet wide FOB at Koelwar and Karisath station.
35.	Replacement of existing FOB with new 20 feet wide FOB at Jamui station.
36.	Provision of 12 feet wide additional FOB at Barh station.
37.	Replacement of existing FOB
38.	Provision of 10 feet wide FOB at Bansipur station.
39.	Provision of 12 feet wide FOB at Jehanabad station.
40.	Provision of 10 feet wide FOB at Taregna station.
41.	Provision of 12 feet wide additional FOB at Hatidah station.

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Execution of above FOBs is planned by 2020-21.

Limited height Subway (Under Bridges) under ECR. Details are shown as under:-

Total 535 Nos. works (Open line + Construction Organisation) have been sanctioned for construction of

Division	Total subways sanctioned	Proposed Target 2018-19	Remarks
Dhanbad	120	29	(i) Till date 15 Nos. of Under bridges have been constructed out of 535 Nos. These are in Dhanbad Division=4, Danapur Division=2, and Sonapur Division=3 & by Consultation organization=6. (ii) Balance Under bridges (535-181) i.e. 354 Nos. are targeted for completion by Mar' 2020.
Mughalsarai	132	57	
Danapur	66	33	
Sonapur	78	27	
Samastipur	139	29	
Construction		6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>181</b>	

Total 181 Nos. Limited height Subway (Under Bridges) have been targeted for completion in the year 2018-19.

[English]

#### **Elevated Corridor Project**

3660. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented CST-Panvel Elevated Corridor Project in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by which the said project is likely to be implemented;

(c) the estimated cost of the said Project along with the funds provided by the Government to implement the said project so far;

(d) the number of requests/representations received by the Government from public representatives to implement the said project during each of the last three years and the current year along with the action taken/being taken by the Government on such requests/representations;

(e) the number of meetings held between the Union Government and the State Government of Maharashtra for expeditious completion of the said project during the said period along with outcome of such meetings thereof; and

(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Fast elevated corridor between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)-Panvel on Harbour Line including spur to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) (98 track km) is a part of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP)-IIIA. As per the report prepared by Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, the estimated cost of Fast elevated corridor between CSMT-Panvel on Harbour Line is 10,870.27 crore. This Project has been included in Budget 2018-19, subject to mandatory approvals and sanction.

(d) Requests/representations from public representatives are received at Divisional Offices, Zonal Offices and in the Ministry from time to time. As receipt of such proposals is a continuous and dynamic process, compendium of such representations is not maintained.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **De-reserved Coaches**

3661. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide more de-reserved coaches in long distance trains for the convenience of the short distance passengers and season ticket holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Southern Railway has sent proposals for sanctioning de-reserved coaches in long distance train from Ernakulam to Thiruvananthapuram;

(d) if so, the details of the train and the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The powers have been delegated to General Managers of Zonal Railways to declare requisite number of sleeper class coaches as second class unreserved coaches on a particular section where sleeper class coaches are running empty or in locked condition due to insufficient demand.

(c) to (e) Southern Railway has already de-reserved requisite number of sleeper class coaches as second class coach over certain sections in 27 trains.

Further, General Manager's sanction has been obtained to de-reserve sleeper coaches over nominated sections (Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram and Shoranur-Thiruvananthapuram for 13 more down trains originating from other zones. The respective zones have been advised to implement the changes in the 13 trains from 01.12.2018 onwards.

#### **Attack Helicopters Unit**

3662. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a separate attack helicopters unit for the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to create such a unit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether such helicopters are likely to be made in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) The Government undertakes continuous assessment of the capacity and preparedness of Indian Army to meet any operational requirement. Based upon this assessment, induction of suitable capabilities in terms of personnel, state of the art weapons and equipments, including air capabilities, is undertaken from time to time.

#### **Recruitment of Minorities**

3663. SHRI MOHD. ASRARUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of minority persons recruited in Group C and Group D posts in the railways, during the last two years;

(b) whether Urdu medium/madarsa students are considered eligible for such posts and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government would make amendments in its rules for recruiting such youths and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The number of minorities persons recruited in Group C and erstwhile Group D posts in the Railways during 01.04.2016 to 31.03.2017 is 2907 and 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2018 is 1556.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Railways follows the instructions issued by the Nodal department of Government of India, *i.e.* Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) with regard to recognition of certificates/qualifications for the purpose of employment on the Railways.

As per DOP&T instructions, the certificates/qualifications issued by the following State Madarsa Education Boards are recognised for the purpose of employment under the Central Government:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Board	Examination Conducted	Equivalence to Classes
1.	Bihar State Madarsa Education Board, Patna, Bihar	Wastania	VIII
		Fauquania	X
		Maulvi	XII
2.	West Bengal Board of Madarsa Education, Kolkata, West Bengal	High Madarsa Alim	X
		Fazil	XII
3.	Chhattisgarh Madarsa Board, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Urdu Adib, Urdu Mahir, Urdu Moullim, High School Patrachar Pathyakram	X
		Adim Higher Secondary Patrachar Pathyakram	XII
4.	Madhya Pradesh Madarsa Board, Bhopal, MP	Middle	VII
		Urdu Adeeb, Urdu Mahir, Urdu Moullim, Maulvi, Madhyamik	X
		Alim, Higher Secondary	XII
5.	UP Madarsa Education Board, Lucknow, UP	Munshi, Moulvi	X
		Alim	XII

### Mega Defence Projects

3664. SHRI BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the status of various mega defence projects launched under Make in India programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating the present status of these projects;

(c) the reasons for delay in these projects;

(d) the steps taken to expedite and fast track these projects; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to case 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 (DR. 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 the 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, up to June, 2018, 215 contracts

for capital procurement of defence equipment with total value of Rs. 250784.59 crore have been signed including 135 contracts with Indian vendors involving Rs. 121486.98 crore and 80 contracts with foreign vendors for value of Rs. 129297.61 crore.

The steps taken to expedite and fast track the capital acquisition projects include:

- (i) Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) report to be approved by SHQs,
- (ii) TEC not to be mandatory for cases valued above Rs. 300 crores.
- (iii) Delegation of powers in approval process;
- (iv) Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) validity has been reduced to six months (from one year) for 'Buy' cases and to one year (from two years) for 'Buy & Make (Indian)' cases;
- (v) Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) has to accompany Statement of Case (SoC) for AoN;
- (vi) Cases with AoN value of more than Rs. 150 crore to be directly brought before Services Capital Acquisition Plan Categorisation Higher Committee (SCAPCHC) thereby eliminating initial placement of such cases before Services Capital Acquisition Plan Categorisation Committee (SCAPCC) etc.

### NSG Membership

3665. DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the outcome of the efforts made and the present status of India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: India's application for membership of the Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG) remains under consideration of the Group.

The merits of India's candidature have been recognized by a majority of NSG members.

Government continues to engage with the NSG and its members at the appropriate levels for a decision on India's application.

### 4G Speed

3666. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the 4G speed in India is lower than the global average and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to improve the 4G speed;

(b) the details of range of spectrum allocated for the 4G LTE services, along with the range that could be made available to increase the speed; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to encourage faster adoption of advanced technologies by the telecom companies in providing 4G services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) analytics portal, the Telecom Service Provider-wise average download speed on 4G Technology in the country for the month of June, 2018 is as per enclosed Statement. This TRAI result is based on the data speed samples collected on a crowd sourcing basis during speed test initiated by users over the last four months. No authentic information is available to the Government on the average 4G speeds in other countries.

(b) As per the Government policy, spectrum has been made Technology neutral *i.e.* any technology could be deployed in any band within the prescribed guidelines.

(c) In order to facilitate improvement in Quality of Services and expansion of telecommunication services including 4G-services, the Department of Telecommunications has initiated a series of policy initiatives and development programs as below:—

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz across different bands (700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands) in 2016.
- (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and Liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per guidelines.
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for achieving higher utilisation efficiency.
- (iv) permitting Internet Protocol (IP) based interconnections between TSPs in addition to the prevailing arrangements.
- (v) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November, 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers).
- (vi) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by TSPs.

Network upgradation and improvement is an ongoing process for each TSP, based on changing traffic volumes, customer needs and market competition.

### Statement

*Telecom service provider-wise average download speed on 4G technology for the month of June' 2018*

Name of 4G Telecom Service Provider	Average Download 4G Speed (in Mbps)
M/s. Reliance Jio	18.6
M/s. Airtel	9.2
M/s. Vodafone	7.2
M/s. Idea	6.8

**Production of Weapons**

3667. SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:  
SHRI R. K. BHARATHI MOHAN:  
SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN:  
SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is not having any Technological Partner for producing weapons of civilian use and non-lethal riot control weapons like Rubber bullet Pistol/Teaser gun;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has sufficient in-house capacity to produce weapons for civilian use like 0.22", 032" bore size and Non-Lethal Weapons like Rubber bullet Pistol/Teaser gun etc., for riot control;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the quantity of such types of weapons produced by OFB during the last three years

and the current year, year, company and type-wise; and

(e) the revenue generated through the sale of such weapons during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) No Madam, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) is not having any Technological Partnership for producing weapons of civilian use and non-lethal riot control weapons including Rubber Bullet Pistol/Teaser gun.

OFB is not manufacturing Rubber bullet Pistol/Teaser gun. However it has sufficient capacity in their factories namely Small Arms Factory, Kanpur; Rifle Factory, Ichapore; Ordnance Factory, Trichy & Gun & Carriage Factory, Jabalpur for manufacturing 0.22 Calibre, 0.32 Calibre & 0.315 Sporting Rifle & 30-06 Sporting Rifle and meeting the demand of weapons for the civilian use. The details of the items (0.22 Calibre, 0.32 Calibre, 0.315 Sporting Rifle & 30-06 Sporting Rifle) sold and the revenue generated since 2015-16 to 2018-19 are as under:-

**Qty in number and Value of Issue**

(Rs. in Lakh)

Item	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Qty	Value Approx.	Qty	Value Approx.	Qty	Value Approx.	Qty	Value Approx.
0.22 Calibre	2313	812	780	272	907	330	104	41
0.32 Calibre	39967	23226	37176	23021	29217	18995	6388	4344
0.315 Sporting Rifle (SPR)	4180	2090	5787	2950	3130	1637	825	465
30-06 Sporting Rifle (SPR)	1133	871	1105	867	1224	991	325	289
Total	47,593	26,999	44,848	27,110	34,478	21,953	7,642	5,139

**Redressal of Complaints**

3668. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE:  
SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made/are being made by the Government to reduce the long pending grievances and fix time-frame to resolve the pending grievances;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for quick redressal of the public complaints received online;

(c) whether the complaints regarding delay in redressal of online complaints have been received by the Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government is going to set up an agency or institute for addressing such problems 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) Guidelines are in place stating that a grievance should be redressed within a period of maximum of two months of its receipt and in cases where resolution would take longer time, an interim reply is sent to the complainant. To facilitate monitoring of quick redressal, the following steps, inter alia, are taken:

- (i) Heads of the Ministries/Departments can access the relevant information in respect of grievances regarding the respective Ministries/Departments and Sub-ordinate Organizations affiliated to them on CPGRAMS on real time basis through a dashboard.
- (ii) In respect of top 40 Ministries/Departments/Organizations receiving maximum grievances a Public Grievances Call Centre is in operation which reminds officials up to the last mile in respect of grievances which are pending for more than two months.
- (iii) Meetings for reviewing the status of pending public grievances in Ministries/Departments are held in D/o Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances on a regular basis.

(c) Data of complaints regarding delay in redressal of online complaints is not maintained Centrally. Delay in disposal of grievances is monitored electronically through CPGRAMS.

(d) No, Madam.

*[English]*

#### **Bilateral Maritime Dialogue**

3669. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:  
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:  
SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a bilateral maritime dialogue between India and China was recently held in Beijing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the issues discussed by both sides in this regard;
- (c) the consensus made and mechanism developed between the two countries on maritime issues;
- (d) whether the Government has taken steps to engage maritime forces of friendly nations at multiple levels in training and maritime security operations;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to protect and utilize the country's long coastline, numerous island and large exclusive economic zone and continental shelf to reap the benefits of a blue economy; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost bilateral maritime relations with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The Second India-China Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held in Beijing on 13th July, 2018. Both sides exchanged views on various topics of mutual interest, including perspectives on maritime security, blue economy, and further strengthening of practical cooperation.

(c) Both sides underlined the importance of this Dialogue as an important mechanism between the two countries for consultation on maritime issues.

(d) As part of the defence diplomacy initiatives of the Government, the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard undertake cooperation with their counterparts in Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs), covering capacity building, capability enhancement, as well as shared maritime domain awareness.

(e) and (f) Yes Madam, the Government is engaged with all the key partners for strengthening maritime cooperation through structured interactions and other mechanisms.

**Cyber Physical System Project**

3670. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:  
 KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:  
 SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
 SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
 SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
 SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR:  
 SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch cyber physical system project;

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

(c) the salient features of the cyber physical system mission;

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the total expenditure likely to be involved in the said project along with the initial budget that has been earmarked for the project in the current financial year; and

(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen cyber security in the country?

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

(b) Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) is defined as a system that interacts with real world "Physical Systems" in "Cyber Space". It aims at research, training and skilling in Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, digital manufacturing, big data analysis, quantum communication and internet of things, to make India Self-reliant and Leader in Cyber Physical Systems.

**Objectives:**

(i) To promote basic and translational research and development in CPS and its foundational technologies.

(ii) To develop and demonstrate CPS technologies, prototypes and associated applications, keeping in view national priorities.

(iii) To increase the number of scientists and technologists to cater to present and future needs of the country and to generate skilled workforce in these emerging areas.

(iv) To nurture innovation, incubation and start-up ecosystem.

(v) To establish and strengthen the international collaborations for the development of cutting-edge technologies in CPS.

(c) The Mission salient features are indigenous technology development, to create specialized Centre of Excellence, generate next level technical manpower, nurture start-up and innovative ecosystem and establish international collaborative research.

(d) Decision is expected in the Current Financial year.

(e) Total expenditure involved is Rs. 3660.00 crores. No initial budget has been earmarked for the project in current financial year.

(f) A specialized Centre of Excellence to develop Cyber Security Technologies was created at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur. Cyber Security for critical infrastructure is one of the focused area under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). A National Framework to secure the digital transnational was developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

**Technological Partner for Small Arms**

3671. SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN:  
 SHRI R. K. BHARATHI MOHAN:  
 SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has issued any circular on Expression of Interest (EoIs) opened prior to the approval of new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in March, 2018 to be based on the old SOP of September, 2016 or the newly approved SOP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken three years to decide not to proceed with approval of Technological Partner (OEM) for manufacture of small arms since the Eol was floated in 2015;

(d) if so, the status of other Eols floated by OFB in the last three years; and

(e) whether they were given approval by the Government based on old SOP or new SOP and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), in April, 2018 had issued a circular regarding applicability of 'Guidelines for Selection of Technological Partner' to the Expression of Interests (Eols) issued prior to their coming into force of the new guidelines. As per this circular the cases where responses are (i) yet to opened, the concerned factories shall withdraw the Eols and the same shall be processed by OFB HQ

as provided in the new guidelines of March, 2018, (ii) the cases where responses have been opened would continue to be processed as per the earlier guidelines of September, 2016; however, if at any stage during the processing of these Eols, it is decided to reissue the EOI, the same shall be done as per the new guidelines of March, 2018. Subsequently OFB in their Board meeting held on 31st July, 2018 decided to process all the cases, old and new as per new 'Guidelines for Selection of Technology Partner' approved by MOD in March, 2018.

The Eol for identifying/shortlisting OEM for collaboration in the production of small arms for civilian market was issued in 2015. Meanwhile, in the changed scenario OFB shifted its focus from manufacturing of civilian weapon to manufacturing weapons for Services and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The proposal for selection of partner for co-production of Non-Prohibited Bore (NPB) weapons has been dropped by OFB.

In the last three years, seven global Eols have been floated by OFB. The status of the same is as under:—

Sl.No.	Item	Status
1.	Air Defence Gun & Ammunition.	Closed
2.	70 mm Rocket	Processed for closure.
3.	Assault Rifle 7.62 mm	-do-
4.	Non-Prohibited Bore Pistol (NPB)	Closed.
5.	Mini Truck	Closed.
6.	Mounted Gun System	EOI for selection of technology partner was floated for participation in the forthcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) for 155 mm Mounted Gun System to be issued by the Army HQ. MoU has been signed by OFB in August, 2017 with M/s BAE Systems, USA with validity of two years from the date of signing.
7.	Air Defence Gun for Indian Army	Processed for closure.

#### Military Equipment

3672. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:  
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has planned large defence outlay including in Bundelkhand Region for India's defence requirements in the future and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether partnership with foreign original equipment manufacturers is significant for co-production and co-development of military equipment;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has established a number of Joint Working Groups under Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) to take forward mutually agreed projects for the benefit of the Armed forces;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the result achieved in this regard;

(e) whether any discussion was held between India and USA to strengthen defence trade ties and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of military equipment and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Union Government for co-production and co-development of military equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE):

(a) to (f)  
(1) The Government has decided to establish two defence industrial corridors to serve as an engine of economic development and growth of defence industrial base in the country. While one corridor spans Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu, the other extends across Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

(2) The partnership with foreign original equipment manufacturers is significant for the Indian defence industry particularly in the areas where the technology is not available in the country. The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2016 contains provisions related to acquisition of technology through Transfer of Technology (ToT) under Buy & Make, Buy & Make (Indian) categories of capital acquisition, and through the Strategic Partnership Model.

(3) A number of Joint Working Groups have been established under DTTI to progress mutually agreed projects for the benefit of the Armed Forces. The Joint Working Group under the Air Force, handling the surveillance platform, has

made considerable progress. The Indian Navy Joint Working Group is constructively engaged with US Navy for aircraft carrier technology cooperation for the on-going program. On the land systems front and on projects under the DRDO, both sides have identified projects where scope of co-production/co-development of systems exists.

(4) The 7th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Meeting was held between India and the USA delegation on 18th July, 2018 in New Delhi with the aim to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.

(5) The Union Government has taken the following major steps for co-production and co-development of military equipment:

(i) 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 (OEMs) to seek technology transfers to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure and supply chains.

(ii) The "Buy & Make (Indian)" and "Buy & Make" categories facilitate capital acquisition of military equipment through an initial procurement of equipment in Fully Formed (FF) state in quantities as considered necessary followed by indigenous production in a phased manner involving Transfer of Technology (ToT) of critical technologies as per specified range, depth and scope.

(iii) The 'Make' Procedure has been simplified with provisions for funding of 90% of development cost by the Government to Indian industry and reserving projects not exceeding development cost of Rs. 10

crore (Government funded) and Rs. 3 crore (Industry funded) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- (iv) A separate procedure for 'Make-II' sub-category has been notified wherein a number of industry friendly provisions such as relaxation of eligibility criterion, minimal documentation, provision for considering 'suo-moto' proposals suggested by industry/individual etc., have been introduced.
- (v) FDI Policy has been revised and under the revised policy, FDI is allowed under automatic route upto 49% and beyond 49% through Government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.
- (vi) An innovation ecosystem for Defence titled Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) has been launched on 12th April, 2018 by the Hon'ble PM during Def-expo 2018. iDEX is aimed at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, Start-ups, Individual Innovators, R&D institutes and Academia and provide them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.
- (vii) To promote the participation of private sector, Outsourcing and Vendor Development Guidelines for DPSUs and OFB have been issued. The guidelines mandate each DPSU and OFB to have a short-term and long-term outsourcing and vendor development plan to gradually increase the outsourcing from private sector.
- (viii) Government has set up the Technology Development Fund (TDF) to encourage participation of public/private industries

especially MSMEs, through provision of grants, so as to create an eco-system for enhancing cutting-edge technology capability for defence applications.

#### **Innovation at the School and College Level**

3673. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:  
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH  
SHANKARRAO:  
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:  
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:  
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has created any structure/organization to nurture innovations at the school and college level and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the National Innovation Foundation has recorded a number of innovations at the rural school level, touching the future of these students;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the National Research Development Corporation is acting as a window for such innovations including the processes patented by laboratories under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); 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) Yes, Madam. The Government through Department of Science & Technology, is implementing various Schemes and has created structure to nurture innovations at the school and college level.

- (i) Department of Science & Technology (DST) is implementing INSPIRE Awards-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) for students studying in classes 6 to 10, aligned with the action plan for "Start-up India" initiative. Under INSPIRE Award MANAK Scheme, in a financial year, ten (10.0) lakh

- ideas are being targeted from more than five (05) lakh middle and high schools across the country, out of which one (1.0) lakh ideas are to be shortlisted for an initial award of Rs. 10000/- each, for preparation of project/model/showcasing of idea.
- (ii) In addition to this, Department of Science & Technology has setup 120 Technology Business Incubators (TBLs) in academic and R&D institutions to help college students to commercialize their ideas under the Youth and NewGen Innovation and Entrepreneur Cell. The department is supporting colleges to provide support to converting ideas into prototype and then start-up if possible. The Department has also initiated a program National Initiative of Developing and Harnessing Innovation (NIDHI) which provide complete support from idea to commercialisation under the seven umbrella schemes of NIDHI.
- (iii) Further, the Department of Science and Technology has created National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF), an autonomous body for working towards nurturing innovations for school children in the country. Focused on children creativity and innovations, the two major ongoing schemes are INSPIRE Awards-MANAK and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Awards for Standard XII in school or those up to the age of 17 years out of school.
- (iv) Various Other Departments like Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEIT) and ICR have also supported Business Incubators in Academic Institutions.
- (v) Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) through Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Start-ups and MSMEs (PRISM), Scheme, scouts independent innovators. However, through TePP Outreach cum Cluster Innovation Centre (TOCICs), Department scouts/help in scouting and evaluation of innovations proposals including college students.
- (vi) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has instituted the CSIR Innovation Award for School Children (CIASC) to create awareness, interest and motivation for Intellectual Property so as to support scientific temperament and to generate innovative spirit amongst children. CSIR has also the "Jigyasa" Programme in association with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) which attempts to nurture scientific temper/scientific talent among school children to generate scientific curiosity and ignite young minds towards innovative ideas.
- (vii) Under the Atal Innovation Mission, Government has setup 3500 tinkering labs in the schools all over the country and also established business incubators in the academic institutions.
- (vii) The Ministry of Human Resource Development through Department of School Education & Literacy, earmarked the Innovation Fund for secondary education for 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in 2017-18 to encourage local innovation for ensuring universal access, gender parity quality improvement and also includes ICT enabled learning transformation. The Department has also launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA), a convergent framework across School Education and Higher Education to encourage children towards learning Science and Mathematics through activities related to Science and Mathematics. Further, Department of Higher Education has established Startup Cells and Incubation Centers to promote innovation by the Institutes. It also helps in the process of patent filing among faculty, research staff and students of the Institute and nurture the culture of startups and entrepreneurship among the students.
- (b) and (c) Yes Madam. over two lakhs Ideas and innovations have been received by NIF from students from rural areas, tribal areas including locations in the J&K and North East part of the country. NIF is making every effort to reach until the last mile of the country. NIF provides an "end to end incubation support" for country's Ideas and Innovations be it Scouting and Documentation, Value

Addition-Research and Prototype Development, Intellectual Property Rights Protection, Business Development and Dissemination and Social Diffusion; thereby completing the value chain. To facilitate the transition of an idea into a proof-of-concept/prototype and to further strengthen the commercialization aspects, it also hosts NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council (NIFentreC), a Technology Business Incubator. NIF has materialized few instances of Technology Transfer from innovators to external entities and in several cases, innovators were provided with mentoring, resources, platformis etc. to become entrepreneurs.

(d) and (e) National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), a PSU of DSIR, carries out various activities to promote and nurture innovation amongst the students, Universities, R&D Institutes & Scientists in the country.

NRDC gives away Prize Award to meritorious inventions with objectives to:

- To encourage and inculcate the spirit of inventiveness among scientists, technologists, innovators artisans, technicians and others
- To assist in guiding the country's inventive talent in the most fruitful manner
- To promote and implement new ideas and inventions.

The NRDC National Budding Innovators Award is specially designed for Student(s) registered for Bachelors or Masters in Academic or Research Institutions, Universities or affiliated Colleges.

#### **Fraud in Digital Payment**

3674. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:  
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of fraud in digital payments have increased;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in respect of digital security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) The specific information is not available with the Ministry, however as per the information received from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 10,18 and 26 cases were registered under Debit/Credit Card Frauds during 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. (NCRB started collecting the data on Credit/Debit Card frauds since 2014). The digital payments transactions have increased considerably-the total number of transactions have increased from 220 crore in 2013-2014 to 2070.98+crores in 2017-2018, while the number of fraud cases have not seen such an increase.

(c) Some of the steps taken by Government to in respect of digital payments security have been mentioned in Statement-I. In addition, the steps taken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in respect of digital payments security are mentioned in Statement-II.

#### **Statement-I**

*In addition, steps taken by Government to secure digital payment system are as under:-*

1. Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber-attacks for implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
2. CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities along with countermeasures to create awareness among stakeholders to take appropriate measures to ensure safe usage of digital technologies. Regarding securing digital payments, 27 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.
3. CERT-In has empanelled 67 security auditing organizations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
4. All Organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
5. Cyber Security Exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security

posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 25 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In where organisations from different States and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc. participated.

6. Cyber Security Awareness Sessions are conducted by Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY) under the Digishala Awareness Campaign.
7. Government has established Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre to detect and clean infected systems in the country. The Project is initiated in coordination with the Internet Service Providers and Industry.
8. Government has issued general guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance.
9. CERT-In is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for IT/cyber security professionals including CISOs of Government and critical sector organisations to give an exposure on current threat landscape and counter measures. In addition, CERT-In has also conducted a workshop on security of digital payments systems for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.

**Statement-II**

*Some of the measures taken by RBI are as follows-*

1. A comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks issued on June 2, 2016 (DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16), includes section on 'Arrangement for continuous surveillance' in banks and also covers best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security
2. RBI has also set up a Cyber Crisis Management Group to address any major incidents reported including suggesting ways to respond. Based

on market intelligence and incidents reported by the banks, advisories are issued to the banks for sensitizing them about various threats and ensure prompt preventive/corrective action.

3. Department of Banking Supervision under RBI, with the help of Indian-Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), conducts cyber security preparedness testing among banks on the basis of hypothetical scenarios.
4. RBI issues Circulars/advisories to all Commercial Banks on phishing attacks and preventive/detective measures to tackle phishing attacks. Banks have also been following the same with their users.
5. RBI has set up a Cyber Security and IT Examination (CSITE) cell in 2015 and carries out Information Technology (IT) Examination of banks separately from the regular financial examination of the banks to assess their cyber resilience. The examination, *inter alia*, evaluates the processes implemented by banks for security checks like Vulnerability Assessment (VA)/ Penetration Testing (PT) etc. and their follow up action.
6. An inter-disciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security at RBI, reviews the threats inherent in the existing/emerging technology and suggests appropriate policy interventions to strengthen cyber security and resilience.
7. RBI has set up an Information Technology (IT) Subsidiary, which would focus, among other things, on cyber security within RBI as well as in regulated entities.
8. Banks and Payment System Operators have been advised to enhance the security and risk mitigation measures for (a) card transactions (includes card based online transactions) and (b) electronic payment transactions (includes e-banking transactions) by taking following measures—
  - (a) Banks have been advised to provide online alerts for all card transactions (card present

and card not present), *vide*, RBI circular dated February 18, 2009 (RBI/DPSS No. 1501/02.14.003/2008-2009) and March 29, 2011 (DPSS. CO. PD 2224/02.14.003/2010-2011).

- (b) Banks have been advised, *vide*, circular February 18, 2009 (RBI/DPSS No. 1501/02.14.003/2008-2009) and December 31, 2010 (DPSS. CO.No.1503/02.14.003/2010-2011) to put in place a system of providing additional factor of authentication (2FA) for all card not present transactions using the information which is not available on the card.
- (c) Banks have also been advised *vide* circulars dated February 28, 2013 (DPSS (CO) PD No.1462/02.14.003/2012-13) and June 24, 2013 (DPSS (CO) PD No.2377/02.14.003/2012-13) for securing electronic (online and e-banking) transactions, to introduce additional security measures.
9. For Non-Bank Entities operating Payment Systems in India, in order to ensure that the technology deployed to operate the payment system/s authorised is/are being operated in a safe, secure, sound and efficient manner, RBI has, *vide* circulars DPSS.AD.No.1206/02.27.005/2009-2010 dated December 7, 2009 and DPSS.1444/06.11.001/2010-2011 dated December 27, 2010, which was subsequently amended *vide* circular DPSS.CO.OSD. No.2374/06.11.001/2010-2011 dated April 15, 2011 (copy is available on [https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS\\_Notification.aspx?Id=6344&fn=9&Mode=0](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=6344&fn=9&Mode=0)), mandated System Audit to be done on an annual basis by Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), registered with Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) or by a holder of a Diploma in Information System Audit (DISA) qualification of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Further, the scope of the System Audit should include

evaluation of the hardware structure, operating systems and critical applications, security and controls in place, including access controls on key applications, disaster recovery plans, training of personnel managing systems and applications, documentation, etc. The audit should also comment on the deviations, if any, in the processes followed from the process flow submitted to the Reserve Bank while seeking authorization.

10. With a view to address the issue of cyber resilience, RBI had, *vide* circular DPSS.CO.OSD. No.1485/06.08.005/2016-17 dated December 9, 2016 (copy is available on [https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS\\_Notification.aspx?Id=10772&fn=9&Mode=0](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=10772&fn=9&Mode=0)), instructed all authorised entities/banks issuing PPIs in the country to carry out special audit by empanelled CERT-In auditors and take appropriate measures on mitigating phishing attacks.

In addition, details of direction pertaining to security for PPI transactions, are available in section 'Security, Fraud Prevention and Risk Management Framework' of the Master Directions for PPI issued by RBI (DPSS.CO.PD. No.1164/02.14.006/2017-18).

11. RBI has issued various circulars wherein customer banks are advised to educate customers. These circulars are as follows:
- (a) Card Payments-Relaxation in requirement of Additional Factor of Authentication for small value card present transactions dated May 14, 2015 (DPSS.CO.PD. No.2163/02.14.003/2014-2015).
- (b) Cash Withdrawal at Point-of-Sale (POS)-Enhanced limit at Tier III to VI Centres dated August 27, 2015 (DPSS.CO.PD. No.449/02.14.003/2015-16).
- (c) Card Not Present transactions-Relaxation in Additional Factor of Authentication for payments upto 2000/- for card network provided authentication solutions dated December 6, 2016 (DPSS.CO.PD. No.1431/02.14.003/2016-17).

- (d) Master Direction on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments dated October 11, 2017 (DPSS.CO.PD. No.1164/02.14.006/2017-18).
- (e) Banks have also been requested to educate customers about cyber security risks, as per the circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks dated June 2, 2016 (DBS.CO/CSITE/BC.11/33.01.001/2015-16).

#### **Prevention of Cyber Crime**

3675. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:

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

(a) whether the legal, technical and administrative measures taken by the Government to prevent cyber crimes have achieved the desired results in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of cases of cyber crimes reported across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of such cases registered under the Information Technology Act, 2000, Indian Penal Code and other laws along with losses incurred in such cases across the country during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government has sought technical aid from some of the developed countries of the world to prevent cyber crimes in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof, countrywise along with the reaction of the said countries thereto; and

(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) There are adequate legal provisions to deal with prevalent cyber crimes. As per information provided by National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB), a total of 9622, 11592 and 12317 cases were registered under total cyber-crimes (involving computer as

medium or target) in the country during 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. State/UT-wise cases registered under cyber-crimes during 2014-2016 is enclosed as Statement-I. Latest available data pertains to the year 2016. Head-wise cyber crime cases registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted and persons convicted under various sections of IT Act, Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special Act and Local Laws (SLL) during 2014-2016 is enclosed as Statement-II. Data related to losses incurred are not maintained by NCRB.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Government has taken a number of legal, technical and administrative measures to prevent cyber crimes. These *inter alia*, include:

(i) Enactment of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 which has adequate provisions for dealing with prevalent cyber crimes.

(ii) Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in all States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of cyber crime cases.

(iii) Government has established National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the IT Act, 2000 for protection of critical information infrastructure in the country.

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

(v) Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir for training of law enforcement personnel and Judiciary in these States.

(vi) RBI, *vide* its circular on "Cyber Security Framework in Banks", has advised banks to report all unusual cyber security incidents to RBI.

RBI reviews cyber security developments and threats on an ongoing basis and takes necessary measures to strengthen the cyber-resilience of banks. RBI has also advised banks to take necessary preventive and corrective measures address various types of cyber-threats. Caution advices are also issued as and when necessary for preventing and controlling frauds.

(vii) 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. Regular Workshops are conducted for Ministries, Departments, States & Union Territories and critical organizations to sensitize them about the cyber security threat landscape and enabling them to prepare and implement the Cyber Crisis Management Plan.

(viii) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The Centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.

(ix) Cyber Security Exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 30 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In wherein organisations from different sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS etc. participated.

**Statement-I**

*State/UT-wise Cases Registered under Cyber-Crimes during 2014-2016*

Sl.No.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016
1.	Andhra Pradesh	282	536	616
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	6	4
3.	Assam	379	483	696
4.	Bihar	114	242	309
5.	Chhattisgarh	123	103	90

Sl.No.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016
6.	Goa	62	17	31
7.	Gujarat	227	242	362
8.	Haryana	151	224	401
9.	Himachal Pradesh	38	50	31
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37	34	28
11.	Jharkhand	93	180	259
12.	Karnataka	1020	1447	1101
13.	Kerala	450	290	283
14.	Madhya Pradesh	289	231	258
15.	Maharashtra	1879	2195	2380
16.	Manipur	13	6	11
17.	Meghalaya	60	56	39
18.	Mizoram	22	8	1
19.	Nagaland	0	0	2
20.	Odisha	124	386	317
21.	Punjab	226	149	102
22.	Rajasthan	697	949	941
23.	Sikkim	4	1	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	172	142	144
25.	Telangana	703	687	593
26.	Tripura	5	13	8
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1737	2208	2639
28.	Uttarakhand	42	48	62
29.	West Bengal	355	398	478
Total State (S)		9322	11331	12187
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13	6	3
31.	Chandigarh	55	77	26
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	0	1
33.	Daman and Diu	1	1	0
34.	Delhi UT	226	177	98
35.	Lakshadweep	1	0	0
36.	Puducherry	1	0	2
Total UT (S)		300	261	130
Total (All India)		9622	11592	12317

Source: Crime in India

**Statement-II**

*Crime Head-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Charge Sheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CV), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Charge sSheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Cyber Crimes during 2014-2016*

Sl. No.	Crime Head	2014						2015						2016					
		CR	CCS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CV	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	IT-Tampering computer source documents	89	18	0	64	19	0	88	36	2	62	54	2	78	32	1	66	43	1
2.	IT-Computer Related Offences (Section 66 and Section 66B to 66E)	5548	1094	40	3131	1407	44	6567	1841	159	4217	2558	207	6818	2018	134	4674	2579	172
2.1	Computer Related Offences-Under Section 66	4192	860	38	2423	1125	42	4154	1510	143	3137	2104	179	3321	1453	119	2792	1807	150
2.2	Computer Related Offences-Under Section 66B	82	27	0	53	30	0	132	38	3	91	49	3	196	52	1	150	58	1
2.3	Computer Related Offences-Under Section 66C	784	112	0	446	147	0	1081	160	8	562	210	18	1545	267	5	755	331	8
2.4	Computer Related Offences-Under Section 66D	428	76	2	176	84	2	1083	100	2	327	156	2	1597	205	9	882	300	12
2.5	Computer Related Offences-Under Section 66E	62	19	0	33	21	0	117	33	3	100	39	5	159	41	0	95	83	0
3.	IT-Cyber Terrorism (Section 66F)	5	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	0	3	1	0	12	6	0	7	7	0

4. IT-Publication/ Transmission of Obscene/Sexually Explicit Content (Sec 67 And Sec 67A to 67C)	758	186	5	491	270	6	816	335	15	555	506	21	957	409	10	829	484	12
4.1 Under Section 67 And Section 67A	749	183	5	487	266	6	792	329	13	545	500	19	930	400	9	810	472	11
4.2 Under Section 67B	5	2	0	3	3	0	8	5	2	7	6	2	17	6	1	15	9	1
4.3 Under Section 67C	4	1	0	1	1	0	16	1	0	3	0	0	10	3	0	4	3	0
5. IT-Intentionally not complying with the Order of Controller	3	0	0	4	0	0	2	3	0	3	5	0	6	1	0	1	1	0
6. IT-Failure to Provide or Monitor or Intercept or Decrypt Information	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
7. IT-Failure to Block Access any Information Hosted etc	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. IT-Not Providing Technical Assistance to Govt. to Enable Online Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0
9. IT-Un-authorized Access/Attempt to Access to Protected Computer System	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	4	4	0	0	3	0	3	3	0
10. IT-Misrepresentation/ Suppression of Fact for Obtaining License etc.	5	2	0	13	3	0	4	5	0	2	12	0	2	1	0	0	0	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
11. IT-Breach of Confidentiality/Privacy	16	3	0	13	3	0	20	5	2	6	2	6	6	2	20	13	0	23	17	0
12. IT-Disclosure of Information in Breach of Lawful Contract	2	1	0	5	5	0	4	1	0	2	2	2	2	0	15	3	0	14	9	0
13. IT-Publishing/Making Available False Elect. Signature Certificate	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. IT-Create/Publish/Make Available Elec. Signature Certificate for Unlawful Purpose	3	3	0	5	4	0	3	2	0	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
15. IT-Others	769	144	7	520	220	15	514	164	15	245	352	18	704	222	14	343	269	17		
Total Offences under IT Act (A)	7201	1451	52	4246	1931	65	8045	2396	193	5102	3502	250	8613	2710	159	5964	3414	202		
1. IPC-Offences by Public Servant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. IPC-Fabrication/ Destruction of Electronic Records for Evidence	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	1	2	2	1	6	4	0	4	4	0		
3. IPC-Cheating	1115	168	2	335	243	3	2255	259	10	754	441	14	2329	355	4	853	569	6		
4. IPC-Forgery	63	13	0	58	38	0	45	13	0	72	63	0	81	16	0	64	37	0		
5. IPC-Data Theft	55	5	0	11	7	0	84	19	0	135	128	0	86	22	0	34	26	0		
6. IPC-Criminal Breach of Trust/Fraud	54	20	0	39	22	0	42	21	0	1292	34	0	56	12	0	20	15	0		
6.1 IPC-Credit/Debit Card	10	2	0	3	2	0	18	10	0	18	15	0	26	4	0	4	4	0		
6.2 IPC-Others	44	18	0	36	20	0	24	11	0	1274	19	0	30	8	0	16	11	0		
7. IPC-Counterfeiting	10	3	0	8	8	0	12	10	0	14	10	0	10	12	0	17	19	0		

7.1 IPC-Currency	10	3	0	8	8	0	0	12	10	0	14	10	0	10	12	0	17	19	0
7.2 IPC-Stamps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. IPC-Others	974	349	4	772	522	4	980	386	4	598	584	5	950	438	9	793	601	15	
Total Offences under IPC (B)	2272	558	6	1224	840	7	3422	710	15	2867	1262	20	3518	859	13	1785	1271	21	
1. Copyright Act, 1957	118	95	18	167	135	23	113	90	26	135	139	32	181	136	29	237	212	31	
1.1 Under Section 63	74	60	15	108	80	19	55	54	17	66	80	19	129	89	15	182	164	15	
1.2 Under Section 68A	4	3	2	3	3	3	18	12	0	18	16	0	16	16	0	21	17	0	
1.3 Others	40	32	1	56	52	1	40	24	9	51	43	13	36	31	14	34	31	16	
2. Trade Marks Act, 1999	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
2.1 Under Section 102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
2.2 Under Section 103	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2.3 Under Section 104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2.4 Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
3. Other SLL Offences	30	12	0	115	92	0	12	10	0	17	25	0	3	7	0	4	16	0	
Total SLL Offences (C)	149	107	18	282	227	23	125	100	26	152	164	32	186	143	29	241	228	31	
Total Offences under Cyber Crime (A+B+C)	9622	2116	76	5752	2998	95	11592	3206	234	8121	4928	302	12317	3712	201	7990	4913	254	

Source: Crime in India

**Special Fast Track Courts**

3676. SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:  
 SHRI GEORGE BAKER:  
 SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:  
 SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the Government has proposal to set up special fast track courts across the country to hear rape cases, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the objectives thereof;

(b) the details of the funds likely to be sanctioned for this and the details of the target likely to be set for this project; and

(c) whether any time limit for investigation of all cases of rape has been fixed, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to prepare a scheme to set up fast track special courts to decide rape cases exclusively and to strengthen such courts where they already exist. The Government has promulgated the 'The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 effecting amendments *inter alia* in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 such as in Section 173(1A) to provide that investigation in all rape cases shall be completed within two months from the date on which information was recorded by the Officer-In-Charge of Police Station. A Bill to replace this Ordinance has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 30.07.2018.

Further, the Union Government had submitted a Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission for strengthening of the judicial system in states at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 9749.00 crore, which, *inter alia*, included establishment of 1800 Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes involving senior citizens, women, children, including rape cases etc. at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4144.00 crore. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form

of enhanced tax devolution (from 32% to 42%) to meet funding requirements for setting up the fast track courts. A total number of 727 Fast Track Courts have been, thus, set up in the country.

**Comprehensive Health Index**

3677. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:  
 ADV. JOICE GERGE:

Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has published recently the comprehensive Health Index report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report ranks States and Union Territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes as well as their overall performance with respect to each other;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the list of performers and worst performers among States; and

(e) whether the Government has any action plan to improve State rankings and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) "Healthy States, Progressive India-Report on the ranks of States and UTs" has been jointly released by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. 'The report is available on the official website of NITI for which the link is as under:

[http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document\\_publication/Healthy-States-Progressive-India\\_ReportO.pdf](http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/Healthy-States-Progressive-India_ReportO.pdf)

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The key results of the report are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has put in place a system of incentives/disincentives that is based on outcome indicators and health system initiatives to help accelerate the progress on achievement of the National

Health Mission and Sustainable Development goals. The incentives are provided to the States on the basis of the performance of the States which is assessed based on conditionality framework for the year. This framework of conditionality includes incentive/penalty based on NITI Aayog ranking of States on 'Performance on Health Outcomes'.

**Statement**

*Key results of comprehensive Health Index Report*

**5. There is a large gap in overall performance between the best and the least performing States and UTs; besides, all States and UTs have substantial scope for improvement:**

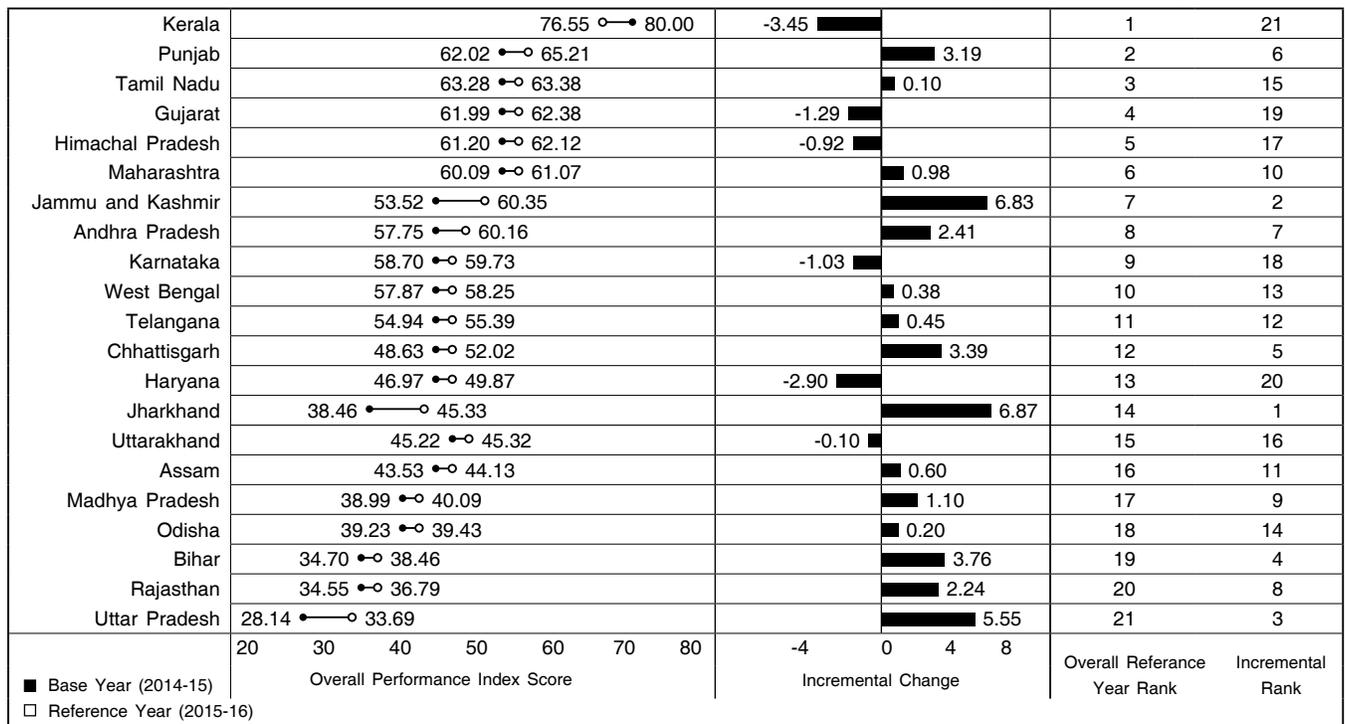
In the reference year (2015-16) among Larger States, the Index score for overall performance ranged widely between 33.69 in Uttar Pradesh to 76.55 in Kerala. Similarly, among Smaller States, the Index score for overall performance varied between 37.38 in Nagaland to 73.70 in Mizoram, and among UTs this varied between 34.64 in Dadra & Nagar Haveli to 65.79 in Lakshadweep. Among Larger States, the variation between the best and least performing States and UTs was

the widest around 43 points as compared with 36 points in Smaller States and 31 points in UTs. However, based on the highest observed overall Index scores in each category of States and UTs, clearly there is room for improvement in all States and UTs.

**6. The States and UTs rank differently on overall performance and annual incremental performance:**

States and UTs that start at lower levels of the Health Index (lower levels of development of their health systems) are generally at an advantage in notching up incremental progress over States with high Health Index score due to diminishing marginal returns in outcomes for similar effort levels. It is a challenge for States at high levels of the Index score even to maintain their performance levels. For example, Kerala ranks on top in terms of overall performance and at the bottom in terms of incremental progress mainly as it had already achieved a low level of Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) and Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR) and replacement level fertility, leaving limited space for any further improvements.

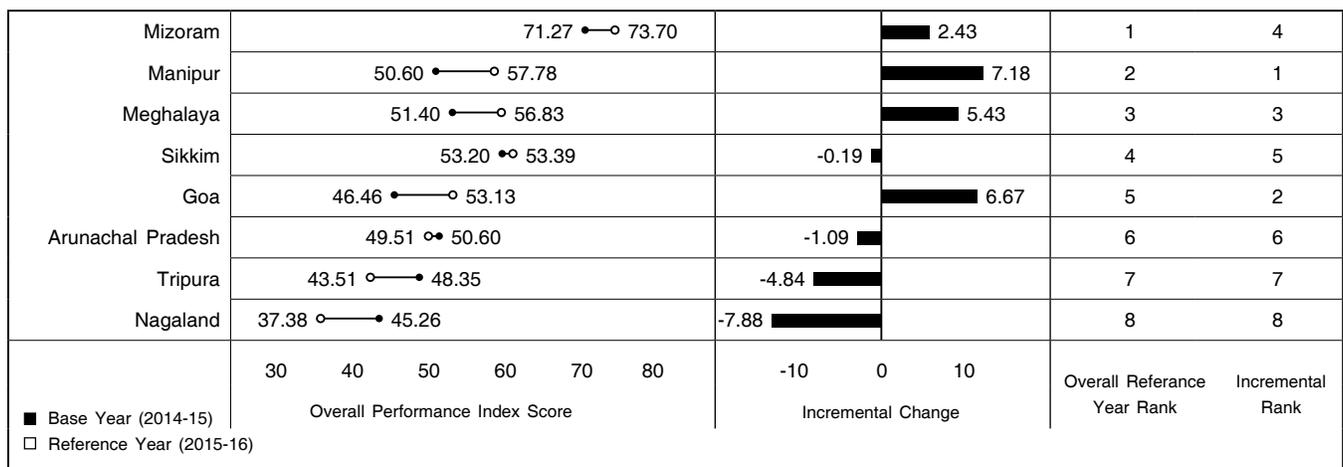
**Figure E.1-Larger States: Incremental scores and ranks, with overall performance from base year to reference year and ranks**



7. **Among the Larger States, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh are the top three ranking States in terms of annual incremental performance, while Kerala, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu ranked on top in terms of overall performance:** In terms of annual incremental performance in Index scores from the base to the reference year, the top three ranked States in the group of Larger States are Jharkhand (up 6.87 points), Jammu & Kashmir (up 6.83 points) and Uttar Pradesh (up 5.55 points). However, in terms of overall levels of performance, these States are in the bottom two-third of the range of Index scores, with Kerala (76.55), Punjab (65.21) and Tamil Nadu (63.38) showing the highest scores. Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh showed the maximum gains in improvement of health outcomes from base to reference year in indicators such as NMR, U5MR, full immunization coverage, institutional deliveries, and People Living with HN (PLHIV) on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).

8. **Among Smaller States, Manipur ranked first in terms of annual incremental performance and second in terms of over all performance, while Goa ranked second in terms of annual incremental performance:** Among Smaller States, Mizoram (73.70) followed by Manipur (57.78) are the best overall performers. In annual incremental performance, Manipur (up 7.18 points) and Goa (up 6.67 points) ranked the highest. For Smaller States, among the top performers, the indicators that contributed to higher incremental performance varied. Manipur, ranked at the top and registered maximum incremental progress on indicators such as PLHIV on ART, first trimester Antenatal Care (ANC) registration, grading of Community Health Centres (CHCs) on quality parameters, average occupancy of three key State-level officers, and good reporting on the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).

Figure E.2-Smaller States: Incremental scores and ranks, with overall performance from base year to reference year and ranks



9. **Among UTs, Lakshadweep showed both the highest annual incremental performance as well as the best over all performance:** In annual incremental performance, Lakshadweep ranked at the top (up 9.56 points) followed by Andaman & Nicobar Islands (up 3.82 points). In terms of overall performance, Lakshadweep

(65.79) ranked at the top, followed by Chandigarh (52.27). Lakshadweep showed the highest improvement in indicators such as institutional deliveries, Tuberculosis (TB) treatment success rate and transfer of Central National Health Mission (NHM) Funds from State Treasury to implementation agency.

**Figure E.3-Union Territories: Incremental scores and ranks, with overall performance from base year to reference year and ranks**

Lakshadweep	56.23 $\bullet$ $\circ$ 65.79		9.56	1	1
Chandigarh	52.27 $\circ$ $\bullet$ 57.49	-5.22		2	6
Delhi	48.05 $\bullet$ $\circ$ 50.02		1.97	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	46.18 $\bullet$ $\circ$ 50.00		3.82	4	2
Puducherry	46.54 $\bullet$ $\circ$ 47.48		0.94	5	5
Daman & Diu	36.10 $\circ$ $\bullet$ 44.77	-8.67		6	7
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	31.34 $\bullet$ $\circ$ 36.64		3.30	7	3
	30 40 50 60 70	-10 -5 0 5 10			
	Overall Performance Index Score				
	■ Base Year (2014-15)				
	□ Reference Year (2015-16)				

10. **The incremental measurement shows that about one-third of the States have registered a decline in their Health Indices in the reference year as compared to the base year:** This is a matter of concern and should nudge the States into reviewing and revitalizing their programmatic efforts. Among the Larger States, six States, namely Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana and Kerala have shown a decline in performance

from base year to reference year, despite some of them being among the top ten in overall performance. Among the Smaller States, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Nagaland have shown a decline; and among the UTs, Chandigarh and Daman & Diu have shown a decline. Tables E.1, E.2 and E.3 provide a categorization of States and UTs based on the level of annual incremental performance and the overall performance.

**Table E.1-Categorization of Larger States or incremental performance and over all performance**

Incremental Performances	Overall Performances		
	Aspirants	Achievers	Front-runners
Not Improved	Uttarakhand Haryana	Himachal Pradesh Karnataka Gujarat	Kerala
Least Improved	Madhya Pradesh Assam Odisha	Maharashtra Telangana West Bengal	Tamil Nadu
Moderately Improved	Bihar Rajasthan	Chhattisgarh Andhra Pradesh	Punjab
Most Improved	Jharkhand Uttar Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir	

*Note:* Overall Performance: The States are categorized on the basis of reference year Index score range: Front-runners: top one-third (Index score >62); Achievers: middle one-third (Index score between 48 and 62), Aspirants: lowest one-third (Index score <48).

Incremental Performance: The States are categorized on the basis of incremental Index score range: 'Not Improved' (Incremental Index score  $\leq 0$ ), 'Least Improved' (Incremental Index score between 0.01 and 2), 'Moderately Improved' (Incremental Index score between 2.01 and 4), 'Most Improved' (incremental Index score >4.0).

**Table E.2-Categorization of Smaller States or incremental performance and over all performance**

Incremental Performances	Overall Performances		
	Aspirants	Achievers	Front-runners
Not Improved	Tripura Nagaland	Sikkim Arunachal Pradesh	-
Least Improved	-	-	-
Moderately Improved	-	-	Mizoram
Most Improved	-	Manipur Meghalaya Goa	-

*Note:* Overall Performance: The States are categorized on the basis of reference year Index score range: Front-runners: top one-third (Index score>61.60), Achievers: middle one-third (Index score between 49.49 and 61.60), Aspirants: lowest one-third (Index score <49.49).

Incremental Performance: The States are categorized on the basis of incremental Index score range: 'Not Improved' (incremental Index score≤0), 'Least Improved' (incremental Index score between 0.01 and 2), 'Moderately Improved' Incremental Index score between 2.01 and 4), 'Most Improved' (incremental Index score>4.0).

**Table E.3- Categorization of Union Territories based on incremental performance and over all performance**

Incremental Performances	Overall Performances		
	Aspirants	Achievers	Front-runners
Not Improved	Daman & Diu	Chandigarh	-
Least Improved	-	Delhi Puducherry	-
Moderately Improved	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-
Most Improved	-	-	Lakshadweep

*Note:* Overall Performance: The UTs are categorized on the basis of reference year Index score range: Front-runners: top one-third (Index score>55), Achievers: middle one-third (Index score between 45 and 55), Aspirants: lowest one-third (Index score<45).

For incremental Performance: The UTs are categorized on the basis of Incremental Index score range: 'Not Improved' (incremental Index score≤0), 'Least Improved' (incremental Index score between 0.01 and 2), 'Moderately Improved' (incremental Index score between 2.01 and 4), 'Most Improved' (Incremental index score>4.0).

In terms of numbers of indicators, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Delhi showed improvement in the highest number of parameters, within the three categories of States respectively (Figures 4.6, 4.12, 4.18). The specific indicators for which the States' performance has dipped or improved and actual values for these are provided in Annexure 4. The indicators where most States and UTs need to focus include addressing vacancies in key staff, establishment of functional district Cardiac Care Units (CCUs), quality accreditation

of public health facilities, and institutionalization of Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS). Additionally, almost all Larger States need to focus on improving the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB).

11. **The overall performance of States is not always consistent with the domain specific performance:** Some States fare significantly better in one domain than others, suggesting that there is scope to improve their performance

in lagging domains with specific targeted interventions. For example, while most States showed a better performance in Health Outcomes, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Daman & Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli performed better in terms of Key Inputs/Processes. Domain-wise incremental performance among the three categories of States showed the highest improvement in outcomes, respectively for Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand; Goa and Manipur; Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

#### **Circulation of Fake News to Create Panic**

3678. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to check the broadcasting of erroneous clips about natural disasters that induce panic, such as the fake clip circulated about Cyclone Okhi destroying Bandra-Worli sealink in Mumbai and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has probed into the origin of these clips or monitored their circulation over social media sites and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any monitoring or evaluation of clips at the source of origin, to examine their validity before they are circulated widely and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to actively dismiss fake clips and to spread information regarding authenticity of clips?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) No such incident was reported to Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

(c) and (d) Government is fully committed to freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution of India. Government does not regulate content appearing on Internet. Law enforcement agencies take appropriate action on posting of malicious

content on Internet on specific case-to-case basis.

The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provision for removal/disablement of malicious content appearing on Internet. Section 79 of the Act provides that intermediaries are required to follow due diligence. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under this section prescribes 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 or is unlawful in any way.

Further, Section 69A of the IT Act empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of - (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States, (v) public order, or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. Towards more effective enforcement, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been regularly interacting with popular social media sites like WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter etc.

MHA has also issued a number of advisories which includes advisory on untoward incidents in the name of protection of cows dated 09.08.2016, advisory on cyber crime prevention and control dated 13.01.2018 and also an advisory on incidents of lynching by mobs in some States fuelled by rumours of lifting/kidnapping of children dated 04.07.2018. Pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court's order dated 17.07.2018 in WP(C) 754/2016, MHA has issued a directive on 23.7.2018 to all States for implementation of directions of the apex court and has constituted a Group of Ministers and a High Level Committee to make recommendations in this matter.

#### **Enhancement of MPLAD Funds**

3679. SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the MPLAD funds to Rs. 15.00 crore as against Rs. 5.00 crore and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to accede to request, if any, received from the public representatives to donate the MPLAD funds upto Rs. 2.00 crore for purchase of Cancer Hospitals/Mobile Cancer Van to be donated to local Government/aided hospitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) As per MPLADS guidelines 2016 purchase of items of non-durable/movable nature such as vehicles/vans are permitted for hospitals belonging to Central, State, UT and Local Self Governments and not for hospitals run by Trusts/Societies.

#### **Protection of Aadhaar Data**

3680. SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to protect citizen's data stored in Aadhaar Cards; and

(b) the details as to how the Aadhaar Cards are being used for purposes of identification of persons below the poverty line to transfer subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity. UIDAI has adequate legal, organizational and technological measures in place for the security of the data stored with UIDAI. Data Protection measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to ensure the security of data. Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and is deploying the necessary technology and

infrastructure. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure non-duplication, data integrity and other related management aspects of security & privacy in Aadhaar database. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data.

Legal status of UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem, manifolds with enactment of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 passed by Indian Parliament which has stringent penalties/punishments for offenders. In the *ibid* Act, Chapter VI on Protection of Information (Section 28-Section 33) & Chapter VII on Offences and Penalties (Section 34-Section 47), specifically relates to protection of information and related offences and penalties to offenders.

(b) As per the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, the role of UIDAI is limited to issue Aadhaar numbers to the residents of the country and to provide authentication services for establishing identity of the individuals/beneficiaries. The usage of Aadhaar is governed by Section 7 and Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016. The usage of Aadhaar for delivery of welfare service benefits for any other purpose and the extent to which Aadhaar is to be used, is to be determined by the Implementing Agencies only, such as the State Governments/Central Ministries and other Agencies.

**11.02 hrs**

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Thursday, the 9th August, 2018 at 11.00 a.m.

**11.04 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 9, 2018/Shravana 18, 1940 (Saka).*

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