

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Sixteenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 19, 2018/Agrahayana 28, 1940 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER in the Chair]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 121.

...(Interruptions)

11.00 ½ hrs

(At this stage, Shrimati V. Sathyabama, Dr. Ravindra Babu, Shri R. Dhruvanarayana and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 121—Shri Ninong Ering

Mobile Connectivity in the North-East Region

*121. SHRI NINONG ERING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is no proper mobile connectivity along the border in the North-East Region and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether a joint survey was conducted by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Border Security Force (BSF) in the North-East area of the country and if so, the details, the objectives and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the number of mobile towers installed and proposed to be installed on the International border in the North-East Region along with the time frame set in this regard, State/UT-wise?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) The Government is aware of lack of mobile connectivity in certain parts of North East Region and has already initiated a series of telecom projects to provide mobile services throughout the region in spite of various constraints such as difficult terrain, scattered habitations and insurgency.

Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER), funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), installation of 6673 mobile towers for 8621 identified uncovered villages, 321 mobile towers for National Highways and strengthening of transmission network in the region has been approved. The State-wise details of mobile towers to be installed is given at Annexure-I.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been given the responsibility of installing 2817 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 4119 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam vide Agreement dated 16th January, 2018. Another agreement to install 2004 mobile towers in the rest of the region (except Meghalaya) has been entrusted to M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited on 08.12.2017. Further, the Government has approved installation of 2173 mobile towers in Meghalaya in May, 2018.

(b) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had requested Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to assist in providing telecom connectivity initially at 1683 Border Out Posts (BOPs) of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) i.e. Assam Rifles, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) etc. spread throughout the country including in the North Eastern Region. As per requirement of MHA, Detailed Project Report (DPR) for 1683 sites was prepared by BSNL after conducting a joint survey and forwarded to MHA in May 2016. Thereafter, MHA intimated the revised demand for

connectivity including broadband using Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) at around 3000 BOPs. Preliminary estimates for wireless as well as OFC-based connectivity for these BOPs were provided to MHA in October, 2017 and January, 2018.

In subsequent review meetings of Empowered Committee on Border Infrastructure, it was suggested to explore the use of alternate technologies for providing telecom connectivity (Wi Fi based) using the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) connectivity to reduce estimated costs and bring about convergence with existing schemes/projects.

(c) There are about 1,511 Base Transceiver Stations within 10 kilometers of the International Border in this region, installed by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) namely, M/s Bharti Airtel, M/s Bharti Hexacom, M/s BSNL, M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm, M/s Vodafone Idea. State-wise distribution is provided at Annexure-II.

For installation of mobile towers under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for NER, the time frame is 18 months from the date of signing Agreement with USOF.

Annexure-I

State-wise distribution of mobile towers envisaged to be installed in NER under USOF programs

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of villages to be covered	Number of Towers for Uncovered villages	No. of Towers along National Highways
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2805	1893	149
2.	Assam	2503	1874	33
3.	Manipur	528	384	53
4.	Meghalaya	2374	2162	11
5.	Mizoram	252	227	19
6.	Nagaland	134	112	48
7.	Sikkim	23	19	1
8.	Tripura	2	2	7
Total		8621	6673	321

Annexure-II

BTS Count installed by TSPs within 10 KM of International Border in NER is as follows

Sl.No.	TSP Name	India- Bangladesh				India - Bhutan		India-Myanmar			India-China		Grand Total
		Meghalaya	Tripura	Mizoram	Assam (within 5 Km)	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam (within 5 Km)	Mizoram	Manipur	Nagaland	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	
1.	Bharti Hexacom/ Bharti Airtel	56	380	4	91	12	18	25	9	11	4	0	610
2.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	36	188	3	25	0	1	3	5	7	5	0	273
3.	Reliance Jio	37	151	2	66	0	13	8	3	1	0	0	281
4.	Vodafone Idea	20	255	1	58	0	4	6	3	0	0	0	347
Total		149	974	10	240	12	36	42	20	19	9	0	1511

[Translation]

SHRI NINONG ERING: Hon. Speaker, the information given by the Honorable Minister is elaborate. My point is that weather is generally not favourable in Arunachal Pradesh or North-Eastern States and only in the winter season, work can be done there. ...*(Interruptions)* It is true that the MOU has been signed and you had assured us that you will provide 2800 towers there, but the work of only 5 towers has started. ...*(Interruptions)*. Please tell us

about the steps what you are going to take in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, the Government has approved three major projects for North-Eastern States. Roughly around Rs. 8,500 crore is being spent for the telecom connectivity in North Eastern States, in which one project is going to be started by the BSNL in two districts of Assam and in Arunachal Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* Another project is being undertaken by Bharti Airtel., which

is working in the other States of North-East and around the National Highway. ...(*Interruptions*). The project has been approved separately in Meghalaya. Bharti Airtel has installed towers at 15 locations and rest of the locations have been identified. ...(*Interruptions*)

As far as Arunachal Pradesh is concerned, some people have filed a PIL in the Supreme Court. The Ministry is waiting for it. As soon as the Supreme Court gives clearance on that, we will also complete that work very speedily. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NINONG ERING: Hon. Speaker, we have got an assurance from the Honorable Minister. However, he gave an assurance of 15 thousand crore rupees for the North-Eastern States. One thing I would like to say is that as we have areas like Kivito and Gheling, Last time there was incursion by China. If mobile networking can not be provided there then atleast VSAT should be provided. ...(*Interruptions*). I had given the application for V-SAT. In this regard I was told that NOC was required from the Home Ministry. The Minister of State in the Home Ministry is from Arunachal Pradesh. Why should we seek NOC. Are not we Indian Citizens? Do we need China's support? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, in the whole North-Eastern States, 19300 towers have been installed, out of which about 6500 are closed to the Border area. Recently, there has been a discussion with the Ministry of Home Affairs and we have decided to install towers on Border Areas and a report prepared by TCIL has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs. ...(*Interruptions*). As soon as the Home Ministry takes a decision on this subject, we will carry out the work of installing towers. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker Madam, regarding connecting to the Mobile Tower, I was looking at Tripura State of the North-East. Only two villages were mentioned there. ...(*Interruptions*) whereas there is a large forest area. There are many villages where there is no connectivity. ...(*Interruptions*)

Similarly, there are also some more hilly areas. Like in my own parliamentary constituency, there are many hilly areas where there is no connectivity. ...(*Interruptions*) such as of Baraundha and Parasamaniya, Dharakudi, Bansagar.

The BTS towers which were sought to increase connectivity in such areas have not been provided yet. When are the towers going to be provided? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: The honorable member has expressed concern especially about the hilly areas of his constituency. ...(*Interruptions*) Our Ministry is preparing a detailed program for un-connected villages and on the basis of availability of resources, the Ministry will undertake the task of installing those towers in the coming day. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Madam, this question is regarding connectivity in the North Eastern States. I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that my Lok Sabha constituency Shirur has a lot of urban and tribal population. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

There is no mobile connectivity of BSNL in Tribal populated area. ...(*Interruptions*). Most of the areas are accident prone areas. ...(*Interruptions*) Many times, people have to face difficulties whenever there is a case of snack-bite and they have to walk twenty-five kilometers due to lack of mobile connectivity. ...(*Interruptions*)

During the last session, Hon'ble Minister has promised of installation of mobile towers in the tribal area of Pune my district. There is no mobile connectivity in the Tribal Areas. ...(*Interruptions*) So, I would like to ask the Honorable Minister whether more mobile towers can be sanctioned in tribal areas of Pune district? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon'ble Speaker Madam, in the last four and a half years, there has been a big expansion in the country's tele-density. ...(*Interruptions*). In the year 2014, the tele-density of the country was 75 per cent, our Government has increased it to 94 per cent. ...(*Interruptions*) But, it is true that there are some areas where there is a problem of connectivity. In the telecom sector, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited does not claim about its towers being installed everywhere. ...(*Interruptions*)

The area towards which the Hon'ble Member has drawn my attention. ...(*Interruptions*). I would like to say surely the priority of the Government is to provide

connectivity in the areas where there are tribals. In this direction, the Government will consider in the coming days. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Hon. Speaker Madam, Digital India is an ambitious program of our Government, whose objective is to connect all villages with digital services till 31st March, 2019. ...*(Interruptions)*. In the past four years, as the Hon'ble Minister has said, there have been definitely effective demonstrations, but the boundary of my parliamentary constituency is linked to Nepal as international border. ...*(Interruptions)*. In the year 2016, a plan to install mobile towers was sanctioned in the said area. ...*(Interruptions)* but due to non-availability of NOC from the forest department and other departments, this work has not been completed there yet. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister the time by when the Government of India will complete the task of introducing digital services by the removing these obstacles, and by obtaining NOC through setting up mobile towers in our area? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Madam, Hon'ble Member has spoken about one particular Lok Sabha constituency. As far as I know, the Indian Government has not approved any project to install towers in his area. ...*(Interruptions)* but, it is definitely necessary to have good connectivity in his area. We will consider about this in the coming day. If there is a problem of ROW, then the new guidelines have been issued by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Three days earlier, I had discussed with the representatives of the States and urged everyone that presently the State Governments should also be involved and in compliance to the rules of ROW issued by the Indian Government it should be ensured that ROW is awarded as soon as possible so that towers could be installed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Madam, since Independence, the North Eastern Region is completely neglected so far as communication is concerned. During the regime of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, the then Minister of Communications, Shri Pramod Mahajan ji tried his best to develop communications, especially in the border areas of our country.

But even in Sikkim, where Nathu La Pass is there, which is very close to China near the Chinese border, the connectivity is very good and up-to-date. ...*(Interruptions)* But so far as Sikkim is concerned, the connectivity is not at all recordable, and same is the case with Mizoram where the Lunglei part, the lower part of Mizoram, is connected with Myanmar and this part is also not properly connected. ...*(Interruptions)* In Arunachal Pradesh and other parts of Tripura, people get connected through the Bangladesh telecommunication network. ...*(Interruptions)* Hence, Madam, my request, through you, to the Minister is, kindly see that the entire border area of the North-Eastern Region is properly connected. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, I have already said that since independence, our Government has sanctioned the maximum amount of money for telecom projects and in the North East we are implementing the project worth about Rupees 8.5 thousand crores.

Madam, As far as Sikkim is concerned, 529 towers are still operating in the State of Sikkim and under a Comprehensive Telecom Scheme, which is for the North East, we are also going to install many towers. ...*(Interruptions)*. I want to assure the Honorable Member that once the project is completed, North East will be able to get better connectivity than other States of the country. Thank you.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

One Rank One Pension

*122. DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Justice Reddy Committee Report on One Rank One Pension (OROP) was submitted on October 26, 2017 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the specific steps taken by the Government for the implementation of OROP since the submission of the said report;

(c) whether the Government has accepted or proposes to accept the demand for the annual revision of pensions provided to ex-servicemen;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (e) The Government has implemented One Rank One Pension (OROP) for Defence Forces Personnel with effect from 01.07.2014. As on 30.09.2017, a sum of Rs.10,795.4 crores has been released to 20,60,220 Defence Forces Pensioners/Family Pensioners in four instalments towards the arrears.

The Government appointed One Member Judicial Committee (OMJC) on OROP to look into anomalies, if any, arising out of implementation of OROP. The Terms of Reference of the Committee was as under:—

To examine and make recommendations on references received from the Central Government on the following matters:—

- (i) Measures for the removal of anomalies that may arise in implementation of the OROP Letter No.12(1)/2014/D(Pen/Pol)/Part-II, dated 7.11.2015.
- (ii) Measures for the removal of anomalies that may arise out of interservice issues of the three forces due to implementation of OROP order *ibid*.
- (iii) Implications on service matters.
- (iv) Any other matter referred by the Central Government on implementation of the OROP or related issues.

In making its recommendations, the Committee shall take into account the financial impact of its recommendations.

The Committee submitted its report on 26.10.2016. An Internal Committee has been constituted by the Government to examine the recommendations of OMJC with respect to feasibility and financial aspects.

Terms of reference of the Committee are as under:

- (i) To examine and analyse the recommendations of OMJC.

(ii) To examine the feasibility of implementation of recommendations of OMJC.

(iii) To work out financial implications.

The matter is under examination by the Committee.

Internet Shutdown

*123. SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR:
SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there were 42 reported incidents of internet shutdown in 2017 as compared to 6 in 2014, and that India is one of the top ranked countries in terms of the number of internet shutdowns by Government authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons attributed for such shutdowns;

(c) whether it is also true that the Government wants to prevent riots and hate crimes by making shutdowns of internet services and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether due process was followed in approving the said shutdowns and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(e) whether punitive or disciplinary action was taken in cases where due process was not followed 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 (e) In order to streamline the process of internet shutdowns in the country, the Department of Telecommunications notified "Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017" on 07.08.2017. As per these rules, the directions for temporary suspension of telecom services, including internet services in an area, can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary in case of Central Government or the State Home Secretary in case of State Government, due to public emergency or in the interest of public safety.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed that it has not issued any order for temporary suspension

of internet services under the provisions of Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

State Governments are also empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet services in the State or part thereof under the provisions contained in the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. The details about such internet shutdowns ordered by State Governments are not maintained by Department of Telecommunications.

The Department of Telecommunications had received a joint representation dated 08.08.2018 from telecom service providers, wherein, it was intimated that frequent suspension of internet services are being ordered by various State Governments. Accordingly, on 28.09.2018, all State Governments have been directed to sensitize the concerned officials/agencies against precipitate actions leading to shut down of Internet services, and to ensure that the provisions of "Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017" are adhered to.

Fog Safety Devices

*124. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that passengers of Indian Railways face great difficulty especially during winter season as most of the time trains are delayed/cancelled because of fog and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways has installed fog safety devices to solve the problems which are being faced by the drivers especially during the winter season in seeing the signals and if so, the number of trains in which fog safety devices have been installed so far, zone-wise;

(c) the extent to which this device helps to run the train in dense fog along with the number of trains proposed to be equipped with such device in near future, zone-wise;

(d) whether the Railways also proposes to deploy fogmen for placing detonators on railway tracks, if so, the details thereof along with the other measures being considered for safety of passengers and trains; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to improve facilities being provided to the passengers during the winter season in all the railway zones in the country including the Bundelkhand railway zone?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) A large number of trains are affected every year during foggy weather in the winter months in Northern parts of the country.

(b) Yes, Madam. A Fog Safety Device called 'Fog Pass Device' (FPD) a Global Positioning System (GPS) based portable device is carried by the Loco Pilot. These are not fixed on any train and are being used only in those zones of Indian Railways that are fog affected. Details of Fog Pass Devices procured and provided to Zonal Railways, which are affected by foggy weather conditions, are as under:—

Zonal Railway	No. of devices provided
East Central	877
Northern	2648
North Central	537
North Eastern	975
Northeast Frontier	1101
North Western	802
Total	6940

(c) Fog Pass Device is a GPS based hand held portable system device provided as an aid for the crew during foggy weather through audio visual alarm, whenever any landmark comes within the Geo-fence range. Location of stations, warning boards, signals, level crossing gates and Whistle Limit (W/L) boards in the section is fed in the equipment. While approaching these pre fed locations, equipment gives audio visual alarm as and when it falls within the Geo-fence distance. It displays speed of the locomotive, distance and time to reach landmarks. 6940 Nos. Fog Pass Devices are in use over East Central Railway, Northern Railway, North Central Railway, North Eastern Railway, Northeast Frontier Railway and North Western Railway which are the most fog affected Railways. 6000 nos. more Fog Pass Devices have been sanctioned and included in Pink Book 2018-19. Purchase order for

6000 units has already been issued in August, 2018. Zone-wise details of Purchase Orders issued are as under:—

Zonal Railway	Purchase order issued (No. of devices)
Central	560
Eastern	245
East Central	630
Eastcoast	375
Northern	933
North Central	772
North Eastern	130
North Western	20
Southern	410
South Central	550
South Eastern	590
South East Central	225
West Central	560
Total	6000

(d) Yes, Madam. Guidelines have been issued instructing Zonal Railways to take action during foggy season to ensure safe train operations as under:—

- (i) To provide safeguards in train operation in Automatic Block System during foggy weather by restricting the number of trains to two between two stations.
- (ii) Reducing the speed of train in case of poor visibility.
- (iii) Deputing additional staff (fog signal man) to alert the Loco Pilot through placement of detonators before the First Stop signal.
- (iv) Improving the visibility of signals and signal sighting boards.
- (v) Loco Pilot to take precautions for being vigilant and alert and to observe Special Rules and instructions regarding speed limits under foggy conditions.

(e) The facilities provided to all rail passengers, including of Bundelkhand area which are helpful to them during winters also include:—

- (i) Dissemination of information to passengers through SMS about cancellation of trains, late running of trains in case of identified trains and change in passenger's reservation status etc.
- (ii) Automatic refund to e-ticket holders in case of cancellation of trains.
- (iii) Cancellation of Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter tickets through IRCTC website or through 139.

Collegium System

*125. DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL
SHRI KIRTI AZAD:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the preponderance of members of 400 odd families in higher judiciary and that the current collegium system has contributed to this malaise and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is true that 2/3rd of higher judiciary is not required to compete in any examination and are merely picked up from the bar, which contributes to the perpetuation of these 400 families to be parachuted into the higher judiciary and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has any plans to introduce an All India Legal Service on the lines of Central Services, for which an All India Exam will be conducted by UPSC and not any High Court and if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under Article 124 (2) of the Constitution while Judges of the High Courts are appointed by the President under Article 217 (1) and 224 (1) of the Constitution. Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed as per the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October, 6th, 1993 (second judges case) read with the advisory opinion of October, 28th, 1998 (third judges

case). The word "Collegium" is nowhere mentioned in the Constitution. It has come into force as per Judicial pronouncements.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Sometimes some of the names recommended by the High Court Collegium for appointment as Judges of High Courts are relatives of the sitting or retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. The Government on its own cannot recommend any name for appointment as a Judge of Supreme Court and High Courts. However, if the Chief Minister desires to recommend the name of any person for appointment as a Judge of High Court, he/she should forward the same to the Chief Justice for his consideration. The names of the recomendees are considered by the State Constitutional Authorities, Supreme Court Collegium and Constitutional Authorities at the Centre before their appointment as Judges of High Courts.

In order to change the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and to make it more broad-based and transparent, the Government brought into force the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 *w.e.f.* 13.04.2015. However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court *vide* Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative. Subsequently, the Supreme Court *vide* order dated 16.12.2015 directed the Government to finalize the existing MoP by supplementing it in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium taking into consideration eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints.

As the process of finalizing the supplementation of the existing MoP was likely to take some time, at the initiative of the Government, the matter of continuing the appointment process was taken up with the Supreme Court and appointments of Judges of Supreme Courts and High Courts are being made as per the existing MoP.

The qualifications for appointment of Judges in the High Courts are provided in Article 217 (2) of the Constitution. There is no examination either for Advocates or Judicial Officers for appointment as Judges in the High Courts. The appointment of Judges in the High Courts is divided in the ratio of 2:1 between Bar and Judicial Service. The Advocates are considered for appointment as Judges of High Courts based on their professional competence, net average professional income for last 5 years, age, reported judgments in which he/she has argued independently during last 5 years and other relevant factors.

(c) No, Madam.

[Translation]

Earthquake Prone Areas

*126. SHRIMATI BHAVNA GAWALI (PATIL):
SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any earthquake related studies in earthquake prone areas, if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether due to depleting ground water level, several areas have become earthquake prone; and if so, the details of areas identified so far in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness among public in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes Madam. Earthquake monitoring of the country is done on round the clock basis by the National Seismological Network spread over the country and earthquake prone regions/areas have been demarcated. The main cause of earthquakes in Indian regions are due to Indian plate motion towards northeast at a rate of about 52 mm/year and its collision with Eurasian plate in the north and with Sunda plate in the east.

MoES has sponsored several research projects for seismological related studies in earthquake prone regions/ areas.

(b) The seismological hazard of the country has been assessed under the auspices of Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), and country is grouped into four seismic zones viz. Zone-II, III, IV and V. Of these, Zone V is seismically the most prone region, while Zone II is the least.

Broadly, Zone-V comprises of entire northeastern India, parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, part of North Bihar and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Zone-IV covers remaining parts of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Delhi, Sikkim, northern parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, parts of Gujarat and small portions of Maharashtra near the west coast and Rajasthan. Zone-III comprises of Kerala, Goa, Lakshadweep Islands, remaining parts of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal, parts of Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Zone-II covers remaining parts of the country.

Guidelines have been published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for the design and construction of earthquake resistant structures to minimize the loss of life and damage to property caused by earthquakes. These guidelines are in wide circulation amongst the public and the administrative authorities responsible for the design and construction of earthquake resistant structures in earthquake prone areas.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other State Disaster Management Authorities have also taken up various initiatives to educate and bring awareness amongst general public and school children on the general aspects of earthquakes, their impacts and measures to mitigate losses caused by them.

(c) and (d) Change of ground water table and other anthropogenic activities and their influence on earthquake occurrence, have been studied in various regions of the world including Indian region. This process may only trigger

an earthquake but it may not cause it as the main reason of earthquake occurrence is tectonic forces. Public awareness about earthquake occurrence in the country has been created through outreach and school education programs, supported by MoES and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

[English]

Cases Pending in Subordinate Courts

*127. SHRI G. HARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that over 22 lakh cases, which are over a decade old, are pending in various subordinate courts of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that the Government has been urging the chief justices of 24 high courts to fast track cases that are pending for more than ten years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) As per National Judicial Data Grid, on 12th December, 2018, there are 2.91 crore cases pending in the district and subordinate courts, out of which 21.90 lakh cases are pending for more than 10 years. The State-wise details of cases pending for more than 10 years is given in the enclosed Statement.

The Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases to improve access to justice in line with the mandate of the Preamble and Article 39A of the Constitution. The following interventions have been made by the Government during the last 4 years:

- (1) Pursuant to the decisions taken in the Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of the States and Chief Justices of the High Courts in 2015, Arrears Committee has been established in the Supreme Court, all 24 High Courts and District Courts. The progress made by the High Courts and subordinate judiciary in reducing pendency was taken up for consideration again in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts

held in April, 2016, wherein it was resolved, *inter alia*, that all High Courts shall assign top most priority for disposal of cases which are pending for more than five years.

- (2) In April, 2015, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had written to all Chief Ministers of States drawing attention to the pending cases in courts and urging them to utilise the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% as recommended by the 14th Finance judicial system and provide speedy justice in the country.
- (3) In September, 2016, Minister of Law & Justice wrote to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts to enhance the cadre strength of the district and subordinate judiciary and provide physical infrastructure to the State judiciary. The same was reiterated in May, 2017. In August, 2018, in the context of increasing pendency of cases, the Minister of Law & Justice has written to all Chief Justices of High Courts to monitor the status of the vacancies regularly and to ensure proper coordination with the State Public Service Commission to fill up vacant posts as per time schedule prescribed by the Supreme Court in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case.

Besides taking up the concern of pendency of cases with the States and High Courts, the Government has simultaneously has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases.

Statement

State-wise details of cases pending for more than 10 years in district and subordinate courts

Sl. No.	State	Number of cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts for more than 10 years.
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	8,29,128
2.	Bihar	3,20,971
3.	Maharashtra	2,36,674
4.	West Bengal	2,36,294
5.	Gujarat	2,23,550
6.	Odisha	1,62,350
7.	Rajasthan	54,507
8.	Tamil Nadu	31,086
9.	Karnataka	30,114
10.	Madhya Pradesh	12,250
11.	Telangana	10,503
12.	Jharkhand	9,475
13.	Kerala	6,806
14.	Andhra Pradesh	4,094
15.	Delhi	3,668
16.	Uttarakhand	3,521
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	3,407
18.	Assam	2,982
19.	Tripura	2,222
20.	Goa	1,657
21.	Chhattisgarh	1,452
22.	Punjab	941
23.	Meghalaya	648
24.	Haryana	628
25.	Himachal Pradesh	565
26.	Manipur	272
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli at Silvassa	159

1	2	3
28.	Chandigarh	39
29.	Diu and Daman	26
30.	Mizoram	26
31.	Sikkim	2
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
Total		21,90,017

Constitution Amendment

*128. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons as to why Section 3 of the Constitution (44th Amendment) Act, 1978, has not been enforced or notified even after 40 years since the passing of the said Act;

(b) whether the Government is proposing to notify Section 3 of the Constitution (44th Amendment) Act, 1978;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The subject matter of the question pertains to Article 22 of the Constitution of India which is the purview of Ministry of Home Affairs. While answering a similar question in Rajya Sabha on 09.08.2000 the Ministry of Home Affairs had said that Section 3 of the Constitution (44th Amendment) Act, 1978 seeks to amend clauses (4) and (7) of the Article 22 of the Constitution of India relating to preventive detention. The sub section (2) of section 1 of the Constitution (44th Amendment) Act provides that the Act shall come into force on a date to be notified by the Central Government in the official gazette and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of the Act. While others provisions have since been implemented the provisions relating to section 3 have not been notified so far. The matter has been considered by the Government

in the Ministry of Home Affairs on different occasion and decision in this regard was postponed. No time frame can be given for issuing the notification. Additional inputs are being collected from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

Pending Court Cases

*129. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 521 cases are pending in the court against the persons who secured jobs by submitting fake certificates and 1035 cases are pending for disciplinary action; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The data regarding submission of fake caste certificates of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes for recruitment to Government posts is not Centrally maintained as it is the responsibility of the concerned appointing authority to take appropriate action in such cases. However, in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Central Government undertook one time exercise in the year 2010 to collect information about appointments secured on the basis of fake/false caste certificates. The information received in the year 2010 revealed that out of 1832 cases of fake/false caste certificates reported by various Departments/Ministries/Organisations, 276 cases resulted in removal/suspension from service, 521 cases were entangled into litigations and in balance 1035 cases, disciplinary cases were pending.

2. The State-wise information is not maintained. The information then received organization-wise is at given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The number of cases of fake/false caste certificates of SCs/STs/OBCs in various Ministries/Departments/Organizations/ PSUs.

Sl. No.	Name of the Ministry/Department/ Organisation	Total number of Cases of Fake/ False caste certificates	No. of case where Departmental proceeding has been initiated	No. of Cases of Fake/False caste certificates pending in Court	Persons uspended/ Removed/Terminated from the service or expired
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	National Commission for SCs	-	-	-	-
2.	Department of Fertilizers (Ministry of Chemical & Fertilizers)	4	3	1	-
3.	Ministry of Water Resources	-	-	-	-
4.	Department of Scientific & Industrial Research	11	3	8	-
5.	-do-	1	-	1	-
6.	Consultancy Development Centre (Ministry of Science & Technology)	-	-	-	-
7.	National Research Development Corporation	-	-	-	-
8.	Central Electronics Ltd.	1	1	-	-
9.	Ministry of Urban Development	4	1	2	1
10.	Hindustan Copper Ltd. (Ministry of Mines)	-	-	-	-
11.	Indian Bureau of Mines, National Aluminium Co. Ltd., Odisha	2	-	-	2 (one suspended one removed)
12.	Directorate General Civil Aviation, Safdar Jung Airport	-	-	-	-
13.	PMO, South Block	-	-	-	-
14.	Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance)	-	-	-	-
15.	Ministry of Minority Affairs	-	-	-	-
16.	Cabinet Secretariat	-	-	-	-
17.	Ministry of Steel	-	-	-	-
18.	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	-	-	-	-
19.	Ministry of Earth Sciences	-	-	-	-
20.	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	-	-	-	-
21.	Department of Fertilizers	2	-	-	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Department of R & D	-	-	-	-
23.	Comptroller Auditor General	-	-	-	-
24.	Department of Heavy Industry (BHEL)	57	21	35	1
25.	Department of Telecom	2	2	-	-
26.	Indian Telephone Industry Bangalore	3	2	1	-
27.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	49	38	10	1
28.	Telecom Consultant India Ltd.	-	-	-	-
29.	Maha Nagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	2	1	-	1
30.	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways	-	-	-	-
31.	Department of Food & Public Distribution of India Central Warehousing Corporation	3	-	2	1
32.	Food Corporation of India	35	1	17	17
33.	Department of Expenditure	-	-	-	-
34.	Ministry of Science and Technology	-	-	-	-
35.	Department of Space	16	14	2	-
36.	Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	39	4	-	35
37.	Department of Financial Services:				
(i)	Allahabad Bank	1	1	-	-
(ii)	Andhra Bank	36	30	6	-
(iii)	Bank of Baroda	38	33	5	-
(iv)	Bank of India	14	5	9	-
(v)	Bank of Maharashtra	14	1	13	-
(vi)	Canera Bank	44	8	36	-
(vii)	Central Bank of India	135	63	54	18
(viii)	Corporation Bank	1	-	1	-
(ix)	Dena Bank	15	11	4	-
(x)	Indian Bank	79	59	20	-
(xi)	Indian Overseas Bank	112	112	-	-
(xii)	Oriental Bank of Commerce	7	3	3	1
(xiii)	Punjab National Bank	7	2	-	5

1	2	3	4	5	6
(xiv)	Punjab & Sind Bank	-	-	-	-
(xv)	Syndicate Bank	103	62	41	-
(xvi)	Union Bank of India	14	3	9	2
(xvii)	United Bank of India	-	-	-	-
(xviii)	UCO Bank	27	7	20	-
(xix)	Vijaya Bank	1	-	1	-
(xx)	State Bank of India	157	142	13	2
(xxi)	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	-	-	-	-
(xxii)	State Bank of Patiala	-	-	-	-
(xxiii)	State Bank of Hyderabad	21	17	4	-
(xxiv)	State Bank of Mysore	15	7	8	-
(xxv)	State Bank of Travancore	17	3	14	-
(xxvi)	State Bank of Indore	4	2	2	-
(xxvii)	Reserve Bank of India	39	37	2	-
(xxviii)	National Bank of Agriculture & Rural Development, Mumbai	93	51	42	-
(xxix)	IDBI	-	-	-	-
(xxx)	LIC, Mumbai	-	-	-	-
(xxxi)	G.L.C.	146	114	32	-
(xxxii)	New India Assurance	-	-	-	-
(xxxiii)	National Insurance	41	34	3	4
(xxxiv)	Oriental Insurance Co. of India	13	2	8	3
(xxxv)	United India Assurances	41	32	9	-
(xxxvi)	Agriculture Insurance Co. of India	16	3	13	-
(xxxvii)	Syndicate Bank	-	-	-	-
(xxxviii)	Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction	4	2	2	-
(xxxix)	Small Industries Development Bank of India	1	-	-	1
38.	Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai	50	22	20	8
39.	Staff Selection Commission	1	-	-	1
40.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	-	-	-	-
41.	Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce & Industry)	13	7	6	-
42.	R & DO (Ministry of Defence)	14	9	1	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
43.	Department of Personnel & Training	-	-	-	-
44.	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	5	1	4	-
45.	Border Security Force (BSF)	91	6	2	83
46.	Inter State Council Secretariat (Ministry of Home Affairs)	-	-	-	-
47.	Ministry of Power (PSUs)	15	3	3	9
48.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	2	-	1	1
49.	M/o Defence (Deptt. of Defence)	62	8	8	46 (23 terminated/ removed/expired) 18 (castes changed from reserved category to General, out of which 2 took VRS) (2 took VRS) (2 cases settled in favour of employees one reinstated)
50.	Department of Information Technology	2	-	-	2 removed.
51.	Department of Defence Production:				
(i)	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)	4	-	4	-
(ii)	BEML Ltd.	5	-	2	3
(iii)	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	5	3	2	-
(iv)	Mishra Datu Nigam Ltd.	6	3	-	3
(v)	Bharat Electrical Ltd.	1	-	-	1
(vi)	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	3	2	1	-
(vii)	Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA)	18	14	1	3
(viii)	Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)	30	6	10	14
52.	M/o Health & Family Welfare (W & PG Section)	18	14	3	1
Total		1832	1035	521	276

Vacant Posts of Reserved Categories

*130. SHRI AJAY NISHAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the vacant posts of SCs, STs and OBCs in the Central Ministries/Departments and their allied offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year, Ministry/Department and allied office-wise; and

(c) the progress made by the Government to fill up the said posts by launching special recruitment drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The total number of vacant posts of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) is not Centrally maintained, as the recruitment process is carried out by the respective cadre controlling authorities through concerned recruitment agencies. However, Department of Personnel and Training monitors the progress in filling up of backlog reserved vacancies for SCs, STs and OBCs with ten Ministries/Departments having more than 90% of the employees in Central Government.

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

As per information provided by the ten Ministries/Departments which includes their Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions, Central Public Sector Undertakings etc., out of 92589 backlog reserved vacancies (29198 for SCs, 22829 for STs and 40562 for OBCs), 63876 vacancies (20975 for SCs, 15874 for STs and 27027 for OBCs) were filled up during the period from 01.04.2012 to 31.12.2016 and 28,713 backlog vacancies (8223 for SCs, 6955 for STs and 13535 for OBCs) remained unfilled as on 01.01.2017.

Out of these ten Ministries/Departments, five Ministries/Departments have further informed that out of 21499 backlog reserved vacancies (7532 for SCs, 6887 for STs and 7080 for OBCs), 12334 backlog reserved vacancies (4514 for SCs, 3595 for STs and 4225 for OBCs) were filled up as on 31.12.2017 and 9165 backlog reserved vacancies (3018 for SCs, 3292 for STs and 2855 for OBCs) remained unfilled as on 01.01.2018.

Statements showing category-wise backlog reserved vacancies for the ten Ministries/Departments as on 01.01.2017 and that of five Ministries/Departments as on 01.01.2018 is given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Category-wise details of backlog vacancies (as on 31.12.2016), vacancies filled up (as on 31.12.2016) and unfilled vacancies (as on 01.01.2017)

Ministry/Deptt.	SC			ST			OBC			Total (SC+ST+OBC)		
	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Posts	673	372	301	717	257	460	718	234	484	2108	863	1245
Defence	1014	1013	1	1597	1579	18	164	149	15	2775	2741	34
Production												
Financial Services	9528	8598	930	6456	5391	1065	14455	13030	1425	30439	27019	3420
Atomic Energy	292	195	97	398	191	207	1444	802	642	2134	1188	946

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Defence	703	304	399	893	527	366	2707	1439	1268	4303	2270	2033
Railways	2194	2049	145	4266	3942	324	2204	2194	10	8664	8185	479
Revenue	3631	1220	2411	2226	585	1641	5064	2076	2988	10921	3881	7040
Housing & Urban Affairs	226	75	151	257	82	175	692	95	597	1175	252	923
Human Resources Development	926	336	590	614	145	469	1557	571	986	3097	1052	2045
Home Affairs	10011	6813	3198	5405	3175	2230	11557	6437	5120	26973	16425	10548
Total	29198	20975	8223	22829	15874	6955	40562	27027	13535	92589	63876	28713

Statement-II

Category-wise details of backlog vacancies (as on 31.12.2017), vacancies filled up (as on 31.12.2017) and unfilled vacancies (as on 01.01.2018)

Ministry/ Department	SC			ST			OBC			Total (SC+ST+OBC)		
	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled	Vacancies	Filled up	Unfilled
Posts	353	129	224	218	37	181	305	109	196	876	275	601
Defence Production	4889	3560	1329	4086	2428	1658	2812	2408	404	11787	8396	3391
Financial Services	1790	559	1231	1923	815	1108	1987	707	1280	5700	2081	3619
Atomic Energy	292	209	83	398	239	159	1444	933	511	2134	1381	753
Housing & Urban Affairs	208	57	151	262	76	186	532	68	464	1002	201	801
Total	7532	4514	3018	6887	3595	3292	7080	4225	2855	21499	12334	9165

[English]

Research and Development Facilities

*131. SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated the proposal for formation of an autonomous wing of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government provides adequate research and development facilities for defence research and its related departments located in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total amount disbursed till date by the Government for the same, year-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to expedite the defence corridor proposal in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), a Research and Development (R&D) Wing of the Ministry of Defence is primarily mandated for indigenization of Weapons/Technologies for defence and is involved in design and development of strategic, complex and security sensitive systems in the fields of

missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, radars, electronic warfare systems, sonars combat vehicles, combat aircraft, sensors, etc. for the Armed Forces as per their specific Qualitative Requirements for enhancing the national security. Government provides adequate budgetary support as and when required by DRDO and the same is provided also to Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE) and Research & Innovation Centre (RIC), DRDO labs located in Tamil Nadu. Details of funds allocated to the DRDO during the last three years are given below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation of funds to DRDO Laboratories (in Tamil Nadu)		
	CVRDE	RIC	Total
2015-16	137.55	3.78	141.33
2016-17	159.63	7.54	167.17
2017-18	152.37	5.34	157.71
2018-19 (Budget Estimates)	267.76	6.68	274.44

(d) Two Defence Corridors were announced in the Union Budget 2018-19. Subsequent to the announcement of setting up of Defence Corridor in Tamil Nadu, five nodal points namely Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem, Chennai and Tiruchirappalli have been selected. Five Industrial meets have also been organized at these places, as per the following details:

- (i) Hosur: 26th February, 2018;
- (ii) Coimbatore: 5th March, 2018;
- (iii) Salem: 8th March, 2018;
- (iv) Chennai: 10th March, 2018;
- (v) Tiruchirappalli: 16th March, 2018.

Consultant has been appointed for preparation for Detailed Project Report.

[Translation]

Exchange of list of Prisoners

*132. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of India and Pakistan have exchanged the lists containing the names of persons languishing in their jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of prisoners released by both the countries during the last three years, years and category-wise;

(d) whether there are concrete proposals for the release of prisoners by both the countries and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the methodology is likely to be put in place for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per India-Pakistan 'Agreement on Consular Access' signed on 21 May, 2008, lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen of each country lodged in the jails of the other are exchanged on 1 January and 1 July of every year.

According to the lists exchanged on 1 July, 2018, there were 108 Pakistan fishermen and 249 Pakistan civilian prisoners in India's custody. Pakistan had acknowledged the custody of 418 fishermen and 53 civilian prisoners who are Indian or believed-to-be Indian in their jails. In addition, there is the issue of 83 missing Indian defence personnel, whose custody has not been acknowledged by Pakistan so far.

(c) The number of civilian prisoners and fishermen released in the last three years is as follows:—

Details	2015	2016	2017	2018 (As on 13.12.2018)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Indian civilian prisoners released by Pakistan	4	2	7	4	17
Indian fishermen released by Pakistan	448	410	508	174	1540

1	2	3	4	5	6
Pakistani civilian prisoners released by India	44	10	60	21	135
Pakistani fishermen released by India	115	9	31	28	183

(d) and (e) The External Affairs Minister, in October, 2017, suggested to the High Commissioner of Pakistan that the two sides could work together to resolve humanitarian issues related to elderly, women and mentally unsound prisoners in each other's custody and consider their early release and repatriation. It was, *inter alia*, proposed to revive the mechanism of Joint Judicial Committee and that a team of Indian medical experts could be allowed to visit the mentally unsound prisoners with a view to facilitate their nationality verification and subsequent repatriation. Pakistan responded positively on 7 March, 2018. India has already shared the details of the medical experts team and the re-constituted Joint Judicial Committee with Pakistan with the request to organise their visit. Pakistan has not responded so far.

[English]

S&T support to Rural and Weaker Communities

*133. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has instituted any organisation/nodal agency to provide and coordinate science and technology (S&T) support to rural and weaker communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated and spent during each of the last three years for application of S&T for the weaker sections in the country;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to motivate scientists and research fellows for applying knowledge for the promotion of weaker communities; and

(e) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, Ministry of Science & Technology has been supporting projects for the benefit of the rural and weaker communities which include SC/ST, women, *Divyangjan* and other backward communities through their societal development programmes. The programmes aim to promote and support Science and Technology inputs for livelihood improvement, self-employment generation, skill development and drudgery reduction among the target population by diffusion of proven and field-tested technologies. The broad focused areas supported under these programmes include agriculture and animal husbandry including fish farming, poultry farming, pig production, goat farming, value added products, floriculture, hybrid seed production, integrated farming system, entrepreneurship development, bio-resource utilization for sustainable development, development of assistive devices for divyangs, women and child health, hygiene and nutrition.

(c) The amount allocated and spent during each of the last 3 years for application of S&T for the weaker sections in the country are as follows:—

Year	Budget (Rupees in crores) Allocated	Spent (Rupees in crores)
2015-16	182.48	151.65
2016-17	184.45	131.10
2017-18	189.86	138.51

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Science & Technology has taken steps to motivate scientists and researchers for applying knowledge of S&T processes, tools and technologies for promotion of the rural, SC/ST, women and weaker communities under its programmes for societal development. In this direction, the Ministry is operating the following programmes/schemes:

- o KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement through Research Advancement through Nurturing)
- o Science & Technology for Women
- o Schedule Caste Sub Plan
- o Tribal Sub Plan
- o Technology Intervention for Disabled and Elderly (TIDE)
- o Biotechnology based programme for societal development.
- o 'CSIR-800' scheme.

Besides, State Councils for S&T are also encouraging location specific solutions for the upliftment of weaker section through S&T intervention.

For motivating Scientists to work on woman issues, National Awards for Women's Development through Application of Science & Technology has been instituted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). While, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has instituted Biotechnology Social Development Award for recognizing the contribution of not only an individual scientist but also the organization who is working towards upliftment of rural and weaker communities.

Job Losses to Indian Citizens

*134. Shri K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether countries like Saudi Arabia have extended nationalisation scheme to more activities and occupations to provide more jobs to their citizens and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to remove the concerns of the Indian citizens in these countries;

(b) whether the Government has made any diplomatic efforts to avoid more job losses to the Indian citizens in Gulf countries and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is ready to implement any special scheme for ensuring jobs for those people who lost their jobs due to the nationalisation policies in the Gulf countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been following the policy of Nitaqat (Saudization) since 2011, which broadly aims at increasing the employment opportunities of the Saudi citizens both in public and private sector, by reducing dependence on the expatriate workers. As per available information, the expatriates are to be progressively restricted from 12 September, 2018 onwards for working in 12 sectors, viz. watch shops, optical stores, medical equipment stores, electrical and electronics shops, outlets selling car spare part, building material shops, outlets selling all types of carpets, automobile and mobile shops, shops selling home furniture and ready-made office material, sale outlets of ready-made garments, children clothes and men's supplies, household utensils shops and pastry shops.

The matter has already been taken up with the Saudi side. The policy is not specifically directed at Indian nationals and the Saudi Government is exercising its right by following this policy uniformly in respect of all foreign nationalities.

The Government is working in close coordination with the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) towards safeguarding the interests and welfare of the resident Indian community. Indian workers in companies affected by economic downturn in the Gulf region have been extended assistance through waiver of fines on Iqama (resident permit) related violations, providing exit visas and one way return tickets to India as well as transfer of sponsorship, wherever possible, on gratis basis. The Government has also extended necessary support to facilitate return of Indian nationals who have availed amnesty offers in GCC countries.

As regards Indian nationals who have lost their jobs and returning to India, responsibility of their resettlement primarily rests with the State Governments. The Government stands ready to extend necessary cooperation to States in this regard.

Initiatives in Governance

*135. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced any pro-people IT initiatives to transform the governance system for good;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has launched any platform to enable citizens to securely store and share their documents with service providers electronically after giving due permission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India is implementing the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs. The Digital India programme is centred on three key vision areas namely Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen, Governance and Services on Demand and Digital Empowerment of Citizens.

Some of the key transformational digital initiatives undertaken under Digital India programme are follows:

- **BharatNet:** BharatNet aims to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs). 3,01,154 Kms of optical fiber has been laid connecting 1,21,652 Gram Panchayats and 1,16,411 Gram Panchayats are service ready.
- **Aadhaar:** Aadhaar provides 12 digit biometric and demographic based identity that is unique, lifelong and authenticable and 122.91 crore residents have been enrolled.
- **Common Services Centre (CSC):** The Common Services Centres, which are kiosks for delivery of G2C Services, are being setup at each of 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats(GP). So far, 3.05 Lakh Common Services Centre are active and delivering eServices. Out of them, 2.10 lakh are

at GP level. Over 300 digital services are being offered by these CSCs.

- **Digital Locker:** Digital Locker provides an ecosystem with collection of repositories and gateways for issuers to upload the documents in the digital repositories. 2.23 crore documents have been uploaded by 1.68 crore registered user of DigiLocker. 107 Issuers and 31 Requestor organizations have been on-boarded.
- **MyGov:** MyGov is a first-of-its-kind citizen engagement platform for participatory governance in India. MyGov aims to facilitate a dialogue between citizens and Government, bringing citizens closer to the Government and bringing the Government closer to the citizens it serves, via this platform. Presently, over 71.66 lakh users are registered with MyGov, participating in various activities hosted on MyGov platform.
- **Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG):** UMANG has been developed as a single mobile platform to deliver major Government services with Core Platform integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, PayGov, Rapid Assessment System (RAS) etc. About 325 services from 59 departments and 17 States are already available on UMANG.
- **Jeevan Pramaan:** Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners scheme known as Jeevan Pramaan envisages to digitize the whole process of securing the life certificate. Over 2.37 crore digital life certificates have been processed since 2014.
- **GI Cloud (Meghraj):** To utilize and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing, Meghraj has been initiated. Government of India has also empanelled cloud service offerings of the 13 Cloud Service Providers under different deployment models viz. Public Cloud, Virtual Private Cloud and Government Community Cloud.
- **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT):** 433 schemes of 56 Ministries/Departments are available on DBT platform. An amount of more than Rs. 5.39 lakh crore has been transferred through DBT

and the Ministries/Departments have reported savings of Rs. 90,000 crore in last three years.

- **Open Govt. Data Platform:** Open Government Data (OGD) Platform aims to increase transparency in the functioning of Government and also open avenues for many more innovative usages of Government Data to give different perspective. Currently, 247,128 resources under 4,441 catalogs published by 143 Ministries/Departments (85 Central and 58 States/UTs Departments) are available on this platform.
- **eSign framework-Online Electronic Signature Service:** eSign is an initiative for easy, efficient, and secure signing of electronic documents by an Aadhaar holder without having a hardware cryptographic device. 6.36 crore eSign have been issued so far.
- **Online Registration System (ORS)/eHospital:** Online Registration System (ORS) under eHospital includes online appointment and registration by new patients, viewing of lab reports, checking the status of blood availability and integration with payment gateway (PayGov). So far, 20.47 lakh online appointments have been made in 190 hospitals through ORS.
- **National Scholarship Portal:** National Scholarships Portal (NSP) has been developed as a one-stop solution to implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries. Under 52 registered schemes from 14 Ministries/Departments, 1.26 crore applications have been submitted on NSP.
- **NCOG-GIS Applications:** National Centre of Geo-informatics (NCoG) project, is a GIS platform developed for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and decision support system for Departments. So far, 227 applications across various domains are operational.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA):** The Government has launched a new scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)"

in 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household). So far, more than 1.70 crore candidates have been enrolled, out of which training has been imparted to more than 1.64 crore candidates and 88.34 lakh candidates have been certified.

- **Digital Payments:** The growth of digital payments ecosystem is set to transform the economy. Over the past four years digital payment transactions have grown multifold from 335 crore transactions in 2014-15 to 1,836 crore transactions in the year 2017-2018 (till 16th December, 2018). Today, BHIM app has become one of the main digital payment instruments for sending, collecting the money and to pay for various utility bills. In June, 2018, more than 44.82 crore transactions were made using BHIM app.
- **IT for Jobs:** 48,300 seats have been approved under India BPO scheme and over 38,855 seats have been allocated across 20 States and 2 UTs. 5000 seats have been approved for BPOs in North East and 2,185 seats have been allocated across 6 States in NER.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. DigiLocker system is a flagship initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under Digital India programme. Targeted at the idea of paperless governance, DigiLocker aims to provide a secure digital wallet to every resident of India so that all documents/certificates can be held electronically for lifelong. It has benefits of anytime, anywhere and convenient access to all important documents of Indian residents free of cost.

DigiLocker is providing access to around 30 crore educational documents from different State Education Boards and 347 crore overall documents issued by various Government agencies including Aadhaar, PAN, Driving License, Vehicle RC, Land Records, Ration Card, Income Certificate, Caste Certificate, Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, etc.

Non-Receipt of Utilization Certificates

- *136. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not received utilization certificates for almost rupees 1800 crore from various States for the funds allocated under Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for the 12th Plan period even after revamping the scheme and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has issued fresh reminders to States to submit such certificates for further release of funds under the scheme for welfare of minorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government in consultation with States in this regard;

(d) the details of funds allocated and activities undertaken under the scheme for the State of Andhra Pradesh for the 12th Plan period; and

(e) the details of unspent amount under various activities from the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) earlier known as MsDP central share of funds are released to the State Governments/UT Administrations in two instalments. During the 12th Plan period central share to the tune of Rs. 4563 crore was released by the Ministry. Against this release, utilisation certificates yet to be received from the States/UTs is Rs. 2104.11 crore. State-wise details of UCs pending for the 12th Plan period is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has written several times during current financial year to the States/UTs concerned and has requested the States for early liquidation of pending UCs. The issue of pending UCs were also discussed with States in Zonal Conferences held at Guwahati and Lucknow this year. Besides this, the Empowered Committee being the Oversight Committee for PMJVK has so far reviewed the status of pending UCs with 15 States namely Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Meghalaya, Karnataka, Sikkim, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Assam, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan and Kerala during the current financial year and this is an ongoing exercise.

As a result of the constant persuasion by this Ministry, States/UTs have so far furnished UCs worth more than Rs. 166.64 crore during the current year.

(d) and (e) During the 12th Plan period, projects having central share of Rs. 125 crore were approved for identified Minority Concentration Areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh for construction of 10 School Buildings, 222 Additional Class Rooms, 17 Hostels, 2 Health related projects, 20 Anganwadi Centres, 4 Multipurpose Sadbhav Mandaps, and 6 Residential Schools. UCs for Rs. 35.48 crore are due from the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Statement

Non-Receipt of Utilization Certificates for the 12th Plan period

		(In Rs. lakh)
Sl.No.	Name of State	Value of UC pending
1.	West Bengal	42193.68
2.	Assam	42696.59
3.	Uttar Pradesh	34708.64
4.	Jharkhand	7761.59
5.	Haryana	4050.01
6.	Bihar	28131.37
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	6113.15
8.	Uttarakhand	1618.54
9.	Manipur	4433.52
10.	Mizoram	70.91
11.	Karnataka	4707.18
12.	Maharashtra	3732.19
13.	Odisha	1000
14.	Kerala	839.45
15.	Madhya Pradesh	659.62
16.	Delhi	114.92
17.	Sikkim	615
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	323.63
19.	Meghalaya	1809.69
20.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0

Sl.No.	Name of State	Value of UC pending
21.	Andhra Pradesh	4612.03
22.	Telangana	5799.9
23.	Tripura	4395.06
24.	Rajasthan	7964.51
25.	Punjab	1031.19
26.	Chhattisgarh	1029.69
Total		210411.9

Nalgonda-Macherla Railway Line

*137. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nalgonda-Macherla Railway Line was sanctioned in 1997-98 and mere budgetary allocations were made every year in the Railway Budget and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for sudden decision of the Railways to shelve the project on the pretext of non-viability;

(c) the reasons for allocating funds every year for this project, if the project was non-viable; and

(d) the stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Nalgonda-Macherla New Railway Line (81.60 Km) was included in Supplementary Budget 1997-98 at an abstract cost of Rs. 125.09 crore.

The detailed estimate for Rs. 456.26 crore was sanctioned in 2011. Subsequently bankability study of the project was done in September, 2012 and it was observed that the project is not financially viable due to its low traffic potential and resource crunch. Therefore, the project was kept in abeyance.

Since the project has been kept in abeyance, nominal funds are allotted to project every year.

Advisory to Internet Service Providers

*138. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to issue an advisory to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for blocking and filtering objectionable images, texts and videos of children in an attempt to protect children from sexual abuse online and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has formulated a long-term policy to deal with online child sexual abuse and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government plans to undertake any programmes or campaigns on cyber bullying and to spread awareness as to how children should safely use/navigate the internet and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government has taken the following of steps to be implemented by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to protect children from sexual abuse online.

- (i) Government blocks the websites containing extreme Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) based on INTERPOL's "Worst-of-list" shared periodically by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is the National Nodal Agency for INTERPOL. The list is shared with Department of Telecommunications (DoT), who then directs major ISPs to block such websites.
- (ii) Government has ordered major ISPs in India to adopt and disable/remove the online CSAM dynamically based on Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), UK list.
- (iii) Department of Telecom, Government of India has requested all ISPs to make suitable arrangement to spread awareness among their subscribers, through emails, invoices, SMSs, websites, etc., about the use of Parental Control filters in the end-user machines/devices.
- (iv) Further, the Government has launched a portal namely www.cybercrime.gov.in to report CSAM or molestation, Rape/Gang-Rape (RGR) or obscene contents on internet. ISPs are asked to remove any valid CSAM/RGR/Obscene contents reported on this portal.

(c) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has adequate provisions to deal with prevailing cyber crimes. Further, sections 354A and 354D of Indian Penal Code provide punishment for cyber bullying and cyber stalking against women. Further

- (i) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory on 4.1.2012 on "Preventing & Combating Cyber Crime against Women and Children", wherein States/Union Territories have been advised to specifically combat the crimes in forms of cyber stalking, cyber bullying, child pornography and exposure to sexually explicit material etc.
- (ii) The Government is implementing a major programme on Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA). A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) has also been set up.
- (iii) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued a circular on 18.08.2017 to all schools on safe and effective use of Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools and School buses.
- (iv) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a portal www.cybercrime.gov.in for public to report complaints of child pornography and sexually explicit content. MHA has also released a booklet: "A Handbook for Adolescents/Students on Cyber Security" to create awareness among citizens especially students/children about various cyber threats that can impact the children and ways to safeguard themselves against cyber crimes. The copy of the booklet is available in the following link:

https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/CyberSafety_English_Web_03122018.pdf.

North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS)

*139. SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects under the North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS);

(b) the timeline of the projects along with the steps taken by the Government to ensure completion of the projects as targeted;

(c) whether there has been delay in implementation and completion of NERSDS;

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

(e) the powers and autonomy of the North East Council with regard to implementation of the scheme?

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) North Eastern Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) aims primarily for upgradation of important inter-State roads which were not properly maintained by either of the states due to various reasons.

Three inter-State roads have been entrusted to National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) during 2015-16 & 2016-17 as below:

- i. Tura-Mankachar Road (Meghalaya-Assam).
- ii. Wokha-Merapani Road (Nagaland-Assam).
- iii. Harmuti-Doimukh Road (Arunachal-Assam).

The following two projects have recently been approved:

- i. Bridge over Raman Khola along Naya Bazar Singla Road in West Sikkim for an estimated cost of Rs. 15.63 crore.
- ii. Construction of RCC Bridge No.17/1 over river Dhansiri on Udalgiri Bhairabkunda Road for an estimated cost of Rs. 33.62 crore, subject to various clearances.

(b) One project, Tura-Mankachar Road, has been completed and other two are scheduled for completion by March, 2019. Further, the projects which are recently

approved are required to be substantially completed by March, 2020.

(c) and (d) The implementation of the projects initially sanctioned under NERSDS has faced delays which are mainly due to the following reasons:

- i. There was delay in preparation of DPRs & shifting of utilities.
- ii. A small stretch in case of Harmoti-Doimukh road in Assam required forest clearance, which also caused some delay.

(e) NERSDS is being implemented by North Eastern Council (NEC), which can sanction projects in accordance with the general guidelines approved by the NEC Plenary and the general delegation of financial powers to them. An Inter Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, NEC with members from M/o DoNER, MHA, MoRTH and MoF has been constituted to oversee the implementation of the projects under the scheme.

[Translation]

MPLAD Funds

*140. DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:
SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:

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

(a) whether impediments are coming in the way of full utilization of MPLAD funds due to non-submission of utilization certificate and other reasons;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to transfer MPLAD funds to the districts on yearly basis and

if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received some suggestions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the number of districts which have been provided entire funds for five years *i.e.* Rs. 25 crore as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation releases annual entitlement of Rs. 5 crore of MPLAD fund in two equal installments to the Nodal District Authority opted by Hon'ble MPs. Utilization of released funds is to be done by respective District Authorities only on the basis of recommendations made by Hon'ble MPs. The utilization certificate is a statement by the District Authority that the funds have been utilized as per the scheme guidelines and facilitates the release of further funds under the MPLAD Scheme. There have been delays in submission of utilization certificates by District Authorities on account of various reasons and this has been in discussion in several meetings related with MPLAD Scheme. Accordingly a proposal to release the full amount of Rs. 5.0 crore of MPLADs fund for one year in one go is under consideration in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(e) Statement giving the number of districts which have been provided entire funds for five years *i.e.* Rs. 25 crore as on date, State-wise is enclosed.

Statement

*State-wise details of Districts which have been provided entire funds for five years
i.e. Rs. 25 crore in 16th Lok Sabha (as on 10.12.2018)*

Sl.No.	State	District	MP Name	Constituency
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Lohit	Shri Ninong Ering	Arunachal East
2.	Assam	Nalbari	Shri Naba Kumar Sarania	Kokrajhar (ST)
3.	Assam	Barpeta	Shri Sirajuddin Ajmal	Barpeta
4.	Bihar	Kaimur (Bhabua)	Shri Chhedi Paswan	Sasaram (SC)
5.	Chhattisgarh	Durg	Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu	Durg

Sl.No.	State	District	MP Name	Constituency
6.	Gujarat	Valsad	Dr. K. C. Patel	Valsad (ST)
7.	Gujarat	Surendranagar	Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai Fatepara	Surendranagar
8.	Haryana	Mahendragarh	Shri Dharambir Bhaleram	Bhiwani Mahendragarh
9.	Haryana	Sonepat	Shri Ramesh Chander Kaushik	Sonepat
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Smt. Sumitra Mahajan (Tai)	Indore
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Sagar	Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav	Sagar
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Dewas	Shri Manhor Untwal	Dewas (SC)
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Shri Prahlad Singh Patel	Damoh
14.	Manipur	Imphal West	Dr. Thokchom Meinya	Inner Manipur
15.	Nagaland	Dimapur	Shri Tokheho	Nagaland
16.	Punjab	Patiala	Dr. Dharam Vira Gandhi	Patiala
17.	Punjab	Amritsar	Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla	Amritsar
18.	Punjab	Ferozepur	Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya	Ferozpur
19.	Rajasthan	Sriganganagar	Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan	Ganganagar (SC)
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur Nagar	Dr. Murlı Manohar Joshi	Kanpur
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Rampur	Dr. Nepal Singh	Rampur
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Muzaffarnagar	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Muzaffarnagar
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur Nagar	Shri Devendra (Alias) Bhole	Akbarpur
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Sitapur	Shri Rajesh Verma	Sitapur
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Mainpuri	Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav	Mainpuri
26.	West Bengal	North Twenty Four Parganas	Dr. (Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar	Barasat
27.	West Bengal	Hooghly	Dr. (Smt.) Ratna De (Nag)	Hooghly
28.	West Bengal	South Dinajpur	Km. Arpita Ghosh	Balurghat
29.	West Bengal	North Twenty Four Parganas	Prof. Saugata Roy	Dum Dum
30.	West Bengal	North Twenty Four Parganas	Shri Dinesh Trivedi	Barrackpur
31.	West Bengal	North Twenty Four Parganas	Shri Idris Ali	Basirhat
32.	West Bengal	Hooghly	Shri Kalyan Banerjee	Sreerampur
33.	West Bengal	North Twenty Four Parganas	Smt Mamata Thakur	Bangaon (SC)
34.	West Bengal	Hooghly	Smt. Aparupa Poddar	Arambag (SC)
35.	West Bengal	Birbhum	Smt. Satabdi Roy (Banerjee)	Birbhum

Per Capita Income

1381. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per capita income in different States *vis-à-vis* the national average for the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether there is any disparity in the per capita income of people living in rural and urban areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) As per the information received from State Governments, the details of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) in different States alongwith average Per Capita Net National Income for the last three years, calculated at current and constant prices with base year 2011-12, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The Per Capita Net Value Added (NVA) for rural and urban areas is calculated only for the Base-Year. The data of Per Capita Net Value Added (NVA) for the year 2011-12 and Per Capita NDP (at factor 2004-05, for rural and urban areas, for the last 3 base revisions are as below:-

Base Year	Entity	Per Capita (in Rs.)	
		Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1999-2000	NDP	10,683	30,183

Statement

Per capita Net State Domestic Product at current and constant prices; base year 2011-12

As on 28.08.2018

Sl. No.	State/UT	Current Prices; Base Year 2011-12				Constant Prices; Base Year 2011-12			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	India (in Per Capita Net National Income (NNI))	86,647	94,731	1,03,870	1,12,835	72,805	77,826	82,229	86,668

1	2	3	4
2004-05	NDP	16,327	44,223
2011-12	NVA	40,925	98,435

(d) The Government has taken various steps to boost the economy for both rural and urban areas. These, *inter alia*, include Schemes for the rural areas like Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana to improve electrification, Digital India to empower farmers giving them knowledge about various Government Schemes, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into their accounts and Skill India which provides vocational education. The Union Cabinet approved a significant increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018-19 season, so as to provide major boost to farmer's income. Besides this, the Government has launched several programmes like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, which provides insurance on crops the farmer grows, Soil Health Card Scheme, which enables farmers to get their soil checked and uses the fertilizers according to need and thus reduce input cost thereby increase their profitability/income, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, Subsidies for Agriculture, Free/low cost electricity and Special weather/agriculture bulletins for better reach of easy credit and updated information to farmers have been introduced on radio and television, etc. The Government has also launched some programmes for farmers to sell their crops at best price like National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 and Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) (effective since 01.04.2014).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	93,903	1,07,276	1,23,664	1,42,054	79,174	87,217	96,374	1,06,545
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,10,912	1,12,312	1,19,481	NA	87,965	85,356	86,818	NA
4.	Assam	52,895	60,817	67,303	NA	44,809	50,642	52,416	NA
5.	Bihar	28,671	30,213	34,409	38,860	23,223	23,987	25,950	28,485
6.	Chhattisgarh	72,946	76,025	84,265	92,035	61,146	63,791	68,321	71,581
7.	Goa	2,89,185	3,34,576	3,75,550	NA	2,41,081	2,78,601	3,08,823	NA
8.	Gujarat	1,27,017	1,39,254	1,56,527	NA	1,11,370	1,20,683	1,31,853	NA
9.	Haryana**	1,48,485	1,62,034	1,80,174	NA	1,24,302	1,33,591	1,43,211	NA
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1,23,299	1,35,512	1,50,285	1,60,719	1,05,241	1,12,723	1,19,386	1,25,607
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	61,213	73,229	78,163	NA	50,724	59,924	62,145	NA
12.	Jharkhand	57,301	52,754	59,799	63,754	48,781	44,524	49,174	50,562
13.	Karnataka	1,30,024	1,48,110	1,61,936	1,81,788	1,05,697	1,16,832	1,24,093	1,34,118
14.	Kerala	1,35,537	1,48,011	1,63,475	NA	1,12,444	1,19,665	1,28,550	NA
15.	Madhya Pradesh	56,069	62,817	74,590	NA	44,336	47,646	53,047	NA
16.	Maharashtra	1,32,611	1,47,610	1,65,491	1,80,596	1,14,750	1,22,588	1,33,141	1,40,997
17.	Manipur	52,717	55,447	58,501	NA	44,101	46,389	46,756	NA
18.	Meghalaya	64,638	68,836	73,291	79,807	55,936	56,039	58,826	63,354
19.	Mizoram	1,03,049	1,14,055	1,28,998	NA	85,056	91,845	1,01,877	NA
20.	Nagaland	78,367	82,466	90,168	NA	60,372	60,663	63,568	NA
21.	Odisha**	63,173	65,650	74,234	80,991	54,211	58,165	63,674	67,522
22.	Punjab	1,08,970	1,18,858	1,28,890	NA	95,807	1,00,141	1,05,386	NA
23.	Rajasthan**	76,436	83,977	92,076	1,00,551	64,522	68,048	72,072	76,146
24.	Sikkim	2,14,148	2,45,987	2,70,572	2,97,765	1,80,675	1,95,066	2,06,178	2,18,333
25.	Tamil Nadu	1,28,372	1,40,441	1,50,036	1,66,934	1,06,189	1,14,581	1,17,806	1,26,179
26.	Telangana	1,24,104	1,40,840	1,59,856	1,81,034	1,01,424	1,12,267	1,22,684	1,34,402
27.	Tripura**	63,969	80,027	NA	NA	58,033	64,173	NA	NA
28.	Uttar Pradesh	42,267	47,062	51,014	55,339	34,583	36,923	38,934	40,815
29.	Uttarakhand	1,35,881	1,47,592	1,57,643	1,73,820	1,18,788	1,26,952	1,32,464	1,39,435
30.	West Bengal	68,876	75,992	83,126	95,562	54,520	57,255	61,245	65,978
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,19,291	1,26,445	1,36,824	NA	1,00,754	1,06,031	1,13,796	NA
32.	Chandigarh	2,06,760	2,22,710	2,37,599	NA	1,83,029	1,97,663	2,07,000	NA
33.	Delhi**	2,49,635	2,71,305	3,00,793	3,29,093	2,16,029	2,34,328	2,49,555	2,64,697
34.	Puducherry	1,46,921	1,72,913	1,85,141	1,98,046	1,17,102	1,21,844	1,27,105	1,34,591

Source: For Sl. No. 1- Press Note on National Account Statistics Back Series 2004-05 to 2011-12

Source: For Sl. No. 2-34-Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments

NA-Not Available

** As on 28.02.2018

[English]

Cyber Attacks

1382. SHRI OM BIRLA:

SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that incidents of cyber attacks including ransomware etc. have increased in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one year including the measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether foreign Governments are behind any such cyber attacks, if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) whether lack of trained professionals is proving to be an impediment in curbing such challenges, if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to augment the capacity of existing experts and for training of new experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) With the proliferation of Information Technology and related services, there is a rise in cyber attacks in the country like elsewhere in the world. Cyberspace is virtual and borderless, thus cyber attacks can come from anywhere, anytime and by anyone. As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total number of 53081 cyber security incidents including 56 ransomware incidents were observed during the year 2017.

(c) Cyber attacks by foreign countries are a global phenomenon. The virtual, borderless and anonymous nature of cyberspace provides opportunity to anyone to carry out such cyber attacks. There have been attempts from time-to-time to launch cyber attacks on Indian cyber space. These attacks have been observed to be originating from the cyber space of a number of countries. It has been observed that the attackers compromise computer systems located in different parts of the World and use masquerading techniques and hidden servers to hide the

identity of actual system from which the attacks are being launched.

Government has taken a number of legal, technical and administrative measures to address the issue of cyber attacks. These *inter alia*, include:

- (i) Information Technology Act, 2000 was enacted to deal with cyber crime. IT Act has adequate deterrent provisions for cyber threats and cyber attacks.
- (ii) Government has established 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.
- (iii) 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).
- (iv) Government has set up National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. Phase-I of NCCC has already been made operational.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) Cyber Security exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 38 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In wherein organisations from different sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS etc. participated.

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

(viii) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a portal www.cybercrime.gov.in for public to report complaints of child pornography and sexually abusive explicit content.

(d) Cyber Security is a challenging field because of ever changing threat scenario. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has initiated Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project for capacity building in the area of cyber security. ISEA Project Phase II was approved in the year 2014 with an objective of capacity building in the area of Information Security, training of Government personnel and creation of mass Information Security awareness targeted towards various user segments. The project aims to train more than 1 lakh candidates in various formal/non-formal courses and more than 13,000 Government officials by March, 2020. In addition, the project envisages creation of mass awareness on Information Security through direct and indirect mode.

So far, 37,018 candidates have been trained/undergoing training in various formal/non-formal courses through 52 institutions and 6,042 Government officials have been trained in various short term courses of 2/3/5 days duration in the area of Information Security. Besides this, 760 half day general awareness workshops on Information Security have been organized across the country for various user groups covering 82,328 participants. Information Security Awareness handbooks were distributed as a part of these workshops to disseminate information and tips on safe use of internet including ransomware. The softcopy of the handbook and awareness videos on ransomware are also made available for download on the website www.isea.gov.in.

CERT-In is conducting regular training programmes for network/system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector

organisations regarding securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks. 22 trainings covering 746 participants conducted in the year 2018 (till November).

Hindu Marriage Act

1383. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, so as to hold child marriages void, instead of requiring either of two contracting parties to opt for annulment and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Government intends to amend the Muslim personal law which allows minor girls who have attained puberty to get married and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Madam.

[*Translation*]

Railway Electrification

1384. DR. KRISHAN PRATAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway is ready to expedite electrification process and to run all train with electric engines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the railway has identified the rail divisions/rail routes where electrification work is pending;

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

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to complete electrification work in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways have prepared an Action Plan to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) Routes of Indian

Railways. As on 01.04.2018, 30,212 Route Kilometers of rail lines have been commissioned on electric traction, which is 44.85% of total Indian Railway network.

Year-wise planning for electrification of balance BG routes is as under:-

Year	Route Kilometers planned for electrification
2018-19	6000
2019-20	7000

Year	Route Kilometers planned for electrification
2020-21	10500
2021-22	10500

(c) and (d) State/Zone-wise details and present status of the on-going electrification projects under Plan Head "Railway Electrification" are as under:-

Sl. No.	State(s)	Zonal Railway(s)	Name of Project	Total Route kilometre (RKM)	Balance RKM to be electrified as on 01.12.2018
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam, Bihar & West Bengal	East Central & Northeast Frontier	Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati incl Katihar-Barsoi	836	562
2.	Karnataka & Kerala	Southern	Shoranur-Mangalore-Penambur	328	22
3.	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh & Odisha	East Coast	Vizianagaram-Rayagada-Titlagarh-Raipur	465	158
4.	Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka	South Central & South Western	Guntakal-Bellary-Hospet incl. Tornagallu-Ranjitpura Branch Line	138	138
5.	Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh	Central & South East Central	Amla-Chhindwara-Kalumna	257	106
6.	Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh	West Central & Noth Central	Itarsi-Katni-Manikpur incl Satna-Rewa and Manikpur-Chheoki	653	226
7.	Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh	East Central	Garwa Road-Chopan-Singrauli	257	115
8.	Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana & Rajasthan	Northern, North Western & Western	Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Rewari-Palanpur-Ahmedabad, incl. Kalol-Gandhinagar-Khodiyar and Alwar-Bandikui-Jaipur-Phulera	1087	727
9.	Punjab	Northern	Rajpura-Dhuri-Lehra Mohabat	151	151
10.	Punjab	Northern	Jakhal-Dhuri-Ludhiana	123	123
11.	Odisha	East Coast	Singapur Road-Damanjodi	152	100
12.	West Bengal	Eastern	Katwa-Azimganj-Nalhati & Azimganj-Tildanga/New Farakka incl. Nalhati & Azimganj bypass line	200	82
13.	Bihar & Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Chhapra-Ballia-Ghazipur-Varanasi-Allahabad	330	191

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	West Central	Singrauli-Katni	260	260
15.	Gujarat	Western	Ahmedabad-Rajkot	233	233
16.	Gujarat	Western	Mehsana-Viramgam- Samakhiali	292	292
17.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Erode-Karur-Tiruchchirapalli & Salem-Karur-Dindigul	300	89
18.	Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan	West Central & Western	Ratlam-Nimach-Chanderia-Kota	348	348
19.	Jharkhand	East Central	Koderma-Hazaribagh-Barkakana- Ranchi	203	203
20.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Ghazipur-Aunrihar-Manduadih	78	78
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Utretia-Rae Bareli-Amethi-Janghai	214	214
22.	Telangana	South Central	Paddapalli-Lingampet-Jagtiyal	83	83
23.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagapattinam- Karaikkal	153	153
24.	Bihar & Jharkhand	Eastern	Bonidanga Link Cabin/Bonidanga- Barharwa-Sahibganj-Kiul incl. Tinpahar-Rajmahal	247	247
25.	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	South Central	Pagidipalli-Nallapadu	285	206
26.	Haryana, Punjab & Rajasthan	North Western	Hissar-Bhatinda-Suratgarh	328	171
27.	Bihar	East Central	Valmiki Nagar-Narkatiaganj- Sugauli-Muzaffarpur incl. Sugauli- Raxaul	240	118
28.	Uttar Pradesh	North Central	Jhansi-Manikpur incl Khairar- Bhimsen	409	113
29.	Rajsthan	North Western	Ajmer-Berach-Mavli-Udaipur	294	127
30.	Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra & Telengana	South Central	Manmad-Mudkhed-Dhoneexcl. Umdanagar-Mehboobnagar	783	783
31.	Goa & Karnataka	South Western	Hospet-Hubli-Vasco da Gama	346	346
32.	Maharashtra	Central	Jasai-Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust	9	9
33.	Maharashtra	Central	Pune-Miraj- Kolhapur	326	326
34.	Maharashtra	Central	Pen-Roha	40	40
35.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Mathura-Kasganj-Kalyanpur	338	338
36.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Aunrihar-Jaunpur	60	60
37.	Uttar Pradesh	North Central	Chunar-Chopan	100	100
38.	Punjab	Northern	Beas-Gownidwal Sahib-Taran Taran-Amritsar	72	72

1	2	3	4	5	6
39.	Gujarat	Western	Samakhiyali-Gandhidham-Kandla Port-Mundra Port	77	77
40.	Rajasthan	North Western	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur-Ringas	188	188
41.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Noli-Tapri	143	143
42.	Karnataka	South Western	Miraj-Londa	189	189
43.	Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra	South East Central	Gondia-Nainpur-Jabalpur	229	112
44.	Madhya Pradesh	West Central	Vijaipur-Maksi	188	188
45.	Madhya Pradesh	South East Central	Chhindwara-Nainpur-Mandala Fort	183	183
46.	Maharashtra	Central	Chalisgaon-Dhule	56	56
47.	Bihar	East Central	Biharsharif-Daniawan	38	38
48.	Bihar	East Central	Ara-Sasaram	97	97
49.	Rajasthan	North Central	Bandikui-Bharatpur	97	97
50.	Madhya Pradesh	North Central	Birlanagar-Etawah	115	115
51.	Uttar Pradesh	North Central	Bhandai-Udi	113	113
52.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Unnao-Balamau-Sitapur	162	162
53.	Haryana	Northern	Narwana-Kurukshetra	86	86
54.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Bareilly-Chandausi- Harduaganjincl. Chandausi- Moradabad	199	199
55.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Gajraula-Muazzampur Narain	95	95
56.	Haryana	Northern	Panipat-Jind	70	70
57.	Haryana	Northern	Rohtak-Panipat	71	71
58.	Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	South Western	Bengaluru-Omalur <i>via</i> Hosur	196	196
59.	Madhya Pradesh	West Central	Guna-Gwalior	227	227
60.	Bihar	East Central	Fatuha-Islampur	43	43
61.	Bihar	East Central	Darbhanga-Jaynagar	69	69
62.	Assam	North east Frontier	Guwahati-Dibrugarh <i>via</i> Tinsukia and Simaluguri-Dibrugarh	661	661
63.	Uttarakhand	Northern	Raiwala-Rishikesh	12	12
64.	Gujarat	Western	Rajkot-Sikka-Okha	271	271
65.	Jharkhand	East Central	Giridih-Nawadih-Koderma	114	114
66.	Bihar & Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Kaptanganj-Thawe-Khairah- Chhapra Kacheri	206	206
67.	Bihar	East Central	Raxaul-Sitamarhi-Darbhanga- Samastipur	231	231

1	2	3	4	5	6
68.	Haryana	Northern	Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar	12	12
69.	West Bengal	Northeast Frontier	Raninagar Jalpaiguri-Samuktala Road	129	129
70.	Rajasthan	North Western	Alwar-Bandikui-2nd line	60	60
71.	Punjab	Northern	Amritsar-Batala-Bharoli	104	104
72.	Bihar	East Central	Samastipur-Khagaria	85	85
73.	Assam	Northeast Frontier	New Bongaigaon-Goalpara-Kamakhya	175	175
74.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Villupuram-Cuddalore Port-Mayiladuturai-Thanjavur & Mayiladuturai-Thiruvavur	228	228
75.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Mankapur-Katra-Ayodhya	38	38
76.	Uttar Pradesh	North Central	Shikohabad-Farrukhabad	158	158
77.	Haryana & Rajasthan	North Western	Rewari-Sadulpur-Hanumangarh	320	320
78.	Maharashtra	Central	Daund-Baramati	44	44
79.	Maharashtra	Central	Wani-Pimpalkhutti	66	66
80.	Rajasthan	North Western	Sadulpur-Ratangarh-Bikaner Lalgarh incl. Ratangarh Sardarshahar	286	286
81.	Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka	South Western	Chikjajur-Bellary	184	184
82.	Maharashtra	Central	Miraj-Kurduwadi-Latur	377	377
83.	Karnataka & Maharashtra	South Western	Gadag-Hotgi	284	284
84.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Unnao-Unchahar	113	113
85.	Madhya Pradesh	Western	Ratlam-Fatehabad-Laxmibainagar	115	115
86.	Gujarat	Western	Wankaner-Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana & Surendranagar-Dhrangandhra	132	132
87.	Karnataka	South Western	Chikbanavar-Hubballi	456	456
88.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	Northern	Najibabad-Kotdwara	24	24
89.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Kasganj-Bareilly, Bhojipura-Daliganj	401	401
90.	Rajasthan & Gujarat	North Western	Suratgarh-Phalodi-Bhildi incl. Phalodi-Jaisalmer	902	902

Further, in September, 2018 Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for electrification of balance un-electrified BG routes of Indian Railways comprising 108 sections covering 13,675 route

kilometers (16,540 track kilometers) at a cost of Rs. 12,134.50 crore.

The details of 108 sections are as under:-

Sl.No.	State(s)	Zonal Railway(s)	Name of Project	Total Route kilometre (RKM)
1.	Maharashtra	Central	Lonand-Phaltan	26
2.	Bihar	East Central	Dauram Madhepura-Purnia	77.30
3.	Bihar	East Central	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	64.52
4.	Bihar	East Central	Dildarnagar-Tarighat	18.67
5.	Odisha	East Coast	Khurda Road-Balangir	301
6.	Odisha	East Coast	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh Road	56
7.	Odisha & Andhra Pradesh	East Coast	Naupada-Gunupur	90
8.	West Bengal	Eastern	Katwa-Ahmadpur	52
9.	Jharkhand & Odisha	Eastern	Rampurhat (excl.)-Dumka-Bhagalpur (excl.) & Jasidih-Deoghar-Dumka (excl.) incl. Barahat-Banka (excl.) Chandan-Deoghar and Madhupur-Giridih	361
10.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	North Eastern	Shahjahanpur-Pilibhit, Pilibhit-Tanakpur	145.46
11.	Bihar	North Eastern	Hathua-Bathua Bazar-Bhatni New line	79.6
12.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Salempur-Barhaj Bazarexisting BG line	20.25
13.	Bihar	North Eastern	Duraundha-Maharajganj-Masrakh	41.53
14.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Mandhana Jn-Brahmavard	8
15.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Gorakhpur-Anand Nagar-Gonda & Anand Nagar-Nautanwa	261.61
16.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Gonda-Bahraich	59.84
17.	Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Moradabad-Kashipur-Ramnagar, Rampur-Lalkua-Kathgodam incl. Lalkua-Kashipur and Bareilly-Lalkua	309
18.	Uttar Pradesh	North Eastern	Paniahwa-Chhitauni-Tamkuhi Road	67.69
19.	Uttar Pradesh	North Central	Barhan-Etah	59
20.	Madhya Pradesh	North Central	Mahoba-Udaipura	196
21.	Rajasthan	North Western	Luni-Marwar	71.71
22.	Rajasthan	North Western	Bikaner-Merta-Jodhpur and Merta-Phulera	424
23.	Rajasthan	North Western	Degana-Ratangarh	142.89
24.	Rajasthan	North Western	Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar-Sarupsar-Suratgarh incl. Sarupsar- Anupgarh	281
25.	Haryana & Rajasthan	North Western	Hisar-Suratpura	64.6
26.	Rajasthan	North Western	Samdari-Barmer-Munabao	250.29

Sl.No.	State(s)	Zonal Railway(s)	Name of Project	Total Route kilometre (RKM)
27.	Rajasthan & Gujarat	North Western	Udaipur City-Himmatnagar	209.66
28.	Rajasthan	North Western	Sikar-Loharu	122
29.	Rajasthan	North Western	Mavli-Bari Sadri	82
30.	Rajasthan	North Western	Dausa-Gangapur City	93
31.	Rajasthan	North Western	Madar-Pushkar	25.7
32.	Rajasthan	North Western	Ringas-Sikar-Churu	140
33.	Rajasthan	North Western	Thiyat Hamira-Sanu incl. Pipar Road-Bilara, Makrana-Parbatsar and Merta Rd-Merta City	135.72
34.	Assam	Northeast Frontier	Chaparmukh-Silghat Town incl. Senchoa Jn-Mairabari single line	130
35.	Assam	Northeast Frontier	Lumding-Badarpur single line	172
36.	Assam, Tirpura & Mizoram	Northeast Frontier	Badarpur-Jiribam, Katakhal-Bhairabi & Badarpur-Karimganj-Sabroom incl. Karimganj-Maishasan, Agartala-Akhaura & Baraigram-Dullabachera	590
37.	Assam & Arunachal Pradesh	Northeast Frontier	Rangiya Jn.-Rangapara-Harmuty-Naharlagun including branch lines	339
38.	Assam	Northeast Frontier	Mariani-Jorhat Town-Furkating & Tinsukia Jn-Makum-Tirap & Makum-Dangri single line	174
39.	Assam	Northeast Frontier	Harmuty-Murkongselek including branch line	230
40.	Bihar	Northeast Frontier	Katihar-Jogbani single line	109
41.	West Bengal	Northeast Frontier	Raninagar-Haldibari single line	34
42.	West Bengal & Assam	Northeast Frontier	New Jalpaigudi-New Mal Jn-Alipurduar-Samuktala and Alipurduar-New Coochbehar incl. New Mal Jn-Changrabandha, New Changrabandha-New Coochbehar, New Coochbehar-Bamanhat, New Coochbehar-Fakiragram-Dhubri	506
43.	Bihar & West Bengal	Northeast Frontier	Katihar-Teznanayanpur, Barsoi-Radhikapur & Eklakhi-Balurghat single line	176
44.	Bihar & West Bengal	Northeast Frontier	Aluabari-Siliguri <i>via</i> Baghdogra	76.23
45.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Prayag-Prayag Ghat	2.46

Sl.No.	State(s)	Zonal Railway(s)	Name of Project	Total Route kilometre (RKM)
46.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Raebareli-Unchahar incl. Dalmau-Daryapur	63
47.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Phaphamau-Pratapgarh	46
48.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Akbarpur-Faizabad-Barabanki	161
49.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	2nd Line Utratia-Raebareli-Amethi	126
50.	Himachal Pradesh	Northern	Amb Andaura-Talwara	40
51.	Punjab	Northern	Bhatinda-Ferozpur-Jalandhar City Incl. Lohian Khas-Nakodar-Phillaur & Nakodar-Jalandhar	301
52.	Punjab	Northern	Ludhiana-Ferozpur City-Hussainiwala including Ferozpur City-Fazilka-Abohar & Kotkapura-Fazilka	339
53.	Punjab	Northern	Phagwara Jn.-Nawanshahar Doaba- Jaijon Doaba incl. Nawanshahar-Rahon	74
54.	Punjab	Northern	Jalandhar City-Hoshiarpur	38.4
55.	Punjab	Northern	Verka Jn.-Dera Baba Nanak	45
56.	Punjab	Northern	Taran Taran-Patti-Khemkaran	54.4
57.	Punjab	Northern	Batala Jn.-Qadian	19
58.	Punjab & Rajasthan	Northern	Bathinda Jn.-Abohar-Sri Ganganagar	125
59.	Harayana	Northern	Sonipat-Gohana-Jind	86
60.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Raja Ka Sahaspur-Sambhal Hatim Sarai	23
61.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Faizabad-Sultanpur-Chilbila	94.4
62.	Uttar Pradesh	Northern	Janghai-Zafrabad	47
63.	Maharashtra, Karnataka & Telangana	South Central	Parli Vaijnath-Vikarabad	269
64.	Maharashtra & Telangana	South Central	Pimpalkutti-Mudkhed & Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath	246
65.	Andhra Pradesh	South Central	Tenali-Repalle	34
66.	Andhra Pradesh	South Central	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	123
67.	Maharashtra	South Central	Purna-Akola	209
68.	Telangana	South Central	Lingempet Jagtiyal-Nizamabad	95
69.	Andhra Pradesh	South Central	Dharamavaram-Pakala	228
70.	Telangana	South Central	Gadwal-Raichur	57
71.	Madhya Pradesh	South East Central	Tirodi-Katangi	15
72.	Maharashtra	South East Central	Wadsa-Gadchiroli	49.2

Sl.No.	State(s)	Zonal Railway(s)	Name of Project	Total Route kilometre (RKM)
73.	Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh	South East Central	Tumsar Road-Tirodi	46.8
74.	Madhya Pradesh	South East Central	Balaghat-Katangi	46.8
75.	Chhattisgarh	South East Central	Marauda-Dallirajhara	76
76.	Odisha	South Eastern	Rupsa-Bangriposi	89
77.	West Bengal	South Eastern	Bankura-Mashagram	118
78.	Jharkhand & Odisha	South Eastern	Tata-Badampahar	89
79.	Karnataka	South Western	Hospet-Swamihalli	59
80.	Karnataka	South Western	Birur-Talguppa	161
81.	Karnataka	South Western	Mysuru-Hassan-Mangalore incl. Arsikere-Hassan	347
82.	Karnataka	South Western	Mysuru-Chamarajanagar	61
83.	Karnataka	South Western	Kadur-Chikmaglur	46
84.	Karnataka	South Western	Chikbanavar-Hassan	166
85.	Karnataka	South Western	Bangarpet-Yelehanka	149
86.	Tamil Nadu & Kerala	Southern	Dindigul-Palghat	179
87.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Tiruchchirapalli-Manamadurai-Virudunagar	217
88.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Salem-Vridachalam-Cuddalore Port	196
89.	Kerala	Southern	Shoranur-Nilambur	66
90.	Kerala	Southern	Kollam-Punalur	44
91.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Virudunagar-Tenkasi Jn	122
92.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Sengottai-Tenkasi Jn.-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur	141
93.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Madurai-Manamadurai Jn.- Rameswaram	161
94.	Tamil Nadu	Southern	Pollachi-Podanur	40
95.	Gujarat	Western	Kanalus-Wansjalia-Porbandar	103.33
96.	Gujarat	Western	Rajkot-Jetalsar-Verval-Somnath with Jetalsar-Wansjalia	277.54
97.	Gujarat	Western	Mhow-Khandwa	138
98.	Gujarat	Western	Vasad-Kathana	43
99.	Gujarat	Western	Anand-Khambhat	51.79
100.	Gujarat	Western	Vishvamitri-Pratap Nagar-Chhota Udepur	102
101.	Gujarat	Western	Kanjari Boriyavi-Vadtal	6.4
102.	Gujarat	Western	Nadiad-Modasa	104.79

Sl.No.	State(s)	Zonal Railway(s)	Name of Project	Total Route kilometre (RKM)
103.	Gujarat	Western	Ankleshwar-Rajpipla	62.84
104.	Gujarat	Western	Jhund-Kharagoda	23.3
105.	Gujarat	Western	Adipur-New Bhuj	48.94
106.	Gujarat	Western	Mahesana-Patan-Bhildi	90.61
107.	Gujarat	Western	Dhola-Bhavnagar with Sihor Jn.- Palitana & Rajula Road Jn-Mahuva	119.21
108.	Jharkhand, Odisha & West Bengal	South Eastern	Loops and Yard Lines of 180 Track Kilometer	

(e) To expedite electrification of railway lines in the country, steps taken includes award of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts, better project monitoring mechanism, delegating more power to field units for award of contracts including sanction of estimates. Besides, increasing the number of executing agencies from existing three to six by entrusting electrification works to new agencies *viz.* IRCON International, Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

[English]

Coal Mines

1385. SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of output from Bengal coal mine during the last four year;

(b) the terms and conditions laid down for acquiring Bengal coal mine from the Rio-Tinto group; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred for the takeover of Bengal coal mine from Rio-Tinto Group?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Section 377 of IPC

1386. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the striking down of section 377 of the IPC by the Supreme Court and if so, the reaction of the Government to the same;

(b) whether is Government is taking steps to make sexual harassment laws gender-neutral in recognition of the rights of the community and if so, the details thereof; 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 Hon'ble Supreme Court, *vide* its Order dated 06.09.2018 has held that section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, in so far as it criminalizes consensual sexual relationship between adults, is unconstitutional. The provisions of Section 377 will continue to govern non-consensual sexual acts against adults and acts of bestiality. Articles 141 and 142 of the Constitution of India provide that the law declared by Hon'ble Supreme Court shall be binding. Further, amendment in law is a continuous process and changes in law are made on the recommendations of Law Commission and in consultation with various stakeholders including States/Union Territories.

Chief Whip

1387. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has considered amending the 10th Schedule of the Constitution to reduce the role of the Chief Whips and ensuring freedom in voting of every member and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Government has realised that India joins a small number of countries which ensure that only

the Chief Whips have power in deciding a Member's vote and if so, the reasons for not amending this Schedule?

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

War Museum

1388. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up a museum and a war memorial in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated cost of the project;
- (c) whether it is proposed to set up more such museums/memorials in other parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said museum is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The Government has approved the construction of National War Memorial at 'C' Hexagon, India Gate and National War Museum at Princes Park Complex in Delhi in October, 2015. Accordingly, the National War Memorial is under construction at 'C' Hexagon near India Gate. The cost of the project as per the contract signed with the construction company is Rs. 175.65 crores including amounts towards consultancy charges, security, housekeeping, contingency etc. So far as the National War Museum is concerned, the process of identifying a suitable design has been initiated. The tentative cost of the National War Museum project at current price level in the year 2015 as per the approval granted by the Union Cabinet is approximately Rs. 350 crores.

(c) to (e) There is no other proposal to construct a National War Memorial/Museum in other parts of the country.

Budget Allocation for Defence

1389. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any deficiency in the Defence Budget allocations for 2018-19 to the projections made by the armed forces;
- (b) if so, the service-wise breakup of the same;
- (c) the details of the deficiency, if any, in the revenue and the capital allocations; and
- (d) the manner in which the services are likely to make up the deficiency in the budgetary allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Details of Projections made by Armed Forces and Allocations made to them at Budget Estimate (BE) stage in the Financial Year 2018-2019 under Defence Services Estimates (DSE) are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Service/ Organization	Budget Estimate (BE) Projection		Budget Estimate (BE) Allocation	
	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
	Army*	1,51,814.73	44,572.63	1,27,059.51
Navy	20,188.25	35,695.41	16,618.88	20,003.71
Jt. Staff	3,559.50	2,237.03	2,952.49	844.45
Air Force	35,260.79	77,694.74	28,821.27	35,770.17

(*Excluding DGQA, MF & ECHS)

The allocated funds are optimally and fully utilized towards operational activities. However, if required, the schemes will be reprioritized to ensure that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness.

Compensation to Affected Persons

1390. SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA:
SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN:
SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has provided adequate compensation and job opportunities for the persons

belonging to the families of those who have provided lands for NLC, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any efforts to find a permanent solution to the contract labourers who are badly affected by the NLC decision of reducing the number of working days per month; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) During the period from 1977 to November, 2018, 6269 hectares of private land have been acquired by NLC India Ltd., and for which about Rs. 137 crore was paid as compensation as per Land Acquisition Act. In addition to the above, another Rs. 180 crore was paid as enhanced compensation, through Lok Adalat, ensuring adequate compensation to the persons belonging to the families who have provided land for NLC India Limited (NLCIL). Apart from monetary compensation, the following Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) facilities were provided to the project affected families:—

Sl.No.	Nature of R&R Measures	Quantification
1.	Allotment of alternative house sites in well developed, resettlement centers	7374 Plots.
2.	Resettlement Allowance paid	Rs. 275.53 lakh.
3.	Ex-gratia payment for the structure on Government Lands	Rs. 417.53 lakh.
4.	Regular employment provided to the Project Affected Families (PAF).	1827 persons
5.	Contract Jobs	3500 persons
6.	Cattle Shed, Petty shop Allowance paid	Rs. 3.30 lakh
7.	One time Rehabilitation grant in lieu of employment	Rs. 2,77,03,500/-
8.	Annual expenditure incurred as on date for maintenance, amenities and up-keeping of Resettlement Centers	Rs. 150.00 lakh per Annum (approx)

Sl.No.	Nature of R&R Measures	Quantification
9.	ITI apprenticeship training imparted to Project Affected Persons (PAP).	975 persons
10.	Apprenticeship Training (Graduate/Diploma).	154 persons
11.	Sponsorship for studying Diploma in Mining.	118 persons
12.	Special Training imparted to the PAF members under Medical Lab Technician Training Scheme.	65 persons
13.	Training for skill development/ entrepreneurship/self-employment imparted to the members of PAFs in association with training experts.	1792 persons
14.	Number of PAP Contractors registered on the basis of LA.	128 contractors
15.	Charges incurred for the development of Resettlement Centers	Rs. 1364.38 lakh

(c) and (d) NLCIL has not reduced the number of working days of contract workmen engaged by the contractor employers. As per Mine Planning, due to the closure of Eastern Corridor (EC) Bench System of Mine IA, a small section of workmen engaged by the contractor employers in EC Bench System of Mine-IA Unit of NLCIL resorted to agitation and submitted petitions to NLCIL as well as District Collector and Government Agencies. However, the same was resolved by redeploying the contract workmen to other units of NLCIL viz. Mine I & Mine II.

Nuclear Arsenal by Pakistan

1391. SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is expanding its nuclear arsenal and has developed warheads for its delivery as

well as converting some of its fighter jets to deliver nukes and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Pakistan will become the world's fifth largest nuclear weapon State in 2025, if the current trend continue;

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to meet the country's defence requirement and enhance the nuclear capability?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Government is aware of reports on the expansion of Pakistan's capability for fissile material production for nuclear weapons, the expansion in its delivery system capabilities and purported development of tactical nuclear weapons. Government continues to monitor development in this regard and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard national security and respond to any threat suitably and adequately.

Broadband connectivity in Gram Panchayats

1392. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Bharat Net Project to extend High Speed Broadband connectivity infrastructure to remaining 1.25 lakh panchayats out of total 2.5 lakh gram panchayats would be completed on time and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard along with the villages where broadband facilities are likely to be provided in the year 2017-18;

(c) whether it is also true that the broadband connectivity would offer e-health and e-governance services to the rural people;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is working on the scheme called Wireless Broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of villages included under the scheme along with the time by which remaining villages are likely to be included, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide high speed broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. BharatNet Phase I to connect 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) has been completed in December, 2017.

For expediting the implementation of BharatNet project, on 19.07.2017, the Union Cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet under which, connectivity to the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country is to be provided through an optimal mix of media (*i.e.* OFC, radio and satellite), by the three models of implementation; *i.e.* State-led model, Private Sector, CPSU model.

As on 09.12.2018, OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 1,16,492 GPs, which are Service Ready, and the remaining GPs are under implementation. As per the above Cabinet approval, BharatNet project is targeted to be completed by March, 2019.

Under the project model, the service delivery is proposed through Service Providers. The broadband connectivity can be used to offer e-services such as e-health, e-governance services.

(e) and (f) As part of the BharatNet project, the Last mile connectivity through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is being provided at all the GPs (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country, including Uttar Pradesh. Every GP is to be provided with, on an average, 5 Access Points (APs), *i.e.* 3 APs in Government Institutions, such as schools, police stations, health institutions, etc. and 2 APs at public places. The project is targeted to be completed by March, 2019.

Outstanding Payments

1393. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has huge outstanding payments to diesel and electric power supply PSUs and other companies;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding with different companies and State Governments since 2014 onwards; and

(c) the proposal of the Government to clear those dues?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Coal Royalty

1394. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to revise the coal royalty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government is charging clean environment cess per tonne production of coal and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the coal bearing States have a share in this; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) A Study Group was constituted on 21.07.2014 for the purpose of examining the issue of revision of present royalty rates on coal and lignite. The Study Group had earlier submitted its recommendation on 27.04.2016, however, pursuant to the change in scenario due to implementation of GST and other factors, the matter was again referred to the Study Group for reconsideration of its recommendation. The final recommendation of the Study Group is under consideration. In addition, 30% of the royalty in respect of mining lease granted before 12th January, 2015 and 10% of the royalty in respect of mining lease granted on or after 12th January, 2015, is being collected by the State Governments as District Mineral Fund (DMF).

(c) to (e) Taxation Laws Amendment Act, 2017 repealed Clean Environment Cess levied under Finance Act 2010 with effect from 1st July, 2017.

Inadequate Coal Transport

1395. SHRI CHHOTE LAL:

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD:

ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road as well as the rail mode of coal transport are not performing upto the expectations which is leading to inadequate coal stock at power plants that are located at far distances from mines;

(b) whether road transportation of coal faces significant issues including environmental concerns and resistance from local population;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government to tackle the problem and to ensure efficient transportation of coal; and

(d) whether it is also true that the coal companies should focus on increased use of conveyor belts of overhead ropeways, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The average rake loading for power sector by CIL during April-Nov, 2018 has been 251 rakes/day in comparison to loading of 216 rakes/day during the corresponding period of last year, thereby registering a growth of 16.60%.

In 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), Coal India Limited (CIL) supplied 315.94 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal achieving a growth of more than 8% in coal supply to the power sector over the supply of 291.78 MT in the corresponding period of last year. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has supplied 35.04 MT of coal to power plants (up to 30.11.2018).

Due to increased supply to Power Plants, coal based Power generation during the period of April-November, 2018 has been 99.16 % of program with a growth of 5.5 % over the generation in the corresponding period of last year.

Due to augmented supply, coal stock at TPP end has also increased. As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA) report, coal stock at Power House end as on 16.12.2018 is

15.52 Million Tonnes (MT) as against the stock of 12.20 MT on 16.12.2017 thereby registering an increase of 27.20%.

Loading for long lead power plants has also increased as the average lead for transportation of coal during April-Nov, 2018 has increased to 492 KM against 469 KM during the corresponding period of last year.

As informed by Ministry of Railways, Indian railways is supplying rakes for transportation of coal as per demand placed by coal companies/consumers. The availability of wagons is adequate for meeting the demand for rail transport. However, demand-supply imbalances, which arise intermittently on account of various factors like fluctuations in demand, disruption in traffic flows, congestion on selected routes and terminals etc. are addressed in real time.

Despatch by road is sometimes disrupted due to local law and order problems in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL), which are tackled promptly by the Colliery management as explained below at Para (b)&(c).

(b) and (c) Transportation of coal from collieries/sidings is the responsibility of consumers' carriers/Railways. In certain fields like Talcher Area of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL) and Magadh Amrapali of Central Coalfield Limited (CCL) movement of coal by road is frequently affected due to local law and order problems. As and when local law and order issues arise, the colliery management as well as the subsidiary companies take up the matter with the local administration and also make efforts to persuade the local population to refrain from such activities to ensure that no hindrance is made in transportation of coal.

(d) Transportation arrangement to be made by consumers for increased use of conveyor belts/overhead ropeways is stressed. During a meeting on 25.01.2018 in the Ministry of Power, the use of captive mode of transport like Conveyor Belts, Merry-Go-Round (MGR) for movement of coal was stressed upon and it was decided that the Power plants situated within 20 kms from pithead shall construct elevated closed belt conveyors within 2 years, that power plants located within 40 kms from pithead shall construct MGR within 3 years and power plants located within 40 kms and upto 100 kms may also consider the option of MGR based on financial viability.

[Translation]

Timely Promotion

1396. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether timely promotion on vacancies created in all groups of employees in several Central Government Ministries, Departments and Autonomous bodies is not given;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such employees in the Ministries/ Departments and Autonomous bodies who have not been awarded promotion despite vacancy on retirement during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to fill the vacancies on retirement within a fixed period in future?

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 Department of Personnel and Training (DoP&T), has issued guidelines from time to time regarding policy and procedure for timely conduct of meeting of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC). The Cadre Controlling Authorities (CCA) in the Ministries and Departments of Government of India are responsible for ensuring conduct of regular DPCs in accordance with the guidelines and grant of timely promotions.

The delay in grant of promotion occurs due to reasons such as court cases, non-finalisation of seniority list, non-finalisation of Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) etc.

To streamline the procedure, DoP&T issued instructions *vide* Office Memorandum (OM) Number 22011/4/2013-Estt.(D) dated 08.05.2017 prescribing Model Calendar for timely convening of DPC meetings. The

Ministries/Departments have been advised to ensure strict adherence to the Model Calendar.

The Ministries/Departments have also been advised *vide* DoP&T OM No. 39020/18/2016-Estt (B)/3127101 dated 19.12.2016 for reporting the vacancy position with respect to Direct Recruitment (DR) posts to the concerned recruitment agencies *i.e.* Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission for filling up of such vacancies in a timely manner.

These guidelines are applicable to all Central Government Civilian Employees and Central Services except the Railways 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.

No Centralized data regarding the number of employees, who have not been awarded promotion despite vacancy on retirement, is maintained.

Earthquake Forecasting

1397. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER:
SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is on the verge of an earthquake especially in the hilly & north-eastern areas of the country and if so, the details thereof,

(b) the number of laboratories working to study the earthquakes in the country State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to establish an electronic system to measure the intensity of earthquakes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which new system is likely to give better earthquake forecast through implementation of this system and the time by which the said system is likely to be established;

(e) whether our country is capable of forecasting the disasters like earthquake and if not, the reasons therefore and the concrete workplan in place to forecast such disasters; and

(f) the details of guidelines issued for the construction of houses especially in the earthquake prone areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Based on past earthquakes data and seismotectonics studies the whole of Himalayan belt is considered as one of the most seismically active intra-continental regions of the world. This region has witnessed several moderate to great magnitude earthquakes and a few very great ($M > 8.0$) earthquakes along its about 2400 km long belt. The seismicity in the region is mainly attributed to the Main Himalayan Thrust along which Indian plate under thrusts beneath the Himalayan wedge. The prominent earthquakes in this region are Shillong Plateau 1897(M:8.1), Kangra 1905 (M:7.8), Bihar Nepal Border 1934(M:8.3), Arunachai-China border 1950(M:8.5).

(b) National Centre for Seismology (NCS) maintains a country wide national seismological network, to detect and locate earthquakes occurring in and around the country. The ground motion data generated by the network is analysed and archived for further seismological related studies. A State-wise list of seismological observatories maintained by NCS is attached as the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The earthquake magnitude is estimated from the ground motion data generated due to the concerned earthquake based on standard procedures. The intensity and magnitude of earthquake has an empirical relationship.

To date, there is no proven scientific technique available anywhere in the world to forecast the occurrence of earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy with regard to space, time and magnitude. However, seismic hazard in the country has been assessed under the auspices of Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), and country is grouped into four seismic zones *viz.* Zone-II, III, IV and V. Of these, Zone V is seismically the most prone region, while Zone II is the least [IS 1983 (Part I):2016].

(f) Guidelines have been published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) etc. for the design

and construction of earthquake resistant structures to minimize the loss of life and damage to property caused by earthquakes. These guidelines are in wide circulation amongst the public and the administrative authorities responsible for the design and construction of earthquake resistant houses I structures in earthquake prone areas.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and other State Disaster Management Authorities, have also taken up various initiatives to educate and bring awareness amongst general on the general aspects of earthquakes, their impacts and measures to mitigate losses caused by them.

Statement

*List of seismological observatories operated
by NCS (No. 115)*

State/UT	Name of Station
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Campbell Bay
	Diglipur
	Port Blair
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
	Visakhapatnam
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
	Pasighat
	Tawang
	Ziro
Assam	Dhubri
	Dibrugarh
	Guwahati
	Jorhat
	Lekhapani
	Silchar
	Tezpur
Bihar	Gaya
	Jamui
	Jogbani
	Sitamarhi
	Valmiki Nagar

State/UT	Name of Station
Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur
	Kanker
Delhi	Ayanagar
	Lodi Road, New Delhi
	Najafgarh (Ujwa) Delhi
	Narela Delhi
	Ridge, Delhi
	Jamia University
Goa	NPL Pusa New Delhi
	Goa
Gujarat	Bhavnagar
	Bhuj
Haryana	Bahadurgarh
	Ganaur
	Jhajjar
	Kundal
	Kurukshetra
Himachal Pradesh	Palwal
	Rohtak
	Sohna
	Pataudi
	Bhakra
	Dharamshala
Jammu and Kashmir	Kalpa
	Shimla
	Sundernagar
Jharkhand	Tissa
	Jammu
	Srinagar
Jharkhand	Hanley
	Alchi (Leh)
	Bokaro Thermal
Jharkhand	Khunti
	Sahibganj

State/UT	Name of Station	State/UT	Name of Station
Karnataka	Mangalore	Tripura	Agartala
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Tripura	Belonia
Lakshadweep	Minicoy	U.T.	Chandigarh
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad
	Narmadanagar		Asaura
	Guna		Bahraich
Maharashtra	Akola		Banda
	Karad		Basti
	Latur		Bisrakh
	Mumbai		Farrukhabad
	Nagpur		Gorakhpur
	Pune		Jhansi
Manipur	Imphal		Lucknow
Meghalaya	Shillong		Meerut
	Tura		Thakurdwara
Mizoram	Aizawal		Unchagaon
	Saiha		Varanasi
Nagaland	Kohima		Agra
	Mokokchung	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
Odisha	Bhubaneswar		Joshimath
	Jharsuguda		Lohaghat
	Rayagada		Pithoragarh
Punjab	Talwara		Uttarkashi
	Thein Dam	West Bengal	Coochbehar
Rajasthan	Ajmer		Kolkata
	Jaisalmer		Jalpaiguri
	Bikaner		
	Sriganganagar		
	Udaipur		
Sikkim	Gangtok		
Tamil Nadu	Chennai		
	Kodaikanal		
	Salem		
Telangana	Hyderabad		

[English]

Reusable Rocket Technology

1398. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Agency, ISRO is working on reusable technology that would drastically cut the cost of the space missions carried out by ISRO and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether ISRO has created any technology demonstrator using reusable technology and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ISRO is working on the technology to enable orbital re-entry of the space vehicle, to land the reusable vehicle on airstrip and on reusable rocket stages, etc. and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether ISRO has any proposal to increase the payload capacity of GSLV Mk III from the present capacity of 4 tonnes to 6.5 tonnes so that its dependence on European Spaceports is done away with and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam. ISRO is working on reusable technology for reducing the cost of access to space including the development of a winged body unmanned reusable launch vehicle for launching payloads into low earth orbits.

(b) Yes, Madam. ISRO has successfully developed a scaled down (1:5) technology demonstration version of Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) vehicle and successfully carried out the first experimental mission on May 23, 2016 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. In this mission, critical technologies such as autonomous navigation, guidance & control and reusable thermal protection system have been successfully demonstrated.

(c) Yes, Madam. Development of Reusable Launch Vehicles is a technical challenge and it involves the development of many cutting edge technologies. A series of technology demonstration missions would be required to validate these technologies. In the next phase, an autonomous runway landing experiment is planned releasing the RLV-TD vehicle from a helicopter to demonstrate the runway approach and landing capability. This will be followed by an end-to-end orbital re-entry

mission demonstration using a Technology Demonstration Vehicle boosted by propulsion systems.

(d) Yes, Madam. ISRO has undertaken the development & qualification of Semi-Cryogenic engine. Further development activities are planned to realise a Semi-cryogenic stage and uprated version of the high thrust GSLV Mk III cryogenic stage, in order to increase the payload capacity of GSLV Mk III from 4 tonnes to 6.5 tonnes.

[Translation]

Shortage of Coal

1399. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the position of India in the world in coal production;

(b) whether there is shortage of coal in the country at present;

(c) the production, demand, supply and import of coal by Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies during each of the last three years and the current year, company-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote private investment in coal sector and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to stop the import of coal in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As per International Energy Agency (IEA), India was the third largest coal producer in the world during 2016-17.

(b) There is no shortage of coal in the country. As on 1.04.2018 the vendible stock of coal was 55.6 MT and as on 15.12.2018 coal stock was 22.93 MT with CIL. All India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 676.48 MT in 2017-18. The all India coal production during April-Nov, 2018 was 433.90 MT with a growth of 9.8% over the corresponding period of the previous year 2017-18.

(c) The all India demand of coal, production, supply and import of coal by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries during last three years and current year *i.e.* 2018 upto November, 2018 is given below:—

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total demand (Mte) \$	822.36	884.87	908.40	991.35
Total domestic Production (Mte)	639.23	657.87	676.48	433.90@

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total domestic Supply (Mte)	632.44	644.56	691.42	471.70@
Total Import (Mte)	203.95	190.95	208.27	111.60#
Import by CIL (Mte)	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00

\$ All India Estimated by NitiAayog @Upto November, 2018 #upto September, 2018

Subsidiary-wise and State-wise raw coal production of Coal India Limited during each of the last three years and current year is given below:—

Sub.Co.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (April-Nov.) Prov.
ECL	West Bengal	21.161	23.583	25.605	16.927
	Jharkhand	19.047	16.934	17.964	11.442
	ECL Total	40.209	40.517	43.568	28.369
BCCL	West Bengal	2.557	2.142	1.381	0.802
	Jharkhand	33.304	34.895	31.226	18.118
	BCCL Total	35.861	37.037	32.607	18.920
CCL	Jharkhand	61.324	67.047	63.405	34.948
NCL	Uttar Pradesh	12.689	16.056	18.309	12.803
	Madhya Pradesh	67.535	68.040	74.709	52.824
	NCL Total	80.224	84.096	93.018	65.627
WCL	Madhya Pradesh	6.629	5.226	4.446	2.453
	Maharashtra	38.187	40.406	41.774	24.093
	WCL Total	44.815	45.632	46.220	26.546
SECL	Madhya Pradesh	13.728	11.925	12.106	7.743
	Chhattisgarh	124.206	128.078	132.603	90.491
	SECL Total	137.934	140.003	144.708	98.234
MCL	Odisha	137.901	139.208	143.058	85.333
NEC	Assam	0.486	0.600	0.781	0.348
CIL		538.754	554.140	567.365	358.325

State-wise company-wise despatches of coal and coal products during last three years and for 2018-19 (till Nov) is attached as the enclosed Statement.

(d) Under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, and Rules made thereunder, so far 25 coal mines (24 to private companies and 1 to

a Government Company) have been allocated through Electronic Auction till date. The methodology for auction of coal mines/blocks for sale of coal under the provisions of the CM (SP) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MM(DR) Act, 1957] has been approved by the Government and Order in this regard has been issued on 27.2.2018.

(e) and (f) As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. There has been a consistent effort to increase domestic coal production so as to reduce dependence on coal imports. The all India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 676.48 MT in 2017-18. Absolute increase in all India coal production from 2013-14 to 2017-18 (four years) is 110.71 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 33.73 MT from 2009-10 to 2013-14 (four years).

Coal India Limited (CIL) has also increased its production from 462.41 MT in 2013-14 to 567.36 MT in

2017-18 (four years), an absolute increase of 105 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 31.15 MT between 2009-10 and 2013-14 (four years).

Further, in the current year during April-November, 2018, all India coal production was 433.90 MT with a growth rate of 9.8% and coal production of CIL was 358.32 MT with a growth rate of 8.8% over the corresponding period of previous year.

However, coking coal will continue to be imported as there is limited availability of coking coal in the country. Further, power plants designed on imported coal will also continue to import coal.

Statement

State-wise Coal Company-wise despatch of Coal & Coal Products

States	Subsidiary	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Upto Nov'18)(Provisional)
Bihar	ECL	4.36	15.01	14.04	8.87
	BCCL	0.08	0.13	0.25	0.38
	CCL	1.73	2.45	4.60	2.30
	NCL	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00
	SECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	NEC	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
	Total	7.16	18.04	18.89	11.55
West Bengal	ECL	17.18	18.79	19.56	14.70
	BCCL	16.55	17.54	14.45	8.77
	CCL	1.23	2.89	3.54	1.68
	NCL	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SECL	0.10	0.06	0.01	0.00
	MCL	10.84	10.77	8.76	6.01
	NEC	0.18	0.44	0.36	0.11
	Total	46.22	50.50	46.68	31.28
Uttar Pradesh	ECL	1.53	1.39	1.31	1.39
	BCCL	6.92	6.68	5.72	2.53
	CCL	22.45	20.74	20.98	13.56

States	Subsidiary	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Upto Nov'18)(Provisional)
	NCL	50.28	56.58	60.75	40.53
	WCL	0.66	0.29	1.29	0.16
	SECL	0.01	1.18	0.94	0.73
	MCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
	NEC	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
	Total	81.87	86.89	91.01	58.90
Odisha	ECL	0.02	1.30	0.76	0.44
	BCCL	0.14	0.19	0.20	0.00
	CCL	0.18	0.36	1.59	1.04
	NCL	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.04
	SECL	0.12	0.05	0.59	0.97
	MCL	71.06	73.79	66.83	42.26
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	71.52	75.69	70.36	44.74
Madhya Pradesh	ECL	0.35	1.01	0.00	0.00
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.34
	CCL	1.44	1.24	1.95	1.02
	NCL	21.95	22.98	29.56	20.04
	WCL	6.40	5.08	4.79	4.97
	SECL	14.03	11.11	15.74	12.86
	MCL	0.00	0.04	0.28	0.20
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	44.15	41.46	52.40	39.42
Maharashtra	ECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.82
	CCL	0.00	0.01	0.17	0.13
	NCL	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	25.38	28.02	37.81	27.25
	SECL	21.34	20.02	16.92	11.77
	MCL	6.85	0.36	3.62	3.88
	Total	53.59	48.41	58.53	43.96
Gujarat	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

States	Subsidiary	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Upto Nov'18)(Provisional)
	WCL	1.67	1.08	2.80	1.14
	SECL	12.06	9.44	10.91	8.94
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MCL	4.04	2.83	3.54	2.30
	Total	17.77	13.35	17.25	12.38
Rajasthan	ECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.01
	NCL	2.48	2.02	3.54	3.65
	WCL	0.04	0.00	0.09	0.08
	SECL	11.07	8.02	7.19	5.34
	MCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	13.65	10.08	10.84	9.07
Delhi	ECL	1.57	0.50	0.00	0.00
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	1.08	1.19	1.08	1.00
	NCL	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	2.74	1.69	1.08	1.00
Punjab	ECL	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.02
	BCCL	1.54	1.29	1.39	1.14
	CCL	3.90	1.32	1.07	2.50
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SECL	5.22	5.70	5.25	3.27
	MCL	1.83	4.89	4.79	4.28
	NEC	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.00
	Total	12.51	13.22	12.56	11.21
Haryana	ECL	1.05	0.31	1.60	1.30
	BCCL	3.03	1.28	2.67	1.43
	CCL	5.19	6.12	7.13	5.22
	NCL	2.58	1.92	2.93	2.40
	WCL	0.29	0.17	0.08	0.02

States	Subsidiary	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Upto Nov'18)(Provisional)
	SECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MCL	1.90	2.06	0.85	0.51
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	14.03	11.86	15.26	10.88
Tamil Nadu	ECL	1.47	2.24	3.60	1.84
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
	CCL	0.00	0.19	0.74	0.36
	MCL	18.90	16.52	18.56	13.63
	Total	20.38	18.94	22.91	15.83
Andhra Pradesh	ECL	0.37	1.18	1.44	0.65
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
	CCL	0.41	0.48	0.67	0.25
	WCL	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
	MCL	18.50	23.22	24.16	14.90
	Total	19.34	24.87	26.27	15.84
Telangana	SECL	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MCL	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.00
	Total	0.32	0.00	0.76	0.00
Karnataka	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	2.44	2.11	1.56	0.98
	SECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MCL	4.11	2.72	2.88	1.85
	Total	6.55	4.83	4.44	2.83
Kerala	MCL	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	ECL	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.00
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
	Total	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	ECL	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00

States	Subsidiary	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Upto Nov'18)(Provisional)
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SECL	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.07	0.00	0.03	0.00
Assam	NEC	0.11	0.24	0.38	0.25
	ECL	0.11	0.68	0.53	0.57
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.15
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.23	0.92	1.02	0.97
Chhattisgarh	ECL	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
	BCCL	0.16	0.38	0.21	0.15
	CCL	0.68	0.40	0.79	0.55
	NCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	0.10	0.00	0.07	0.09
	SECL	54.66	62.05	70.42	58.58
	MCL	0.91	4.82	3.44	1.85
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	56.52	67.66	74.93	61.22
Jharkand	ECL	10.32	0.40	0.45	0.34
	BCCL	7.74	7.19	8.41	6.45
	CCL	21.00	22.72	23.33	13.52
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SECL	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01
	MCL	1.10	0.96	0.55	0.20
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	40.20	31.29	32.77	20.52
Uttaranchal	ECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	0.58	0.46	0.31	0.00
	NCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

States	Subsidiary	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (Upto Nov'18)(Provisional)
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.58	0.46	0.31	0.00
Nagaland	ECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goa	SECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	ECL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manipur	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	NEC	0.00	0.02	0.08	0.00
Mizoram	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tripura	NEC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	ECL	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.02
	BCCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	NCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WCL	5.31	2.29	0.00	0.01
	SECL	19.82	20.01	23.11	0.00
	MCL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20
	Total	25.15	22.30	23.16	0.23
Coal India Limited	ECL	38.38	42.81	43.43	30.25
	BCCL	36.16	34.68	33.38	22.05
	CCL	59.90	60.58	68.84	43.27
	NCL	78.53	83.49	96.77	66.61
	WCL	42.35	39.49	48.79	34.72
	SECL	138.74	137.66	151.09	102.48
	MCL	140.23	143.01	138.26	92.08
	NEC	0.34	0.78	0.89	0.36
	Total	534.62	542.49	581.47	391.82

*[English]***Installation of RFID Tags**

1400. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to install Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tags in all its coaches and wagons to track Cargo movements;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons for this initiative and the details of expenditure thereof, so far, zone-wise;

(c) whether the Government is planning to give hand-held terminals to TTE to give timely information of cancelled tickets and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of expenditure incurred on this new initiatives, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A project "Automated Rolling Stock Track & Trace System using radio frequency identification" has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 62.96 crore under Northern Railway. The scope of work include tagging of 90,000 wagons, installation of 365 fixed readers and installation of 1200 portable readers.

Fitment of RFID tags on wagons started in July, 2017. This initiative aims to automatically track the movement of any individual rolling stock over Indian Railways. The expenditure of Rs. 1.46 crore has been incurred till date.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. In order to increase transparency and effect system improvements, Hand Held Terminals with enhanced functionalities are being given to Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) on 51 pairs of trains. In HHT, there is a provision to send the position of vacant berths/seats due to non-turned up passengers to next remote location through HHT and Passenger Reservation System (PRS) servers. Similarly, if any cancellation of berths/seats occurs, the position of the same

is automatically reflected in HHT as and when HHT gets synced with server.

Two projects namely, 'Proliferation of Hand Held Terminals for TTEs' and 'Expansion of Hand Held Terminals project' have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 30 crore & Rs. 9.08 crore respectively.

Stock of Coal

1401. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for shortage in coal production in the country;

(b) whether the number of non-pitched plants that have either 'critical' or 'super critical' stock of coal has risen during the last six months and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken any measures to increase the production of coal by Coal India to help ameliorate the coal shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As on 1.04.2018 the vendible stock of coal with CIL was 55.6 MT and as on 15.12.2018 coal stock was 22.93 MT with CIL. All India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 676.48 MT in 2017-18. The all India coal production during April-Nov, 2018 was 433.90 MT with a growth of 9.8% over the corresponding period of the previous year 2017-18.

(b) There is no shortage of coal, by and large, for the power sector. The number of non-pithead super critical/critical plants has come down from 18 (as on 01.06.2018) to 13 (as on 11.12.2018) as per CEA report. Criticality of a power plant is not a function of coal supply alone & depends on multiple factors including installed capacity of power plants & scheduling of power from these plants based on merit order dispatch.

As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA) report during the period April-Nov, 2018, total coal based generation has been 99.16% of the programme generation with a growth of 5.50% over the corresponding period of last year. This has been possible due to increased supply of coal to the

power sector which was resulted in 15.52 Million Tonnes (MT) coal stock at power house end as on 16.12.2018 as against the stock of 12.20 MT on 16.12.2017 thereby registering an increase of 27.20%.

(c) and (d) There has been a consistent effort to increase domestic coal production. Coal India Limited (CIL) has increased its production from 462.41 MT in 2013-14 to 567.36 MT in 2017-18 (four years), an absolute increase of 105 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 31.15 MT between 2009-10 and 2013-14 (four years).

Further, in the current year during April-November, 2018, the coal production of CIL was 358.32 MT with a growth rate of 8.8% over the corresponding period of previous year. However, the focus of the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal which includes efforts to expedite Environment & Forest clearances expeditiously, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

E-Drishti Software

1402. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently unveiled 'e-Drishti' software that will help Union Railway Minister to keep track of punctuality of trains as well as freight and passenger earnings and much more from anywhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is of the opinion that this will improve the time schedule and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has noticed that the delay in keeping time schedule makes train journey very uncomfortable and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of corrective measures taken till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. An 'e-Drishti' interface has been unveiled for the Union Railway Minister, Minister of State and

Board Members. This software includes an interface which provides summary information on punctuality of trains for the previous day. There is also an interface which provides information on current train running on the Indian Railway network. In addition, there are interfaces providing details of freight earning, freight loading and passenger earnings for the previous day & month and cumulative for the year, in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

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

[Translation]

Increase in Cyber Crime

1403. DR. KRISHAN PRATAP: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one cyber crime takes place in every 10 seconds in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether as per cyber experts a strong infrastructure is being put in place to give prior information of cyber crimes and to check planning/execution of such crimes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of 9622, 11592 and 12317 cyber crime cases were registered during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. This includes cases registered under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and related sections of Indian Penal Code and Special & Local Laws involving computer as medium/target. Data for year 2017 is still under compilation by NCRB.

The Information Technology Act, 2000 has provisions to deal with prevalent cyber crimes. Government has taken a number of legal, technical and administrative measures to prevent cyber crimes. These *inter alia*, include:

- (i) Government has established National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) as per the provisions of Section 70A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 for protection of critical information infrastructure in the country.
- (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 is available on its website (www.cert-in.org.in).
- (iii) Government has set up National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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, anti-virus solution. Additionally, periodic security audits of resources are performed followed by subsequent hardenings. These are complemented by round-the-clock monitoring of security events and remedial measures are carried out for solving the problems subsequently.

- (vi) Government has established security and safety test labs under Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate. Three major labs are functioning at Delhi, Kolkata and Bengaluru for security assessment of software (including computer programmes).
- (vii) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a portal www.cybercrime.gov.in for public to report complaints of child pornography and sexually abusive explicit content.

[English]

Wi-Fi Access Points under Bharat Net

1404. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that provision has been made for last mile connectivity under Bharat net in all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats through viability gap funding and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that every Gram Panchayat will have on an average, five Wi-Fi access points, including three meant for public institutions and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that a tender for provisioning of Wi-Fi services has been floated by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) after consultation with telecom service providers and internet service providers for wider participation; 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)
Yes Madam

(b) Yes Madam

(c) Yes Madam

(d) BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country, with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund. In this project, Last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is also being provided in all the GPs in the country. Under Wi-Fi network 5 Access Points (APs) are to be setup at each Gram Panchayat (GP), of which 3 APs are to be installed at Government Institutions, such as Police Stations, Post Offices, Schools and Health Centres and 2 APs at public places. The project is modelled on Viability Gap Funding (VGF) model where the agency selected is to provide service for 5 years.

Space Technology based Tools

1405. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the current utilisation of space technology-based tools in each Ministry or Department to explore new potential application areas following the National Meet on Promoting space technology based Tools and Applications in Governance and Development organised on 7th September 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details and number of projects identified under various themes for effective utilization of space technology to enhance functional effectiveness, facilitate planning and decision making;

(c) the current status of implementation of the projects, theme-wise; and

(d) the timeframe by which all the projects are expected to be completed and the total amount of funds spent on the projects, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Department of Space (DOS) has interacted with 60 Central Ministries/Departments on various themes and joint action plans on space applications were prepared. 158 Space Application projects were identified across nine basic themes.

(c) Out of 158 identified projects, 94 projects have been completed, 35 projects are in progress and 29 projects were withdrawn by the respective Ministries/Departments. The current status of implementation, theme-wise, is as under:—

Themes	Total No. of Projects	Completed	Ongoing
Agriculture	15	9	6
Energy and Environment	32	20	7
Infrastructure Planning	17	13	1
Water Resources	12	8	3
Technology Diffusion	14	6	3
Developmental Planning	17	8	4
Communication and Navigation	23	12	2
Weather & Disaster Management	7	5	2
Health & Education	21	13	7

(d) Out of the 35 ongoing projects, 29 projects, are expected to be completed by December, 2019 and the remaining to be completed by December, 2021. The details of funds spent are given below:—

Themes	Fund Spent (Rs. in crores)
Agriculture	2.1 (for 8 projects)
Energy and Environment	8.02 (for 9 projects)
Infrastructure Planning	1.53 (for 1 project)
Water Resources	12.8 (for 4 projects)
Technology Diffusion	1.37 (for 3 projects)

Themes	Fund Spent
Developmental Planning	15.29 (for 6 projects)
Communication and Navigation	2.5 (for 1 project)
Health & Education	14.78 (for 3 projects)

Remaining projects are carried out as part of internal activities of DOS/ISRO.

[Translation]

Promotion on Public Rating

1406. SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA:
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER:
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote the Government officials based on public rating/feedback and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said system is likely to be put into place;

(b) whether the Government is considering adoption of some other system for the promotion of Government officials who do not have direct dealings with the public and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has started Aadhaar based authentication of life certificates for pensioners and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of pensioners who have availed the benefit of the said scheme along with the State-wise details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has formulated any policy to prevent misuse of Aadhaar based authentication of life certificates 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) No Madam. There is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has informed that an "Aadhaar-based Digital Life Certificate (DLC)" for pensioners was launched on 10th November, 2014.

Aadhaar is used for authentication of pensioners. As a result of this facility the pensioner is not required to present himself before his pension disbursing agency or produce other documents that he is alive.

After generation of the DLC, the pension disbursing agencies integrated with the system will get access to the submitted DLC for processing and release of pension there after.

(d) Number of DLCs submitted since November, 2018 to till date is enclosed as the enclosed Statement.

(e) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has informed that it has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity in accordance with the Aadhaar Act, 2016 and the Regulations notified under the Act. Some of the security measures include provision of secure channel, implementation of Aadhaar Data Vault, Hardware Security Module, Registered Devices, Virtual ID-UID Token, biometric locking etc.

Statement

No. of Jeevan Pramaan (DLC's) submitted since Nov, 2018 till date

Sl. No.	State Government On-boarded on Jeevan Pramaan	Total DLC Submitted
1	2	3
1.	State Government Andhra Pradesh	3475
2.	State Government Arunachal Pradesh	720
3.	State Government Bihar	16617
4.	State Government Chhattisgarh	14529
5.	State Government Goa	7874
6.	State Government Gujarat	1648
7.	State Government Haryana	52427

1	2	3
8.	State Government Himachal Pradesh	3207
9.	State Government Jammu and Kashmir	2282
10.	State Government Jharkhand	20334
11.	State Government Karnataka	45134
12.	State Government Kerala	14161
13.	State Government Madhya Pradesh	38834
14.	State Government Maharashtra	80708
15.	State Government Manipur	61
16.	State Government Mizoram	91
17.	State Government Odisha	91684
18.	State Government Puducherry	2090
19.	State Government Punjab	21954
20.	State Government Rajasthan	48358
21.	State Government Tamil Nadu	4723
22.	State Government Telangana	28715
23.	State Government Tripura	4373
24.	State Government Uttar Pradesh	24334
25.	Union Territory-Andaman and Nicobar	1283
26.	Union Territory-Daman Diu	8
27.	Union Territory-Lakshadweep	50

[English]

Welfare of Casual Labourers in BRO

1407. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the casual labour under Border Road Organisation (BRO) do not have good living shelter with required minimum basic amenities and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the labourers working on contracts under BRO are not getting due wages and arrears *w.e.f.* 01.04.2017 and they do not have social security and other medical benefits and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to implement disbursement of arrear and wages and leave proposal with

other benefits to casual labourer including women workers in BRO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) No, Madam. BRO provides temporary shelters to Casual Paid Labours (CPLs) as per the climatic condition and requirement.

- (i) Warming facilities for CPL working above 8000 Ft. Height.
- (ii) Supply of safe drinking water.
- (iii) Nursery/Primary School facilities and crèches for children of CPLs.
- (iv) Free electricity in CPLs Camp.
- (v) Television/Radios in CPLs Camp and recreation facilities.
- (vi) Issue of ration on Government rates.
- (vii) Transport facilities to worksite is also being provided.
- (viii) In addition to Sundays, three national holidays are also given to the labourers as paid holiday.
- (ix) Medical facilities are being provided to CPLs through Medical Inspection Room.
- (x) Free outdoor medical treatment to the extent feasible for injuries sustained while at work, during epidemics and other diseases.
- (xi) Free transport is also provided for urgent cases to hospital.
- (xii) Free indoor treatment in GREF MSS is provided in all areas, where indoor treatment facilities are not available in Civil Hospitals.

CPLs wages are fixed by the Chief Engineer in consultation with Regional Labour Commissioner and such wages, are not less than the minimum wages fixed by the State Government under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Wages are being paid regularly and therefore there are no arrears.

- (c) The question does not arise.

Appointment of Lokpal

1408. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not taken steps to appoint Lokpal till date despite Supreme Court order and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the time frame for appointing the Lokpal?

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 Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 (1 of 2014) as brought into force *w.e.f.* 16.01.2014 for establishing of a body of Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in the States, requires some amendments, *inter alia*, so as to provide for situations where the composition of the Selection Committee is deficient/incomplete due to absence of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, etc. Accordingly, Lokpal & Lokayuktas and other related Law (amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 18.12.2014. The same was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice for examination & report. The Committee has submitted its report in the Parliament on 07.12.2015. The varied recommendations made in the said report *inter alia* making recommendation relating to architecture of anti-corruption institution of the country. Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee and six meetings of the said Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) have already been held. Further, in view of the Apex Court's decision in the matter of Common Cause-a registered society, wherein it was observed that the law as it stands today is an eminently workable piece of legislation, the Selection Committee was reconstituted as per the statutory provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013. Upon the recommendations of the Selection Committee, Hon'ble President has nominated Shri Mukul Rohatgi, former Attorney General of India as "Eminent Jurist" as Member of the Selection Committee to fill the vacancy caused due to passing away of Shri P.P. Rao.

Six meetings of the Selection Committee under section 4(1) of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 have been held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister as part of the due process of appointment of Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal in terms of the relevant provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, *i.e.* as per the provisions of section 3 of the said Act.

In its sixth Meeting held on 19th September, 2018, a Search Committee comprising of eight (8) Members has been constituted. Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai has been nominated as the Chairperson by the Selection Committee.

The Search Committee has the responsibility of preparing panel(s) of names to be considered for being appointed as Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal, by the Selection Committee. The Search Committee, in terms of the provisions of sub-rule (3) of rule 3 of the Search Committee (Constitution, Terms and Conditions of Appointment of Members and the Manner of Selection of Panel of Names for Appointment of Chairperson and Members of Lokpal) Rules, 2014, may, for the purpose of shortlisting of persons, adopt such short-listing norms as it may be considered appropriate. In terms of provisions of rule 11(1) of the Search Committee (Constitution, Terms and Conditions of Appointment of Members and the Manner of Selection of Panel of Names for Appointment of Chairperson and Members of Lokpal) Rules, 2014, it is for the Selection Committee to decide the time period within which the Search Committee is requested to submit a panel or panels of names as the case may be, for consideration of the Selection Committee.

ITAT

1409. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the month-wise number of cases filed, disposed off and pending from January, 2014 till September, 2018 at each Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) bench in India, under the following categories:

- (i) Transfer Pricing Cases;
- (ii) Income Tax Appeal;
- (iii) Wealth Tax Appeal;

(iv) International Taxation Cases; and

(v) Cross Objection Appeals?

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): The consolidated statistical data on appeals filed, disposed off and appeals pending before the all Benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), which includes Income Tax Appeals, Cross Objections, Cross Appeals, Transfer Pricing Cases and International Taxation Cases, from January, 2014 to September, 2018 is annexed as Statement-I. The ITAT started to maintain data on Transfer Pricing, and International Taxation Cases separately since March, 2016. The statistical data in respect of Transfer Pricing Cases and International Taxation Cases, separately, for all the Benches of ITAT from March, 2016 to September, 2018, is annexed as Statement-II and III respectively. The statistical data in respect of all the Benches of ITAT on Wealth Tax Appeals from January, 2014 to September, 2018, is annexed as Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Institution Disposal and Pendency of all appeals under Income Tax Act, 1961, from January, 2014 to September, 2018 at Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Benches.

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
January, 2014	4159	2756	85147
February, 2014	3768	2363	86552
March, 2014	4494	2403	88643
April, 2014	4897	2267	91273
May, 2014	5716	2278	94711
June, 2014	3874	2380	96205
July, 2014	3028	2665	96568
August, 2014	2875	2383	97060
September, 2014	3451	2742	97769
October, 2014	3260	2602	98427
November, 2014	3308	2362	99390
December, 2014	3793	2616	100567
January, 2015	4128	2654	102041

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
February, 2015	3035	2602	102474
March, 2015	3707	2943	103238
April, 2015	4139	2671	104706
May, 2015	5062	3070	106698
June, 2015	4543	3512	107729
July, 2015	3280	3336	107673
August, 2015	2612	3834	106451
September, 2015	1693	3448	104696
October, 2015	1976	3805	102867
November, 2015	2285	3741	101411
December, 2015	3286	9028	95669
January, 2016	2755	4982	93430
February, 2016	3441	4794	92076
March, 2016	5015	4786	91971
April, 2016	4746	3714	94070
May, 2016	5122	4036	94056
June, 2016	4316	4162	94210
July, 2016	2995	4471	92734
August, 2016	3306	4566	91526
September, 2016	3702	4248	90980
October, 2016	3428	3754	90654
November, 2016	3661	3943	90372
December, 2016	4424	3260	91956
January, 2017	3854	4081	91729
February, 2017	4069	3969	91829
March, 2017	4738	4181	92386
April, 2017	4210	3973	92623
May, 2017	5306	4010	93919
June, 2017	4754	4194	94479
July, 2017	3316	3824	93971
August, 2017	3529	5007	92493
September, 2017	3587	4523	91557
October, 2017	2702	4005	90254
November, 2017	4191	4354	90620

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
December, 2017	4799	3785	91634
January, 2018	4289	4258	91665
February, 2018	4308	4019	91954
March, 2018	4702	3839	92817
April, 2018	5072	4009	93880
May, 2018	7025	4535	96370
June, 2018	3822	3706	96905
July, 2018	3317	5643	94579
August, 2018	3318	5512	92385
September, 2018	3516	4305	91596

Statement-II

Institution, Disposal and Pendency Statement of Transfer Pricing Cases from March, 2016 to September, 2018 at Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Benches

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
March, 2016	69	7	5739
April, 2016	85	74	7869
May, 2016	30	96	7836
June, 2016	51	113	7756
July, 2016	27	55	7746
August, 2016	11	114	5205
September, 2016	16	63	5158
October, 2016	34	89	5012
November, 2016	34	83	4963
December, 2016	29	27	4941
January, 2017	137	86	4945
February, 2017	229	111	5063
March, 2017	368	163	5298
April, 2017	126	155	5269
May, 2017	69	113	5225
June, 2017	36	111	6027
July, 2017	35	89	5975
August, 2017	52	116	5918

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
September, 2017	52	147	5823
October, 2017	92	143	5772
November, 2017	175	152	5793
December, 2017	350	83	6060
January, 2018	144	175	6029
February, 2018	75	118	5986
March, 2018	49	124	5915
April, 2018	67	136	5846
May, 2018	52	169	5730
June, 2018	26	129	5838
July, 2018	28	125	5743
August, 2018	47	209	5601
September, 2018	65	211	5457

Statement-III

Institution, Disposal and Pendency Statement of International Taxation Cases from March, 2016 to September, 2018 at Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Benches

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
March, 2016	74	03	2255
April, 2016	80	44	1849
May, 2016	41	60	1850
June, 2016	31	35	1846
July, 2016	19	34	1805
August, 2016	30	26	1799
September, 2016	47	24	1822
October, 2016	30	35	1816
November, 2016	37	56	1797
December, 2016	25	20	1788
January, 2017	52	13	1828
February, 2017	87	45	1871
March, 2017	94	60	1732
April, 2017	74	53	1753
May, 2017	119	65	1807

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
June, 2017	68	42	1833
July, 2017	21	98	1617
August, 2017	28	10	1635
September, 2017	27	94	1568
October, 2017	40	48	1694
November, 2017	44	65	1642
December, 2017	91	29	1735
January, 2018	46	76	1705
February, 2018	172	191	1686
March, 2018	55	64	1820
April, 2018	46	26	1840
May, 2018	68	53	1861
June, 2018	30	50	1827
July, 2018	30	76	1797
August, 2018	33	56	1800
September, 2018	21	33	1797

Statement-IV

*Institution Disposal and Pendency of Wealth Tax
Appeals from January, 2014 to September,
2018 at Income Tax Appellate
Tribunal Benches*

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
January, 2014	38	62	369
February, 2014	25	13	381
March, 2014	35	02	414
April, 2014	62	03	473
May, 2014	40	16	497
June, 2014	28	07	518
July, 2014	46	49	515
August, 2014	12	48	479
September, 2014	22	17	484
October, 2014	11	04	491
November, 2014	10	07	494
December, 2014	26	12	508

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
January, 2015	08	04	512
February, 2015	00	10	502
March, 2015	14	21	495
April, 2015	10	29	476
May, 2015	24	26	474
June, 2015	40	51	463
July, 2015	05	41	427
August, 2015	15	37	405
September, 2015	01	47	359
October, 2015	18	28	349
November, 2015	08	38	315
December, 2015	10	14	311
January, 2016	12	54	269
February, 2016	16	70	215
March, 2016	37	24	227
April, 2016	26	13	240
May, 2016	31	09	262
June, 2016	27	12	322
July, 2016	04	06	235
August, 2016	33	44	290
September, 2016	42	07	325
October, 2016	61	30	356
November, 2016	37	25	368
December, 2016	24	28	364
January, 2017	19	17	336
February, 2017	44	25	355
March, 2017	67	43	379
April, 2017	49	17	411
May, 2017	40	40	411
June, 2017	20	27	396
July, 2017	76	63	408
August, 2017	30	24	414
September, 2017	54	16	448
October, 2017	12	24	436

Month	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
November, 2017	41	33	442
December, 2017	27	20	449
January, 2018	27	06	470
February, 2018	32	51	451
March, 2018	51	16	486
April, 2018	24	19	491
May, 2018	55	49	497
June, 2018	33	10	536
July, 2018	88	45	579
August, 2018	16	23	569
September, 2018	39	21	587

Vacancies of Judicial Officers

1410. SHRI B.V. NAIK:
 SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:
 KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
 SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:

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

(a) the sanctioned strength and vacancies for Judicial Officers and Prosecutors, State, Rank and Court-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the gap between their sanctioned and actual strength;

(c) the total number of training academies/institutes with their trainee capacities available for the training of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors, State-wise;

(d) the total number of Judicial Officers and Prosecutors who have been imparted basic training during the last three years, State-wise and rank-wise;

(e) whether it is a fact that the appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts fall within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned; and

(f) whether the Government has suggested certain options to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for creation of a central selection mechanism to expedite and rationalise

the process of selection and the responses/suggestions of States and UTs 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) Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts are recruited and appointed by the respective High Courts and State Governments. Prosecutors are also recruited and appointed by the respective State Governments. As per the information made available by the State Governments/High Courts, State/UT-wise and category-wise details of sanctioned strength and vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts are given in Statement-I.

(b) and (e) As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments. States recruitment is done by the High Courts, whereas in other States, the recruitment is done by High Courts in consultation with State Public Service Commission.

In August, 2018, the Minister of Law & Justice had written to all the Chief Justices of all the High Courts that increasing pendency of cases is a source of concern both the Government and Judiciary; one of the underlying reasons behind the high pendency is sometimes the inordinate delay in filling up the vacancies of judicial officers. It was, accordingly, requested that the High Court may monitor the status of the vacancies regularly and to ensure proper coordination with the State Public Service Commission so that the examination and interviews are conducted in accordance with the time schedule prescribed by the Supreme Court in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case.

(c) and (d) As per the information available, a list of National and State Judicial Academies is given in Statement-II. The Central Government does not maintain the details of trainings imparted to the Judicial Officers and Prosecutors.

(f) The appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts falls within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned in which the Central Government has no role. However, in order to facilitate regular filling up of these vacancies in

a smooth and time-bound manner, the Department of Justice *vide* its letter dated 28th April, 2017 suggested certain options to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for creation of a Central Selection Mechanism. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *suo motu* converted the Government's suggestions

into a writ petition on 09th May, 2017 and directed all State Governments (including Union Territories) to file their responses and suggestions by way of affidavits. The above matter is subjudice at present.

Statement-I

Category-wise Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on 30.09.2018

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Judicial Officers of Higher Judicial Service as on 30.09.2018		Number of Judicial Officers of Subordinate Judicial Service as on 30.09.2018		Total Sanctioned Strength as on 30.09.2018	Total Vacancy as on 30.09.2018
		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	0	7	0	11	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	234	22	753	75	987	97
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	3	20	2	30	5
4.	Assam	111	14	319	33	430	47
5.	Bihar	557	227	1288	395	1845	622
6.	Chandigarh	10	0	20	0	30	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	218	72	234	-17	452	55
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	4	0	4	0
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	3	0	3	0
10.	Delhi	276	15	523	243	799	258
11.	Goa	11	1	39	7	50	8
12.	Gujarat	374	96	1132	260	1506	356
13.	Haryana	200	21	451	141	651	162
14.	Himachal Pradesh	49	5	110	5	159	10
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	78	14	232	72	310	86
16.	Jharkhand	237	75	439	141	676	216
17.	Karnataka	346	71	961	160	1307	231
18.	Kerala*	154	20	342	43	496	63
19.	Lakshadweep*	1	0	2	0	3	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	681	139	1191	372	1872	511
21.	Maharashtra	389	66	1622	101	2011	167
22.	Manipur	24	7	31	8	55	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Meghalaya	46	35	51	23	97	58
24.	Mizoram	17	4	50	17	67	21
25.	Nagaland	14	3	19	4	33	7
26.	Odisha	204	36	707	120	911	156
27.	Puducherry	8	1	18	6	26	7
28.	Punjab	191	18	483	126	674	144
29.	Rajasthan	551	148	786	81	1337	229
30.	Sikkim	13	3	10	1	23	4
31.	Tamil Nadu*	280	81	863	157	1143	238
32.	Tripura	31	7	84	33	115	40
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1336	394	1889	794	3225	1188
34.	Uttarakhand	100	18	193	41	293	59
35.	West Bengal	281	30	732	45	1013	75
Total		7036	1646	15608	3489	22644	5135

*As on 30.06.2018

Statement-II*List of Judicial Academies*

1. National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.
2. Judicial Training & Research Institute, Uttar Pradesh.
3. Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy.
4. Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Thane.
5. West Bengal Judicial Academy.
6. Chhattisgarh State Judicial Academy.
7. Delhi Judicial Academy, New Delhi.
8. Assam State Judicial Academy.
9. Gujarat State Judicial Academy.
10. Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy.
11. Jammu & Kashmir State Judicial Academy.
12. Judicial Academy, Jharkhand.
13. Karnataka Judicial Academy.
14. Kerala Judicial Academy.

15. Madhya Pradesh State Judicial Academy.

16. Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy.

17. Odisha Judicial Academy.

18. Bihar Judicial Academy.

19. Chandigarh Judicial Academy.

20. Rajasthan State Judicial Academy.

21. Uttarakhand Judicial and Legal Academy.

22. Sikkim Judicial Academy.

*[Translation]***Stopping Services by Companies**

1411. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecom companies are stopping services despite sufficient balance in the account of mobile subscribers in the country;

(b) whether telecom companies are unnecessarily threatening the subscribers by sending text message in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has issued directions to such companies in this regard 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) Madam, some Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have implemented tariff plans wherein the terms and conditions include the condition of recharge every 28 days to continue to avail uninterrupted services. According to tariff plans, failure to comply with the prescribed mandatory recharge will result in stoppage of service. The TSPs are conveying this requirement to subscribers through public notice and individual SMS. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued letter on 27.11.2018 to all the TSPs individually not to disconnect the services where adequate prepaid account balance exists.

[English]

Indians Trapped Abroad

1412. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Indians being trapped in various countries particularly in war torn countries, is on the rise and if so, the details thereof, country-wise along with the number of Indians still trapped in these countries as on date;

(b) the number of rescue missions led by India for the evacuation of Indians and others during the past one year and the current year along with the number of people saved through such operations, country-wise and the response of the other countries in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has taken/is taking effective steps in consultation with other countries for the safe evacuation of the rest of the persons trapped/held captive in these countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD): (a) No.

(b) As per information available, total number of Indian nationals in distress repatriated by Missions/Posts from May, 2014-May, 2018 is 2,08,186 including those rescued from war-torn countries. Country-wise details are attached as the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Government attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and welfare of Indians in foreign countries and continues to keep a close watch on developments in these countries and issues advisories whenever required. Indian Missions and Posts abroad also render all possible consular assistance to the Indian nationals, including emergency medical care, facilitating boarding and lodging for those in distress, air passages to those stranded, repatriation of mortal remains, legal assistance in deserving cases, including in conflict torn countries. The number of Indian nationals stranded abroad and requiring Government of India's assistance at any given point in time is dynamic in nature and keeps changing. Indian Missions/posts remain alert to any such requirement and keep extending such assistance in a timely manner.

Statement

Country-wise details of Indians repatriated from 26 May, 2014 to 26 May, 2018

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Number of Indians nationals in distress repatriated by the Mission/Post during the said period (distress including loss of passport, landed in that country due to diversion of flight, stuck there due to natural calamity/terror attack, abuse by the Foreign employer, etc.)
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	47
2.	Algeria	131
3.	Armenia	8
4.	Australia	845
5.	Austria	342
6.	Azerbaijan	27

1	2	3	1	2	3
7.	Bahrain	3907	41.	Laos PDR	47
8.	Bangladesh	726	42.	Lebanon	513
9.	Belarus	1	43.	Libya	3793
10.	Belgium	205	44.	Madagascar	2
11.	Brunei	4	45.	Malawi	5
12.	Bulgaria	13	46.	Malaysia	31830
13.	Cambodia	93	47.	Maldives	948
14.	Canada	3	48.	Mauritius	1
15.	Chile	6	49.	Mexico	160
16.	China	674	50.	Morocco	27
17.	Colombia	33	51.	Mozambique	54
18.	Congo	50	52.	Myanmar	24
19.	Cote D' Ivoire	127	53.	Nepal	8511
20.	Croatia	23	54.	Netherlands	1369
21.	Cuba	42	55.	New Zealand	3
22.	Cyprus	6	56.	Niger	4
23.	Czech Republic	122	57.	Nigeria	99
24.	Denmark	164	58.	Oman	4798
25.	Egypt	92	59.	Pakistan	7
26.	Ethiopia	145	60.	Palestine	4
27.	Fiji	18	61.	Panama	45
28.	France	7	62.	Papua New Guinea	6
29.	Germany	176	63.	Peru	6
30.	Ghana	23	64.	Poland	34
31.	Indonesia	322	65.	Portugal	32
32.	Iran	826	66.	Qatar	9236
33.	Iraq	7745	67.	Russia	247
34.	Israel	573	68.	Saudi Arabia	95606
35.	Italy	858	69.	Senegal	90
36.	Jamaica	44	70.	Seychelles	24
37.	Jordan	25	71.	Singapore	556
38.	Kenya	119	72.	Slovak Republic	1
39.	Korea (Republic of)	23	73.	South Africa	558
40.	Kuwait	6692	74.	South Sudan	153

1	2	3
75.	Spain	1810
76.	Sri Lanka	3305
77.	Sudan	14
78.	Suriname	1
79.	Sweden	188
80.	Switzerland	696
81.	Syria	10
82.	Tajikistan	8
83.	Tanzania	123
84.	Thailand	28
85.	Trinidad & Tobago	20
86.	Tunisia	3333
87.	Turkey	140
88.	U.A.E.	3497
89.	U.S.A.	741
90.	Uganda	74
91.	UK	3799
92.	Ukraine	1202
93.	Uzbekistan	56
94.	Venezuela	183
95.	Vietnam	130
96.	Yemen	4748
Total		208186

[Translation]

Vacancies in Tribunals/Commissions

1413. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several vacancies of Chairman and members in various judicial, semi-judicial and administrative tribunals and commissions;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any recommendation from the officers concerned to fill these vacancies;

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

(e) the details of such appointments made during the last three years?

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

[English]

Relations with Southeast Asian Countries

1414. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any mechanism to enhance economic and strategic relations with Southeast Asian countries;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has a Project Development Fund to set up manufacturing hubs in Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam (CMLV) through separate Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the SPVs are functioning properly with economic return; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Yes the Government has many multilateral and bilateral mechanism to enhance economic and strategic relations with Southeast Asian countries.

(b) India and ASEAN have 30 dialogue mechanisms which comprises 7 Ministerial level meetings and 23 Sectoral dialogues apart from Annual Summits. In addition, to enhance our strategic and economic relations with individual Southeast Asian countries there exist various bilateral mechanisms including high-level exchanges, Ministerial dialogue and senior officials meetings.

(c) to (e) A Project Development Fund (PDF) has been set up with a corpus of Rs. 500 crores with the objective to facilitate Indian investment and broaden the manufacturing base of Indian Companies in CLMV countries. An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the Chairpersonship of Commerce Secretary monitors the operation of the PDF. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on 25.04.2017 has approved the following projects for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR):—

- Setting up of Multi-Speciality Hospital and/or Medical College in Cambodia
- Setting up of Multi-Speciality Hospital and/or Medical College in Myanmar
- Setting up of an Educational Institute in Myanmar
- Setting up a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Unit in Vietnam

The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the above mentioned projects are under preparation.

Survey of New Rail Lines

1415. SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status and outcome of surveys for three new railway lines in the Mysore Division of South Western Railway, envisaged in Rail Budget 2017-18;

(b) the present status of proposed Railway Line connecting Mysore to Kushal Nagar;

(c) whether the Government has allocated funds for establishing a Rail Museum in Mysore and if so, the present status of the proposal;

(d) whether Konkan Railway has completed three major projects in Udupi District, including a crossing station at Innanje between Padubidri and Udupi and two traffic stations at Mirjan and Murdeshwara; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the cost of these Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Status of three

surveys for new rail lines falling fully/partly in Mysuru Division of South Western Railway included in the Budget 2017-18 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of survey	Length (in Km)	Status
1.	Challakere-Hiriyur-Huliyar-Chikkanayakanahalli-Turuvekere-Channarayapattna	200	Field survey has been completed. Preparation of report has been taken up.
2.	Hassan-Belur-Chikmagalur-Sringeri-Shimoga	150	Survey has been taken up.
3.	Hindupur-Chitradurga	132	Survey has been taken up.

(b) Survey for Mysuru (Belagola)-Kushalnagar-Madikere (119.10 Km) new line was completed during 2018-19. Total cost of the proposed new line was assessed as Rs. 2607.53 crore with rate of return of (-) 5.65%. Survey report has been examined. This proposal could not be taken forward due to unremunerative nature and no operational and financial justification of the proposed new line.

(c) Railways has already established a Regional Rail Museum at Mysuru, which is functional since 1979. At present, there is no proposal to set up another Rail Museum at Mysuru.

(d) and (e) The work of new crossing stations at Innanje, Mirjan and additional loop line at Murdeshwar was awarded by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. in April, 2017 and their status is as under:—

Name of station	Approved Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Status
Innanje Station	1133.95	80% work completed and balance work is in progress.
Mirjan Station	1245.60	50% work completed and balance work is in progress.
Murdeshwar loop line	3158.23	80% work completed and balance work is in progress.

New Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu

1416. SHRI S. SELVAKUMARA CHINNAIYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to start new railway projects in Tamil Nadu especially Erode-Palani Railway project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 8 New Lines, 5 Gauge Conversion and 9 Doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in various stages of planning/sanction/execution.

As regards, Erode-Palani new line project, this project has been frozen due to low operational priority and refusal of Government of Tamil Nadu to provide land free of cost and share 50% of construction cost of the project.

High End Skill Development Centres

1417. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the National Research Laboratory CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) proposes to establish High End Skill Development Centres on the principle of "no-profit, no-loss" basis in collaboration with German science and technology company, Merck;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of High End Skill Development Centres proposed to be set up;

(d) whether the Union Government has identified the places where these centres are to be set up;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the facilities proposed to be provided in these centres; and

(f) the extent to which it will help in scaling employability skills for graduates and post graduates who are aspiring to make a career in life science sector?

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-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Merck Life Sciences Private Limited to establish 'High End Skill Development Centres' at CSIR-IMTECH on the principle of "no-profit, no-loss". Equipped with the next generation technologies, like gene editing & single-molecule biomarker detection, the centre will help train Indian students and researchers in latest life science technologies and make them industry ready.

(c) High End Skill Development Centre is proposed to be established in CSIR-IMTECH at present.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) The Centre will help researchers and students develop advanced competencies and analytical skills required for life science research through conducting trainings on advanced processes, tools and techniques. The Centre would act as a platform for hands-on learning as well.

[Translation]

IAS Officers in Chhattisgarh

1418. SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of IAS officers deployed in Chhattisgarh at present;

(b) the number of vacant posts along with the steps being taken by the Government to fill the said vacancies;

(c) the number of those officers of Administrative Service of Chhattisgarh who are serving in States other than their home State;

(d) whether such officers are serving in the States of their choice despite the ruling given by the courts and the Central Administrative Tribunal regarding serving in their home States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the penal action which the Government proposes to take against such officers?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Arunachal Pradesh										
West Siang	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	1	20
Assam										
Nagaon	2	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	40
Bihar										
Nawada	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
West Champaran	1	5.25	1	25	0	0	0	0	2	30.25
Patna	0	0	1	15	1	20	0	0	2	35
Chhattisgarh										
Raipur	0	0	1	30	0	0	0	0	1	30
Surguja	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	0	1	20
Gujarat										
Bhuj	3	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	30
Panchmahal	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Sabarkantha	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Vadodara	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	0	1	20
Morbi	0	0	0	0	1	20	0	0	1	20
Haryana										
Mewat	3	33	1	25	1	10	5	90	10	158
Palwal	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Nuh	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	40	2	40
Himachal Pradesh										
Sirmour	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Jammu and Kashmir										
Budgam	2	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	30
Anantnag	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Karnataka										
Gulbarga	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1	10
Shimoga	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
Bidar	3	30	1	15	0	0	0	0	4	45
Uttar Kannada	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Chikmaglur	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	0	1	20
Raichur	0	0	1	15	0	0	0	0	1	15
Bijapur	0	0	2	30.5	0	0	0	0	2	30.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bagalkot	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Hubli	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Davangere	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Vijayapura	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1	10
Kerala										
Ernakulam	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Malappuram	1	7.5	0	0	0	0	1	15	2	22.5
Kozhikode	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Palakkad	1	2	2	30	0	0	0	0	3	32
Kasargod	0	0	0	0	1	15	0	0	1	15
Madhya Pradesh										
Bhopal	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Seoni	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	5
Maharashtra										
Chandrapur	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Mumbai	0	0	0	0	2	81.88	1	15	3	96.88
Navi Mumbai	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Nanded	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
Buldana	3	40	1	15			1	10	5	65
Latur	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
Dhule	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Yavatmal	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	20
Sangli	1	10	1	30	0	0	0	0	2	40
Washim	0	0	1	30	0	0	2	30	3	60
Thane	0	0	1	6	0	0	1	5	2	11
Jalgaon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.5	1	2.5
Akola	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	35	2	35
Beed	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	1	30
Manipur										
Imphal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Mizoram										
Aizawl	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20
Nagaland										
Kohima	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	1	30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Odisha										
Puri	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
Rajasthan										
Sawai Madhopur	0	0	0	0	1	25	0	0	1	25
Nagaur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	1	20
Tamil Nadu										
Krishnagiri	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
Telangana										
Adilabad	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Hyderabad	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Uttar Pradesh										
Rampur	4	41	0	0	1	20	1	15	6	76
Santkabir Nagar	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
Shahjahanpur	2	23.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	23.5
Sultanpur	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Moradabad	7	79	4	75	0	0	1	10	12	164
Kushinagar	2	23	0	0	0	0	1	15	3	38
Muzaffarnagar	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Meerut	3	24	0	0	0	0	2	25	5	49
Badaun	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	10	2	13
Sambhal	1	15	2	30	1	10	3	60	7	115
Sitapur	1	6	1	20	0	0	0	0	2	26
Kanpur	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Azamgarh	1	13	1	30	0	0	1	15	3	58
Mahoba	1	10	1	10	0	0			2	20
Amroha	1	8	1	20	1	15	1	10	4	53
Saharanpur	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	0	1	20
Lucknow	0	0	1	30	0	0	0	0	1	30
Allahabad	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	1	10
Bijnor	0	0	1	15	0	0	0	0	1	15
Bulandshahr	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
Aligarh	0	0	2	30	0	0	0	0	2	30
Faizabad	0	0	1	15	0	0	0	0	1	15
Shamli	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	1	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Firozabad	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	0	1	20
Pilibhit	0	0	0	0	2	22.3	1	10	3	32.3
Maharajganj	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1	10
Raebareilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1	10
Balrampur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Barabanki	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Gonda	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	1	20
Mau	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Uttarakhand										
Udham Singh Nagar	4	43	1	20	1	10	0	0	6	73
Haridwar	1	8	0	0	0	0	1	10	2	18
West Bengal										
Howrah	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	1	15
Kolkata	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Total	77	841.25	40	692.5	13	249.18	48	732.5	178	2515.43

Bullet Train

1420. SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR:

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bullet train plan stalls on law row;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the Government has fixed a deadline for completing the land survey and acquisition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Land acquisition process for the 1434 Hectare Land required for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project has been initiated. There is no hold up on account of any legal challenge.

(c) and (d) Internal target of National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) for land acquisition is

December, 2018. Application/requisition for acquisition of the entire requirement has been given to respective State/Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli (DNH). Relevant notifications under Section-11 (in the State of Gujarat and DNH) and Namuna-1 (in the State of Maharashtra) have been published for approximately 1370 Hectares. Joint Measurement Survey (JMS) has been completed for 1028 Hectare.

NMJDLR

1421. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms (NMJDLR) has been set up to streamline and quicken the disposal of crores of pending cases in courts including High Courts and Supreme Court;

(b) if so, its terms of reference and the period within which it is likely to submit its report; and

(c) the main thrust areas covered by the said mission?

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) National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

To advise on the goals, objectives and strategies of the National Mission and the Action Plan and its implementation, an Advisory Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Minister of Law and Justice with wide ranging membership. An action plan of the National Mission was formulated under 5 strategic initiatives which are reviewed by the Advisory Council of the National Mission from time to time. Ten meetings of the Advisory Council have been held so far. Activities under the National Mission are of an on-going nature and regular reports are presented before the Advisory Council of the National Mission.

[Translation]

Model Dalit Villages

1422. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating or proposes to formulate any scheme for transforming dalit majority villages into model dalit villages:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the said scheme by the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (RAO

INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Union Government through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) from 2009-10 onwards for integrated development of the selected villages having more than 50% of SC populations as "Adarsh Gram". Union Government has released Rs. 853.43 crore under the scheme up to 14.12.2018 to States.

[English]

IRCTC'S In-House Payment Gateway

1423. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IRCTC is proposing to launch its own in-house payment gateway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not launching Railways own in-house payment gateway; and

(d) the steps being taken to launch own in-house payment gateway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) On Indian Railways, online booking of reserved tickets is done through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website. IRCTC has launched its own Payment Gateway Aggregator (PGA) IRCTC iPay on pilot basis on 17.10.2018. IRCTC iPay is currently operational on the IRCTC portal which offers airline ticket booking services. IRCTC iPay meets the standard laid down by Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS).

Improvements in the system including development of payment gateway aggregator is a continuous and on-going process.

[Translation]

Bharat Net in MP

1424. PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation has the internal capacity of

implementing BharatNet project in Madhya Pradesh but the final shape has not been given to the project by the Government;

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

(c) the time by which the project report is likely to be approved along with the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the funds are likely to be made available for this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Phase-I of the BharatNet project, covering 12, 655 Gram Panchayats in Madhya Pradesh has been implemented through BSNL. 10,854 GPs have been taken up in Phase-II of the project, as approved by the Telecom Commission. Phase-II is also being implemented through BSNL in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Consular Access

1425. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a prescribed format in which the Embassy/High Commission has to apply for consular access and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the time taken for an embassy to receive permission for consular access and duration of its validity; and

(c) the list of embassies that have been granted access to Indian nationals *via* consular access from January 2017 to June 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Indian Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates located in foreign countries seeking consular access to visit Indian nationals in prisons/detention centres send a request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Nodal Authority of the country concerned through a Note Verbale. The request includes the name of the Indian nationals to be visited and the place of detention as well as the name

(s)/designation(s) of the Consular Officers of the Mission/Post. The consular access permission is granted as soon as possible, valid for a single visit.

(c) With a view to ensuring the welfare of the Indian nationals in prisons/detention centres abroad, our Missions/Posts seek consular access to visit them on a regular basis. This is a normal activity and no centralized list of such instances of consular access is maintained.

Developmental Assistance Programme

1426. SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the Indian projects running under country's developmental assistance programme abroad and which are of strategic importance are lagging behind in terms of completion;

(b) if so, the details of such projects along with the reasons for such slow pace, countrywise;

(c) whether the Government plans to launch more Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in East Asia and other countries under its developmental assistance programme;

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

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to complete the foreign projects under its developmental assistance programme in time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) India has undertaken and continues to undertake several projects under our development cooperation programme, which have over the years, made positive impact on the economic development of the country concerned and in the lives of their people. There are however, some projects which are running behind schedule.

These are mainly long gestation and/or large infrastructure projects in sectors such as power, roads, railways, industrial units etc. There are several possible factors which may, and do cause delays, many of which, are under the partner countries own sphere of responsibility and not necessarily due to delays from our side. The type of delays which are normally faced, result from issues such as security threats, political or socio-economic crisis in the partner countries, delays in land acquisition, local permits, internal approvals or finalization of Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the host Government, lack of capacity to provide data or certain facilities, change in scope of projects by host Government, natural calamity or geological factors such as difficult terrain or excessive rains that do not allow for work during the monsoon months in the host country, or issues such as delays in mobilization of manpower and resources on part of the Indian contractors.

(c) and (d) During the 6th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi on 04 September, 2012, India announced the establishment of an India-CLMV Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) Revolving Fund with an annual contribution of US\$ 1 million towards QIPs for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. Each country can have 5 QIPs, each QIP costing about US\$ 50,000. There are currently 13 QIPs under implementation in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam and 4 QIPs under process in Cambodia. There are at present 3 QIPs under implementation in Lao PDR, *viz.*, Establishment of Fertilizer Analysis Laboratory at Department of Agriculture and Land Management, Promotion of Goat Raising in Lao PDR in Jieng Village, Thoulakhom District, Vientiane Province and Promotion of Green Cardamom Cultivation in Paksong District, Champasak Province.

(e) The Government gives high priority to time-bound completion of projects. The revision of guidelines that govern GoI Lines of Credit (LOCs) has made a positive impact on the quality of implementation on ground. Since we have had cases where the development partner may not have adequate capacity to submit proposals, in cases where under a GoI LOC, the borrowing Government seeks assistance in preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR). A Project Preparation Facility (PPF) has been set up to expeditiously provide free-of-cost Indian consultancy support to the requesting Governments in the preparatory

phase of project formulation and project design by using 1% of the LOC amount. Government also undertakes detailed review and monitoring meetings periodically with all stakeholders to determine the progress of projects and resolve any issues that may arise in project implementation. For projects under GoI LOCs, MEA and Exim Bank of India undertake joint review meetings with representatives of the borrowing Governments as well as the Indian implementing agencies. Indian Missions abroad undertake regular and detailed monitoring at their end, including close liaising and constant follow up with the host Governments as well as project site visits. In case of unreasonable delays in project execution by the Indian contractor, penalty clauses are also invoked.

Neutrino Observatory

1427. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:

SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether the Government is progressing with the India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Pottippuram and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any Court interventions are impeding the progress of the project and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Green Tribunal has also interfered in the project and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints from the residents of the nearby areas against the INO and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether there is any radiation, structural damage to the mountain or emission of hazardous chemicals risk in INO and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam. Environmental Clearance has been obtained on 27.03.2018. India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) has applied for Wildlife

Clearance to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu in early 2018, as also building clearances for the Inter Institutional Centre for High Energy Physics (ICHEP), Madurai and INO, Pottipuram sites. Clearance from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (PCB) has to be applied after obtaining above clearances.

(b) Yes, Madam. The Madurai bench of the Hon'ble Madras High Court had in its order of March, 2015 said that no scientific work can start at the underground site before getting clearance from the Tamil Nadu PCB. On the other hand the Environmental Clearance obtained from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in March, 2018 was challenged in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and has been upheld.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) There have been some complaints regarding access to a temple and grazing for cattle from the residents of nearby villages. INO authorities have taken up outreach programme in the matter.

(e) No, Madam.

Women working in Coal Mines

1428. SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of women working in coal mines has declined drastically compared to men workers in the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of women workers in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) No, the total number of women working in coal mines has declined marginally during the last three years which is in line with decline in overall manpower. The details of total number of employees as well as the number of female employees of Coal India Limited between 31.03.2016 and 31.03.2018 are as follows:—

Status as on	Total number of employees	Number of female employees	Percentage of female employees
31.03.2016	322404	22135	6.87
31.03.2017	310016	21044	6.79
31.03.2018	298757	20216	6.77

(c) Government does not interfere directly in the employment procedure of coal mines. However, the coal companies take various women welfare measures through CSR activities such as entrepreneurship and skill development, empowerment through re-engineering of self help group, etc. to enhance the employment ability of women.

Outstanding Dues of Contractors of MES

1429. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contractors of Military Engineering Services (MES) have threatened to stall work and go on indefinite strike unless the Government clears their dues which is in crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is true that no payments have been made to them in the past six months and the backlog goes upto two years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The Builders Association of India issued notice to E-in-C's Branch for a tool down strike for one day each in October, 2018 and December, 2018 citing delays in payments.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Budgetary allocations made between numerous competing demands within the Ministry of Defence are corrected midcourse, through a process of

review of expenditure and revised inter-se allocations through reappropriations and supplementary demand for grants. In the case of MES, reappropriation of funds to augment its budget have been undertaken during the course of the year to address the issue.

Revamping Vendorship Licensing

1430. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to revamp the vendorship licensing process at railway platforms;

(b) if so, the detailed list of nodal agencies and officers appointed for it, UT and State-wise specially in Delhi;

(c) the details about the progress so far made in this regard; and

(d) the details about the timeframe fixed for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) No, Madam. However, instructions have been issued and Zonal Railways have been empowered to grant platform vending permission to Food Plazas, Refreshment Rooms and other Static Catering Stalls at stations depending upon the local requirements of catering services of passengers.

Project under "Make In India"

1431. DR. P.K. BIJU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no defence projects have been taken up under the "Make in India" framework during the last four years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such delays render India strategically vulnerable and also disadvantaged in being greatly dependent on large military hardware imports and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has formulated any "Defence Production Policy" to herald a new era in providing domestically manufactured Military Hardware for the Indian Armed Force and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) In the last four financial years *i.e.* from 2014-15 to 2017-18, Government has accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to 151 proposals, worth Rs. 2,66,700 crore approximately, under 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)', 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy and Make (Indian)' or 'Make' categories of capital procurement as per Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), which means Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued only to Indian Vendors. In the last four financial years *i.e.* from 2014-15 to 2017-18, 128 contracts worth about Rs. 1,19,000 crore have been signed with Indian vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment. DPP stipulates a time schedule for completion of the procurement cycle. The time taken to undertake capital procurement of defence equipment depends on the nature and complexity of the equipment being procured.

(c) To promote domestic production in the defence sector by public sector, private sector and MSMEs, a draft Defence Production Policy-2018 has been prepared and placed in public domain for consultation. It provides a focused, structured and significant thrust to development of defence design and production capabilities in the country. The Defence Production Policy, 2018 has not yet been finalized.

[Translation]

Construction of Parking Plaza at Thane Station

1432. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of parking plaza for the railway passengers outside Thane Railway Station under the Central Railways has been stopped for want of funds and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the amount of funds proposed for the said parking plaza so far; and

(c) the time by which the said construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Construction of parking plaza at Thane station is under the part of work "Thane: Improvement & Renovation of Passenger Amenities

Phase II with sanctioned amount of Rs. 10.34 crores for the year 1996 and expenditure for this work is Rs. 12.71 crores. Ground floor work of Parking Plaza has been completed.

(b) To avoid excessive variation, a new work for construction of additional one floor on existing parking structure has been sanctioned with the cost of Rs. 4.91 crores in 2018-19. The work has already been awarded on 16.11.2018.

(c) The work is expected to be completed by June, 2019.

[English]

Misuse of Social Media

1433. SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

- (a) whether the misuse of social media is on rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb the misuse of social media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Cyberspace has distinct and unique characteristics as compared to physical space. With widespread proliferation of new technologies like social media, there are some miscreants who are misusing these technologies to hurt religious sentiments and create communal disharmony in the society. Such behavior is facilitated by virtual and borderless nature of cyber space, where anyone can open account in any name including fake name from any part of the world. Thus misuse of social media is on rise in the country as elsewhere in the world.

The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2011 under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish,

transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

Further, Government takes action under section 69A of IT Act for blocking of websites/webpages with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders. Section 69A of the 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.

Reservation for Women in Lok Sabha

1434. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has plans to introduce legislation in this winter session for reservation of 33% seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) 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.

[Translation]

Failure of Computers/Servers in Post Offices

1435. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the computers/servers installed in head post-offices/sub post-offices, particularly in the North Avenue

post-office, are not functioning due to which account holders are facing delays in the process of withdrawal and deposit of money and are sometimes not able to withdraw money at all;

(b) if so, whether any officer of the post department has been held responsible in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) No, Madam. Local Servers are not utilised for Post Office Savings Bank transactions. Desktop computers are connected online to Central Data Centre. The Computers and peripherals are maintained through Annual Maintenance Contract/Warranty. In North Avenue Post Office computers are functioning properly.

[English]

Number of Internet Users

1436. SHRI D.K. SURESH:

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any data collected about the use of internet in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is true that the number of internet users is increasing in the recent times and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the usage of internet in the country and enable people to have better access to e-governance and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken note that the quality of internet services is very poor and people suffer due to it; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to address the issue of providing better internet services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Government collects data on internet users and traffic on a regular basis. At the end of September, 2018, the number of Internet subscribers (both broadband and narrowband put together) stood at 560.01 million. The number of rural subscribers was 194.07 million while the number of subscribers in urban areas was 365.94 million.

Internet traffic has also witnessed phenomenal growth, touching highest ever data usage of 22.43 million terabytes during the year 2017 (January-December). Of this, fixed broadband traffic was 2.78 million terabytes and mobile broadband traffic was 19.65 million terabytes.

(b) Internet penetration in the country has been increasing steadily over the past few years. The service area wise number of internet subscriptions during last three years and current year are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The Government has initiated the 'Digital India' Programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. For better access to e-governance services, the Government has initiated the project "Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0" in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme, which envisages setting up of at least one CSC at Gram Panchayat (GP) to cover all the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country. Over 300 digital services are being offered by these CSCs. Till November, 2018, 3.05 lakh Common Services Centres are active and transacting for delivery of eServices of which 2.10 lakh are at GP level.

Towards achieving the goal of providing broadband for all citizens, the Government is implementing the flagship BharatNet project in a phased manner for providing Broadband connectivity to all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country. Bharatnet is an essential pillar of Digital India Programme of the Government. Phase I of BharatNet for connecting 1 lakh GPs has been completed in December, 2017. Phase II of the project is under implementation. As on date a total of 1,21,859 Gram Panchayats have been connected on Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by laying 3,02,621 Km of OFC. Of this, 1,16,492 GPs are now service ready.

The BharatNet project also envisages access to broadband service through Wi-Fi in all the GPs in the country for ensuring last mile connectivity. At each GP, on an average, five Access Points (APs) are envisaged to be provided, of which three APs are for Government institutions and two APs for public places. In addition to the wi-fi hotspots provisioned in BharatNet, the Government proposes to setup 25,000 Public Wi-Fi Hotspots infrastructure at BSNL's Telephone Exchanges in rural areas.

(d) and (e) TRAI had laid down the Quality of Service standards for Broadband & Wireless Data services through regulations issued from time to time and the performance of service providers against these standards is monitored through quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMR) submitted by service providers for the service area as a whole.

As per PMR for the quarter ending September, 2018, for Broadband Services all the service providers are meeting the benchmarks for all the parameters except the service providers as per the enclosed Statement-II.

As regards Wireless data services, all the service providers are complying with the benchmark for various Quality of Service parameters.

TRAI has taken the following steps to address the issue of providing better internet services:

- Monitoring of Quality of Service performed by service providers against the benchmarks for the various Quality of Service parameters laid down by TRAI through regulations issued from time to time, by way of (i) Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report submitted by service providers (ii) Audit and Assessment of Quality of Service through independent agencies appointed by TRAI.
- Publication of results of Audit & Assessment of Quality of Service of Broadband Services on TRAI website namely www.traigov.in for information of stakeholders, forcing the service providers to improve their services.
- Imposition of financial disincentives for non-compliance with the benchmarks for Quality of Service parameters.

Statement-I

Service Area-wise Internet Connection

(million)

Service area	As on 31.03.2016	As on 31.03.2017	As on 31.03.2018	As on 30.09.2018
Andhra Pradesh	24.87	31.80	37.61	43.78
Assam	6.76	8.07	9.81	10.25
Bihar	19.63	24.10	28.40	32.73
Delhi	20.59	26.79	31.14	32.93
Gujarat	21.1	27.30	31.43	35.91
Haryana	7.56	9.63	9.05	13.58
Himachal Pradesh	3.02	3.76	6.94	4.64
Jammu and Kashmir	3.65	4.51	5.81	6.02
Karnataka	22.63	26.87	32.14	35.71
Kerala	14.6	16.55	19.80	22.58
Kolkata	9.26	11.66	13.35	14.19
Madhya Pradesh	20.41	24.77	25.88	35.41
Maharashtra	29.47	35.94	39.45	46.11

Service area	As on 31.03.2016	As on 31.03.2017	As on 31.03.2018	As on 30.09.2018
Mumbai	15.65	19.57	22.48	24.33
North East	4.06	4.75	5.94	6.09
Odisha	8.29	10.51	12.20	13.25
Punjab	13.46	16.65	18.63	21.14
Rajasthan	17.24	21.55	26.46	32.07
Tamil Nadu	28.01	32.32	39.57	40.71
UP (East)	22.47	28.58	34.75	38.18
UP (West)	16.54	19.93	23.79	27.78
West Bengal	13.38	16.58	19.31	22.62
Total	342.66	422.19	493.95	560.01

Source: TRAI

Statement-II

Service Providers not meeting the QoS benchmarks as per the PMR for the quarter ending 30th September, 2018

Sl.No.	Service Provider	Parameter not met	Benchmark	Service Area
1.	MTNL	Faults Repair % of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99%	Delhi & Mumbai (98.32%)
2.	Atria Convergence Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Faults Repair % of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99%	All India (98.74%)
		Response time to the customer for assistance % age of calls answered by operator (Voice to voice) within 60 sec	>60%	All India (39.00%)
		%age of calls answered by operator (Voice to voice) within 90 sec	>80%	All India (58.00%)
3.	Intech Online Pvt. Ltd.	Faults Repair % of faults repaired by next working day >90%)	>90%	Mum. & Mah. (80.81%)
		% of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99%	Mum. & Mah. (88.70%)
		Billing Performance % age of bills disputed	<2%	Mum. & Mah. (3.01%)
4.	Ishan Netsol Pvt. Ltd.	Service Provisioning % age of connections provided within 15 days of registration of demand	100%	Gujarat (99.76%)

Sl.No.	Service Provider	Parameter not met	Benchmark	Service Area
		Faults Repair	% of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99% Gujarat (98.48%)
		Bandwidth utilisation/throughput	No. of Intra network links having Bandwidth utilisation >90% during peak hours (TCBH)	0 Gujarat (62)
			No. of Upstream links for International connectivity having bandwidth utilisation >90% during peak hours (TCBH)	0 Gujarat (18)
5.	K Net Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Service availability/uptime (for all user) in % age	>98%	Tamil Nadu (50.05%)
6.	TATA (TTSL)	Faults Repair	% of faults repaired by next working day	>90% All India (82.00%)
			% of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99% All India (94.00%)
7.	TATA (TTML)	Faults Repair	% of faults repaired by next working day (>90%)	(>90%) Maharashtra (77.00%)
			% of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99% Maharashtra (91.00%)
8.	You Broadband	Service Provisioning	% age of connections provided within 15 days of registration of demand	100% All India (99.71%)

[Translation]

Ongoing/Pending Rail Projects

1437. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:
SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the ongoing/pending railway projects in the country especially in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh zone-wise and division-wise;

(b) the total funds earmarked and allocated for execution of each of these projects, as-on-date;

(c) the details of funds spent thereon, so far;

(d) the list of projects getting delayed and the

reasons therefor along with the escalation of cost due to delay in completion of these projects; and

(e) the time-frame set for the completion of these projects along with the steps taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) At present, there are 183 new line, 57 gauge conversion and 263 doubling projects are in different stages of planning/ sanction/ execution. Out of these, 4 new line, 25 gauge conversion and 13 doubling projects fall fully/partly in Gujarat, 15 new line, 8 gauge conversion and 61 doubling projects fall fully/partly in Uttar Pradesh and 8 new line, 5 gauge conversion and 26 doubling projects fall fully/partly in Madhya Pradesh. The details of these projects are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Year of inclusion in Budget	Latest Cost	Exp as on 31.3.2018	Total Outlay 2018-19	Status of Project
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat						
New line						
1.	Chhotaudepur-Dhar (157.00 km)	2007-08	1347.26	210.00	180.00	Chhotaudepur-Motisdali (22 km) along with Chhotaudepur yard has been completed. Land acquisition has been taken up. Work taken up in available land.
2.	Dahod-Indore via Jhabua, Amjhera and Dhar (204.76 km)	2007-08	1640.04	448.41	120.00	Indore-Rau-Tihi (21 km) section has been commissioned. Land acquisition has been taken up. Work taken up in available land.
3.	Bhimnath-Dholera (28.60 km)	2016-17	394.46	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
4.	Taranga Hill-Abu Road via Ambaji (89.38 km)	2017-18	1879.15	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
Gauge conversion						
1.	Bhildi-Viramgam and material modification of Mehsana-Taranga Hill new line (214.40 km)	1990-91	598.00	420.00	60.00	Patan-Viramgam (104.36 km) section has been commissioned. Works taken up in balance section.
2.	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjalia-Jetalsar with new material modification for Shahpur-Saradiya, Veraval-Somnath gauge conversion & Somnath-Kodinar new line (363.91 km)	1994-95	1329.00	548.86	1.00	Rajkot-Somnath (190.02 km) & Wansjalia-Jetalsar (90.61 km) sections have been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.
3.	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur including Modasa-Shamlaji Road new line (316.41 km)	2008-09	1667.00	802.90	520.00	Ahmedabad-Asarva (1.85 km) is already an existing broad gauge line. Work taken up in balance section.
4.	Miyagam-Karjan-Dabhoi-Samalaji gauge conversion with electrification (96.46 km)	2011-12	844.00	12.64	5.00	Work taken up.
5.	Ahmedabad-Botad (170.48 km)	2012-13	975.62	323.38	332.00	Work taken up

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Bhuj-Naliya and extension upto Vayor (126 km)	2008-09	484.00	93.65	1.00	Bhuj-Deshalpur (29.5 km) section has been completed. Balance being executed under Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).
7.	Dhasa-Jetalsar (104.44 km)	2012-13	644.00	27.02	250.00	Work taken up.
8.	Ahmedabad (Sabarmati)-Mahesana (68.78 km)	2015-16	477.56	70.43	289.3	Work taken up.
9.	Dabhoi-Chandod with extension upto Kewadiya (49.75 km)	2017-18	663.00	-	50.00	Work taken up.
10.	Chanasma-Ranuj (12.84 km)	2017-18	107.72	-	-	Work sanctioned in Joint Venture (JV).
11.	Katosan Road-Chansasma (51.72 km)	2017-18	403.72	-	-	Work sanctioned in Joint Venture (JV).
12.	Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma (54.83 km)	2017-18	354.89	-	5.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
13.	Jambusar-Vishvamitri (48.20 km)	2017-18	434.00	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
14.	Junagarh-Visavadar (42.28 km)	2017-18	254.00	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
15.	Kalol-Kadi-Katosan (37.23 km)	2017-18	238.00	-	5.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
16.	Khijadiya-Visavadar (91.27 km)	2017-18	548.00	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
17.	Nadiad-Petlad (37.26 km)	2017-18	403.00	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
18.	Petlad-Bhadran (22.50 km)	2017-18	236.95	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
19.	Prachi Road-Kodinar (25.58 km)	2017-18	193.20	-	5.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
20.	Samalaya-Timba Road (53.53 km)	2017-18	401.48	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
21.	Samni-Jambusar (24.08 km)	2017-18	251.00	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
22.	Talala-Delwada (70 km)	2017-18	525.30	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
23.	Veraval-Talala-Visavadar (71.95 km)	2017-18	460.00	-	1.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
24.	Vijapur-Ambilyasan (41.43 km)	2017-18	243.00	-	5.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
25.	Adraj-Moti-Vijapur (39.75 km)	2017-18	278.51	-	5.00	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Doubling						
1.	Surat-Kosamba PH-I of 3rd line between Vadodara and Virar (35 km)	2000-01	133.00	-	-	Project has been frozen in view of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor alignment.
2.	Udhna-Jalgaon with electrification (306.93 km)	2008-09	2448.00	2267.80	350.00	Entire project has been commissioned.
3.	Abu Road-Sarotra Road (23.12 km)	2010-11	131.41	118.55	10.00	Works taken up.
4.	Sarotra Road-Karjoda ((23.59 km)	2010-11	154.13	77.78	25.00	Works taken up.
5.	Guriya-Marwar & Karjoda-Palanpur (48.9 km)	2011-12	251.00	214.01	75.00	Guriya-Marwar (43.50 km) section has been commissioned. Works taken up in balance section.
6.	Viramgam-Samakhiyali (182.23 km)	2011-12	1037.15	857.57	50.00	Viramgam-Sadla (21 km) Jatpipe-Vasadava-Chule (41.55 km) & Surabari- Katariya-Samakhiyali (23.45 km) sections have been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.
7.	Palanpur-Samakhiyali (247.73 km)	2013-14	1548.66	546.26	400.00	Work taken up.
8.	Vatva-Ahmedabad 3rd line with automatic signaling (7.5 km)	2013-14	39.78	34.42	4.90	Work taken up.
9.	Surendranagar-Rajkot (116.17 km)	2015-16	1002.39	187.80	250.00	Work taken up.
10.	Vatva-Ahmedabad-Sabarmati 4th line (15 km)	2015-16	231.43	39.72	100.00	Work taken up.
11.	Anand-Godhra (79 km)	2017-18	683.00	1.15	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
12.	Mehsana-Palanpur (65.10 km)	2018-19	529.30	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
13.	Rajkot-Kanalus (111.20 km)	2018-19	1011.72	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
Uttar Pradesh						
New Line						
1.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli & Mahoba- Khajuraho (534.65 km)	1997-98	6673	1603.89	315	Mahoba-Khajuraho (61.5 km) and Lalitpur-Khajuraho (165 km): Commissioned. Works taken up in balance section.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Hathua-Bhatni (79.64 km)	2005-06	718.54	251.07	5	Hathua-Panchdewari (31 km): commissioned. In balance section, Land acquisition process taken up.
3.	Paniyahwa-Chhitauni-Tumkuhi Road (62.50 km)	2006-07	269.78	93.52	1	Paniyahwa-Chhitauni (3.7 km): Work completed. Chhitauni-Tamkuhi Road (58.80 km): Land acquisition taken up.
4.	Deoband (Muzzafar Nagar)-Roorkee (27.99 km)	2007-08	791	145.65	160	Land acquisition taken up. Works taken up in available land.
5.	Unchhar-Amethi (66.17 km)	2012-13	1229	3.76	100	Land acquisition taken up.
6.	Kapilvastu-Basti (90.30 km)	2013-14	2140	-	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
7.	Anandnagar-Ghugli (52.70 km)	2013-14	1339	-	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
8.	Faizabad-Lalganj <i>via</i> Raibareilly (115.90 km)	2013-14	664	.01	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
9.	Mau-Ghazipur-Tarighat (51 km)	2015-16	1765.92	22.9	200	Land acquisition taken up. Construction of Rail-cum-Road bridge has been taken up.
10.	Sahjanwa-Dohrighat (81.17 km)	2016-17	1730	-	2	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
11.	Bahraich-Shravasti-Balrampur/Tulsipur (240.26 km)	2016-17	4940	-	1	Project sanctioned in Oct' 18.
12.	Meerut-Panipat (104 km)	2016-17	2200	-	7.6	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
13.	Robertsganj-Mugalsarai <i>via</i> Madhupur, Sukrit, Ahrora (70 km)	2017-18	1260	-	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
14.	Padrauna-Kushinagar-Gorakhpur (Sardar Nagar) (64 km)	2017-18	1476	-	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
15.	Etah-Kasganj (29 km)	2017-18	507	-	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
Gauge Conversion						
1.	Gonda-Baharaich (60 km)	1997-98	318.42	281.79	25.5	Work completed.
2.	Lucknow-Pilibhit <i>via</i> Sitapur, Lakhimpur (262.76 km)	2011-12	977	726.96	250	Aishbagh-Sitapur (86.83 Km) completed. Balance section work taken up.
3.	Indara-Dohrighat (34.47 km)	2016-17	213.35	-	10	The project has been sanctioned in January, 2018

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bahraich-Mailani incl. bypass at Mailani (230 km)	2016-17	337	-	5	On request of Government of Uttar Pradesh to retain Nanpara-Mailani MG line, a fresh Final Location Survey from Nanpara-Mailani along with electrification avoiding forest area (Dudhwa Tiger Reaserve) has been sanctioned.
5.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkuan incl. MM for extn. From Bareilly-Lalkuan & Mandhana-Brahmavart (552.90 km)	1997-98	1808	1689.93	8	Main gauge conversion work has been commissioned. Work in Mandhana-Brahmavart (8 km) has been taken up.
6.	Mathura-Vrindavan (11 km)	2017-18	98	-	-	It has been decided to continue with metre gauge operations.
7.	Nanpara-Nepalganj Road (20 km)	2017-18	150	-	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
8.	Philibhit-Shahjehanpur (83 km)	2017-18	427	-	40	Work taken up.
Doubling						
1.	Utretia-Zafrabad (Balance 148 km) and MM for Raibareilly-Akbarpur (47 km) & Sultanpur-Amethi (29 km), Sultanpur-Kadipur Total-262.82 km	2006-07	1581.53	752.17	115	Utretia-Zafrabad doubling (148 km) commissioned. Akbarganj-Raebareilly (46.90 km) at cost of Rs. 295.67 crore and Sultanpur-Amethi (29.22 km) at a cost of Rs. 153.83 crore and Sultanpur-Kadipur (38.7 km) at a cost of Rs. 284.68 crore new lines projects were included as material modification.
2.	Lahota-Bhadoi (39 km)	2009-10	183.72	130.23	15	Project has been commissioned.
3.	Phapamau-Allahabad with new MM for bye pass line between Northern Rly and North Eastern Railway (13 km)	2009-10	151.87	143.83	40	Works taken up.
4.	Bhadoi-Janghai (31 km)	2010-11	159.96	116.99	15	Project has been commissioned.
5.	Aurnihar-Manduadih (38.80 km)	2011-12	199.75	177.65	15	Aurnihar-Varanasi City (31.8 km): Commissioned Work taken up in balance section of Varanasi City-Manduadih (7.0 km).
6.	Utretia-Raibareilly (65.60 km)	2011-12	385	226	75	Work taken up.
7.	Bhimsen-Jhansi (206 km)	2012-13	1183.30	980.26	352.68	Jhansi-Parichha (23.6 Km) commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Meerut-Muzaffarnagar (55.47 km)	2012-13	415	424.26	16	Meerut City-Khatauli (33 km) Commissioned. Khatauli-Muzaffarnagar (22 km):-Works taken up.
9.	Chhapra-Ballia (65 km)	2012-13	477.31	178.35	100	Works taken up.
10.	Raibareilly-Amethi (60 km)	2013-14	400	41.5	75	Works taken up.
11.	Ghazipur-Aurnihar (40 km)	2014-15	197.73	147.24	75	Works taken up.
12.	Ballia-Ghazipur (65.10 km)	2015-16	447.56	86.87	100	Works taken up.
13.	Rosa-Sitapur Cantt-Burhwal (180.77 km)	2015-16	1295	207.41	150	Works taken up.
14.	Alamnagar-Utretia (20 km)	2015-16	132.66	14.02	63	Works taken up.
15.	Muzaffarnagar-Tapri (52 km)	2015-16	376.70	93.63	130	Works taken up.
16.	Varanasi-Madhosingh-Allahabad (122 km)	2015-16	943	40.01	75	Works taken up.
17.	Ramna-Singrauli (160 km)	2015-16	2436	82.62	150	Works taken up.
18.	Karaila Road-Shakti Nagar (32.15 km)	2015-16	528.57	15.61	5	Works taken up.
19.	Billi-Chopan (Renukut- Chopan) (7.89 km)	2015-16	93.29	64.41	10	Works taken up.
20.	Jhansi-Bina 3rd line (152.57 km)	2015-16	2002	451.21	582	Works taken up.
21.	Mathura-Jhansi 3rd line (274 km)	2015-16	3678	59	201	Works taken up.
22.	Mathura-Palwal 4th line (80 km)	2015-16	669	279.71	150	Palwal-Rundhi (9.31 km) commissioned. Rundhi-Mathura: Works have been taken up.
23.	Mughalasari-Allahabad 3rd line (152 km)	2015-16	2644	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
24.	Byepass at Sainthia, Sitampur, Mughalsarai, Allahabad, Etawah (35 km)	2015-16	830.73	-	2	Etawah Byepass (10.978 km) has been sanctioned in August, 2017.
25.	Jhansi-Khairar-Manikpur & Khairar-Bhimsen (425 km)	2016-17	4330	-	100	Work taken up.
26.	Yamuna Br.-Agra Fort With major Br at Yamuna river (2.5 km)	2016-17	121.58	6.01	10	Work taken up.
27.	Iradatganj-Kunwadih-Const of flyover (20.10 km)	2016-17	2877.50	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	Iradatganj-Karchana (Allahabad bypass line) (13.40 km)	2016-17	1041.6	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
29.	Naini-Iradatganj-Const. of flyover (12.89 km)	2016-17	681.49	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
30.	Jeonathpur-flyover (10.32 km)	2016-17	866.12	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
31.	Mathura-Murhesi Rampur-flyover (11 km)	2016-17	212.25	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
32.	Flyover at Aligarh (25 km)	2016-17	1456.80	-	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
33.	Lalitpur-Birari with flyover at Lalitpur (16 km)	2016-17	304.44	2.05	10	Project sanctioned in February, 2017.
34.	Domingarh-GKP GKP Cantt-Kusumhi (21.15 km)	2016-17	186.85	19.5	15	Work taken up.
35.	Burhwal-Gonda 3rd line (61.72 km)	2016-17	714.34	19.01	10	Work taken up.
36.	Shahganj-Bhatni-Phephna-Indara, Mau-Sahaganj excl. Mau-Indara (150.28 km)	2016-17	1028.95	29.01	31	Work taken up.
37.	Bhatni-Aurnihar with RE excl. Mau-Indara (116.95 km)	2016-17	1178	35.01	40	Project sanctioned in March, 2018.
38.	Aurnihar-Jaunpur (68 km)	2016-17	366.71	34.01	38	Work taken up.
39.	Barabanki-Akbarpur (161 km)	2016-17	1116.08	1.05	92	Work taken up.
40.	Janghai-Pratapgarh-Amethi (87 km)	2016-17	720		39	Work taken up.
41.	Jaunpur-Tanda (83 km)	2016-17	676.36		21	Work taken up.
42.	Delhi-Shamli-Tapri including Saharanpur bye-pass (175 km)	2016-17	1214	2	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
43.	Naini-Chheoki 3rd line with additional platform (2 km)	2017-18	25.13	2.05	8	Work taken up.
44.	Bhapur-Panki-4th line connecting down loop of Baupur to shunting neck of Panki	2017-18	97.33	-	2	Work taken up.
45.	Construction of Kanpur Fly-over (30 km)	2017-18	2098	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
46.	Barabanki-Malhaur-3rd and 4th line (32 km)	2017-18	420.62	1	10	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47.	Mallhaur-Daliganj with electrification (12.62 km)	2017-18	113.42	-	5	Project sanctioned in February, 2018.
48.	Varanasi-Mughalsarai-3rd line (16.72 km)	2017-18	1248.88	0.2	1	Project has been included in the Budget subject
49.	Jaunpur Jn.-Janpur City-Chord line (2.2 km)	2017-18	86.32	0.6	2.1	Project sanctioned in March, 2018.
50.	Janghai-Phaphamau-doubling with electrification (46.79 km)	2017-18	409.38		2.1	Work sanctioned in March,18.
51.	4th line between Dholpur-Jhansi and Beena (321.80 km)	2018-19	4869.95	-	0.1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
52.	4th line between Mathura-Dholpur Junction (107 km)	2018-19	2945.75	-	0.1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
53.	Agra Fort-Bandikui (150.80 km)	2018-19	1388.81	-	0.1	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
54.	New Coaching Complex and Kanpur (2.50 km)	2018-19	34.28	-	0.1	Project has been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19.
55.	3rd line between Aligarh Jn. Daud Khan parallel to UP line and Construction of Fly over at Daudkhan connecting DN Loop line Daudkhan to common loopof New Daudkhan (DFC) (6.90 km)	2018-19	447.99	-	0.1	Project has been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19.
56.	3rd line between Ruma Chakeri-Chandari in connection with DFC (12.50 km)	2018-19	176.68	-	0.1	Project has been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19.
57.	4th line between Chipiyana-Buzurg to Dadri connecting Down loop of Maripal and holding line of Dadri in connection with DFC (12 km)	2018-19	128.68	-	0.1	Project has been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19
58.	4th line between Allahabad to Bumrauli flying over at Subedarganj and connecting to UP loop of Bumrauli (10 km)	2018-19	493.11	-	0.1	Project has been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19.
59.	Chord line between Dailwara-Berari (5.20 km)	2018-19	50.24	-	0.1	Project has been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19.
60.	Flyover at Bhandai for Etawah bound down trains (10 km)	2018-19	186.21	-	0.1	Project has been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
61.	Phaphamau to Unchahar <i>via</i> Kunda (185 km)	2018-19	1600	-	0.1	New work included in Budget 2018-19, subject to requisite approvals.
Madhya Pradesh						
New Lines						
1.	Indore-Budhni (Jabalpur) (342 km)	2016-17	3261.82	0.15	0.2	Indore-Budhni new line has been sanctioned in September, 2018 at a cost of Rs. 3261.82 crore.
2.	Indore-Manmadvia Malegaon (358 Km)	2016-17	8857.98	-	101	Project has been taken up under Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).
3.	Nimach-Badi Sadri (48 km)	2017-18	490.44	0.05	5	Project sanctioned in October, 2018.
4.	Chhota Udepur-Dhar (157 km)	2007-08	1341.26	542.4	210	Chhota Udepur-Motisadli (22 km) along with Chhotaudepur yard has been completed. Land acquisition has been taken up. Work taken up in available land.
5.	Dahod-Indore <i>via</i> Sardarpur, Jhabua & Dhar (200.97 km) Incl. MM for change in alignment <i>via</i> Amjhera (4.82 km).	2007-08	1640	448.42	120	Indore-Rau-Tihi (21 km) section has been commissioned. Land acquisition has been taken up. Work taken up in available land.
6.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli & Mahoba-Khajuraho (541 km), NCR-130Km and WCR-411 km	1997-98	6093	1603.89	315	Mahoba-Khajuraho (61.5 km) and Lalitpur-Khajuraho (165 km): Commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.
7.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal (262 km)	2000-01	2713	791.07	260	Ramganjmandi-Jhalawar City (26.50 km) section has been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.
8.	Ratlam-Dungarpur <i>via</i> Banswara (188.85 km)	2011-12	2562	177.79	6	The project was sanctioned and included in Railway Budget 2015-16 with the condition that Govt. of Rajasthan will share 50% of the cost of the project alongwith land free of cost. Accordingly, State Government was requested for funding 50% of the project cost and to provide land free of cost, which has not been agreed by Rajasthan Government.
Gauge Conversion						
1.	Chhindwara-Nagpur (149.86 km)	2005-06	1274	1143.42	71	Chhindwara-Bhandarkund (34 km) section has been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Chhindwara-Nainpur-Mandla Fort (182.25 km)	2010-11	1322	432.58	75	Nainpur-Chiraidongi (18 km) section has been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.
3.	Gwalior-Sheopurkalan with extension to Kota (284 km)	2010-11	4552	210.68	55	Land acquisition has been taken up. Work taken up in available land.
4.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangji (285 km)	1996-97	1777	1366.9	210	Gondia-Samnapur, Nainpur-Jabalpur and Balaghat-Katangji sections have been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.
5.	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola (472.64 km) with new MM Fatehabad Chandrawati Ganj-Ujjain (22.96 km).	2008-09	5124	806.64	502.55	Dewas-Ratlam-Indore-Rau-Mhow (147.70 km.) section has been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.
Doubling						
1.	Anuppur-Katni 3rd line (166 km)	2015-16	1370.94	183.75	175.04	Work taken up.
2.	Bilaspur (Pendra Road)-Anuppur 3rd line (50 km)	2015-16	393.98	203.28	50	Work taken up.
3.	Teegaon-Chichonda Ghat section 3rd line (17 km)	2015-16	175.66	51.82	35.25	Work taken up.
4.	Itarsi-Nagpur (Balance) 3rd line with Dharakho-Maramjhiri Ghat section 3rd line (280 km)	2015-16	2449.91	59.68	105	Land acquisition has been taken up. Work taken up where land acquisition completed.
5.	Jhansi-Bina 3rd line (153 km)	2015-16	2001.63	451.21	582	Work taken up.
6.	Katni-Bina 3rd line (279 km)	2015-16	2478.23	101.48	155	Work taken up.
7.	Katni Grade Separator Bypass line (22 km)	2015-16	582.13	195.10	75	Work taken up.
8.	Katni-Singrauli (261 km)	2015-16	1762.94	479.11	362	Work taken up.
9.	Mathura-Jhansi 3rd line (274 km)	2015-16	3677.76	250.71	201	Work taken up.
10.	Nimuch-Chittaurgarh (56 km)	2015-16	389.99	67.41	75	Work taken up.
11.	Ramna-Singrauli (160 km)	2015-16	2436.21	82.62	150	Work taken up.
12.	Satna-Rewa (50 km)	2015-16	403.49	70.10	75.10	Work taken up.
13.	Sontalai-Bagratawa patch doubling (7 km)	2015-16	96.44	36.56	35	Work taken up.
14.	Indore-Dewas-Ujjain (80 km)	2016-17	603.69	11.64	60	Work taken up.
15.	Jhansi-Khairar-Manickpur & Khairar Bhimsen (411 km)	2016-17	4187.00	5.55	100	Work taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Jukehi Chordline at Katni (1 km)	2016-17	12.45	0.90	5.42	Work taken up.
17.	Nagda-Ujjain Doubling of Gambhir Bridge (0.44 km)	2016-17	28.16	4.25	15	Work taken up.
18.	Powarkheda-Jujharpur single line flyover in up direction (12 km)	2016-17	247.03	153.97	10.10	Work taken up.
19.	Nimach-Ratlam (133 km)	2018-19	910.00	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
20.	Dholpur-Jhansi Bina 4th line (321.80 km)	2018-19	4869.95	-	-	Project has been included in the Budget subject to requisite approval.
21.	Barkhera-Habibganj 3rd line (41.42 km)	2012-13	326.97	186.34	50	Work taken up.
22.	Bhopal (Habibganj)-Bina 3rd line (143 km)	2008-09	1065	1122.81	20	Bina-Bhopal section has been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.
23.	Bina-Kota (282.66 Km) including material modification of Malkhedi-Mahadeo (8.7 km)	2011-12	1570.26	784.84	200.10	Work taken up.
24.	Budhni-Barkhera, 3rd line (33 km)	2010-11	991.60	22.51	100	Work taken up.
25.	Itarsi-Budhni 3rd line (25.09 km)	2012-13	277.50	197.06	50	Work taken up.
26.	Khodri-Anuppur (61.60 km)	2006-07	446.21	257.43	3	Pendra Road-Anuppur (50 km) section has been commissioned. Work taken up in balance section.

(d) Besides availability of funds, completion of projects depends on several factors such as land acquisition, statutory clearances, shifting of services, construction of road over and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, etc. Therefore, it is not possible to fix timelines for projects, consequently time and cost overrun of ongoing projects cannot be estimated.

(e) Various measures taken to expedite completion of projects include substantial increase in allocation of funds, prioritization of projects, delegation of powers at field level, inviting the State Governments to participate with Railways for resource mobilization for projects, nomination of nodal officers for improved co-ordination with the State Government, etc.

[English]

Upgradation of Rail Infrastructure in Kerala

1438. SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several new projects and upgradation of present infrastructure are being taken up in Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of new projects sanctioned and the estimated cost of the projects announced in Kerala during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Details

of ongoing New Line and Doubling projects taken up for upgradation of present infrastructure fully/partly in the State of Kerala including new projects sanctioned and anticipated cost

of the projects announced during the last three years (2015-16 to 2017-18) and the current year (2018-19) are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Year of sanction	Anticipated cost	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2018	Outlay 2018-19	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Line						
1.	Tirunavaya-Guruvayur (35 Km)	1995-96	477	35.83	10	Government of Kerala has approved alignment in 2009. However, Final Location Survey (FLS) for first 8 Km completed.
2.	Angamali-Sabrimala (111 Km)	1997-98	2815.62	220.74	64.90	On this project, work on Angamali-Kaladi section (7 Km) has been taken up where 0.68 hectare land is yet to be handed over by State Government. In view of considerable increase of project cost to Rs. 2815 crore, State Government has been requested to continue to share 50% cost of the project.
Doubling						
1.	Kuruppantara-Chingavanam (27 Km)	2007-08	457	313.5	56.50	Out of 17.15 hectare land required, land acquisition of 10.48 hectare has been done by State Government in June, 2018, although land requisition were submitted in August, 2007 and payment of Rs. 180.85 crore has also been made to the State Government. 6.67 Ha land is yet to be handed over by the State Government. Kuruppantara-Ettumanur (8 Km) has been expedited for commissioning during 2018-19. Balance portion is expected to be commissioned by March, 2020 subject to handing over of required land.
2.	Chingavanam-Chengannur (27 Km)	2006-07	436	339	17.90	Chengannur-Changanassery section (17 Km) commissioned. Balance 10 Km section is targeted for commissioning in December, 2018.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Ernakulam-Kumbalam (7.71 Km)	2010-11	189	5.34	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.
4.	Kumbalam-Thuravur (15.59 Km)	2011-12	253	6.9	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.
5.	Turavur-Ambalapuzha (50 Km)	2015-16	829	0.55	5.15	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.
6.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad (18.13 Km)	2007-08	289	188.16	10.5	Handing over of land completed on 25.02.2018. Works have been taken up. Targetted for commissioning by September, 2019.
7.	Thiruvananthapuram- Kanniyakumari (86.50 Km)	2015-16	1432	0.92	110	Land acquisition papers for Thiruvananthapuram-Parsala section submitted to State Government on 08.11.2016. Land is yet to be handed over by the State Government.
8.	Shoranur-Ernakulam (107 Km)	2018-19	1518	-	0.1	New project included in the Budget 2018-19 subject to requisite clearances. Preparation of Detailed Project Report taken up.

Cost Escalation

1439. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI P. K. KUNHALIKUTTY:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:
SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 216 Indian railway projects face cost overrun by 150 per cent;
(b) if so, the details of time and cost overruns of railway projects, zone-wise;
(c) whether any mechanism has been put in place

in the Railways for regular monitoring at various levels to avoid cost and time overruns;

(d) if so, the details thereof and its impact thereon; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite execution of railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) At present, 503 Railway projects including 183 New Lines, 57 Gauge Conversion and 263 Doubling Projects are in different stages of execution. The completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances etc. leading to time overrun and cost overrun. However, Railway is holding regular meetings with State Government and concerned Central Government officials on various issues for timely completion of the projects.

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 Rs. 1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Indian Fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy

1440. DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seventeen Indian fishermen were arrested on 31.10.2018 by the Sri Lankan Navy for fishing off Neduntheevu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether their boats were also impounded by the Sri Lankan Navy; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Seventeen Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu along with their three fishing vessels were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy on 29 October, 2018, off Delft Island

for crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line and fishing in Sri Lankan territorial waters. These fishermen were produced before the Kayts Magistrate Court on 01 November, 2018. Consulate General of India in Jaffna arranged for an Attorney to represent these fishermen before the Court. During the trial, the Judge declared the fishermen guilty and sentenced them to two years rigorous imprisonment for their unlawful entry into Sri Lanka and fishing in Sri Lankan territorial waters. However, their sentence was suspended for five years and they were released. In case these Indian fishermen re-enter the Sri Lankan waters and get arrested by Sri Lankan Navy once again, they would have to serve the sentence awarded to them. After their release, the High Commission of India in Colombo issued Emergency Certificates to these fishermen and they were repatriated to India by flight from Colombo to Madurai on 15 November, 2018.

(c) and (d) The three fishing vessels are currently detained at the Karainagar Naval Station of the Sri Lankan Navy, pending claim inquiry by the Kayts Magistrate Court, which has been fixed on 25 January, 2019. During the claim inquiry, the owners of these three fishing vessels have to appear in person before the Court to prove that these boats did not intentionally cross over to the Sri Lankan territorial waters. High Commission of India in Colombo is facilitating an attorney to represent the owners of these three fishing vessels in the Court during the enquiry.

Railway Emergency Response Team

1441. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average time taken by the Railway Emergency Response team to arrive at the rail accident site;

(b) whether such teams are equipped with sufficient tools and man power; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Railways are fully prepared to quickly access the accident site for conducting rescue and relief operations in co-ordination with other Government and non-Government organisations within the initial hours of the accident.

Railways have a network of 175 Accident Relief Trains (ARTs), 162 Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMVs) and 320 stationary Portable Medical Kit for Accidents (POMKAs) placed at identified locations, which cover the entire rail network of Indian Railways. These trains are provided with rescue equipment and trained man power. Immediately on receipt of information about an accident, involving or likely to involve injuries or deaths, ARMV is rushed to the site of the accident. Time required for the relief train to reach the accident spot depends upon the distance and fitness of the approach track. Many a times Railway doctors, paramedics and other officials reach the accident site by road depending upon accessibility of the site by road.

On receiving the information of the accident, not only the Railways' resources, but resources from other Government and non-Government organisations are also requisitioned as per the need. For this purpose, contact details of such non-Railway resources are kept at the Railway stations and Railway hospitals/primary health centres as well as in the divisional and headquarter control rooms of the Zonal Railways. On-board staff like Loco pilot, assistant Loco pilot, guard, travelling ticket examiner, escorting staff etc., are trained in first aid and disaster management. These on-board staff act as first responders, they carry out rescue and relief operations till the time ART/ARMV reaches accident site. Assistance is also sought from Civil Administration, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Armed Forces in case of major accidents.

Setting Up of Solar Plants on Vacant Land

1442. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the railways is planning to set up solar plants in its vacant land and along the tracks and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any public sector undertaking has been roped in to carry out this project and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has been able to receive NOCs from various State-Governments as it will have to share the infrastructure of the State Government and if so, the number of State Governments which have provided NOC; and

(d) the status of earlier target of 500 MW of solar power from roof-top installations on the Railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways (IR) is considering to set up solar plants on its vacant land and along the tracks. Preliminary work for identification of vacant land along the track and formalization of technical scheme is underway.

Apart from the above, IR has planned for setting of 50 MW solar plant at Bhilai through REMCL, a Joint Venture of RITES and Ministry of Railways for traction purpose.

(b) For setting up solar power plant on vacant railway land at Bhilai, REMCL has been roped in.

For setting up of solar power plants on vacant railway land, along the track, roping in Public Sector Undertakings is under consideration at present.

(c) State Governments would be approached for NOCs for banking of solar power during non-solar hours, as and when the need arises.

(d) Indian Railways has planned to set up 500 MW of Solar plants on Railway stations and Service buildings. Out of the above 500 MW capacity, total 64.63 MW has already been set up and rest is in various stages of commissioning/planning.

Elephants Killed in Rail Accidents

1443. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:
SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI:
SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wild life including elephants killed on the railway tracks during the last three years and the current year in the country, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Railways have conducted any inquiry in the matter;

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

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to check recurrence of such incidents on the Railway tracks in the country in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of wild life including elephants killed on the railway tracks year-wise and zone-wise during the last three years and the current year are as under:—

Railway	Year-wise details				Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018 (upto 30th November, 2018)	
East Central	1	0	0	0	1
East Coast	2	0	0	1	3
Northern	1	1	0	3	5
North Eastern	0	0	3	3	6
Northeast Frontier	9	9	10	9	37
Southern	0	4	0	0	4
South Central	0	5	1	1	7
South Eastern	0	5	1	7	13
South East Central	2	3	4	3	12
South Western	0	0	1	3	4
West Central	2	2	4	4	12
Western	2	0	1	0	3
Total	19	29	25	34	107

(b) to (d) In cases of death of wild life/elephants on railway tracks, Zonal Railways investigate the incidences and conduct inquiry wherever necessary. Based on the findings in investigation/enquiry, a number of preventive measures are taken by Zonal Railways in coordination with Ministry of Environment and Forest which include the following:

- (i) Imposition of speed restrictions in identified locations,
- (ii) Provision of signage board to warn loco pilots about identified elephant corridors,
- (iii) Sensitization of Train Crew and Station Masters on a regular basis,
- (iv) Need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within railway land,

- (v) Construction of underpasses and ramps for the movement of elephants at identified locations,
- (vi) Provision of fencing at isolated locations, and,
- (vi) Forest Department Staff deputed in Railway control offices to liaison with Railway and elephant trackers engaged by forest dept. for timely action by alerting station master and loco pilots.

[Translation]

Deaths at Unmanned Level Crossings

1444. SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people including women and children died in the accidents which occur while passing through the railway level crossings or the culverts on small rivers, drainages, etc. or while walking on the tracks in the absence of pedestrian way and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Railway proposes to formulate any effective scheme as early as possible to save the lives of the people in view of the above points and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The number of people died including women and children on Railway tracks due to Trespassing including the people died while passing through the railway level crossings or the culverts on small rivers, drainages etc. or while walking on the tracks in the absence of pedestrian way, during the years 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 over Indian Railways is as under:—

Year	Number of people including women & children died due to trespassing
2014	13145
2015	13093
2016	13129
2017	12661

(b) Railways have constituted an Interdepartmental 'Joint Committee' comprising officers of Safety, Security, Signal & Engineering departments across all Zonal Railways

to study the causes and suggest specific measures to minimise deaths due to untoward incidents including Trespassing. Accordingly, preventive and corrective measures are taken to improve and create infrastructure to minimise casualties.

Elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) has been top priority for Railways as level crossings are a safety hazard for both rail and road users more so for road users. It is submitted that all UMLCs on Broad Gauge (BG) have now been eliminated except 28 UMLCs which have also been planned to be eliminated by closure, merger, subway and manning at the earliest.

Besides, the following corrective measures are also being taken by the Railways to prevent deaths in untoward incidents on Railway track:-

- i. Regular announcements are made through Passenger Address System at Railway stations urging passengers to use Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) and to avoid crossing of railway tracks.
- ii. Various awareness campaigns are organized by Railways to sensitize passengers about the fatalities of crossing railway tracks, foot-board/ roof-top travelling, boarding/de-boarding running trains etc.
- iii. Regular drives are conducted against trespassing, travelling on foot-board, steps, roof top of trains, boarding/de-boarding running trains and the persons apprehended are prosecuted under the relevant provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.
- iv. Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed on locations vulnerable for trespassing.
- v. Erection of boundary wall/fencing at identified locations, vulnerable to trespass.
- vi. Warning sign boards are provided at conspicuous places for the awareness of passengers.
- vii. Unauthorized trespassing on Railway premises including the Railway track is a punishable offence under section 147 of the Railways Act, 1989. During the current year upto October, 2018 total 131770 persons have been prosecuted for trespassing over Indian Railways.

[English]

Religious Status to Lingayat Community

1445. SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from the Government of Telangana for granting separate/independent religion status to Lingayat community in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to consider the said proposal from the State of Telangana; and

(d) if so, the time by which the separate/independent religion status to the Lingayat community of the State is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) No, Madam. No request from the Government of Telangana for granting separate/independent religion status to Lingayat community in the State has been received in this Ministry.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

National Commission for Minorities

1446. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of complaints received by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has increased over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of complaints received during the last three years along with the reasons therefor, community-wise;

(c) the number of such cases which have been addressed during the said period; and

(d) the measures taken or being taken by the Government to redress the grievances of the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) There has been no

increase in complaints received in National Commission for Minorities (NCM) over the last 3 years. The community-wise details of complaints received and disposed off by NCM are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) On receipt of the complaints/grievances, NCM takes appropriate action as per provisions of NCM Act,

1992 and procedure adopted by the NCM. As mandated under Section 9 of the NCM Act, 1992, the Commission has been taking up cases regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of the minorities, as and when they are brought to the notice of NCM, with the authorities in the concerned State Governments/Central Government.

Statement

Community-wise complaints received in NCM

Year	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Parsi	Jain	Others	Total	Disposed Off
2015-16	1,437	144	122	33	12	50	176	1,974	1,960
2016-17	1,231	102	96	38	3	35	142	1,647	1,607
2017-18	1,128	100	83	22	3	48	114	1,498	1,384
2018-19 (Till 13.12.18)	952	106	114	35	2	50	83	1,342	253

Coal linkage

1447. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR:
SHRI R. DHUVANARAYANA:
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the corrective measures taken or been taken by the Government to rationalize coal linkage;

(b) whether CIL has facilitated Government-owned power plants and if so, the details thereof and the benefits therefrom; and

(c) the current cost of transportation of coal to the electricity plants, State-wise and plant-wise for the last 5 years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Rationalization of Coal Linkage: An Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) was constituted in June, 2014 to undertake a comprehensive review of existing sources of coal with a view to optimize transportation cost and materialization under the given technical constraints. The linkage rationalization for State/Central PSUs was implemented initially, based on IMTF recommendation and carried forward by Coal India Limited (CIL)/Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) based on coal availability and requests of public sector Power Plants. Policy for Linkage rationalization for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) has been issued on 15.05.2018.

(b) CIL has rationalized sources (subsidiary company-wise) based on the request of public sector power plants with a view to optimize the transportation cost and materialization taking into account coal availability and logistics. Overall coal movement of 61.08 Million Tonnes (MT) has been rationalized with annual potential savings of Rs. 3,651 crore.

(c) The cost of transportation of coal to the electricity plants is borne and maintained by the consumers.

[Translation]

RUB in Shamli

1448. SHRIMATI TABASSUM BEGUM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of underpasses constructed in Shamli and Saharanpur District on Delhi-Saharanpur *via* Shamli rail route;

(b) whether the faulty design of these underpasses lead to problems like water logging and traffic jam during monsoon; and

(c) if so, the measures likely to be taken by the Government to correct faulty design of said underpasses and to drain out rain water from these underpasses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 70 Nos.

subways have been completed and commissioned on Delhi-Saharanpur section *via* Shamli.

(b) Design of Under passes is not faulty but continuous heavy rain fall may disrupt the free movement of traffic.

(c) Remedial measures being taken by Railway are as follows:

- Additional drainage is provided from Subway to sump wells for speedy clearing of rain water.
- Provision of bores in sump wells for water harvesting system is being introduced.
- Covering of approaches is also being done so that no water may come in the Subways in rainy season.

[English]

National Aerospace Laboratories

1449. SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI GEORGE BAKER:

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

(a) the details of the number of National Aerospace Laboratories across the country, State/UT-wise including West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized by these laboratories during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise including West Bengal;

(c) the details of the target set and achievements made by these laboratories during the above-said period;

(d) whether the Government is planning to develop drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) by these laboratories;

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

(f) the details of the funds likely to be sanctioned for this purpose along with the details of the target likely to be set for this?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has a constituent laboratory namely, National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), is involved in Research & Development activities of the aerospace sector. The laboratory is located in Bengaluru, Karnataka. There are no extension centres or units of CSIR-NAL established in other States of the country including West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(b) The funds allocated and utilized by CSIR-NAL for the last three years and current year are given below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Funds Allocated/utilized
2015-16	232.710
2016-17	258.751
2017-18	318.455
2018-19*	283.082

*upto 30-11-2018

(c) CSIR-NAL's target as per its mandate is to develop aerospace technologies, pursue cutting edge science in the domain, design and build small, medium sized civil aircraft, and support national aerospace programmes. CSIR-NAL has been involved in all the major aerospace programs in the country, notably the Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas) of Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), the Satellite and Launch Vehicle Programs of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), and the Missile Programs of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The S&T contributions of CSIR-NAL in these strategic areas has helped the country in overcoming the technology-denial regimes at critical junctures. Additionally, it has helped to protect confidentiality of strategic data and enhance the nation's prestige in the international arena. A brief note on significant achievements for the last three years is provided at the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The details of activities in area of drones/Unmanned Air Vehicle being undertaken by CSIR-NAL is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) The details of funds sanctioned under different projects and the targets set in the area of Drones/Unmanned Air Vehicles is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

I. Significant S&T Achievements 2015-16

Integrated Global bus Avionics Processing System (IGAPS)

Integrated Global bus Avionics Processing System (IGAPS) is one of the most technologically challenging aircraft core computing platform ever designed within the country. The Integrated Global bus Avionics Processing System (IGAPS) with features like Avionics Full Duplex Ethernet, ARINC 653 compliance and wide bandwidth for communication has been successfully designed, developed and integrated for the first time in India at CSIR-NAL. It has been integrated with sophisticated real time Automated Test Station for simulation, debugging and application integration. Indigenized IGAPS can be used effectively across different types of aircraft like fighter, civil or Unmanned Air vehicles. The system is state of the art product with core technologies like ARINC 664, ARINC 818, ARINC 653 and VITA 46 backplane system. The indigenous cost is 70% lesser as compared to FE cost.

Micro Aerial Vehicle (MAV) Programme

CSIR-NAL is one of the lead agencies for Micro Aerial Vehicle (MAV) development in the country. Significant achievements in the current reporting period include; the consistency and reliability in the flight performance of 200 mm and 150 mm MAVs, successful flight of the 2.5 kg mini UAV under autonomous operation, aerial mapping of an ancient archaeological site under a joint program with National Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS) and the initial aerial survey of wild life at the Muthangya Forest (Wayanad District) in cooperation with the Kerala Forest Department. A few user demonstrations have been carried out jointly with Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) and promotional flight demos given to Chhattisgarh Police, CRPF (Dhantawade), NSG (Manesar) and Artillery Center (Deolali).

Towards achieving self-reliance in technologies for MAVs/UAVs, the laboratory has successfully completed

the design, development and implementation of a range of Miniature Digital Autopilots for MAVs achieving a minimum weight budget of 2.6 grams. Autopilot System (APV4.2) with weight of 4.2 grams (including onboard connectors) and dimensions of 30x28 mm has been successfully designed, developed, integrated and flight tested.

Nickel-Titanium (NiTi) Shape Memory Alloys (SMAs)

CSIR-NAL has made significant contributions in the area of special materials. The pseudo-elastic NiTi Shape Memory Alloy (SMA) wires in the diameter range 0.2-0.5 mm with properties suitable for biomedical applications have been developed and fabricated. The functional response of the NiTi wires for orthodontic application has been demonstrated successfully using a mouth simulator.

Development and characterization of PVDF film for surface pressure sensing

CSIR-NAL polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) sensors were designed, fabricated and tested for operational pressure range 0-5 bars. The performance was compared with a commercially available pressure sensor and the results were found to be in good agreement. Further, PVDF sensors were tested on NACA 4415 airfoil in wind tunnel and variation in output peak voltage was measured for wind speed in the range 0-20 m/s.

DRISHTI-Fast & Accurate Transmissometer

DRISHTI, an airport runway visibility assessor system developed by NAL is a fast and accurate transmissometer. Under the MoU with Indian Metrological Department the systems were installed and commissioned at New Delhi, Jaipur, Amritsar, Lucknow, Dehradun, Patna, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, and Guwahati airports. Soon other airports across the country would also be equipped with NAL's indigenously developed DRISHTI systems. Considering the success of DRISHTI, Tata Power Systems has placed firm order on NAL to procure and install Drishti systems (54 nos.) at IAF airfields. NAL has supplied 22 systems to eight Air Force Stations in a record time of three weeks in the month of March, 2016.

Contributions to LCA-Tejas Programme

During the year, three sets (7 parts/set) of Centre fuselage parts, one set of Fin & Rudder assembly and

two sets (10 parts/set) of MLG aft doors with Fairings for Tejas were delivered to the production group (HAL) for the Series Production (SP) aircraft. As a part of validating the LCA fuselage design, structural testing of fuselage F1A tank test box with individual CFC panel assemblies was tested up to 180% of design load at RT to meet the design and certification requirements. Further, Control laws of LCA-Tejas (Air Force Variant) were upgraded to include advance features like the Automatic Low Speed Recovery (ALSR). Following the success of the first SKI jump launch at Goa of the LCA-Naval variant, an advanced SKI jump Take Off mode (SJTO mode) was designed and included in the naval version of flight control laws.

Contributions to IAF's Mirage Up-Gradation Programme

CSIR-NAL has contributed significantly to the Mirage aircraft up-gradation programme of IAF. The significant contributions include: (a) studies on effect of the new stores on Mirage, Euler computations using Fluent and RANS computations using SU2 performed over Mirage aircraft with Crystal maze missile at transonic Mach numbers. Both solvers were also used for side slip studies on Mirage with Crystal maze missile.

Contributions to ISRO's RLV-TD programme

CSIR-NAL was proud to associate with the successful launch of ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD). Acoustic tests on the RLV-TD were carried out at the Acoustic Test Facility (ATF) of CSIR-NAL during April, 2016. These tests were primarily to assess the integrity of the vehicle under acoustic loads during the lift-off phase and during the flight through the denser portions of the atmosphere.

Weather Radomes-Installation of Radomes at Gopalpur, Odisha and Kochi, Kerala

As a part of a multi-organizational weather monitoring programme involving Indian Metrological Department, Department of Space, Bharat Electronics Ltd., and NAL, the CSMST team of CSIR-NAL has successfully completed the installation of DWR Mark II Radome at Gopalpur seashore, near Chandipur, Odisha in May, 2015 and at Kochi, Kerala in December, 2015. With the successful completion of these two installations, the DWR Mark II Radome indigenization program, that has a significant role in weather monitoring

activities of IMD, has successfully met the objectives and culminated with dissemination of the technology to industry.

II. S&T Achievements 2016-17

Development of Acoustic Based Hit Identification and Analysis System (ABHIAS)

CSIR-NAL has taken up the development of Acoustic Based Hit Identification and Analysis System (ABHIAS) for marksmanship training in the subsonic range. It is primarily aimed at the strategic market consisting of the Armed Forces-Army, Navy and Air Force, CRPF, CISF, NSG, BSF etc. Considering there are more than 2000 firing ranges across India requiring at least 8 systems per firing range, this indigenous system has good market potential. Apart from low maintenance cost this indigenous system is 60% of the cost of comparable imported system.

Certification of indigenous Carbon Fiber

During the year certification of airworthiness of indigenously developed standard modulus grade carbon fibre were tested for the certification by the Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC) under inspection coverage by the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA). The Ministry of Defence (MoD) will be taking up this technology for establishing 100 TPA carbon fibre plant through MIDHANI.

ADA's LCA-Tejas Programme

CSIR-NAL continued its support to the ADA's LCA-Tejas Programme and made contributions in the areas of design, fabrication and R&D of composite structures. During the year, three sets of fin and rudder assemblies were delivered from SP4 to SP6 aircraft. Four sets (10 parts/set) of MLG aft doors with fairings were delivered to SP4 to SP7 aircraft. Three out of seven centre fuselage parts were supplied to aircraft up to SP18. All parts of fin, rudder and 6 centre fuselage parts produced at TAML, Bengaluru under the QA coverage of NAL. Further the National Control Law team for LCA-Tejas led by CSIR-NAL completed the control law design modifications for Final Operation Clearance (FOC) of LCA-Mk1 aircraft and trainer variant. Air data algorithms were developed for AIR-to-AIR refuelling mode. LCA Navy successfully completed 12 *ski* jumps with the modified SKI jump take off mode. All variants were flown during Aero India 2017.

IAF's Mirage Aircraft Up-Gradation Programme

CSIR-NAL has contributed significantly to the Mirage aircraft up-gradation programme of IAF. The significant contributions include: (a) store separation suite consists of CFD mesh free solver developed to carry out weapon integration studies involving trajectory computations for about 96 configurations including single as well as multiple release of stores, (b) Finite element model of the aircraft having dynamic characteristics generated from 3-D CAD model which can be used for static stress and dynamic analysis of the aircraft with different store configuration, (c) aero-mechanical load analysis to compute the load envelopes and reactions, and (d) aeromechanical studies of new stores on the Mirage aircraft were carried out to provide data for stability and control (S&C) analysis in support of flight clearance.

Wind Solar Hybrid (WiSH) for societal benefit

The renewable energy initiative launched by CSIR-NAL along with its industrial partner M/s Aparna Renewable Energy Systems (ARES) has culminated in installing 1 kW WiSH at science and technology educational institutions in Bangalore. In addition, four units of 1 kW hybrid systems will be installed at the CSIR-IMMT campus at Bhubaneswar.

Hansa-Next Generation Aircraft

Studies related to design and production of New Generation Hansa (Hansa-NG) featuring an all glass cockpit were carried out during the reporting year. Hansa-3 successfully made its flight in the eleventh edition of Aero India 2017. Showcasing the static display of Hansa-NG glass cockpit was a major attraction. The event provided a significant platform in bolstering business opportunities in international aviation sector. One Hansa-3 aircraft was handed over to M/s Mesco Aerospace Limited. The firm has shown keen interest in licensed production and marketing of Hansa-NG aircraft.

DRISHTI

DRISHTI, an airport runway visibility assessor system developed by NAL has completed installation in ten international airports of India. All the systems have been validated and Class-1 certification have been issued. Further, supply of 54 Drishti systems to eighteen Indian

Air Force airfields through Tata Power SED completed successfully during the year. The Integrated Drishti Aviation Weather Monitoring System (D-AWMS) installed at IGI Airport, New Delhi went through rigorous validation and emerged as a successful product.

Mini UAV SUCHAN

CSIR-NAL has taken up project to translate the mini UAV 'SUCHAN' into a marketable product. In this project, successful efforts were made to increase the endurance of the vehicle and safety modes are included in the NAL autopilot. With wings made out of EPP foam and GFRP skin has reduced the weight of SUCHAN around 300-400 grams compared to Kevlar wings. With these modifications and high capacity, the vehicle could successfully fly more than 100 minutes. As part of the user interaction, SUCHAN UAV flight demonstrations were shown to Air Force officials of western command in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

GMR based gear tooth position sensor

A Giant Magnetoresistance (GMR) based gear tooth position sensor was successfully developed at CSIR-NAL. The developed speed sensor module (NAL GSTM-14xx) as per the System Required Specification (SRS) provided by TVS motor Limited, Tamil Nadu. NAL GSTM-14xx was certified by Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune and the vehicle test was covered more than 10000 km.

III. Significant S&T Achievements 2017-18

Multi Zone Hot Bonder for Composite Repairs

Two Non-Exclusive License Agreements for production, marketing and commercialization Multi Zone Hot Bonder were signed with MSME industries M/s SAN Process Automation, Bangalore and M/s Ajay Sensors, Bangalore during the year. Both are targeting the Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) of airline industries, base repair depots of IAF and wind farms. CSIR-NAL will provide the hand holding assistance for absorption of technology, dissemination, demonstration, manufacturing of product and associated prove outs for a period of one year in order to ensure smooth technology transfer to the MSME industries.

ADA's LCA-Tejas Programme

CSIR-NAL continued its support to the ADA's LCA-Tejas Programme. Advanced Composites Division (ACD)-

NAL continued to make contributions in the areas of design, fabrication and R&D of composite structures. For Series Production programme of LCA, four sets of Fin and Rudder assembly from SP 7 to SP 10 aircraft, seven sets of Trouser duct and Circular duct top parts were realized from the production partner Tata Advanced Materials Ltd., (TAML). Three out of seven Centre fuselage parts were supplied for aircraft up to SP 20 by TAML. Eight sets (10 parts/set) of MLG forward doors with fairings from SP9 to SP16, ten sets (10 parts/set) of MLG aft doors with fairings from SP8 to SP16 were delivered by NAL. All parts of fin, rudder and six Centre fuselage parts are being produced at TAML under the Quality Assurance coverage of CSIR-NAL. Further, all three variants of the LCA Tejas aircraft underwent safe envelope expansion to meet the objectives of the final operating clearance under the leadership of National Control Law team for LCA-Tejas led by CSIR-NAL. The LCA Tejas simulation activities were supported with the Engineer in Loop Simulator (ELS). The simulator was augmented with wake models for the LCA as well as Sukhoi aircraft. The Structural Technologies Division at NAL has contributed to LCA related to static aeroelastic load computation for LCA Mk-1 composite fin, bird- strike analysis on windshield and frame assembly, static structural strength testing of LCA F1A fuel tank, static strength test of fixed air to air refueling probe receiving structure for LCA Mk-1 aircraft, and damage tolerance evaluation of LCA wing root fitting box under variable amplitude loads.

Desktop Autoclave

Under the FTT project, the desktop autoclave was developed to meet the expectations of academia and research institutions in establishing an affordable, low energy consuming, aerospace grade autoclave. With a working volume of 450mm diameter and 500mm length, operating conditions of 200°C temperature and 7 bar pressure and an intuitive control system, the user can develop small size aerospace grade composites. The desktop autoclave was successfully commissioned and number of cure trials were carried out. Non-Exclusive License Agreement for production and marketing of Desktop Autoclave was signed with M/s. Milvus Aero Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru and M/s. Datasol India Pvt., Ltd. First order from IIT Madras has been received and few more orders are expected. The development of microwave hybrid autoclave development is in progress.

Airboat for Cleaning Lakes

The once-ubiquitous Maruti 800 may have lived out its life, but its engine has found a new host and is doing pretty well. The first-of-its-kind airboat, developed in India by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), which was built to clear out weeds from Ulsoor Lake, has successfully undergone trials.

SARAS PT1N-First Flight

The new upgraded version of SARAS, the indigenous transport aircraft developed by NAL, "successfully" made its maiden flight on 24th January, 2018 in Bengaluru. Continued with the success of first flight, SARAS was successfully test flown for the second time on 21st February, 2018. Dr. Harsh Vardhan Hon'ble Union Minister for S&T, and VP CSIR along with DG, CSIR witnessed the second flight and highly appreciative of effort put in by the entire team of NAL, ASTE, DGAQA, CEMILAC and HAL in reviving the project after nearly nine years. Around 10 to 15 more flights will take place in the next year before the design for improved version of Saras (Mk2) is finalized.

DRISHTI

DRISHTI, has completed the land mark supply of 101 systems (47 systems to Civilian and 54 systems to Defence Airports). It was a notable achievement that Kempegowda International Airport, Bangalore gets a taste of Prime Minister's Make in India with NAL's Drishti during the year. Following this success, the Airport Weather Monitoring System (AWMS) developed by the laboratory has been installed at Mangalore International Airport in June, 2017. This airport is the first airport in the country to have indigenously developed AWMS. The system measures Wind Speed, Wind Direction, Humidity, Pressure, Temperature and Dew Point along with Visibility.

SUCHAN UAV

NAL's autopilot and Ground Control Station were integrated using NAL-UAV communication protocol. Currently, NAL mini UAV-SUCHAN flies with NAL autopilot and NAL Ground Control Station. SUCHAN UAVs endurance is increased to 90 minutes from 60 minutes by modifying wing span and incidence angle. The UAV is configured for two major applications. While surveillance is the primary objective of the project, however based on request from the

users, the UAV is also configured for geo-spatial mapping applications. In collaboration with CSIR-CIMFR, one case study of geo-spatial mapping of coal mining fields (opencast coal mine in Sonepur BAZAR Area in Budwan District, West Bengal) during 19-20 December, 2017 was carried out with SUCHAN. The geo-tagged images taken from UAV were further processed offline to create orthomosaic and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) models of the coal mining area.

IP Core 818

CSIR-NAL has taken-up design, development and certification of FPGA based IP core 818 as a part of the international standard RTCA DO-254 for avionics video and data widely used in Civil and Defence advanced display systems. CEMILAC has taken good initiative to start the DO 254 process for FPGA based IP core to establish the process, guidelines and complete framework to certify the IP cores in the country. This is being used for design studies, evaluation of cockpit ergonomics and interface studies for mechanical as well as electrical interfaces.

NiTi Shape Memory Alloys (SMAs)

CSIR-NAL has signed an agreement with M/s Mishra Dhatu Nigam (MIDHANI) Limited, Hyderabad on Transfer of Technology (ToT) for commercial production of engineering and biomedical grades of SMAs. The ToT to MIDHANI for production of engineering products such as rods, plates, wires and strips has been completed and the products are now commercially sold by MIDHANI. During the last one year, CSIR-NAL and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) have worked together in unison and finalized the design and fabrication scheme for NiTi SMA stent grafts. The first prototype stent graft has already been fabricated and the same is being subjected to functional and biological tests at SCTIMST. Concurrently, SCTIMST has also taken up biocompatibility and toxicology studies on the SE NiTi SMA developed at CSIR-NAL.

Chromic Acid-free Anodization process

Sealed oxide layers developed on AA 2024 by Tartaric Sulphuric Acid (TSA) anodization have exhibited excellent corrosion resistance for more than 12 months of outdoor exposure at Mandapam Camp, Rameswaram, TN. The Chromic acid-free anodization process for airworthiness

has been certified by RCMA, CEMILAC and CSIR-NAL in talks with HAL and other vendors of aerospace/aircraft industries for licensing of the technology.

Statement-II

Details of activities undertaken by CSIR-NAL in the area of drones or unmanned Air Vehicle

One of the thrust areas of the CSIR-NAL is development of Micro Air Vehicles and Unmanned Aerial vehicles for strategic and civil applications. CSIR-NAL has already developed the 2m wing span mini UAV which will be used for (1) Surveillance application and (2) Geospatial mapping applications. Currently CSIR-NAL is looking for the partner to transfer the technology for mass production to meet the requirements of the country for the above applications. Currently, CSIR-NAL is involved in the following projects:

1. VTOL winged UAV for Multi-Mission Applications (VTOL-UAV):

Medium sized Separate Lift Thrust (SLT) vehicle VTOL UAV (AUW: 10 kg) upto 2 kg payload will find applications in health care service, smart city patrolling, railways, strategic, agricultural, forest dept., societal missions etc.;

2. UAV based high resolution remote sensing for modernized and efficient cultivation practices of commercially important medicinal and aromatic crops. (Acronym: DroneAgri);

Development of standardized protocols for UAV based remote sensing and geospatial mapping is important for Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (MAPs) crops. The UAVs will be equipped with multispectral cameras to survey the region and produce high resolution geo-tagged aerial images. These multiband images will be processed further to produce high definition vegetation maps which will monitor the health and improve in productivity of plants

3. DRone based Electromagnetic and Magnetic system (DREAM)

Indigenous design and development of DRone based Electromagnetic and Magnetic system (DREAM) for geophysical exploration, with under-slung Transmitter & Receiver assembly and on board Transmitter current source, data acquisition system with GPS navigation.

Statement-III

The ongoing projects for development of UAVs are funded by CSIR-Hq under Fast Track Translation Project (FTT-VTOL), Focused Based Research Project (FBR-DroneAgri) Mission Mode Project (MMP-DREAM) categories of the project. The funding to CSIR-NAL is as below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Title of the project	2018-19	2019-20	Grand Total
1.	VTOL winged UAV for Multi-Mission Applications (VTOL-UAV)	166.60	83.00	249.60
2.	UAV based high resolution remote sensing for modernized and efficient cultivation practices of commercially important medicinal and aromatic crops (Acronym: Drone Agri): NAL component	58.00	90.00	148.00
3.	DRone based Electro magnetic and Magnetic system (DREAM): NAL component	511.20	132.20	643.40
Grand Total		735.80	305.20	1041.00

Targets/Deliverables:**Project Title: VTOL winged UAV for Multi-Mission Applications (VTOL-UAV)**

- SLT-VTOL Design and System Configuration
- UAV structure
- Aerodynamic and aeroelastic testing/analysis
- Obstacle avoidance and smart mission planning software
- VTOL UAV with all integrated subsystems
- Flight Testing of SLT-VTOL UAV

Project Title: UAV based high resolution remote sensing for modernized and efficient cultivation practices of commercially important medicinal and aromatic crops. (Acronym: DroneAgri)**CSIR-NAL targets:**

- Field experiments and Air borne Image acquisition
- High resolution geo-tagged aerial images
- Band ratio and vegetation indices (e.g. NDVI, Red Edge, etc.) maps
- Maps on species under cultivation
- Crop canopy density map
- Canopy stress/health map
- Thermal emissivity map
- Protocols for non-destructive and quick assessment of crop growth, crop stress and biochemical parameters

DRone based Electromagnetic And Magnetic system (DREAM) CSIR-NAL targets:

- Fabrication of Tx & Rx Loop
- Stability Analysis of Slung Load
- Integration of Payload
- Flight Operations

All India Bar Council

1450. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the existing guidelines to admit/register advocates as a member in the All India Bar Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of advocates who were registered as a members in the All India Bar Council in the last three years; State-wise; and

(d) the minimum qualifications required/prescribed to register as a member in the All India Bar Council?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is placed in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The minimum qualifications required/prescribed for registration on a State roll are governed by Section 24 of the Advocates Act, 1961.

Statement

State-wise in number of advocates registered as members in All India Bar Council in last three years

Name of State	2016	2017	2018	Total
Assam	1300	1369	1450	4119
Andhra Pradesh	3118	3357	3846	10321
Bihar	1931	1843	2023	5797
Chhattisgarh	460	570	750	1780
Delhi	5130	7807	9027	21964
Gujarat	3777	3306	4862	11945
Himachal Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jharkhand	676	728	839	2243
Karnataka	2310	2657	2925	7892
Kerala	1357	1107	1732	4196
Madhya Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maharashtra and Goa	3118	3357	3846	10321
Odisha	1085	834	1560	3479
Punjab and Haryana	4427	5159	6315	15901
Rajasthan	2880	3573	3847	10300
Tamil Nadu	3659	3685	4669	12013
Uttar Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	NA
Uttarakhand	796	729	953	2478
West Bengal	2049	2083	2900	7032
Jammu and Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tripura	40	23	50	113

Name of State	2016	2017	2018	Total
Manipur	NA	NA	NA	NA
Meghalaya	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	38113	42187	51594	131894

[Translation]

Shortage of Fighter Aircrafts

1451. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:
SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL:
DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Fighter Aircrafts and Light Combat Aircrafts (LCAs) in the Indian Air Force;

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

(c) whether such shortage of Fighter Aircrafts including LCA has an adverse impact on National Security;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make up the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) The modernization of the Armed Forces is an on-going process and is executed in consonance with the roadmap laid down in the Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) and considering the current capabilities of the Armed Forces, the emerging threats in the region and the prevailing technological environment. In this regard, Government is constantly reviewing the security environment and is taking steps to ensure that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is fully equipped to meet the security challenges.

The issue of drawdown in the strength of the fighter squadron in the IAF is being given due emphasis. To meet the requirement of fighter aircraft of IAF, induction of the balance Su-30 MKI aircraft from HAL will be completed by 2020. Induction of LCA into the IAF has commenced and till date, ten LCA aircraft have been inducted. Induction of Rafale aircraft will commence from September, 2019. The RFP for procurement of 83 LCA Mk 1A has been issued in December, 2017 to HAL.

*[English]***Demand and Supply of Coking Coal**

1452. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire demand of Coking Coal is not met indigenously as the supply of high quality coal/ coking coal (LOW-ASH-COAL) in the country is limited and whether India is expected to become the largest coal importer through sea route by 2022;

(b) if so, the quantity of Coking Coal imported into the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) the impact of the cost of coking coal on the steel producers;

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to improve the supply of coking coal in the country;

(e) the number of Coking Coal Washeries in the country, including their capacity and number of Washeries CIL proposes to construct by the year 2020; and

(f) the steps taken for rationalizing the procurement procedure for Coking Coal, acquisition of Coking Coal mines abroad and optimizing the use of Coking Coal by the steel companies?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The entire demand of coking coal is not met indigenously as the supply of high quality coal/ coking coal (low-ash-coal) in the country is limited and thus no option is left but to resort to import of coking coal. As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. Further, CIL has a plan to augment supply of Coking Coal through washed coking coal. The imported quantity of 2017-18 at 208.27 MT is less than the imported quantity of 2014-15 which stood at 217.78 MT even as power generation and industrial activity grew substantially after 2014-15. There has been a consistent effort to increase

domestic coal production so as to reduce dependence on coal imports. The all India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 676.48 MT in 2017-18. Absolute increase in all India coal production from 2013-14 to 2017-18 (four years) is 110.71 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 33.73 MT from 2009-10 to 2013-14 (four years).

Coal India Limited (CIL) has also increased its production from 462.41 MT in 2013-14 to 567.36 MT in 2017-18 (four years), an absolute increase of 105 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 31.15 MT between 2009-10 and 2013-14 (four years).

Further, in the current year during April-November, 2018, all India coal production was 433.90 MT with a growth rate of 9.8% and coal production of CIL was 358.32 MT with a growth rate of 8.8% over the corresponding period of previous year.

The focus of the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal which includes efforts to expedite Environment & Forest clearances, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

However, coking coal will continue to be imported as there is limited availability of coking coal in the country. Further, power plants designed on imported coal will also continue to import coal.

Hence, it cannot be assumed that India will become the largest coal importer through sea route by 2022.

(b) The quantity of coking coal imported during the last three years and current year 2018-19 is given below:—

Import of Coal-Mte	
Year	Coking Coal
2014-15	43.71
2015-16	44.56
2016-17	41.64
2017-18 (P)	47.00
2018-19 upto Sept, 18	25.94

(c) An increase in cost of coking coal will increase the cost of production of steel.

(d) CIL is continuously searching for coking coal assets coming up for sale in the global market and identifying suitable assets for acquisition. Further, CIL proposes to construct 8 more coking coal washeries by 2020 having a total capacity of 26.5 Mty.

(e) The number of coking coal washeries being run in CIL is 12, with a total capacity of 22.18 Mty (Old Washeries-20.58 Mty & New Washery 1.6 Mty) and 04 being run by Private Sector with a capacity of 7.70 Mty. CIL proposes to construct 8 more coking coal washeries by 2020 having a total capacity of 26.5 Mty.

(f) Procurement of raw materials like coking coal is entirely done by individual Steel companies taking into account their installed capacity, requirement of the raw materials, commercial consideration and market dynamics. India is deficient in techno-commercially extractable coking coal reserves. The import dependence of Indian Steel sector on coking coal will continue in foreseeable future. At present, majority of coking coal is imported to India from Australia, followed by Canada and USA in terms of quantum of import. In view of this scenario, CIL has taken initiatives to acquire coking coal assets abroad, with particular focus in Australia and Canada, with a view to import the produces to India and enhance raw material security of the country. Certain assets have been identified which are under different stages of due diligence.

[Translation]

Use of Demographic Data

1453. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to permit the use of demographic data and the Aadhaar number of parents to generate Aadhaar number of children below five years;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (c) Regulation 5 of Aadhaar (Enrolment & Update) Regulations, 2016 prescribes process for enrolment of children of age below 5 years. The relevant regulation is available on page 12 of the link: https://uidai.gov.in/images/regulation_1_to_5_15092016.pdf. In the process, either of the parent or guardian is biometrically authenticated.

As on date Aadhaar has been issued to over 6.71 crores children of age less than 5 years against projected child population of 12.47 crores.

Although, a target of enrolment is being pursued, enrolment for Aadhaar is voluntary and is an on-going process.

First Aid Box in Trains

1454. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the First Aid facilities including improved First Aid Box are available with the long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether Railway employees are trained to provide first aid to the sick/injured passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the pilot project for providing life saving drugs as well as doctors and para-medical staff in the Duronto and Rajdhani trains has been successful;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Railways to ensure timely medical assistance/first aid to the needy passengers during the journey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 3224 of 2006 had directed that a Committee of experts be constituted at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi for recommending the medical facility in trains and at stations for rendering emergency medical care to passengers. All the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented in Railways. Front-line staff deployed on trains and at railway stations have been trained in rendering First Aid. They are also deputed for regular refresher courses.

(d) and (e) No, Madam. A pilot project of deployment of doctors in Duronto Trains was undertaken for a period of two years. During the Pilot Project, it was noted that serious patients could not be treated on board and had to be de-trained for medical treatment at a hospital only because the medical diagnostic equipments, such as ECG machines etc. do not function properly on the trains due to noise/vibration.

(f) All the recommendations of the expert Committee constituted by AIIMS, New Delhi have been implemented which includes modified First Aid Boxes containing wide range of life saving medicines and materials required for rendering First Aid, provision of oxygen and training of front-line staff in rendering First Aid.

[English]

Loss in Telecom Sector

1455. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the telecom sector is likely to experience three more quarters of losses, hurt by high levies and unsustainable tariffs; and

(b) whether it is also true that 2018-19 will certainly be a tough year in terms of financial performance of the industry, stating that the high incidence of levels like license fee and spectrum usage charges, compounded by upfront payment for radiowaves have added to the operators woes and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) As per IMG Report on Stressed Assets dated 31.08.2017, the Telecom sector has been witness to a fast pace of technology innovation and new entrants have ushered in competition and new paradigms. The increased competition in the sector and the entry of a new operator led to free promotional offers leading to a downward trend of tariffs and consequent decline in revenues. IMG was informed that a shakeout is happening with weaker players looking to sell, merge or even shut down. After witnessing rapid growth and expansion, the telecom sector in India is

now in the midst of consolidation. The competitive context of the industry has led to

- Accumulation of debt
- Decline in EBIDTA
- Requirement of periodic infusion of additional equity.

The IMG noted that the financial stress for some has been caused because of

- Low operating cash flows over a number of years
- Inadequate equity infusion and
- Debt which does not appear sustainable.

There are pockets of financial stress in the sector. However each TSP has varying levels of debt exposure, different capital structure, varying cash flows and hence varying levels of repayment capacity. Hence, as per IMG Report, the entire sector cannot be said to be in financial stress.

In view of this, the primary solutions to the current problems in the sector will come internally from the TSPs and they remain liable to service the debt taken by them. Any proposed Government intervention needs to be carefully calibrated to ensure that the short term pain points are somewhat eased giving the sector time to rework its investment and business strategy.

Further, TSPs have ushered in bundled voice and data integrated plans and price cuts have ranged between 67%-45% for data recharge. This has also resulted in an exponential growth in data traffic. 4G rollout has quickened pace and internet penetration is likely to pick up speed. Presently, this has not translated into revenue accruals to TSPs or Government.

The following table shows the quarterly Gross Revenue of Major TSPs for the FY 2016-17 and 2017-18:—

(In Rs crores)				
Gross Revenue	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016-17	62627.51	59785.82	55303.43	52126.49
2017-18	53906.43	57260.27	52408.04	53209.44

[Translation]

Doubling of Jhansi-Manikpur Rail Line

1456. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the formalities completed so far regarding the proposed doubling of Jhansi to Manikpur and Khairad to Bhimsen rail line;

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be started on the said project; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The work of Doubling of Jhansi-Manikpur and Khairad-Bhimsen (Kanpur) 411 km & Chord line at Mahoba and Khairad (14 km) was included in Budget 2016-17 subject to requisite clearances. Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared at an estimated cost of 4329.54 crore with ROR of 5.34%. After requisite approvals, Project has been sanctioned on 01.03.2018.

(b) Tenders for Barwasagar-Mauranipur (42.38 km) and Harpalpur-Mahoba (52.84 km), total 95.22 km section are under finalization.

(c) There has been no delay in this regard.

[English]

Separate Time Zones

1457. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been demands from North-Eastern States for having a separate time zone since the sun rises at 4.00 am in the North-East and sets at 4.00 pm and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether National Physical Laboratory has also recommended to have two separate time zones in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware that in the absence of a second time zone, there is a huge consumption of electricity, reduced productivity in factories, etc. and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) whether the Government has formulated any methodology for having two time zones when smaller countries like France has 12 time zones, Britain has 9 time zones 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 have been requests from certain sections in the North Eastern States for a separate time zone on the ground that the sunrise and sunset in that part are much earlier than the official working hours.

(b) and (c) National Physical Laboratory (NPL), published certain reports in science journals on this issue, *inter alia*, referring to saving of electricity, etc. The matter was examined by a High Level Committee (HLC) comprising Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Director, CSIR-NPL and Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura. The HLC after considering the issue recommended not to have two time zones for India for strategic reasons.

(d) No, Madam.

Recruitment of Handicapped and Blind Persons

1458. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government in consultation with the State Governments is going to launch a special recruitment programme for handicapped and blind persons in Government, Semi Government, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and PSU Banks as a large number of such posts are lying vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of posts that are lying vacant and the action taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts, State-wise; and

(d) the time that would be taken to complete such recruitment?

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

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to launch a Special Recruitment Drive for filling up the vacancies for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

By virtue of Entry 9 and 41 of State List of the Constitution of India, the respective States are required to implement the provisions relating to reservation for PWDs in their establishments.

(c) and (d) As per data obtained from various Central Government Ministries/Departments which also include vacancies in Central Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalised Banks and Financial Institutions etc., there were more than 15000 vacancies identified in the year 2015 for PWDs. These, *inter alia*, included backlog vacancies carried forward from earlier years. Till date, total of 14231 vacancies of PWDs have been filled up. Department of Personnel & Training regularly reviews the position with the Departments/Ministries for expeditious action to fill up the vacancies.

Construction of ROB'S in Chhattisgarh

1459. SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Station-wise pending proposals for construction of under bridges and over bridges in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the present status of the said proposals; and

(c) the time period fixed for completing their construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The proposals for construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) in lieu of level crossings are normally received from State Government.

After completing various formalities regarding the consents for sharing of cost and closure of level crossings from State Government, proposals received for construction of ROBs/RUBs in lieu of level crossings are further processed for their inclusion in Railway Works Programme.

Station-wise data is not maintained. However, as per Pink Book 2018-19, work for construction of 19 Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and 69 Road Under Bridges (RUBs) have been sanctioned in the State of Chhattisgarh. Out of 19 ROBs, 4 ROBs have been fully completed and Railway portion of 1 ROB has been completed. Out of 69 RUBs, 18 RUBs have been completed.

All these proposals were cleared during this period and no such valid proposals are pending for clearance.

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

Defence Land for Secretariat Complex and Highways

1460. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from Telangana State Government for giving No Objection Certificate (NOC) for constructing secretariat complex at the bison polo grounds which is defence lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has agreed to give defence land to facilitate the expansion of Medchal highway and the Karimnagar Rajiv Rahadari; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana requesting for transfer of defence

land comprising Bison Polo Ground, Gymkhana Ground and other defence lands at Secunderabad Cantonment for construction of a new Secretariat building of Telangana and certain roads.

(c) and (d) An 'In Principle' approval of the Ministry of Defence was conveyed to the Government of Telangana in respect of transfer of 61.032 acres of defence land in Bison (Polo) Ground and Gymkhana Ground and 90.694 acres of defence land for developing National Highway-44 (Medchal Highway) and State Highway-1 (Rajiv Rahadari) under SRDP project. However, the land in Bison (Polo) Ground and Gymkhana Ground, is currently under adjudication in the High Court of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Construction of Koderma-Ranchi Rail Line

1461. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the under construction Koderma-Ranchi rail line *via* Hazaribagh is facing unnecessary delays;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the time schedule for its completion; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the pace of construction of the said rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The Koderma-Hazaribagh-Barkakana-Ranchi New Line Project has been taken up in 1998-99 on cost sharing basis with the State Government of Jharkhand as per Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the two parties. However, execution of this project has suffered mainly due to delay in acquisition of encumbrance-free land from State Government, forestry clearance, local demand for additional accommodation works like Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges and law & order problem.

At present the project is progressing steadily as indicated below:—

- (i) Koderma-Hazaribagh (80 Km) section: completed and commissioned.
- (ii) Hazaribagh-Barkakana (57 Km) section: completed and commissioned.

(iii) Barkakana-Ranchi (63 km) section: Barkakana-Sidhwar (7 Km) and Shanki-Tantisilwai (31 Km) sections have been completed and commissioned. Works have been taken up on balance Sidhwar-Shanki (26 Km) and Arigada-Barkakana (2 Km) sections, after land acquisition by State Govt.

This project is targeted for completion by March, 2020. To fast-track the completion of this project, fund allocation of Rs. 150 crore has been made in 2018-19.

Power Generated by NPCIL

1462. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power in MW being generated by NPCIL at present along with the nuclear power plant-wise details thereof;

(b) whether there has been any rise in power generation by NPCIL during the last three years;

(c) if so, the quantum of increase in power generation and the location where such increase has taken place; and

(d) the number of the nuclear power plants sanctioned by the Government for being set up along with the number of the nuclear power plants proposed to be set up?

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 present installed nuclear power capacity in the country comprises of 22 reactors with an installed capacity of 6780 MW. Of these, at present three reactors are under shutdown Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS)-1 (100 MW) under extended shutdown for techno-economic

assessment, Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)-1 (220 MW) for Renovation & Modernisation and Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS)-1 (220 MW) for Endshield works and 19 reactors with a capacity of 6240 MW are in operation. The plant-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) A capacity of 1000 MW was added in March, 2017 at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu, with the start of commercial operation on Unit-2 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP-2).

(d) The Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for setting up 12 more reactors with a capacity of 9000 MW. The details are:—

Location & State	Project	Capacity (MW)
Chutka, Madhya Pradesh	Chutka-1&2	2 X 700
Kaiga, Karnataka	Kaiga-5&6	2 X 700
Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara-1&2	2 X 700
Gorakhpur, Haryana	GHAVP-3&4	2 X 700
Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara-3&4	2 X 700
Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu	KKNPP 5&6	2 X 1000

On progressive completion of the projects under construction and accorded sanction, the installed nuclear power capacity will reach 22480 MW by 2031.

The Government has also accorded 'in principle' approval of the following sites for setting up nuclear power plants in future:—

Location & State	Site	Capacity (MW)
Jaitapur, Maharashtra	Jaitapur, Units-1 to 6	6 x 1650
Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh	Kovvada, Units-1 to 6	6 x 1208
Chhaya Mithi Viridi, Gujarat	Chhaya Mithi Viridi, Units-1 to 6	6 x 1000*
Haripur, West Bengal	Haripur, Units-1 to 6	6 x 1000*
Bhimpur, Madhya Pradesh	Bhimpur, Units-1 to 4	4 X 700

*Nominal Capacity

Statement

Plant-wise details

Unit	State	Location	Type of Reactor	Capacity (MW)
TAPS-1	Maharashtra	Tarapur	LWR	160
TAPS-2			(BWR)	160
TAPS-3			PHWR	540
TAPS-4				540
RAPS-1*	Rajasthan	Rawatbhata		100
RAPS-2				200
RAPS-3				220
RAPS-4				220
RAPS-5				220
RAPS-6				220
NAPS-1	Uttar Pradesh	Narora		220
NAPS-2				220
KAPS-1#	Gujarat	Kakrapar		220
KAPS-2				220
KGS-1	Karnataka	Kaiga		220
KGS-2				220
KGS-3				220
KGS-4				220
MAPS-1@	Tamil Nadu	Kalpakkam		220
MAPS-2				220
KKNPP-1		Kudankulam	LWR (VVER)	1000
KKNPP-2				1000

* RAPS-1 is under extended shutdown for techno-economic assessment for continued operation.

KAPS-1 is under Renovation & Modernisation from August 01, 2016.

@ MAPS-1 is under shutdown for Endshield works from April 01, 2018

[English]

Integrated Legal Division

1463. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA
KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has planned an Integrated Legal Division (ILD) with the aim of reducing litigation and providing competent legal advice to stem huge losses to the exchequer and if so the details thereof;

(b) whether such move will reduce the number of pending cases and if so the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government can provide the timeline for the Cabinet deliberation and release of final proposal; and

(d) whether the Government would clarify if such a mechanism is intended to be established at the State level?

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) Integrated Legal Divisions (ILD). As part of the proposed ILD Scheme, appropriate Officers will be deployed in Ministries/Departments and clusters thereof, to facilitate the Ministries/Departments on the issues which are generally referred by them to the Ministry of Law & Justice for legal opinion, vetting etc. The objective of the proposal is to manage Government litigation by providing appropriate and timely legal advice. The proposal is under consideration of the Government and may be put in place at the earliest after necessary approvals are obtained. The mechanism is intended for the Central Government Ministries/Departments only.

Indigenous Defence Production

1464. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of defence equipment developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and other Indian institutions during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the total defence exports that are indigenously produced during the said period; and

(c) the policies/schemes undertaken to encourage indigenous development of defence equipment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The following projects have been completed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) during the last three years which finds merit for indigenous production through various partner agencies: 46m inflatable random, medium size integrated aerostat surveillance system (NAKSHATRA), heavy drop system-16T, enhanced range rocket (PINAKA Mk-II), sub-munition warheads for PINAKA, 250 kg pre-fragmented bomb, air bursting grenades for individual weapons, Penetration-Cum-Blast (PCB) and Thermo-Baric (TB) ammunition for 120 mm Arjun tank, Multi Calibre Individual Weapon System (MCIWS), minefield marking equipment Mk-II, CBRNe Remotely Operated Platforms (CBRNeP), bar mine layer, mountain foot bridge, water mist system validation for fire protection in naval ships, electro-optical fire control system for naval ships, commander's non-panoramic TI sight for AFVs (T-90, T-72 & BMP-II), Medium Power Radar (MPR) for IAF, anti-torpedo decoy system (MAAREECH), high speed heavy weight ship launched torpedo (VARUNASTRA), Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM) etc.

(b) Defence research in India is primarily focused on Research & Development (R&D) for Indian Tri-services only. Export can be planned only after meeting the requirement of our Armed Forces. However, a few products have been given to our friendly nations to meet their urgent requirement.

India, however, has saved a lot on foreign exchange by indigenous development and production of defence products/systems. Value of systems/products/technologies developed by DRDO and inducted into the Services or in the process of induction stands over Rs 2.72 lakh crore. This figure does not include Strategic Systems. The growth has been phenomenal in the last three years whereby Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) has been accorded for production of 29 systems designed and developed by DRDO during the last three years at a cost of Rs. 107740.601 crore.

(c) Para 72, Chapter II of Department of Defence Production (DDP) 2016 has been introduced for acquisition of indigenously designed and developed systems/equipment into the Armed Forces. Some of the new innovative projects (> Rs.75 crore) undertaken by DRDO in the last three

years (1st January, 2016-till date) to encourage indigenous development of defence equipment in the country are: Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) system for Indian Army, Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) system for Indian Aircraft Carrier of Indian Navy, Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM), Akash-New Generation (Akash NG), Long Range Glide Bomb, Full Mission Simulator (FMS) for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Guided Pinaka Rocket System, Marinised Engineered Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) Energy Module (MAREEM), RudraM-II, RudraM-III, Anvesha, Naval Anti Ship Missile-Short Range, Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART), Ground Based High Power Microwave (HPM) Directed Energy Weapon System, Enabling Technologies for Explosive Driven High Power Microwave System (FCGHM) etc. to name a few.

ROBS and RUBS in Kerala

1465. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from Kerala State Government for cost sharing of ROBS and RUBs;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposals cleared during the said period and the proposals awaiting clearance along with the reasons for pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. 57 proposals have been received during the last two years & current year till Nov'2018, out of which 35 valid proposals have been sanctioned in Budget 2018-19. Remaining proposals could not be sanctioned due to factor like non availability of Level Crossing (LC), less Train Vehicle Unit (TVU), non availability of land etc.

All these proposals were cleared during this period and no such valid proposals are pending for clearance.

Common Standard of Containers

1466. SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning for a common standard of containers in order to handle the goods to shipment in multi modal transportation system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of common transit hubs established along National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Madam.

(b) The question does not arise.

Pending Proposals for Welfare of Minorities

1467. SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending proposals for welfare of minorities along with the reasons for their pendency and the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared by the Government, State-wise;

(b) whether there is unequal distribution of funds meant for the welfare of minority communities;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to allocate funds for the welfare of minorities in proportion to their population?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) This Ministry has implemented Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) earlier known as MSDP wherein proposals are received from the State Government/UT Administrations for construction of infrastructure projects in Minority Concentration Areas for the welfare minorities and other communities living in the catchment area. During the current financial year project proposals from 15 States have been received and consider by the Ministry. Projects having Central Share of Rs. 594.54 crores have been approved so far. State-wise details of the projects approved are available on the website of Ministry at link <http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/empowered-committee-minutes>. No viable project proposal of any State/UT is pending with the Ministry for consideration under PMJVK.

(b) to (d) Funds received by the Ministry by way of budget allocation are allocated among the various welfare schemes implemented during the financial year. The allocation of funds is made keeping in view the requirement under a particular scheme. The six (6) Centrally notified Minority Communities under section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains benefit from the schemes of the Ministry for their socio-economic and educational empowerment. Schemes-wise allocation of funds for the year 2018-19 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Scheme-wise allocation of funds for the year 2018-19

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Scheme Name	BE 2018-19
1.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	980.00
2.	Post-Matric Scholarship	692.00
3.	Merit-cum-Means Scholarship	522.00
4.	Maulana Azad National Fellowship	153.00
5.	Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans	24.00
6.	Free Coaching & Allied Scheme	74.00
7.	Support for students clearing prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC etc.	8.00
8.	Skill Dev. Initiatives	250.00
9.	USTTAD	30.00
10.	Nai Manzil	140.00
11.	Equity to NMDFC	165.02
12.	Leadership Development for Minority Women	15.00
13.	Scheme for containing population Decline of Small Minority Community	4.00
14.	Hamari Dharohar	6.00
15.	Research/Studies, Monitoring, Evaluation and Publicity	55.00
16.	Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)	1320.00
17.	Maulana Azad Education Foundation	125.01

Sl.No.	Scheme Name	BE 2018-19
18.	Grants to SCAs of NMDFC	2.00
19.	Computerisation of Records and Strengthening of State Waqf Boards	16.94
20.	Secretariat	19.14
21.	National Commission for Minorities	8.62
22.	Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities	2.32
23.	Grants in-aid to Waqf Board	3.16
24.	Haj CGI Jeddah	76.79
25.	Haj Secretariat	8.00
Grand Total		4700.00

Illegal Transfer of Wakf Board Land

1468. DR. A. SAMPATH:

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of the wakf properties (eviction of unauthorized occupation) bill;

(b) whether a large part of the Wakf Board's immovable properties have been illegally transferred, sold, leased or encroached in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to release unauthorized occupation of wakf land by persons, public and private institutions, departments/organizations?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Waqf Properties (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Bill, 2014 was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment for examination. The Report of the Committee was laid in the Parliament and its recommendations are under consideration at present.

(b) and (c) As per Section 32 of the Waqf Act, 1995 as amended, the general superintendence of auqaf in a State is vested with the State Waqf Board (SWB) and it is the duty of the concerned SWB to ensure that Waqf properties are properly maintained, controlled and administered. Further, as

per section 51(1 A) of the Waqf Act, any sale, gift, exchange, Mortgage or transfer of the waqf property has been declared void ab initio *w.e.f* 1st November, 2013. As per the provision of Section 54, the Chief Executive Officer of the Waqf Board is empowered to remove the encroachment from the Waqf property. Such removal is normally carried out with the help of State Government machinery. As per the available information with Central Waqf Council (CWC) received from various State Waqf Boards, State wise position of number of Waqf Properties are facing encroachment is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Major provisions added in the amended Waqf Act 1995 giving more power to State/UT Waqf Boards to deal with encroachment on waqf properties *inter alia* include: stringent definition of "encroacher"; mandate to State Governments to appoint Survey Commissioners and complete the survey of waqf properties in a time bound manner; rigorous imprisonment for alienation of waqf properties without prior approval of the State/UT Waqf Boards; alienation of waqf property to be cognizable and non-bailable offence and three member Tribunals with extended jurisdiction to deal with disputes concerning eviction of a tenant. Central Government monitors and reviews compliance of various provisions of Waqf Act by State Governments/State Waqf Boards from time to time.

Statement

State-wise position of number of Waqf Properties with Encroachment

Sl. No.	Name of Waqf Board	Number of Waqf Properties encroached by Private/Public
1	2	3
1.	Punjab Waqf Board	5,610
2.	Madhya Pradesh Waqf Board	3,240
3.	Board of Waqfs, West Bengal	3,082
4.	Tamil Nadu State Waqf Board	1,335
5.	Karnataka State Waqf Board	862
6.	Haryana Waqf Board	754
7.	Himachal Pradesh Waqf Board	503

1	2	3
8.	Delhi Waqf Board	373
9.	Chhattisgarh State Waqf Board	200
10.	Assam Board of Waqfs	191
11.	Bihar State Sunni Waqf Board	181
12.	Rajasthan Board of Muslim Waqf	164
13.	Manipur State Waqf Board	137
14.	Maharashtra State Waqf Board	81
15.	Bihar State Shia Waqf Board	58
16.	Kerala State Waqf Board	29
17.	Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board	12
18.	Tripura Board of Waqf	10
19.	Odisha Board of Waqfs	7
20.	Chandigarh Waqf Board	6
21.	Puducherry Waqf Board	5
22.	Jharkhand Waqf Board	2
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Waqf Boards	2
24.	Uttarakhand Waqf Board	119

Railway Infrastructure Development Projects

1469. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding different types of funding patterns available for railway infrastructure development projects in the country;

(b) the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for each of the last 5 years and during the current financial year;

(c) the rate of funds-utilization and reasons for underutilization of funds, if any; and

(d) the details regarding action plan to meet the high funds requirement for undertaking railway infrastructure development projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Railways infrastructural development projects are funded mainly through Internal Generation, Extra Budgetary Resources and Gross Budgetary Support. The funds are allocated as per the availability of funds and the requirement of projects as per the progress.

(b) and (c) Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) alongwith utilization of funds for last ten years is given in following table:-

(Rs. in crore)			
Year	GBS	Actual Utilization	%age utilization
2008-09	10626	10110	95%
2009-10	18199	17718	97%
2010-11	18230	19318	106%
2011-12	20000	21073	105%
2012-13	25367	25234	99%
2013-14	29000	28174	97.2%
2014-15	32300	31617	97.9%
2015-16	34661	37516	108.2%
2016-17	46355	45232	97.6%
2017-18	40000	43590	109.0%

As can be seen from the above table, there has been near full utilization of GBS funds during these years.

(d) Funds for undertaking Railways infrastructural development projects are proposed to be met through likely enhanced revenue generation which will be aligned to the growth rates of GDP, which is being predicted to be on an upward trajectory. Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives in Freight terminals etc, Joint Ventures with States and Non Fare Revenue initiatives in advertising, commercial exploitation of assets etc are also likely to bring in substantial investment into Railways.

Freight Cost on Coal

1470. SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freight cost on coal is higher than the actual coal cost resulting into higher cost of generation of power as the State of Gujarat is at a distance of 1600

km from the eastern coast and if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce cost of coal and burden of imported coal;

(b) the steps taken by the Government regarding the rationalization of coal linkage;

(c) the steps taken to allocate more coal to State Government/GSECL in view of large requirement of coal; and

(d) the steps initiated regarding swapping of coal to Government of Gujarat/GSECL, keeping in view the suggestion that domestic coal may be handed over at mine and imported coal at port and swapping to be based on heating value terms based on third party sampling and analysis at loading end?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The details of actual freight paid for coal transportation are maintained by the users. In order to reduce the cost of power generation and efficient utilisation of coal, the Government, on 04.05.2016, approved the proposal for allowing flexibility in utilization of domestic coal amongst power generating stations by using coal in efficient plants as well as by saving in transportation cost. The State/Central Gencos have flexibility to utilize their coal in most efficient and cost effective manner in their own power plants as well as by transferring coal to other State/Central/IPP Power plants for generation of cheaper power.

(b) Rationalization of Coal Linkage: An Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) was constituted in June, 2014 to undertake a comprehensive review of existing sources of coal with a view to optimize transportation cost and materialization under the given technical constraints. The linkage rationalization for State/Central PSUs was implemented initially, based on IMTF recommendation and carried forward by Coal India Limited (CIL)/Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) based on coal availability and requests of public sector Power Plants. In addition CIL has rationalized sources (subsidiary company-wise) based on the request of public sector Power Plants with a view to optimize the transportation cost and materialization taking into account coal availability and logistics. Policy for Linkage rationalization for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) has also been issued on 15.05.2018.

So far, transportation of 61.08 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal has been rationalized with annual potential savings of Rs. 3,651 crore. Out of this quantity of coal rationalized, 4.2 MT has been transferred to GSECL plants.

(c) Under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, one coal mine, namely, Gare Palma Sector-I, located in the State of Chhattisgarh, has been allocated to GSECL for specified end use "Power". Further, Bridge Linkages have been granted and tenure extended for the two units of GSECL, namely, Ukai Unit-6 (500 MW) and Wanakbori TPS Unit-8 (800 MW).

(d) In line with the recommendation of the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) dated 11.08.2014, an agreement for swapping of coal linkage was signed between Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited (GSECL) and NTPC in November, 2014 for swapping of 1.0 MT of coal. As per the agreed terms, GSECL offered its South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) linked coal to NTPC Korba STPS and the coal imported by NTPC was to be supplied to GSECL plant to avoid criss-cross movement of domestic and imported coal. This led to a potential annual savings of Rs. 458 crore to GSECL. The swapping arrangement was continued till import of coal by NTPC upto 2016-17. Coal supplied to GSECL is covered under Third Party Sampling and analysis at the loading as well as unloading points.

[Translation]

Women in Indian Navy

1471. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide opportunity to women in Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Women are being inducted in various branches/cadres of the Indian Navy since 1991. Details are as under:—

Year	Branches/Cadres
1991	Education, Logistics and Law Cadre of Executive Branch
1993	Air Traffic Controller
2001	Naval Constructor Cadre of Engineering Branch
2008	As Observers
2017	Pilots (in Maritime Reconnaissance Stream) and Naval Armament Inspectorate.

[English]

Advisory Committee Meetings

1472. SHRI KONAKALLA NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that the advisory committee meetings being held between concerned railway General Managers and Members of Parliament are projecting dissatisfaction among MPs as none of the advices are taken into consideration, while taking up railway projects in their respective States;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve fruitful results of such meetings in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The suggestions given by Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs) during the meetings of Divisional Committee held with Zonal Railways are duly noted and well taken care of while executing the projects subject to feasibility, need and availability of funds.

Status of Work on GCNEP

1473. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of work of the Global Centre of Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) at village Jassaur Khedi in Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar, Haryana;

(b) the set target date for completion of work in order to fully start the centre;

(c) the total investment made to fully start the centre;

(d) the details of CSR activity the department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has started/planning to start in Jassaur Khedi or nearby areas; and

(e) whether any change was made in the DPR of GCNEP in the last one year as compared to the one approved by the previous Government 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) Phase-I of the project titled "Establishment of Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP)" at Kheri Jasaur, near Bahadurgarh, Haryana has been completed.

(b) 30th September, 2020 (Phase-II of the project).

(c) Rs.142 crore for Phase-I, which has been completed in March, 2017. Total sanctioned cost for completion of Phase-II is Rs. 811 crore.

(d) The details of CSR activities started/planned at Jasaur Kheri or nearby areas are as follows:-

- As a part of CSR activities, DAE has agreed to make a contribution of Rs. 10 crore.
- As a part of the above commitments, DAE has so far released the following funds:-
 - (i) Rs. 1 crore for Government Girls College at Jasaur Kheri (Jhajjar).
 - (ii) Rs. 1 crore for two Computer Training Centres, one at Bahadurgarh and other at Islamgarh (Chhuchhakwas).
 - (iii) Rs. 20 lakh for two Common Service Centre, one at Mini Secretariat, Bahadurgarh and other at Mini Secretariat, Beri.

(e) No, Madam.

Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

1474. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of provisioning of internet connectivity in rural areas which constitute 68.86 per cent of the total population of the country, including in State of Gujarat;

(b) whether Government has initiated special drive to educate rural people in order to obtain e-services by using smart phones on their own instead of obtaining services from entrepreneurs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Provisioning of internet connectivity in rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. DoT is implementing BharatNet project with the aim to connect all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all GPs. So far, 3,01,154 Kms of optical fiber has been laid connecting 1,21,652 Gram Panchayats and 1,16,411 Gram Panchayats are service ready. As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) reports, the number of internet connections in rural areas of the country is 19.4 crore and in the State of Gujarat is 1.04 crore.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is implementing a Scheme titled "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)" to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household). Besides digital literacy, the beneficiaries under the PMGDISHA Scheme are also trained on use of electronic payment system covering Unified Payments Interface (including BHIM app), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Point of Sale (PoS), Aadhar Enabled Payment system (AEPS), Cards, and Internet Banking. As on 14th December, 2018, a total of 1.63 crore candidates have been trained under PMGDISHA Scheme.

Guidelines for Government Websites

1475. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has specified guidelines for Government Websites;
- (b) if so, whether these guidelines are in consonance with International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) and World Wide Web Consortium (W3C); and
- (c) the details of Government Websites which are complying with these guidelines.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Madam. National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has formulated the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW), (<http://guidelines.gov.in>) which have been adopted by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and made a part of Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure. The Guidelines deal with entire life cycle of a Government website and also guide on the types of web information which a Government website should provide.

- (b) Guidelines are compliant to W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0).
- (c) Does not come under the purview of NIC.

Loss of Territory

1476. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the territory India lost as a result of International agreement and wars since independence;
- (b) the bilateral or multilateral efforts made by India to regain the lost territory;
- (c) whether India has gained any foreign territory through international agreements or wars since independence; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected

from concerned Ministries and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smart Phone Market

1477. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has overtaken US to become second largest smartphone market in the July-September quarter of 2018;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the smartphone market faces unprecedented challenge, while its dynamics are changing rapidly at both vendor and country level;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is planning to reduce the internet tariffs across the country; and
- (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) According to the Electronics Industry Associations, as per recent shipment data from prominent research firms, India has overtaken US to become second largest smartphone market in the world in the July-September quarter of 2018, during which the shipment of smartphones in India was 40.4 million, as against shipment of 40 million smartphones in the US.

(c) and (d) The dynamics of the smartphone industry is changing rapidly with the advent of new aggressive vendors, who are responding quickly to the market demands, resulting in increased share in the Indian market. The established players are also responding to the competition.

(e) and (f) As per the information provided by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Internet tariff across the country is under forbearance and TRAI has no proposal to revise it presently.

[Translation]

Impact of Radiation on Food Products

1478. SHRI DHARAMBIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use radiation technology for processing and storage of agricultural produce and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any primary report has been prepared by the Government regarding impact of radiation on food products; and

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Madam. Extensive research work has been carried out by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) on the use of radiation processing for extending shelf life of agricultural produce/food products over the last 50 years. Radiation processing and proper storage thereafter has achieved substantial increase in shelf life of many agricultural produces including tubers, fruits, vegetables, cereals, pulses, spices, sea foods and meat products due to effective elimination of harmful and spoilage microorganism, viruses and insects/pests from foods.

Based on this technology, two Government irradiation facilities were established by Bhabha Atomic Research

Centre (BARC) at Lasalgaon, Nashik, and Vashi, Navi Mumbai. Govt. of Maharashtra and Govt. of Gujarat also established two facilities for the welfare of the farmers at Vashi, Navi Mumbai and Bavala respectively. In addition, 11 private facilities have been established at different parts of the country. The details of the radiation processing plants are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Madam. Harmonization of food irradiation rules with the international regulation through adaptation of class wise clearance of irradiated food items by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has taken place through Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 2016. This has categorized different food items and the purpose of radiation.

(c) FSSAI notified "Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Sixth Amendment, 2016 and the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Fourth Amendment, 2016" related to standards and labelling requirements for irradiated foods. The implementation of the amendment starts from the date of its final publication in the Official Gazette, *i.e.* August 23, 2016. The full text of the final amendment as published in the Gazette is also available on the website of FSSAI (<http://www.fssai.gov.in/>). Radiation processing dose limits for different food products grouped in different classes and allied products are given in the enclosed Statement-II and III respectively.

Statement-I

Radiation Processing Plants in India

Sl.No.	Name of the Plant	Purpose	Status/Remarks
1.	Radiation Processing Plant, BRIT, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Spices, Herbs and allied products	Commissioned in 2000
2.	KRUSHAK Irradiator, Lasalgaon, Nashik, Maharashtra	Mango, Potato, Onion, Vegetables, Fruits and Grains	Commissioned in 2002
3.	M/s. A.V. Processors Pvt. Ltd., Ambarnath (E), Thane, Maharashtra	Food & Medical Products	Commissioned in 2005
4.	Maharashtra State Agricultural Mktg. Board, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Mango, Vegetables, Fruits, Grains and Packaged food	Commissioned in 2015
5.	M/s. Agrosurg Irradiators, Vasai, Thane, Maharashtra	Spices, Herbs and allied products, Packaging & Medical Products	Commissioned in 2008

Sl.No.	Name of the Plant	Purpose	Status/Remarks
6.	M/s. Hindustan Agro Co-Operative Ltd., Rahuri, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	Onion & Other Agricultural Produces	Commissioned in 2012
7.	M/s. Organic Green Foods Ltd., Dankuni, Kolkata, West Bengal	Food, Packaging & Medical Products	Commissioned in 2004
8.	M/s. Universal Medicap Ltd., Vadodara, Gujarat	Food & Medical Products	Commissioned in 2005.
9.	M/s. Gujarat Agro Industries Corpn. Ltd. Bavla, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Spices, Herbs and allied products, Food Products	Commissioned in 2014
10.	M/s. Microtrol, Bangalore, Karnataka	Spices, Herbs and allied products, Food & Medical Products	Commissioned in 2006
11.	M/s. Innova Agri Bio Park Ltd., Malur, Dist. Kolar, Karnataka	Mango, Food & Medical Products	Commissioned in 2011
12.	M/s. Jhunsons Chemicals Pvt Ltd., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan	Spices, Herbs and allied products, Medical & Packaging Products	Commissioned in 2010
13.	M/s. Gamma Agro Medical Processing, Hyderabad, Telangana	Spices, Food & Medical Products	Commissioned in 2008.
14.	M/s. Impartial Agro Tech (P) Ltd., Unnao, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Spices, Food & Medical Products	Commissioned in 2014
15.	M/s. Aligned Industries, Dharuhera, Rewari, Haryana	Spices, Food Products	Commissioned in 2015

Statement-II*Classes of food products and dose limits (kilo Gray) for radiation processing*

Class	Food	Purpose of Treatment	Min	Max
Class 1	Bulbs, stem and root tubers	Inhibit sprouting	0.02	0.2
Class 2	Fresh fruits and vegetables (other than Class 1)	Delay ripening Insect disinfestation Shelf-life extension Quarantine application	0.2 0.2 1.0 0.1	1.0 1.0 2.5 1.0
Class 3	Cereals and their milled products, pulses and their milled products, nuts, oil seeds, dried fruits and their products	Insect disinfestation Reduction of microbial load	0.25 1.5	1.0 5.0
Class 4	Fish, aquaculture, seafood and their products (fresh or frozen)	Elimination of pathogenic microorganisms Shelf-life extension Control of human parasites	1.0 1.0 0.1	7.0 3.0 2.0
Class 5	Meat and meat products including poultry (fresh and frozen) and eggs	Elimination of pathogenic microorganisms Shelf-life extension Control of human parasites	1.0 1.0 0.3	7.0 3.0 2.0
Class 6	Dry vegetables, spices, condiments, dry herbs, tea, coffee, cocoa and plant products	Elimination of pathogenic microorganisms Insect disinfestation	6.0 0.3	14.0 1.0

Class	Food	Purpose of Treatment	Min	Max
Class 7	Dried food of animal origin	Insect disinfestation	0.3	1.0
		Control of moulds	1.0	3.0
		Elimination of pathogenic microorganisms	2.0	7.0
Class 8	Ethnic foods, military rations, space foods, RTC/RTE, minimally processed foods	Quarantine application	0.25	1.0
		Reduction of microorganisms	2	10
		Sterilization	5	25

Statement-III*Dose Limits for Radiation Processing of Allied Products*

Sl. No.	Allied product	Purpose	Dose limits (kilo Gray)	
			Min	Max
1.	Animal food and feed	Insect disinfestation	0.25	1.0
		Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
2.	Ayurvedic herbs and their products, and medicines	Insect disinfestations	0.25	1.0
		Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
		Sterilization	10	25
3.	Packaging materials for food/allied products	Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
		Sterilization	10	25
4.	Food additives	Insect disinfestations	0.25	1.0
		Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
		Sterilization	10	25
5.	Health foods, dietary supplements and nutraceuticals	Insect disinfestation	0.25	1.0
		Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
		Sterilization	10	25
6.	Body care and cleansing products	Microbial decontamination	5.0	10.0
		Sterilization	10	25
7.	Cut flowers	Quarantine application	0.25	1.0
		Shelf-life extension	0.25	1.0

*[English]***Bilateral Relations with Sri Lanka**

1479. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held discussions with the Sri Lankan Government recently covering the entire gamut of bilateral relationship and ways to deepen the historically close relations between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether the two sides, reviewed the progress in implementation of various decisions taken during the high level exchanges in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (d) Discussions covering the entire gamut

of bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka took place recently during the official visit of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to India from 18-20 October, 2018. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister held extensive talks with the Prime Minister, wherein both sides reviewed the progress in implementation of various decisions taken during high level exchanges in the recent past. They took stock of the mutually agreed economic and development assistance projects and also discussed projects which are under various stages of negotiation, including energy, water, connectivity and infrastructure projects. These projects are aimed at furthering socio-economic development of the people of Sri Lanka.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram

1480. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after revising the scheme of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme into Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, community-wise data regarding the number of families benefited by the projects under the scheme has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the impact of the scheme on minorities;

(c) the list of minority concentration blocks, towns and cluster of villages in the northeastern States; and

(d) the details of the progress of these projects in the northeastern States?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) earlier known as

Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) is an area development programme implemented in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) of the country for the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission. The MCAs are relatively backward areas having substantial population of minority communities. These areas are identified as per Census, 2011 data related to backwardness indicators and population of all notified minority communities as a whole residing in the area. The objective of the scheme is to bring the identified MCAs at par with the national average by providing infrastructure related to education, skill, health etc. in locations having the highest population of minority communities and make the assets available to the entire population living in the catchment area.

(c) The list of the identified minority concentration Areas including those in the Northeastern States is available on the website of this Ministry at [linkhttp://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/PMJVK%20Area%20Units%2024-05-18.pdf](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/PMJVK%20Area%20Units%2024-05-18.pdf). Clusters of Villages are to be identified in consultation with the State Govt./ UT Administration concerned. Earlier, under the Scheme of MsDP, 710 Minority Concentration Block, 66 Minority Concentration Towns and 13 Cluster of Villages were identified. The Scheme has been restructured as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) and area coverage has been extended to 870 Minority Concentration Blocks and 321 Minority Concentration Towns. Besides 109 Minority Concentration Districts Headquarters have also been included for the first time under the scheme.

(d) The number of the projects sanctioned for the Northeastern States since introduction of the programme along with their status is attached as the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(A) Projects sanctioned for NE States

Sl. No.	State	3	4	Degree		Education							Free Bicycle for Girls
				School Building	Additional class rooms	Hostels	Computers in School	Lab equip.	Toilet & DW in School	Teaching aid			
1	2			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
1.	Assam	U.S.	0	254	9543	121	0	79	814	16	0	0	
		U.C.	0	1	2227	11	0	0	144	0	0	0	
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		WIP	0	39	3660	48	0	0	4	0	0	0	
2.	Manipur	U.S.	0	550	292	92	0	0	46	0	1668	0	
		U.C.	0	199	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		WIP	0	177	0	12	0	0	0	0	764	0	
3.	Meghalaya	U.S.	0	2	100	12	0	0	404	0	2154	0	
		U.C.	0	1	54	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		WIP	0	1	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4.	Mizoram	U.S.	0	38	88	10	60	0	33	0	0	0	
		U.C.	0	17	36	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		WIP	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5.	Sikkim	U.S.	0	11	38	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		U.C.	0	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		WIP	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	U.S.	0	110	661	246	0	15	50	10	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		U.C.	0	34	235	23	0	10	2	5	0
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		WIP	0	18	183	100	0	0	42	5	0
7.	Tripura	U.S.	1	29	424	8	90	0	0	0	2735
		U.C.	0	29	130	7	0	0	0	0	0
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		WIP	0	0	47	1	0	0	0	0	0

(B) Projects sanctioned for NE States

Si. No.	State	Digital Literacy	Skill Development		Health	Aganwadi Centre	Drinking water		Pucca Housing	Income Generation	Misc. Mandap	Residential School	Marketed			
			IT	Polytechni Building			Total of Health	AWC						Hand pumps	Drinking Water	IAY
1	2	3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1.	Assam	U.S.	0	15	1	0	370	3173	19935	645	89836	0	109	53	21	333
		U.C.	0	5	0	0	129	1315	8805	26	56282	0	0	0	0	0
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		WIP	0	10	1	0	214	235	271	519	2516	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Manipur	U.S.	0	1	0	100	217	107	708	6	7653	0	27	37	7	0
		U.C.	0	0	0	0	70	60	422	0	5940	0	0	0	0	0
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		WIP	0	1	0	0	82	15	224	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
3.	Meghalaya	U.S.	0	0	0	0	31	102	1864	706	6204	0	5	0	1	0
		U.C.	0	0	0	0	17	81	1864	426	5000	0	0	0	0	0
		UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		WIP	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	154	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Mizoram	U.S.	0	2	0	0	27	245	24	26	2758	1	5	0	0	0

U.C.	0	0	0	0	0	158	10	0	2480	0	0	0	0
UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIP	0	3	0	0	1	6	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
U.S.	0	0	1	0	3	56	4	0	502	0	2	1	0
U.C.	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	307	0	0	0	0
UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIP	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	195	0	2	0	0
U.S.	0	0	0	0	63	646	0	270	7184	0	50	12	0
6. Arunachal Pradesh													
U.C.	0	0	0	0	15	452	0	0	4445	0	0	0	0
UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIP	0	0	0	0	18	116	0	258	1814	0	0	0	0
U.S.	18109	0	0	2520	30	0	0	223	4294	0	1	0	0
U.C.	18426	0	0	0	22	0	0	223	1750	0	0	0	0
UD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIP	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	2546	0	0	0	0

Abbreviation :- U.S:- Unit Sanctioned, UC:-Unit Completed; UD:-Unit dropped; WIP:- Work in Progress

IAY=Indira Awas Yojana, AWC= Anganwadi Centres, ITI= Industrial Training Institute, DWS= Drinking Water Supply, ACRs= Additional Classrooms, PHC= Primary Health Centre, CHC= Community Health Centre, Mis= (IWDP- Integrated Water Development Project, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Approach Road, Computer with accessories, Library, Hat Sheds). Minority Concentration Area of Nagaland have also been covered for the first time under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram during 2018-19. The projects from the State with the approval of State Level Committee is awaited.

Modernisation of Post Offices

1481. SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of modernisation/upgradation of the Post Offices particularly in rural areas;

(b) the new scope of activities assigned to the Post Offices under the modernisation process;

(c) the total investment made in the project during each of the last three years and the current year, States/UTs-wise;

(d) the number of savings accounts of girl child opened in post offices under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, States/UTs-wise; and

(e) the other facilities proposed to be provided to the girl child under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Madam, the current status of modernization, upgradation of the Post Offices particularly in rural areas under Information Technology (IT) Modernization project of Department of Posts is given in the enclosed Statement-I

Department of Posts is also implementing a Plan Scheme—"Rural Business and Access to Postal Network" under which basic infrastructure equipments like table, chair, almirah, signage boards and cash chests are provided to rural branch post offices to meet the basic infrastructure requirements. Postal Circle wise details of funds made available are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) As new scope of activities, the Department of Post has set up India Post Payments Bank as a Public Limited Company with 100% Government equity under the Department of Posts. The Payments bank will leverage the physical and IT infrastructure of the Post office and will focus on low-cost, low-risk, technology based solutions to extend access to formal banking especially in rural, un-banked and under-banked areas. 650 Branches and 3250 Access Points of the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) have been formally launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 01.09.2018.

(c) The IT Modernization Project of Department of Posts is pan India programme and implementation of this project is Centrally monitored and the expenditure on account of this Project is made Centrally. No expenditure is incurred State/UTs-wise. The expenditure incurred for the Project for the last three years and the current year till 30.11.2018 is furnished below:—

(in crores of Rs)	
Year	Expenditure
2015-16	307.19
2016-17	188.42
2017-18	415.64
2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018)	153.56

(d) There is no scheme with the name "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" in the Department of Posts. "Sukanya Samridhi Yojana" is however, one scheme exclusively for Girl Child available in the Post Offices. States/UTs wise number of Sukanya Samridhi Accounts opened in Post Offices during the last three years and the current year upto 31.10.2018 is attached as the enclosed Statement-III.

(e) Details of facilities available to the Girl Child under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana Scheme is attached as the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

IT Modernization Project of Department of Post is being undertaken with a total outlay of Rs. 4909 crores. The project involves computerization, Modernization and networking of 1,55,000 Post Office in the country, including 1.29 Lakh 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.

The project is being implemented through eight different segments. Brief progress of each segment is given below:—

Sl.No.	Name of the segment & its scope	Present position/Targets achieved. (as on 30.11.2018)
1.	Change Management (CM): Preparing the work force for the complete change in Departments' working after implementation of IT project.	120 change management workshops in 4 phases were organized, in which 3523 participants (Train the Trainers) attended. Training activities are going on in all the Postal Circles.
2.	Data Centre Facility (DCF): Hosting Primary Data Centre and Building Disaster Recovery Centre for the DoP	Data Centre is operational from 3rd April, 2013 at Navi Mumbai. Disaster Recovery Centre (DRC) has been powered on at Mysore on 15th May, 2015..
3.	Financial Services Integrator (FSI): Implementation of solutions for Core Banking and Core Insurance in all Post Offices. Providing multiple internet banking, mobile banking, ATM and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and SMS etc.	So far total 23652 Post Offices have been migrated under Core Banking Solution (CBS) and 25,573 Post Offices have been migrated under Core Insurance Solution for Postal Life Insurance. Total 995 ATMs have been made inter-operable <i>w.e.f.</i> 31.12.2016.
4.	Net work Integrator (NI): Providing connectivity for each departmental post office location in order to ensure uninterrupted network connectivity through one single WAN	28,313 locations have been net worked on a single Wide Area Network (WAN) as on 30.11.2018.
5.	Core System Integrator (CSI): Implementation of the solutions for Mail Operation, Retail, logistic Post, Philately, Finance and Accounts & Human Resources and integration with other SIs.	Implementation is in progress. As of now Roll out has been completed in all the offices of 507 divisions and other related offices in 23 Postal Circles (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, North East and J&K).
6.	DARPAN Rural Hardware (RH): Providing connectivity, hardware & solar power panels to Branch Post Offices in rural areas.	Supply of Rural Hardware has been completed in all rural Branch Post Offices
7.	Rural System Integrator (RSI): Implementation of the solution for integrating all the FSI/CSI applications to the Branch Post Offices.	1,28,804 Hand Held devices have been rolled out in Rural Branch Post Offices as on 11.12.2018.
8.	Mail Operation Hardware (MOH): Providing hardware to Mail Offices and handheld devices to Postmen.	Funds to the tune of 35.30 cr have been allotted to the Postal Circles for the procurement of 38,509 Smart Phones for Postmen. Under Mail Operations Hardware, supply of desk top computers and Gen Sets to RMS offices has been completed. UPS and Weighing Scales have also been procured.

Statement-II

Postal Circle-wise Plan Funds allocated for infrastructure equipment, signages and cash chests/Iron safes to rural Branch Post Offices (BOs) under the Plan Scheme-"Rural Business & Access to Postal Network" during last two financial years and current financial year 2018-19

Sl. No.	Postal Circles	Funds allocated for basic Infrastructure Equipment, Signages and Cash Chests (amount in Rupees)			
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh including Telangana	23074370	7825000	11056250	12535000
2.	Assam	4240000	2900000	6790000	6682500

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	19302500	7186000	6875000	8365000
4.	Chhattisgarh	5255000	1916000	6187500	7317500
5.	Delhi	650000	73000	254617	987500
6.	Gujarat including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	12307500	4248000	3775000	4170000
7.	Haryana	3667000	889000	3650000	3757500
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3980000	1429000	1712500	2700000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2663000	913000	862500	1925000
10.	Jharkhand	4805000	1620000	4712500	5382500
11.	Karnataka	13441000	4760000	4625000	4745000
12.	Kerala including Lakshadweep	5351500	1821000	4350000	4107500
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14005500	5178000	5803500	6307500
14.	Maharashtra	19374500	7522000	5325000	5445000
15.	North East [States include Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura]	3360000	7803000	28400000	23490000
16.	Odisha	12081000	4168000	4650000	4695000
17.	Punjab including Chandigarh	5316000	1920000	4850000	4857500
18.	Rajasthan	14678000	4977000	3873316	4745000
19.	Tamil Nadu including Puducherry	14772500	5112000	3712500	3882500
20.	Uttar Pradesh	17068000	5610000	7650000	8970000
21.	Uttarakhand	5265000	1773000	2825000	3175000
22.	West Bengal including Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands	21460000	4629500	6112500	5257500
Total		22,61,17,370	8,42,72,500	12,80,52,683	13,35,00,000

Statement-III*Sukanya Samridhi Yojana Accounts opened during 01.04.2015 to 31.10.2018*

Name of Postal Circle	Name of State including UTs	F.Y. 2015-16	F.Y. 2016-17	F.Y. 2017-18	F.Y. 2018-19
		Total No. of SSA Accounts opened during 2015-16	Total No. of SSA Accounts opened during 2016-17	Total No. of SSA Accounts opened during 2017-18	Total No. of SSA Accounts opened during upto 31.10.2018
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	316692	74041	85132	51655
Assam	Assam	99805	23288	19621	11922
Bihar	Bihar	253458	115329	115483	56310

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	136515	61975	90012	38085
Delhi	Delhi	88106	26135	25641	14421
Gujarat	Gujarat	127121	64524	58885	33968
Haryana	Haryana	186223	62363	48277	38662
Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	105484	25290	32029	17850
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	91933	7897	5460	1895
Jharkhand	Jharkhand	315855	80030	30699	13250
Karnataka	Karnataka	386358	86303	114430	99281
Kerala	Kerala	178669	41749	45914	29609
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	247466	110930	88441	323622
Maharashtra	Maharashtra	372774	164634	155090	93853
	Goa	16881	3452	2194	1516
North East	Arunachal Pradesh	6199	1621	1417	1012
	Meghalaya	2854	943	539	386
	Mizoram	1739	516	396	1058
	Manipura	14490	3608	2983	1713
	Nagaland	2889	499	277	205
	Tripura	12493	5510	3089	2116
Odisha	Odisha	236651	53858	72260	41280
Punjab	Punjab	154233	47976	47799	35226
Rajasthan	Rajasthan	254982	103753	164232	77618
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	623399	146509	141518	83360
Telangana	Telangana	202859	52564	58358	39294
Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	749538	168557	184539	103327
Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	168763	27508	34415	18515
West Bengal	West Bengal	384989	45763	64869	28439
	Sikkim	3948	759	675	1178
Total		57,43,366	16,07,884	16,94,674	12,60,626

Statement-IV*Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY)*

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY) is also known as girl child prosperity scheme which was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana.

The account can be opened by the natural or legal guardians of the girl child. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana offers a small deposit investment for the girl children as an initiative under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign. One of the key benefits of the scheme is higher rate of interest. The present rate of interest for the 3rd quarter of 2018-19 is 8.5%

Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana: Salient features

- Sukanya Samridhhi account can be opened till a girl child attains an age of 10 years.
- Only one account is permissible for every girl child but not exceeding two accounts in a family.
- Account can be opened in any of the Post Offices including Branch Post Offices located even in the remotest part of the country.
- An account can be opened with an initial amount of Rs. 250. Thereafter, deposit can be made in the multiple of Rs. 100 with a minimum of Rs. 250 per financial year.
- The maximum limit of deposits in the account is Rs. 1,50,000 per financial year.
- The maturity period of the account is 21 years from the date of opening the account.
- Sukanya Samridhhi Account is transferrable anywhere in India.
- An amount up to 50% of the balance of previous year is allowed as withdrawal for higher education on attaining the age of 18 year.
- In the event of marriage of a girl child on or attaining the age of 18 years, the account can be finally closed and amount accumulated in the account along with interest can be paid.
- Girl child may operate her account, if she wishes to do so on or after attaining the age of 10 years. This would give a lot of financial independence to the girl child as well.

Benefits of Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana

- The amount deposited in Sukanya Samridhhi Account is exempted from tax under Section 80C of IT Act, 1961, up to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 lakh in a financial year. Also, the amount paid as maturity at the time of account closure is completely tax free.
- Though the account is a saving account, high interest is paid for the welfare of the girl child.

Green Policy Initiative

1482. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of criteria for Green Certification of railway establishments that is envisaged as part of a green policy initiatives of railway; and

(b) the details of the policy framework that has been put in place for undertaking environmentally sustainable works by zonal railways through CSR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Policy instructions regarding criteria for Green Certification of Railway establishments are available on Indian Railways website www.indianrailways.gov.in at the link "http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/Environment_Management/Policy_Initiative_010217.pdf". These include parameters having direct relation to environment improvement, such as, Energy conservation measures, use of renewables, Water recycling/rain water harvesting, Waste management (Solid & Liquids) and its disposal, Tree Plantation/Green cover, etc.

All major Railway establishments including building, production units/workshops, stations, hospitals, schools and training centres are to be covered for Green Certification from any of the Recognised Certification Body.

(b) The requisite details of CSR Policy are available on the Indian Railways website www.indianrailways.gov.in at the link "http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/Environment_Management/Commercial_Circulars/EnHm_Circular_1_2016.pdf".

[Translation]

BPO in Rural Areas

1483. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the service sector based on information technology in the rural areas *i.e.* the rural BPO is not only promoting infrastructure development based on I.T. but also generating new employment opportunities in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the total number of BPOs functioning in the rural areas of the country including Rajasthan along with the jobs generated by them;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote BPOs in the rural areas; and

(d) the details of the amount of grant which is given for setting up of BPO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government has launched two BPO promotion Schemes, namely India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) with the aim to create employment opportunities through promotion of investment in IT/ITeS sector across the country particularly in small cities/towns including rural areas and by incentivizing setting up of BPO/ITeS operations. Since the inception of these schemes 150 BPO/ITeS units have started operations in small cities/towns across 25 States and 2 UTs of the country providing direct employment to over 23,000 persons. In the State of Rajasthan, 3 units have started operations for a total of 400 seats with initial employment to ~400 persons.

(c) In order to promote BPOs in small cities/towns including rural areas the metro cities with significant level of IT/ITeS activity *viz.* Bangaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, NCR, Mumbai and Pune have been excluded from IBPS. Further, Special incentives have been provided to the units setting up operations at other than State Capital. Also Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) in coordination with State IT Departments has organised workshops, road shows, seminars etc. for promoting dispersal of IT-ITeS/BPOs in tier-II/III cities across the country.

To promote IT-ITeS/ BPO industry in small cities/towns including rural areas, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) an autonomous society of MeitY has 49 centres operational in Tier-II/III cities. In addition, 24 STPI centres have been approved in Tier-II/III cities which are at various stages of implementation.

(d) The IBPS and NEBPS reimburse 50% of capital and operational expenditures upto Rs. 1 lakh/seat as Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The schemes also provide

several special incentives like encouraging employment to women and physically disabled persons, promoting local entrepreneurs etc. within the cap of Rs. 1 lakh/seat. The disbursement of financial support under these schemes is directly linked with employment generation.

[English]

Open Skill Centres

1484. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has finalised open skill centres for minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the focus areas of these skill centres;

(c) whether the Ministry has identified the places to open first skill centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the first skill centre is likely to open?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (e) No, Madam. There is no proposal to open skill centres for minorities by the Ministry. In the restructured Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK) under innovative project, Hunar Hubs may also be taken up for construction for enabling artisans/entrepreneurs to carry out Exhibitions/Melas/Food-Courts/Skill Training in MCD Head Quarters which may be taken up for construction with 100% funding by the Ministry. The Ministry under PMJVK has sanctioned a construction of Hunar Hub at Tura, a Minority Concentration Town of Meghalaya, at the unit cost of Rs. 531.00 lakhs. The asset will enable artisans/entrepreneurs to carry out exhibitions/Melas/Food Court/Skill Training in the identified Minority Concentration Area under PMJVK.

Further, Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing following Skill Development Schemes through the selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) of their existing centres:

(i) “**Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)**”: This is a placement linked skill development scheme for minorities aimed at upgrading the skills of

minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment.

- (ii) **Nai Manzil:** Scheme has been launched on 08th August, 2015 with an aim to benefit the minority youth who do not have a formal school leaving certificate *i.e.* those in the category of school dropouts or educated in the community education institutions like Madarsas, in order to provide them formal education and skills, and enable them to seek better employment in the organized sector and thus to equip them for better lives.
- (iii) The Ministry is also implementing USTTAD Scheme wherein, *inter alia* capacities of in traditional arts/crafts are built with a view to increasing their market potentials.
- (iv) Additionally, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation under the Ministry also implements the Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Program on the lines of Seekho aur Kamao.

[*Translation*]

Deployment on Sensitive Posts

1485. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines of CVC and the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions are being followed regarding deployment of railway officers/staff on the sensitive posts;

(b) if so, the number of such officers and employees working in the vigilance department of Railway Board who are still there despite completing their tenure as fixed by CVC and Department of Personnel along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways proposes to transfer such officers/staff as per the extant transfer policy; 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) At present, only 08 officers and 06 staff are working on the same post in Vigilance Directorate of Railway Board, beyond the prescribed tenure.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam.

[*English*]

Seva Kendras

1486. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) propose to setup Seva Kendras all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these Seva Kendras will be opened;

(c) the details of locations that are proposed to be covered in the first phase;

(d) whether the Government proposes to establish such Kendras in remote and hilly areas also; and

(e) if so, the time by which these are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (e) There are over 30,000 Aadhaar enrolment and Update Centers across the country in designated bank branches, post offices and Government premises. In addition, UIDAI has proposed to invite proposals from competent and eligible entities for engagement of Service Providers to establish and run the Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASK) and provide appointment based Aadhaar Enrolment, Update and other miscellaneous Aadhaar Services in 53 cities of the country. The list of proposed cities to be covered is given in the enclosed Statement. The Aadhaar Seva Kendra are expected to be operational by August, 2019.

Statement

List of proposed cities for Aadhaar Seva Kendras

Sl.No.	Cities
1.	Agartala

Sl.No.	Cities
2.	Agra
3.	Ahmedabaad
4.	Aizwal
5.	Allahabaad
6.	Amritsar
7.	Bangalore
8.	Bhopal
9.	Bhubhneswar
10.	Chandigarh
11.	Chennai
12.	Coimbatore
13.	Daman
14.	Dehradun
15.	Delhi
16.	Dhanbaad
17.	Gangtok
18.	Goa
19.	Guwahati
20.	Hisar
21.	Hubli
22.	Hyderabad
23.	Imphal
24.	Indore
25.	Itanagar
26.	Jabalpur
27.	Jaipur
28.	Jodhpur
29.	Kavaratti
30.	Kochi
31.	Kohima
32.	Kolkata
33.	Kota
34.	Lucknow
35.	Mumbai

Sl.No.	Cities
36.	Mysore
37.	Nagpur
38.	Patna
39.	Port Blair
40.	Puducherry
41.	Pune
42.	Raipur
43.	Ranchi
44.	Shillong
45.	Shimla
46.	Silvassa
47.	Srinagar
48.	Surat
49.	Thrivanthpuran
50.	Trichupalli
51.	Vijaywada
52.	Vizag
53.	Warangal

Water Management

1487. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of water, particularly its recycling and reuse is crucial for future urban planning and policy.

(b) if so, the facts in this regard.

(c) whether there is a need for effective cooperation between the Centre and States in water management and if so, the steps taken by the NITI Aayog in this regard;

(d) whether NITI Aayog has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise to develop recycled water as part of sustainable and diverse water portfolio; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. Water happens to be a limited resource whereas the demand for the same is increasing with time. Increasing population, rapid industrialization, depletion of ground water source and increasing water pollution levels put pressure on the available water resources and pose challenge for sustainable management of water. The Recycled and Reuse of water after treating for Drinking and Non-Drinking purposes presents itself as a potential solution for augmenting water supply in the Cities, on a sustainable basis.

(c) Yes. NITI Aayog has developed a Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) in June, 2018 which aims to track the performance of the States/UTs *vis-à-vis* Demand and supply management of water, so that timely corrective measures can be undertaken. The CWMI is an annual exercise based on 28 key performance indicators carrying 100 marks under 9 sub-domains. Out of the total 100 marks, 10 marks have been ascribed to 'Urban Water Supply and Sanitation' and 15 marks are allocated to "Policy and Governance".

(d) and (e) Yes. Recycling and reuse has been widely practiced in Singapore, where almost the entire water is recycled for reuse. Such an approach would not only reduce the pressure on other water sources, but would also offer a sustainable solution for water resource management. However, this requires extensive Capacity Building of the City Managers and other stakeholders. Singapore has successfully been able to transform their urban waterscape over the last four decades, and their expertise would be a great opportunity for us to learn and develop recycled water as part of sustainable and diverse water portfolio, by customizing it in the Indian context.

In the year 2015-17, NITI Aayog had collaborated with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) under which capacity building programmes were arranged for participants from seven States. As an outcome of the same, Baseline Framework for Water Recycling was also prepared and shared with all the States/UTs. This was appreciated by the States/UTs who also expressed their

interest to participate in such capacity building programmes in future. Keeping the same in view, NITI Aayog has again entered into an MoU with SCE to launch the second phase of Urban Management Programme (UMP). The MoU for the same was signed in May, 2018.

The second phase of the UMP focussing on the thematic area of "Capacity Building Programme in Urban Management (Water Recycling and Reuse)" was launched on 26th November, 2018 in New Delhi followed by a two day capacity building workshop. As per the agreement under the collaboration document, three more workshops on various aspects of the theme would follow in the next one year including an exposure visit to Singapore and also a one day Review and Closing Programme. The collaboration document also envisages that the participating States would submit their proposal for undertaking a Pilot Project for Recycle and Reuse of Water for any of the cities in their State. As a part of the Programme, the best proposal received for Recycle and Reuse of water in a city shall be selected for becoming the pilot project and for which handholding would be done by the experts in developing a model project document which is likely to be generic enough to be applied to various States/Cities across India. Eight States/UTs have been selected for the Programme through a challenge method.

[*Translation*]

Renovation of Shades and Sidings

1488. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is likely to renovate shades and sidings in view of the difficulties being faced by the farmers and traders due to the absence of shades at rake loading/unloading points and uneven sidings at Mahmudabad (Awadh) of North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said renovation is likely to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Ministry of Railways has planned a new goods siding and rake handling platform at Mahmudabad Awadh Railway Station

of North Eastern Railway during execution of doubling work of Burhwal-Sitapur section.

(b) Renovation of a rake loading/unloading point is a need based ongoing continuous process and under various stages of execution. Hence, no time frame can be given at this juncture.

[English]

Growth Rate

1489. SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of economic, industrial and agricultural growth rates of the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the estimated growth rate of the country and if so, the results thereof;

(c) the existing growth rate and the targeted growth rate of various sectors of the economy including the agricultural sector; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targeted growth rate in various sectors of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The growth rates of GDP, Agriculture and Manufacturing for the past three years and current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Government continuously reviews the GDP numbers. It releases quick estimates, provisional estimates and finally the revised estimates from time to time in any fiscal year.

(c) The growth rates of GDP, Agriculture and Manufacturing for the current year are given in the enclosed Statement. There are no official targets for growth rates.

(d) While there are no official targets for growth rates, the Government takes many steps in various sectors to enhance the growth rate of the economy.

Statement

Growth Rates of GDP, agriculture and Manufacturing

Year-on-Year Growth (%)	Year 2014-15	Year 2015-16	Year 2016-17	Year 2017-18
GDP	7.4	8.2	7.1	6.7
Agriculture	-0.2	0.6	6.3	3.4
Manufacturing	7.9	12.8	7.9	5.7

Source: MoSPI

The growth rates for the last two quarters for the current year are as follows

Year-on-Year Growth (%)	Q1 2018-19	Q2 2018-19
GDP	8.2	7.1
Agriculture	5.3	3.8
Manufacturing	13.5	7.4

Source: MoSPI

Coordination between Civil and Military Medical Authorities

1490. SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any coordination is being carried out between the medical authorities in the civil and the military to provide health and medical facilities in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such coordination is based on guidelines given by the Ministry of Defence or left to the commanders on the ground and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) in case such coordination is being carried out whether any data on the beneficiaries from the civil as well as military is being maintained and if so, the details of such data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Such coordinations are carried out in accordance with the guidelines contained in the "Regulations of Medical Services of Armed Forces" under the chapter 'Reciprocity between Medical Services of the States/Assam Rifles and Armed Forces'.

(d) Data on the beneficiaries are compiled by the respective formation headquarters and health echelons. The beneficiaries include serving personnel and their families, veterans and their families, and civilians.

[Translation]

Construction of RPF Barracks

1491. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing any scheme to construct one hundred RPF barracks for security purposes;

(b) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the other works likely to be done apart from the said RPF barracks for security purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Phase-wise construction of additional barracks has been envisaged for stay of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel over different Zonal Railways. Ten locations have been shortlisted for construction of barracks in first phase. Though no timeline has been fixed, however, Zonal Railways have been advised for expeditious construction of barracks at locations shortlisted in first phase.

(c) Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by Railways for strengthening and upgradation. Other security related works like upgradation of security helpline 182, integration of security helpline with security App, implementation of 'RPF Security Management System' (RSMS), installation of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Camera, setting up of Child Help Desks (CHD), formulation of Station Security Plans etc. have been undertaken to further augment security over Railways.

RTI Applications

1492. SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of applications under the Right to Information (RTI) Act are pending in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the Government has made assessment of the reasons for inordinate delay in the disposal of RTI applications;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the remedial measures taken/being taken in this regard;

(d) whether one can apply online under the RTI Act; and

(e) if so, the details of the procedure to be followed and the assistance provided to the States for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Central Information Commission (CIC) data shows that 26,504 appeals/complaints cases were pending with CIC, as on 17.12.2018. However, no such State-wise data on applications under the RTI Act is maintained Centrally.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Subject to the provisions of the Act, Indian citizen can file online application under the Right to Information Act, 2005. Currently, systems of 2199 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 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.

All the States have been requested *vide* this Department's letter dated 3rd December, 2013 to explore the feasibility of implementing online RTI in their respective States. National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been requested to provide technical support, such as software, and source code to the State Governments which desire to replicate the web portal for online filing of RTI applications at State level.

[English]

Representation of Muslims in National Commission for Minorities

1493. SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Muslims constitute around 73% of all the minorities in the country;

(b) whether Muslims have not been given adequate proportionate representation in National Commission for Minorities (NCM);

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide full representation to Muslims in NCM?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) As per provisions of Section 3 (2) of National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992, "The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, [a Vice Chairperson and five] Members to be nominated by the Central Government from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity; provided that five Members including the Chairperson shall be from amongst the Minority communities" All the six communities notified as minorities under Section 2(c) of National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992 viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been given representation in NCM.

Upgradation of Grade Pay

1494. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to upgrade the Grade Pay of the Chemical and Metallurgical Superintendents (CMS) in the Railways from Rs. 4600/- to Rs. 4800/- as per the recommendation of the Seventh Central Pay Commission;

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

(c) whether the Government has any plan to financially upgrade the present working CMAs and promoted

CMSs in the Railways when CMSs are directly recruited, since both previously joined CMA and new recruited CMS having same qualification but there is difference in the basic pay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of representatives of Ministry of Finance, Department of Personnel & Training and Ministry of Railways to examine the recommendations of 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) to upgrade the pay scales of Chemical and Metallurgical Assistants (CMAs) and Chemical and Metallurgical Superintendents (CMSs) after detailed consideration has decided not to accept the recommendations of 7th CPC in the above matter. The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Ministry of Railways.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Coal Based Thermal Power Plants

1495. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog is stressing on tough steps to reform the power sector and asking Government for phasing out 25 years or older coal-based thermal power plants and creating of open access power market, commercial coal mining and promoting renewables; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) In NITI Aayog's India Three Year Action Agenda (2017-18 to 2019-20) phasing out of older coal-based Thermal power plants, commercial coal mining and promoting renewables was suggested. The details regarding above suggestions are summarized below:

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.20(2): The old plants with high station heat rate, especially when located in or near heavily populated regions, should be phased out.

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.27: We must use market mechanism to open to coal mining sector for commercial mining.

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.58: A renewable energy capacity of 100 GW should be achieved by 2019-20 so as to contribute to achievement of 175 GW target by 2022. The financial support for renewable sector will be aimed at promoting generation and infrastructure creation rather than mere capacity creation.

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.59: The off-grid target of 40 GW of solar energy by 2022 may be apportioned between residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors with a target of achieving 20 GW capacity by 2019-20. The residential off-grid capacity should be developed through a robust regulatory and policy framework including a remunerative net metering policy. The two phases of Green corridor project should be executed so as to evacuate the renewable generation available in 2019-20.

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.60: Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) should develop storage solutions within next three years to help bring down prices through demand aggregation of both household and grid scale batteries.

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.61: At the institutional level, all 8 Renewable Energy Management Centres (REMCs) should be operationalized to activate grid planning between Central Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) and/State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDCs) to ensure smooth dispatch of renewable electricity. The Central/State Agencies should provide infrastructural, transmission and purchase support to developers to help achieve the renewable target of the country. Moreover, a friendly eco-system for integration of renewable electricity should be created by changing/improving the regulatory practices and better coordination, through State specific renewable action plans.

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.62: By 2019-20, a robust market for renewable power should be created through effective implementation of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) especially in the light of uniform targets having been announced. The renewable rich States may be encouraged to sell power to renewable poor States.

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.63: A large programme should be launched to tap at least 50% of the bio-gas potential in the country by supporting technology and credit support through NABARD by 2020.

Chapter 13 (Energy), para 13.64: Small Hydro Power (SHP) target of 5000 MW by 2022 should be advanced to 2019-20 through VGF and tariff support, which will also aid balancing of variable solar energy in de-centralized locations.

Bullet Proof Jackets

1496. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of bullet proof jackets available to soldiers in the front line in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether high quality bullet proof/life saving jackets are made available to them and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these jackets are manufactured indigenously or imported;

(d) whether casualties of soldiers are reported due to lack of bullet proof jackets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to provide quality bullet proof jackets to soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs) are provided to soldiers, including those deployed in the front line in Jammu and Kashmir, as per laid down specifications and authorisation and have been manufactured indigenously.

(d) and (e) No casualties have been reported due to lack of BPJs. The upgradation and provisioning of improved version of BPJs is a continuous process for which necessary steps are taken regularly.

Passport Seva Kendras

1497. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government aims at establishing Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time frame in which PSKs will be established throughout the country;

(d) whether the existing PSKs are facing staff crunch; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) The Ministry in association with the Department of Posts has announced the opening of 407 Passport Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). Out of the 407 POPSK announced, 249 POPSK are functional as on 13 December, 2018. The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the operationalization of the remaining 158 POPSK at the earliest.

(d) and (e) The sanctioned strength of Central Passport Organization (CPO) as on 01 December, 2018 is 2741. It includes recently created 32 posts of Junior Hindi Translators, 9 posts of Senior Hindi Translators and 3 posts of Assistant Director (Official Language). The working strength is 1969. In addition, 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project. As an interim measure, 361 Data Entry Operators and 60 Office Assistants (MTS) have been deployed against the vacant non-Gazetted posts for smooth functioning of the Passport Offices and the PSK, through an outsourced agency, to bridge the gap between the sanctioned strength and the working strength of the non-Gazetted posts.

Bio-Technology Parks

1498. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present bio-technology parks/science and technology parks operating in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the achievements of such parks after its commencement;

(c) whether Odisha Government has sent any proposal to establish such parks in Bargarh district of Odisha.

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to establish such parks in near future?

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 Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has established Biotechnology parks/incubators across the country in association with Science & Technology Department of respective State Governments. The Department so far, supported 9 biotechnology parks at various States as follows:—

- (i) Biotech Park, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- (ii) Biotechnology Incubation Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana
- (iii) Tidco Centre for Life Sciences (TICEL) Biotech Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- (iv) The Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Women, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- (v) Biotech Park Technology Incubation Centre, Guwahati, Assam
- (vi) Biotechnology Incubation Centre, Cochin, Kerala
- (vii) Biotechnology Park, Bangalore, Karnataka
- (viii) Industrial Biotechnology Parks (IBTPs), Jammu & Kashmir
- (ix) Chhattisgarh Biotech Park

(b) These Biotechnology Parks offer facilities to Scientists, and Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) for technology incubation, technology demonstration and pilot plant studies for accelerated commercial development of Biotechnology and helps to translate research into products and services by providing necessary infrastructure support. The major achievements of each of the parks are listed on the web-link <http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/schemes-2/biotechnology-parksincubators-in-india>.

(c) and (d) No Madam.

(e) The DBT has announced 'National Biotechnology Parks Scheme', to support Biotech Parks in collaboration with the State Government and industry. This is to encourage State Government to come forward to scale up activities related to biotechnology sector which in long run will contribute in improving the socio-economic development of the region. The guidelines on "National Biotechnology Park Scheme" is available on the web-link www.dbtindia.nic.in/wp-content/uploads/guidelines_biotech_Park.pdf.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Sharang Cannon

1499. SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any contract has been signed for the acquisition of Sharang Cannon indigenously manufactured in the Ordnance factory in Kanpur; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the ordnance factory is likely to benefit from this contract and the extent to which the Army's strength is likely to be enhanced after its induction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A contract has been signed with Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for upgunning of 130mm (M-46) to 155mm/45 Cal. Gun System (Sharang). The upgunning will provide capability to fire more lethal and long range ammunition and effectively increase the firepower of Indian Army.

[English]

Blue Collar Workers

1500. SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to impart training to Blue collar workers of India to work in various countries and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has also decided no emigration without taking orientation programme on those looking for job abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the purpose and usefulness of taking orientation programme by job seekers in abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIAJY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) As part of the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a partnership between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Government has commenced one day Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) programme for blue collar workers going to the Gulf region and Malaysia, that are home to a vast majority of our migrant workers.

(b) No such decision has been taken.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) PDOT is aimed at enhancing soft skills of our migrant workers in terms of culture, language, tradition and local rules and regulations of the destination country, to sensitize migrant workers about pathways to safe and legal migration and various Government programmes for their welfare and protection. This assists the workers in the countries where they emigrate for work. Over 30,000 migrant workers have been imparted PDOT so far. The recruiting agents have also been asked to run similar training programmes so that all workers are trained prior to their departure.

[Translation]

New Rail Lines

1501. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Neora-Daniyawan-Sheikhpura rail line;

(b) the present status of Bihta-Aurangabad new rail line;

(c) the present status of Azeria-Supaul new rail line;

(d) the present status of proposed third new rail line on Kiul-Mughalsarai route; and

(e) the present status of Chhapra-Muzaffarpur via Rewahat new rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Neora-Daniawan-Sheikhpura (123 Km) new line: Neora-Daniawan-Biharsharif-Barbigha-Sheikhpura (123 Km) new line was sanctioned as Material Modification to Fatuha-Islampur new line project in 2002-03. So far Daniawan-Biharsharif (38 Km) section has been commissioned. However, execution of remaining sections (85 Km) of the project, is held up due to issues like non-acquisition of land, Court Cases, encroachment, modification/raising of electrical crossing, ROBs at State Highways crossings etc.

(b) Bihta-Aurangabad new line (120 Km): Bihta-Aurangabad new line project was sanctioned in 2007-08 at an abstract cost of Rs. 326.20 crore. Part detailed estimate of Rs. 64.59 crore for land acquisition on Bihta-Paliganj (28 Km) was sanctioned on 30.10.2007. Subsequently, while examining the Detailed Estimate of the project, it was decided to keep the execution of Bihta-Aurangabad new line project on hold in view of available routes in adjoining areas and low capacity utilization of existing parallel route *i.e.* Ara-Sasaram new line and Patna-Gaya doubling. Meanwhile, an updating survey has been taken up to see its viability in view of upcoming industrial, educational institutions and new airport in the vicinity of this project.

(c) Araria-Supaul new line (92 Km): This project was included in Railway Budget 2008-09 at an original cost of Rs. 304 crore. Detailed Estimate amounting to Rs. 1605 crore has been sanctioned in June, 2008. Land acquisition process has been initiated.

(d) Kiul-Mughalsarai (335 Km) 3rd line: At present Kiul-Mughalsarai (335 Km) 3rd line is not a sanctioned project. A Preliminary-Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for 3rd line of this section has been taken up. Sanction of this project depends upon viability of the project after examination of its survey report.

(e) Chhapra-Muzaffarpur *via* Rewaghat new rail line (78 Km): This project was included in 2006-07 at an Abstract Cost of Rs. 365.02 crore. Earthwork and bridgework have been taken up on portion where land has been acquired. Further, land acquisition has been taken up. Detailed Estimate amounting to Rs. 2614 crore has been taken up.

Inconvenience Caused by Change of Platform

1502. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the inconvenience being caused to the passengers due to change of platform for Train No.12224 Lucknow Mail from Number 1 to NER at Charbag station;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for change of platform;

(c) the details of instructions given to maintain *status quo* in this regard on the requests of MPs; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be maintained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) With a view to decongesting Lucknow station (under the jurisdiction of Northern Railway) the originating/terminating station of 12229/12230 Lucknow Mail has been shifted to Lucknow Junction (under the jurisdiction of North Eastern Railway), located in the same station complex and interconnected to each other.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to revert to the originating/terminating station of 12229/12230 Lucknow Mail.

Nuclear Waste Management System

1503. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any transparent or comprehensive nuclear waste management system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the new steps taken by the Government to set up a balanced and transparent nuclear waste management system?

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) Safe management of nuclear waste has been accorded high priority right from the inception of our nuclear energy programme. A comprehensive radioactive waste management system is established taking into account the operational capability for the management of radioactive waste and an independent regulatory capability for its overview.

As a waste management philosophy, no waste in any physical form is released/disposed of to the environment unless the same is cleared, exempted or excluded from regulations. Nuclear waste in the form of gaseous, liquid and solid is generated during operation & maintenance activities of nuclear power plants. A brief summary of the process being adopted for management of the nuclear wastes arising from nuclear power plant is given below.

1. Gaseous waste is treated at the source of generation. The techniques used are adsorption on activated charcoal and filtration by high efficiency particulate air filter.
2. Liquid waste streams are treated by various techniques, such as filtration, adsorption, chemical treatment, evaporation, ion exchange; reverse osmosis etc. depending upon the nature, volume & radioactivity content.
3. The radioactive solid wastes generated during operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants are segregated and volume reduced prior to its disposal. Disposal of waste is carried out in specially constructed structures such as stonelined trenches, reinforced concrete trenches and tile holes. These disposal structures are located both above and underground in access-controlled areas and are designed based on multibarrier principle for ensuring effective containment of the radioactivity. The areas where the disposal structures are located are kept under constant surveillance with the help of bore-wells laid out in a planned manner by

routinely monitoring the underground soil and water samples to confirm effective confinement of radioactivity present in the disposed waste.

4. High level radioactive waste generated during reprocessing of spent fuel is converted into glass through a process, called vitrification. The vitrified waste is stored for an interim period in a Solid Storage Surveillance Facility prior to its eventual disposal in geological disposal facility. This policy is at par with international practices following the guidelines of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
5. The treated liquids and gases are diluted and discharged under monitoring, ensuring that the discharges are well within the limits set by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The discharges are also monitored by the AERB and their details are published in the Annual Report of AERB which are in the public domain.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) With the advent of new technologies based on partitioning of waste, where long-lived radioactive waste constituents are separated prior to immobilizing them in the glass matrices, the need of deep underground geological disposal facility will reduce to a great extent in near future. The long lived radio isotopes are planned to be burnt in fast reactors or Accelerator Driven Sub Critical systems to get it converted into short-lived species. Main fission products like Cs-137 & Sr-90 present in the waste are recovered using in house developed technologies and deployed for societal applications covering medical applications and external irradiators. This is accomplished first time in the world by India, where radioactive waste is regarded as a useful by-product.

[English]

Aircraft Crash

1504. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force trainer Aircraft crashed near Yadagirigutta on the outskirts of Hyderabad recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is true that this was the third IAF trainer aircraft crash in Hyderabad in the past one year and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken as per the report of Court of Inquiry conducted in each aircraft crash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. One Indian Air Force trainer aircraft has crashed on 28.11.2018.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered.

**Blacklisted Companies in Supply of
Defence Equipments**

1505. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to do away with the decision of blacklisting the companies engaged in supply of defence equipments and materials on petty issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of companies blacklisted for indulging in irregularities in supply of defence materials and equipments in the country during the last three years and the current year along with the names and details of the companies removed from the blacklist during the said period;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the performance of the blacklisted companies on the basis of their merits and demerits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) to (e) No firm/entity has been blacklisted for misconduct/wrongdoing in defence deals during the last three years.

During the current year, business dealings with M/s Offset India Solutions (P) Ltd. (OIS) & its Group companies/functionaries have been suspended *w.e.f.* 05.01.2018.

Ministry of Defence has issued guidelines for penalties in business dealings with entities, which have come into effect from 21.11.2016. It has also been decided to review existing cases of suspension/ban/blacklisting etc. against vendors in light of these guidelines. Accordingly orders have been issued after reviews as below:—

(i) Restrictions in dealings with M/s. IAI & M/s Rafael have been removed *w.e.f.* 04.04.2018;

(ii) Restrictions on business dealings with M/s Denel, South Africa have been removed with effect from 05.09.2018.

(iii) Suspension of business dealings with Leonardo S.P.A (erstwhile Finmeccanica Group of Companies) has been extended *w.e.f.* 01.05.2017.

Decline in Immigration

1506. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large decline in immigration of Indian workers to Gulf countries since 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of immigration clearance granted to Indian workers for Gulf countries in the last four years and the current year, country-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such a huge decline in the immigration of Indian workers to Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIAJY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) As per the data captured in e-Migrate system, the number of emigration clearances granted to Indian Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holding workers going to Gulf countries for employment has come down compared to the corresponding numbers in the year 2015. A statement showing the country-wise number of emigration clearances granted to Indian workers for Gulf countries in the last four years and the current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

There are several reasons for decreasing number of emigration clearance through the e-Migrate system. Prominent among them is that the Gulf countries are passing through a period of economic slowdown primarily because of the slump in oil prices. Coupled with this, the Gulf countries are aiming at filling up maximum posts both in Public and Private Sector by their own nationals. Therefore, there has been a demand shortage for foreign

workers in these countries. Moreover, a large number of Indian nationals holding ECR passports reportedly travel to the Gulf countries on tourist visa and get their visas converted to employment visa, thereby bypassing the e-Migrate system. These numbers as well as the number of Non ECR passport holders going to the ECR countries for employment are not reflected in the e-Migrate emigration clearance data.

Statement

Number of country-wise emigration clearance granted to Indian workers for Gulf countries during the last four years and the current year

Sl.No.	Name of Countries	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (upto 30.11.18)
1.	Bahrain	14207	15623	11964	11516	8522
2.	Kuwait	80419	66579	72384	56380	52245
3.	Oman	51317	85054	63236	53332	32316
4.	Qatar	75983	59384	30619	24759	32492
5.	S. Arabia	329882	308380	165355	78557	65542
6.	U. A. E.	224037	225718	163716	149780	103720
	Total	775845	760738	507274	374324	294837

Source: e-Migrate portal.

Coal Imports

1507. DR. K. GOPAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's coal imports rose by 7.9% to 134.46 million tonnes in the first seven months of the current fiscal and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India's thermal coal demand remained high due to the coal shortage in the power sector and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether there was a 6.8 per cent drop in coal and coke imports in October compared to 19.77 million tonnes imports during the same month last financial year and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (c) As per provisional data released by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), during April-October, 2018 (during first seven month of current

fiscal) the import of coal was 136.58 MT with a growth rate of 14.91%.

During October, 2018 the coal and coke import was 22.17 MT as compared to 18.72 MT during October, 2017 with a growth rate of 18.42%. This increase is largely due to growth of coking coal imports in which India is deficient & also imports by certain thermal power plants which were designed to run on imported coal. The imported quantity of 2017-18 at 208.27 MT is less than the imported quantity of 2014-15 which stood at 217.79 MT even as power generation and industrial activity grew substantially after 2014-15.

(b) There is no shortage of coal for the power plants of the country. As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA) report during the period April-Nov, 2018, total coal based generation has been 99.16% of the programme generation with a growth of 5.50% over the corresponding period of last year. This has been possible due to increased supply of coal to the power sector.

During April-Nov, 2018, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has supplied 315.94 MT of coal to power sector at a growth

of more than 8% compared to the supply of 291.78 MT in the corresponding period of last year.

As per CEA report coal stock at Power House end as on 16.12.2018 is 15.52 MT as against the stock of 12.20 MT on 16.12.2017 thereby registering an increase of 27.20%.

[Translation]

Promotion of Human Genes

1508. KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed/is considering any policy efforts to promote modern research in human genes; and

(b) 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, Department of Biotechnology has a clear emphasis to promote modern research in human genetics.

(b) Overall the emphasis is to advance our understanding of genetic and genomic components of human physiology and pathophysiology. Projects have been supported on understanding the genetic basis of neurological, endocrinological, hematological, respiratory, ocular, autoimmune and other disorders.

[English]

Coal Mines

1509. KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has undertaken any study to examine the rationalization of coal mines in view of safety and financial viability and is so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Ministry has set up a Committee to look into the closure of unsafe mines and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Coal India Limited had conducted a study to rationalize the coal mines in view of safety in the financial year 2017-18. On the basis of the report of the Subsidiary Companies, production was suspended from 43 mines in 2017-18.

(b) No, Madam. The Ministry has not set up any committee to look into the closure of unsafe mines.

Waiver of MDR Charges

1510. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges have been waived by the Government on transactions upto Rs. 2000/- to promote cashless economy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether cashless payments are likely to be a challenge for certain Government to Consumer (G2C) and Customer to Customer (C2C) services where payment is above this limit;

(c) whether the Government is considering to completely waive MDR for cashless payments for G2C and C2C services to encourage cashless economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Madam. MeitY has come out with MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) Reimbursement Scheme to promote low value digital payment transactions for a period of two years from 1st January, 2018. As per the scheme, Merchants need not pay the MDR charges to banks on digital payments up to Rs. 2000 through Debit Cards, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and BHIM Aadhaar Pay, as the Government is reimbursing the relevant MDR charges to the banks.

(b) No, Madam. For C2G payments, there is a separate MDR reimbursement scheme by Government of India for payment of upto Rs. 1 lakh dues to Govt of India by citizens using Debit Cards. Government payments are made to Citizens digitally, largely through Direct Benefit Transfer and Public Fund Management System (PFMS).

(c) and (d) No, Madam. The intent of Government is to support low value transactions for two years so that more number of citizens are encouraged to make payments through various digital payment modes.

[Translation]

Risk of Cyber Fraud

1511. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to check the risks of Cyber fraud in the economy and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of number of complaints received related to Cyber security; and

(c) the details of the complaints received from the State of Bihar in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Government has taken several measures to check the cyber fraud in the economy. These, *inter alia*, include:

- (i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis to ensure safe usage of digital technologies. Regarding securing digital payments, 28 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.
- (ii) All authorised entities/banks issuing PPIs in the country have been advised by CERT-In through Reserve Bank of India to carry out special audit by empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and to take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.
- (iii) All the new Government websites and applications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the websites and applications is to be conducted on a regular basis after hosting.

- (iv) Government has empanelled 76 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (v) Government has issued guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) regarding their key roles and responsibilities for securing applications/infrastructure and compliance.
- (vi) All organizations providing digital services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
- (vii) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.
- (viii) Cyber security mock drills and exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 38 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In where organisations from different sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS etc. participated. 3 exercises were conducted in coordination with Reserve Bank of India in November, 2018 for senior management and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of banks.
- (ix) CERT-In conducts regular training programmes for network/system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations regarding securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks. 22 trainings covering 746 participants conducted in the year 2018 (till November).
- (x) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The Centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same.

(b) As per information reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total of 3, 14 and 6 financial fraud incidents affecting ATMs, Cards, Point of Sale (PoS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have been reported during the year 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto November) respectively. Further, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has registered a total of 1191, 1372, 2059 and 921 cases of frauds involving ATM/Debit Cards, Credit Cards and Internet Banking Frauds reported (amount involved Rs. 1 lakh and above) during the year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (Upto 30 Sept 2018) respectively.

(c) "Crime", "Police" and "Public Order" are State subject and data pertaining to complaints of cyber fraud at States are not maintained by MeitY.

[English]

Supply of Coal to Steel Companies

1512. SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel companies, either PUC or Private, are not getting required amount of coal and if so, the details thereof along with the companies name and short fall of coal quantity; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Under Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) linkage auction policy of 15.02.2016, Steel sector consumers are offered linkages in auction of Steel (coking) sub-sector. In the three tranches of NRS linkage auction by Coal India Limited (CIL), about 7 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) coal linkages were offered against which linkages for 0.22 MTPA were booked by the consumers under this sub-sector.

In the three tranches of NRS linkage auction by CIL, about 16.59 MTPA coal linkages were offered to Sponge Iron sector consumers against which linkages for 8.88 MTPA were booked by the consumers under this sub-sector. During Tranche-IV NRS linkage auction, a quantity of about 6.37 MTPA of coal was booked against an offer of 7.27 MTPA.

Total coal and coal products supplied by CIL to Steel & Sponge Iron Sectors under FSA/MoU in 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018) are as under:—

(in Million Tonnes)

Sector	Pro rata Annual Action Plan Target	Total Dispatch
Steel (PSU)*	3.01	1.25
Sponge Iron (Pvt)*	7.18	6.71

*No linkages for Private sector in Steel & for Government sector in Sponge Iron

The dispatch to Non-regulated sectors has improved progressively from 8.3 rakes/day in October 2018 to 13.8 rakes/day in November, 2018 and 23.4 rakes/day (up to 17th December, 2018).

Total coal and coal products supplied by SCCL to Steel & Sponge Iron Sectors in 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018) are as under:—

(in Million Tonnes)

Sector	Pro rata Annual Action Plan (AAP) Target	Total Dispatch
Steel (PSU)	0.20	0.096
Sponge Iron (Pvt)	0.80	0.102

(b) Under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, 21 coal mines have been allocated to Non-regulated Sector including 10 coal mines for Steel Sector. Further, to increase availability of washed coal for steel sector, 9 coking coal washeries have been planned to be set up in Coal India Limited by December, 2020.

Charges for Aadhaar Authentication

1513. SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UIDAI is levying heavy charges on bankers for Aadhaar authentication services and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Government has prescribed any fee to be charged by UIDAI from the banks for Aadhaar authentication and if so, the details thereof?

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

(SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) As far as Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is concerned, UIDAI does not charge any transaction charges for either Yes/No or e-KYC authentication. However, as per the provisions of Regulation 12(7) of Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016, *w.e.f.* 1st June, 2017, License fee is applicable to Authentication User Agencies (AUAs) and Authentication Service Agencies (ASAs). Since Banks using e-KYC service (KUAs) are, by default, also AUAs, there is no additional license fee for e-KYC services.

License Fees (for 2 years)	
AUA	Rs. 20 lakh
ASA	Rs. 1 crore

The circular issued by UIDAI in this regard dated 31.05.2017 is available at https://uidai.gov.in/images/resource/Circular_for_AUA_KUA_and_ASA_Agreements_v40.pdf and dated 08.08.2017 is available at https://uidai.gov.in/images/resource/Circular_dated_08082017.pdf.

Powers to CBI

1514. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimate Committee of Parliament has recommended that the CBI should be given statutory status and legal power to investigate cases with inter-State ramifications and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government feel the need for an exclusive act for CBI; 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) No.

(b) and (c) CBI functions within an explicit and well established legal and procedural framework and derives its powers as Delhi Special Police under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, for investigation of

crimes as per provisions of Cr. PC and as per instructions contained in the Crime Manual.

Therefore, no such proposal has been found necessary by the Government presently.

Special Category Status

1515. SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to accord Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the Union Government is contemplating to bring amendments in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014 (APR) on this issue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Special Category Status for plan assistance was granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. These features included (i) hilly and difficult terrain (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population (iii) strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and (v) non-viable nature of State finances. Special Category Status was granted based on an integrated consideration of these criteria.

The Fourteenth Finance Commission has recommended the transfer to the States by devolution and grants-in-aid for the period 2015-20 which was accepted by the Central Government. The Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) in its recommendations has not made any distinction between General Category States and Special Category States in the horizontal distribution of shareable taxes amongst the States.

However, in the case of Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government has agreed to give a special assistance for

Government of Andhra Pradesh for five years, which would make up for the additional Central share the State might have received during these years *i.e.*, 2015-16 to 2019-20. This will be in the form of Central Government funding for externally aided projects for the State of Andhra Pradesh signed and disbursed during these years.

Fire Accidents in Coal Mines

1516. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country particularly Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu along with the loss of life and property caused during each of the last five years, company and State-wise;

(b) the reasons for repeated fire accidents in the coal mines;

(c) whether the Government has considered any investigation in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons, company-wise till date;

(d) the funds allocated and spent for ensuring the safety and security of workers in these coal mines

during the said period, company-wise along with the funds released to compensate the victim of accidents during the last three years, company-wise;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such accidents in future; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government for improvement in the fire-resistance system of coal mines and factories particularly of Maharashtra State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The details of fire accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu along with loss of life and property caused during each of last five years (2013 to 2017), company wise and State-wise are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The main reason for fire accidents in coal mines is spontaneous heating.

(c) Investigation done by various agencies and actions taken against the responsible persons, company-wise are as under:

BCCL: Investigation/enquiry was completed and disciplinary action have been taken against the concerned Manager, Overman and Mining Sirdar.

NCL: The enquiry has been conducted by Internal Safety Organization (ISO) and DGMS officials. The details are provided below:—

Sl. No.	Particulars	Findings	Recommendations	Action taken against persons held responsible
1.	Fatal accident of Sri Md. Firoz Ansari dated 02.06.2016	Wrong practice of using wiper motor pump with battery of tipper	(1) Framing and implementation of SOP of all activities of outsourcing works. (2) Conducting Safety talks for increasing awareness of safe practices among workmen.	• Demotion to lower post-2 persons • Censure-1 person
2.	Fatal accident of Sri Lalman Gupta, Dated 05.05.2018	Bursting of oxygen cylinder due to run over of dozer on the cylinder.	(1) Proper housekeeping. (2) Work to be carried out under constant supervision of a competent supervisor. (3) Proper communication of work to the workmen.	• One increment stopped-3 persons • Memo issued-1 person

WCL: Inquiry was conducted on the three fire incidences occurred. Two officers/executives were warned to be more careful while discharging duty.

SECL: DGMS enquired into the cases of incidence independently to assess the cause thereof and suggested precautionary measures to control the heating. The affected panel was immediately isolated by making isolation stoppings to control fire under the guidance of DGMS.

MCL:

Year	Name of Mines	Investigations & Action Taken
2015-16	Talcher Colliery	Investigation made by ISO, MCL and DGMS. No disciplinary action.
	Orient Mine No.3	Investigation made by ISO, MCL and DGMS. Warning Order issued against 6 persons.
2017-18	Nandira Colliery	Investigation made by ISO, MCL and DGMS. Warning Order issued against 4 persons.

(d) Company-wise details are as under:

Eastern Coalfield Ltd. (ECL): The details of fund allocated and expenditure are given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Capital		Revenue	
	Fund Allocated	Expenditure	Fund Allocated	Expenditure
2015-16	6628.00	4450.00	15983.00	13636.00
2016-17	6479.00	2826.30	15826.00	10220.88
2017-18	6605.00	3392.00	16000.00	13700.00

Central Coalfield Ltd. (CCL): The details of fund allocated and expenditure are given below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Capital		Revenue	
	Fund Allocated	Expenditure	Fund Allocated	Expenditure
2015-16	656.74	500.06	1778.38	1778.00
2016-17	600.00	264.45	1650.00	1659.49
2017-18	1000.00	517.37	1700.00	1623.80

Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL): The funds spent for ensuring safety and security of workers in BCCL is as under:-

Year	Spent (Rs in crore)
2015-16	24.58
2016-17	22.70
2017-18	31.41

• Compensation of Rs. 639200/- was paid to the next of kin of victim of Rajapur OC accident.

Northern Coalfield Ltd. (NCL): The funds allocated and spend on Safety in last three year is given below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
Budget	Utilization	Budget	Utilization	Budget	Utilization

Capital Budget

1198 186 632 236 638 132

Revenue Budget

6000 5250.82 6000 5391.84 6300 6170.29

Compensation details:

Sl. No.	Project	Date of Accident	Name of Deceased	Compensation provided as per statute
1.	Khadia (UP)	2.6.2016	Firoz Ansari, Contractor worker	Rs. 8,67,640/-
2.	Dudhichua (UP)	5.5.2018	Sri Lalman Gupta, Fitter (Cat-VI)	Rs. 4,98,800/-

Western Coalfield Ltd. (WCL): Adequate capital and revenue funds are allotted for the coal mines for ensuring the safety of the workers. The details are as below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Capital		Revenue	
	fund allotted	Capital expenditure	fund allotted	Revenue expenditure
2015-16	1200.00	1110.26	9000.00	10575.91
2016-17	800.00	242.11	9000.00	9245.67
2017-18	500.00	232.50	8500.00	8927.20
2018-19 (upto Oct.'18)	400.00	198.11	8000.00	4433.14

South Eastern Coalfield Ltd. (SECL): The fund allocated and spent under capital & revenue head for ensuring safety and security of workers in SECL during the last three years and current year are given below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Capital		Revenue	
	Fund allocated	Expenditure	Fund allocated	Expenditure
2015-16	1346.60	350.00	18000.00	17609.00
2016-17	4227.00	3265.072	16500.00	16006.00
2017-18	2751.00	1234.92	17000.00	16500.00
2018-19	900.00	223.00 (till Nov.'18)	17200.00	14300.00 (till Nov.'18)

Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. (MCL):

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Capital		Revenue	
	Fund allocated	Expenditure	Fund allocated	Expenditure
2015-16	715.32	679.55	4900.00	4900.00
2016-17	941.00	870.00	5145.00	5145.00
2017-18	748.98	715.26	5700.00	5700.00

Singareni Colliery company Ltd. (SCCL):

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Capital A/c.		Revenue A/c.	
	Budget	Actual Expenditure	Budget	Actual Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
2015-16	1111	1214	71871	72910
1	2	3	4	5
2016-17	1069	145	71872	77743
2017-18	1365	1133	79670	81870
2019-19 (upto Oct. 2018)	961	266	55202	49914

(e) The following steps are taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future:

- Apparatus for detecting of fire/symptom of fire are provided in all underground mines.
- Risk assessment based Safety Management Plans (SMPs) prepared and implemented.
- Preparation and implementation of Principal Hazards Management Plans (PHMPs) along with Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP).
- Site-specific Risk Assessment based Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) formulated and complied.
- Conducting safety audit time to time to assess safety status of mine including precautionary measures taken for mine fire and spontaneous heating.
- Emergency Action Plan of each mine has been prepared and implemented, it is being reviewed from time to time. Mock Rehearsals are being conducted for examining the preparedness / efficacy of Mine-wise Emergency Action Plan.

(f) Based on the experiences, the developmental initiatives undertaken by DGMS are amendment of safety laws, issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars and issue of technical instructions to DGMS officers for their guidance.

Statement*Details of accidents in coal mines due to Fire during the years 2013-2017*

Company	Date of fire accident/incidence	Mine	State	Type of fire	Loss of life & properties
ECL	No fire accident.				
BCCL	19.08.2015	Rajapur OCP	Jharkhand	One shovel operator got burn injury while handling fiery coal seam	1 fatality
CCL	No fire accident.				
NCL	02.06.2016	Khadia OCP	UP	Burn injury by diesel fumes-Equipment fire	1 fatality
	05.05.2018	Dudhichua OCP	MP	Bursting of O ₂ cylinder	1 fatality
WCL	13.09.2014	DRC 6, 7 & 8	Maharashtra	UG Mine fire	No fatality involved. Only negligible loss of properties.
	12.07.2015	Silewara	Maharashtra	UG Mine Fire	
	16.07.2015	Ballarpur 3 & 4 pits	Maharashtra	UG Mine Fire	
SECL	No fire accident. However, there are two cases of spontaneous heating in two UG mines as coal by nature itself is susceptible to spontaneous heating due to its intrinsic nature. One mine is in Chhattisgarh in the year 2013 and other in MP in 2015. All the cases were effectively dealt.				
MCL	No fire accident. However, there are three cases of spontaneous heating in three different UG mines in Odisha State. Two cases were in 2015-16 and one case was in 2017-18. All the cases were effectively dealt.				
SCCL	No fire accident.				

Sampling Activity

1517. SHRI R.P. MARUTHARAJAA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sampling activities carried at different Subsidiaries of CIL and SCCL by different Government/institutions/laboratories under the supervision of CCO Kolkata and its regional offices; and

(b) the details of name of coal company, name of sampling agencies and total no. of teams deputed for sampling activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As informed by CCO, Kolkata, the activity of sampling and analysis for mines of Coal India Ltd and SCCL was given to different Government Agencies/Academic Institutions and the same work has been completed by middle of March, 2017. Based on the

sample analysis results, final grade of coal was determined for 2017-18.

No. of Mines given for sampling and analysis:—

Sl.No.	Subsidiary of CIL	No. of Mines
1.	ECL	93
2.	BCCL	48
3.	MCL	21
4.	NEC	4
5.	SECL	79
6.	CCL	61
7.	NCL	10
8.	WCL	76
9.	SCCL	48
Total	CIL	392

(b) Details of sampling activities carried at different subsidiaries of CIL and SCCL by different Govt. Institutions/Laboratory are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Coal Company	Name of Sampling Agency	Total No. of Teams deputed for sampling
1.	ECL	Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur	6
2.	BCCL	IIT (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad	4
3.	CCL	IIT (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad	4
4.	NCL	IIT (BHU), Varanasi	1
5.	WCL	IIT, Guwahati	8
6.	SECL	IIT (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad	8
7.	MCL	IIT, Guwahati	4
8.	NEC	IIT, Guwahati	2
9.	Total CIL		37
10.	SCCL	India Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad	3

[Translation]

Procurement Orders to PSUs

1518. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procurement orders to defence Public Sector Undertakings are on a decline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and

(b) Government is pursuing initiatives to achieve higher levels of indigenization and self-reliance in the defence sector. This is sought to be achieved by harnessing the capabilities of both the public and the private sector industries in the country. The number and value of capital contracts signed with Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Number of Contracts	Value
2015-16	22	15,617.21
2016-17	8	12,374.05
2017-18	15	10,475.07

(c) and (d) The licensing policy has been streamlined, reducing the number of items requiring Industrial License. A total of 394 licenses have been issued to 239 Indian companies for manufacture of defence items since 2001.

Uranium Production

1519. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total uranium production in the country and its yearly requirement for nuclear power generation;

(b) the total quantity of uranium being imported and the names of the countries from which it is being imported;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to make the country self sufficient in the area of uranium; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) It is not in the public interest to disclose the quantity of production of uranium in the country. The approximate requirements of uranium for Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) are given below:—

Unit Capacity (MW)	Annual requirement at 85% Capacity Factor (tons UO ₂)
220	45
540	100
700	125

The approximate requirements of uranium for Light Water Reactors (LWRs) are as given below:—

Unit Capacity (MW)	Annual requirement at 85% Capacity Factor (tons low enriched uranium)
160	6 (at 85% CF)
1000	25 (at 90%CF)

(b) Quantum of uranium being imported from foreign countries and names of the Countries are as given below:—

Sl. No.	Delivery Year	Country	Quantity being procured (in MT)
1.	2018-19	Russia	Nil
	2019-20		56.67
2.	2018-19	Kazakhstan	1500 approx.
	2019-20		1500 approx.
3.	2018-19	Canada	986.6
	2019-20		1000 approx.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The Government has taken measures to augment domestic uranium supply by state-of-the-art, integrated, multi-disciplinary exploration in several prospective and potential geological domains in various parts of the country and opening of new mines and processing facilities.

[English]

Post Retirement Medical Benefits to SSC Officers

1520. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reneged upon the provisioning of Short-Service Commission (SSC) officers with post-retirement medical benefits;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government would reconsider the decision as it affects a large number of officers engaged in SSC and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Army has proposed to the Government to make SSC more attractive to bridge the widening recruitment gap between officers in permanent commission and SSC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to formulate a special scheme to mitigate the hardships of Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs) and Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs) in obtaining medical facilities after their release.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made to make the Short Service Commission more attractive in consultation with the Armed Forces.

Haj Act

1521. SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Haj Act to include visits to Islamic pilgrimage sites other than Mecca and Medina in Haj and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the name of the Haj is going to be changed to Ziyarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) No, Madam. There is no proposal to amend the Haj Committee Act, 2002 to include visits to Islamic pilgrimage sites other than Makkah and Madinah during Haj pilgrimage.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. There is no proposal to change the name of Haj to Ziyarat.

Calicut Station as World Class Station

1522. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal for converting Calicut railway station into a World Class station;

(b) whether any time frame has been fixed to complete all the procedures and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of the proposal for development of platform no. 4 at Calicut station including provision of VRR/restaurant, shifting of parcel office, PRC, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, bids for redevelopment of Calicut (Kozhikode) station are under process of finalization.

(b) Station redevelopment program is first of its kind and complex in nature and requires detailed techno-financial feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local bodies etc. Therefore, no time-frame can be indicated at this stage.

(c) The development of Platform No.4 including provision of VRR/Restaurant has been planned under station re-development Scheme. Tender has been invited for shifting of existing Parcel Office to Multi-Functional Complex at Calicut (Kozhikode) railway station.

Non-Transparent Performance Appraisal

1523. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of performance appraisal is non-transparent, except in respect of communicating "adverse" entries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it gives feedback to officers about their areas of strength/potential and also does not motivate officers through recognition of good work accomplished and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the monitoring system for the timely writing of the reports is extremely weak resulting that there is considerable delay in the writing of annual reports and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the evaluations of Reviewing Officers and Accepting Authorities are often not available on account of their having demitted office, in which case the reports are deprived of valuable inputs and if so, the details thereof since last five 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) No, Madam. The system of Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR)/Performance Appraisal Report (PAR) for Central Government employees, including officers belonging to All India Services, is transparent. Government instructions provide for disclosure of full APAR/PAR to the officer reported upon, for representation, if any.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) The APAR/PAR does give feedback to officers about their areas of strength/potential. The APAR/PAR also motivates the officer, through recognition of good work accomplished, and also to improve on some areas of work, wherever required.

(d) No, Madam. The instructions provide timelines for preparation and maintenance of APAR/PAR. Some online systems for generation and recording of APARs have also been set up.

(e) Instructions are in place for Reviewing Officers and Accepting Authorities to record their comments even after demitting office, within a stipulated time.

No such Centralized data is maintained.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases in CVC

1524. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases regarding corruption sent to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) during the last two years and the current year;

(b) the number of cases on which reports have been presented;

(c) the number of cases returned in lack of evidences and the number of cases in which officers have been found guilty;

(d) the number of cases where recommendations have been made to punish the guilty persons/officers; and

(e) the number of cases where no action has been taken till now and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has informed that the number of cases of alleged misconducts involving vigilance angle and launch of criminal prosecution for offences of corruption etc., received in the Commission for advice during the last two years and the current year are as follows:—

Year	No. of cases received (1st and 2nd stage advice)
2016	2865
2017	2280
2018*	1939

*upto 11.12.2018

(b) to (d) CVC has informed that the number of cases wherein first stage advice was tendered by the CVC is as follows:—

Nature of penalty	2016	2017	2018*
Criminal	62	64	61
Major penalty	460	490	411
Minor penalty	183	181	123
Administrative action	427	402	367
Closure	956	932	879
Total	2088	2069	1780

*upto 11.12.2018

Details of second stage advice tendered on such references by the CVC are as under:—

Nature of penalty	2016	2017	2018*
Major penalty	206	112	85
Minor penalty	153	78	60
Exoneration	266	238	185
Other Action	67	50	46
Total	692	478	376

*upto 11.12.2018

This includes the cases in which charges could not be proved conclusively and advised for exoneration.

(e) CVC has informed that as per available records, as on 13.12.2018 there are 273 cases pending with various Ministries/Departments/Organizations after Commission's second stage advice for imposition of major/minor penalty.

Improvement of Railway Infrastructure

1525. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the investment made to improve the Railway infrastructure during the last three years in view of the increasing rail accidents in the country;

(b) the plan for the next five years in view of the increasing load on Railway infrastructure;

(c) the details of the specific steps taken to mobilise resources for the development of Railway infrastructure; and

(d) the details of the specific steps taken to augment the capacity of human resources in the railway during the last three years and to bring it at par with the international standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Capital expenditure (Capex) of Railways is majorly aimed at improving and augmenting infrastructure for enhancing safety. Capital expenditure by Railways in last three years is as under:—

Year	Capex (Rs. in cr.)
2016-17	109935

Year	Capex (Rs. in cr.)
2017-18	101989
2018-19 (BE)*	146500
Total	358424

*BE- Budget Estimate

(b) In view of increasing load on railway infrastructure, Indian Railways has assessed that an investment to the tune of Rs. 8.56 lakh cr. in five years from 2016 will be required against infrastructure project including acquisition, construction, replacement & renewal of assets etc.

(c) Railways have taken various steps to mobilize resources for developing its infrastructure since 2014-15 from Extra Budgetary Resources. From 2015-16 contribution of funds from Extra Budgetary Resources namely Institutional Finance (EBR (IF)) and Public Private Partnership (EBR (PPP)) has been substantial. From 2015-16 to 2018-19 (BE) Indian Railways has been able to mobilize Rs. 68107 crore from EBR (IF). PPP policy initiatives in the same period has resulted in investment of Rs. 92915 crore. Year-wise detail of both the resources is as below:-

Year	EBR(IF)	EBR(PPP)
2010-15	0	0
2015-16	9888	15081
2016-17	11465	26834
2017-18 (RE)**	20314	24000
2018-19 (BE)*	26440	27000
Total	68107	92915

**RE- Revised Estimate

* BE- Budget Estimate

To address Railways' requirement for critical safety works, the Government has introduced a new fund 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) since 2017-18. It has a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore to be utilized over a period of five years and has an annual outlay of Rs. 20,000 crore.

(d) There are 7 Centralized Training Institutes (CTIs) to cater to the training needs of Railway officers and 17 proposed Zonal Multi-Disciplinary Training Institutes and 68 proposed Divisional Multi-Disciplinary Training Institutes

and specialized training centers for non-gazetted staff. Recruitment and training on Railways have been tailored to adapt to modern technology in Rolling stock, Track and Signaling systems and use of Information Technology. Apart from in-house training, railway employees are also sent for foreign training under transfer of technology and are also provided inputs through leading training institutes within India. About more than 3.5 lakh employees are trained annually on Indian Railways which roughly works out to more than a quarter of total staff strength.

Fake Websites

1526. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:

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

(a) whether people are reportedly being cheated by creating fake websites;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of fake Government websites;

(c) the number of people cheated by creating fake websites during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the rules under which the Government has taken action in this regard along with the number of people apprehended during the last three years; and

(e) the outcome of the said action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (e) There are media reports indicating that people are reportedly being cheated by creating fake websites.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and Government of India helps State/UTs in combating cyber-crimes by assisting them through advisories and funds under various schemes. States are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, prosecution and investigation of crime through their law enforcement machinery. The Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) take legal action against the cyber-crime offenders as per the relevant provisions of the IT Act, 2000, Indian Penal Code (IPC) and other applicable laws. National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects and

maintains statistical data of police recorded cognizable crimes from 36 States/Union Territories. As per the data maintained by NCRB, a total of 428 cases, 1,083 cases & 1,597 cases were registered under Punishment for cheating by personation by using computer resource [section 66D of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000] during 2014, 2015 & 2016 respectively.

Accredited Political Parties

1527. SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of political parties of National and State level granted accreditation by Election Commission at present;

(b) the details of electoral reforms carried out during the past three years;

(c) whether the Government has received the recommendations of cabinet level committee constituted under the Chairmanship of honourable Home Minister and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is planning to make the above recommendations public; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

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

(b) Electoral reforms is a continuous and ongoing process that involve a major policy decisions in consultation with all stakeholders in the matter. Following are some of the steps taken by the Government towards electoral reforms in recent years:-

- I. The Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 and the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 were amended in September, 2016 for simplifying the various forms appended thereto, *inter alia*, requiring the candidate to make a specific declaration about his citizenship and to affix his photo on the form, etc.
- II. The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 were amended in October, 2016 to facilitate electronic

transmission of blank postal ballot to the service voters including armed forces personnel with a view to reducing the window of time available for receipt of marked postal ballot paper.

III. The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 were amended in April, 2017 to amplify nomination Forms 2A to 2H, making it mandatory for candidates to disclose the source(s) of income of self and spouse and to make specific declarations relating to all disqualification provisions.

IV. Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 was amended by the Ministry of Finance through the Finance Act, 2017 whereby no donation exceeding two thousand rupees can be received by political parties otherwise than by an account payee cheque drawn on a bank or an account payee draft or use of electronic clearing system through a bank account or through electoral bonds.

V. Form 26 appended to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 was amended in October, 2018 requiring the candidates to declare information about their source of income including that of their dependents, about contracts entered into with the appropriate Government and public company etc. and for publicizing information regarding criminal cases pending against them.

(c) to (e) A Committee headed by the Hon'ble Home Minister had recommended proxy voting for overseas electors in addition to their existing facility of voting in person. A Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for the purpose has been passed by the Lok Sabha and is pending consideration by Rajya Sabha at present.

Facilities under Digital India

1528. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the effective steps taken by the Government for better augmentation of digital facilities under Digital India in remote areas/villages including those near borders;

(b) whether the Government proposes to collaborate with private sector in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote information technology infrastructure for digital connection in village panchayats and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India has initiated the 'Digital India' Programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Some of the key initiatives taken by the Government for expansion of digital facilities under Digital India Programme in remote areas/villages of the country are as follows:—

- **Common Services Centre (CSC):** Common Services Centres are internet enabled centres operated by local entrepreneur, called Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and provide eServices to rural citizens. For this, MeitY has initiated a project namely "Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0" in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme, which envisages setting up of at least one CSC at Gram Panchayat (GP) to cover all the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country. Over 300 digital services are being offered by these CSCs. Till November, 2018, there are 3.05 Lakh Common Services Centre which are active and delivering eServices in remote areas/villages including those near borders.
- **DigiGaon:** MeitY has also initiated the 'Digital Village Pilot Project' in October, 2018. 700 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with atleast one Gram Panchayat per District per State/UT are being covered under the project. The digital services being offered are Digital Health Services (Tele-Health & Tele-Veterinary consultation), Education Service, Financial Services, Skill Development, Solar panel powered street lights including Government to Citizens Services (G2C), Business to Citizen (B2C) Services.

(b) The Government is already extending these services through private participation. The Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) are private entities under CSC-SPV which runs Common Services Centres.

(c) The steps taken by the Government for providing digital connection in Village Panchayats is as follows:

- **BharatNet:** Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. DoT is implementing BharatNet project with the aim to connect all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country and to provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all gram panchayats (GPs). So far, 3,01,154 Kms optical fiber has been laid connecting 1,21,652 Gram Panchayats. OFC laying and equipment installation has been completed at 1,16,411 Gram Panchayats, which are service ready.

[English]

Production of Coal

1529. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries to speed up the production of coal to meet the demands of indigenous industries/sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries in this regard;

(c) the details of sectors which are facing shortage of coal in the country; and

(d) the steps Union Government has taken or proposes to take to meet the production of coal indigenously without importing the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) As a short term measure, Coal India Limited (CIL) has been asked to take steps for enhancing coal production during the remaining period of FY 2018-19. Various measures have been taken by CIL and subsidiaries to achieve the same which include. (i) Expediting finalization and operationalization of coal and OBR contracts (ii) Re-deployment of HEMM in OC mines. (iii) High capacity mines are being planned with deployment

of high capacity/high productivity equipment in OC & UG mines of CIL.

(iv) For increase in productivity of mines, mass production technology is being used.

(c) Coal India Limited had a vendible stock of 22.93 Million Tonnes as on 15.12.2018. Due to increased supply to Power Plants, coal based Power generation during the period of April-November, 2018 has been 99.16 % of program with a growth of 5.5 % over the generation in the corresponding period of last year. As a result of the initiatives taken by the Ministry and CIL, the stock at Power House end has improved to 15.52 MT as on 16.12.2018 and is likely to improve further.

Alongside the increase in stock at the power house end, on movement of coal through rail mode to non-regulated sector has improved progressively from 8.3 rakes/day in October, 2018 to 13.8 rakes/day in November, 2018 and further to 22.3 rakes/day (up to 11th December, 2018).

(d) There has been a consistent effort to increase domestic coal production so as to reduce dependence on coal imports. The all India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 676.48 MT in 2017-18. Absolute increase in all India coal production from 2013-14 to 2017-18 (four years) is 110.71 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 33.73 MT from 2009-10 to 2013-14 (four years).

Coal India Limited (CIL) has also increased its production from 462.41 MT in 2013-14 to 567.36 MT in 2017-18 (four years), an absolute increase of 105 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 31.15 MT between 2009-10 and 2013-14 (four years).

Further, in the current year during April-November, 2018, all India coal production was 433.90 MT with a growth rate of 9.8% and coal production of CIL was 358.32 MT with a growth rate of 8.8% over the corresponding period of previous year.

The focus of the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal which includes efforts to expedite Environment & Forest clearances expeditiously, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

However, coking coal will continue to be imported as there is limited availability of coking coal in the country. Further, power plants designed on imported coal will also continue to import coal.

Cases Pending due to Stay Orders

1530. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to take cognizance of the fact that there are many cases stuck up with stay orders in different courts for more than three years;

(b) if so, the number of court cases pending due to stay orders for more than three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that, after specific duration and according to merit of the case, such stay orders will be automatically lifted?

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) Data on pendency of cases is compiled by the High Courts. Information about pendency of cases in Civil and Criminal matters in High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts under their jurisdiction is periodically obtained by the Government. The data of cases pending for more than three years on account of stay orders from higher courts, is not being maintained separately.

Granting of stay orders in civil and criminal cases is part of judicial proceedings and Courts have been vested with inherent powers in this regard under the relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in Criminal Appeal Nos. 1375-1376 of 2013, in the matter of Asian Resurfacing of Road Agency Pvt. Ltd. & Anr vs. Central Bureau of Investigation, in its Order dated 28.03.2018, has observed that the situation of proceedings remaining pending for a long time on account of stay order needs to be remedied in criminal and civil cases. Accordingly, it has been directed that in all pending cases where stay against proceedings of a civil or criminal trial is operating, the same will come

to an end on the expiry of six months from of date of order *i.e.* 28.03.2018 unless such stay is extended in an exceptional case by a speaking order. The judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court can be accessed at "<http://sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2011/27580/27580 Judgement 28-Mar-2018.pdf>."

New and Innovative Defence Production Projects

1531. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote new and innovative defence production projects under Make in India programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of projects given approval during the last three years;

(c) whether certain projects particularly manufacturing of small arms are not given approval even though the Ordnance Factory Board had given its approval and the company validation was done;

(d) the details of the projects lying pending during each of the last three years; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government and the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in this regard and to expedite the process of approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) Government has taken several initiatives to promote new and innovative defence production projects under 'Make in India' in the past four years such as introduction of Buy (Indian-IDD) category of capital acquisition, promulgation of separate 'Make-II' procedure, launch of iDEX (Innovations in Defence Excellence) Scheme, launch of Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme, etc.

In the last three financial years *i.e.* from 2015-16 to 2017-18, Government has accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to 111 proposals, worth Rs. 1,78,900 crore approximately under 'Buy (Indian-IDD)', 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy and Make (Indian)' or 'Make' categories of capital procurement as per Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), which means Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued

only to Indian Vendors. These proposals are progressed as per the guidelines stipulated in DPP. In addition, all the procurement schemes are regularly reviewed and prioritized on the basis of critical operational needs of the Armed Forces.

2. With regard to manufacturing of small arms, the Expression of Interest (EOI) for identifying/shortlisting Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for collaboration in the production of small arms for civilian market was issued by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) 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 EOIs including small arms, 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	Closed
3.	Assault Rifle 7.62 mm	Closed
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 155mm 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	Closed

Rights of Indians in Foreign Countries

1532. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a system for protecting the rights of Indian citizens in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the arrangement made in this regard in each country;

(c) whether it came to the notice of the Government that the terms and conditions in the visa were violated by the external agencies and due to this, Indian citizens are facing difficulties to continue in their employment;

(d) if so, the details of the action taken for ensuring the rights of Indian employees abroad;

(e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the change in the domestic laws in certain countries is ousting the Indian employees from their employment;

(f) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government to ensure the welfare of workers during the time of termination of retirement from service abroad; and

(g) the details of the system established for locating Indians abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (d) The Government under the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules thereof, has a framework in place through which Indian citizens going abroad for employment, specially to the 18 notified Emigration Check Required or ECR countries are lent protection.

Indian workers with ECR passport, who emigrate after obtaining Emigration Clearances (EC) from any of the ten Protector of Emigrants (PoE) offices in the country through the online emigration clearance system (e-migrate portal) of the Ministry of External Affairs, can work legally in the destination country and are covered under their labour laws and provided protection by the Protector General of Emigrants of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Government has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on labour and manpower cooperation with a number of

such countries in order to ensure that our workers in these countries work under protective legislation. Such agreements have been signed with seven countries, namely, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.

Whenever our Missions receive complaints regarding violation of the conditions of the contract from Indian nationals/workers, it tries to resolve the matter amicably by contacting the employer. In addition, whenever possible, with the help of local authorities, the Embassy facilitates transfer of employment of the aggrieved Indian workers to other companies where employment is available. The Embassy systematically follows up on such grievances with the local authorities. In addition, such issues are also regularly discussed at the meetings of the Joint Working Group [JWG] on Labour & Manpower Development and other relevant bilateral fora. The other measures put in place are as follows:

- (i) The on-line MADAD portal enables the emigrant workers and their family members to register their consular grievances online and track their redressal.
- (ii) Grievances related to Overseas Employment in notified Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries can also be logged in directly by emigrants/relatives or through the Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) on e-Migrate portal. These grievances are settled by respective jurisdictional Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs) as per laid down procedures.
- (iii) Missions also conduct Open Houses on a regular basis where workers can seek redressal of their grievances.
- (iv) A multi-lingual 24X7 Helpline of Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) in New Delhi provides information, guidance and grievance redressal on all issues and problems pertaining to overseas employment of Indian nationals.
- (v) Indian Missions have also established 24x7 helplines and Toll Free help lines for the benefit of Indian workers to seek help.
- (vi) Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSK) have been set up at Dubai (UAE), Sharjah (UAE),

Riyadh, Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to provide guidance and counselling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers.

- (vii) Kshetriya Pravasi Sahayata Kendras (KPSK) have also been setup in Kochi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Lucknow to assist emigrants or their relatives to redress their problems/complaints regarding overseas employment.
- (viii) The Missions utilise the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide assistance to overseas Indian nationals in times of distress.
- (ix) Suitable accommodation to distressed Indian nationals has been setup in Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Malaysia to provide temporary accommodation.

In order to promote the welfare and protection of women workers, Government has taken further measures in restricting the recruitment of ECR passport holding Indian female workers only through seven State Government recruiting agencies *w.e.f.* 2nd August, 2016 to avoid their harassment by foreign employers. The Foreign Employers who intend to recruit Indian female domestic workers directly, have to register themselves on e-Migrate System with the respective Missions and deposit a bank guarantee equivalent to US\$2500/-. The age restriction of 30 years has been made mandatory in respect of all women emigrants emigrating on ECR passport, irrespective of the nature/category of employment. Further, mandatory Insurance and medical cover is extended to all Indian workers including women, through Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana (PBBY). Also, the Missions are proactive in providing medical and legal support to distressed Indian women workers and take all possible measures, using Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for their speedy repatriation to India. Our Heads of Missions have been empowered more recently for utilizing ICWF funds. The Mission houses such women workers at its premises as they await completion of their repatriation process by the Deportation Centre.

(e) and (f) It has been reported by the Indian Missions in 18 ECR countries that these countries are passing through a period of economic slowdown primarily because of the slump in oil prices. Coupled with this, the

Gulf countries are aiming at filling up maximum posts both in Public and Private Sector by their own nationals. Therefore, there has been a demand shortage for foreign workers in these countries, including Indians.

The Government has accorded the highest priority to the safety and wellbeing of Indian nationals abroad. Today, all Indians residing in any corner of the world are confident that in case of a crisis, their Government will provide them with a safe passage to the country. The Missions also help the aggrieved emigrants to settle their dues from the Foreign Employers amicably. Indian Missions and Posts abroad are readily accessible to all Indian citizens within their jurisdiction and maintain close contact with the Indian community. There is a designated nodal officer in each Mission and Post to deal with emergency situations. In key Missions and Posts, a 24x7 Helpline has been established. A dedicated Community Welfare Wing has also been established in Missions and Posts where there is sizeable Indian community. Indian nationals residing abroad are advised to register with the nearest Indian Mission or Post, which is user friendly through on-line. In addition, Ministry issues instructions from time to time to its Missions and Posts abroad to address the challenges faced by the resident Indian community with a proactive approach. The institutional framework for support and welfare of Indian nationals abroad stands considerably strengthened, specially in the last four years.

(g) The Government, whenever informed of any missing Indian abroad, immediately through the Indian Missions, tries to locate the missing person with the information available. The concerned Indian Mission gets in touch with the Local Government and follows up periodically till the person is located. Other means, such as contacting Indian associations, who could be helpful, are also taken recourse to on such cases.

Through the efforts mentioned above, during May, 2014 to May, 2018, the Government has successfully repatriated 2,08,186 stressed Indian nationals including 16,281 rescued from troubled areas in Ukraine, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and South Sudan.

Yoga Research Projects

1533. SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has funded a wide range of research institutions including 16 yoga research projects and support studies employing hi-tech tools on efficacy in treatment of illnesses, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India needs to catch up with the West where several groups are studying various aspects of yoga and meditation and its relationship to the brain; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/ being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes, Madam. In the year 2017-18, Department of Sciences and Technology (DST) has supported 16 yoga research projects under "Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM)" Programme to various institutions viz. National Chemical Laboratory, Pune; National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore; Health Action by People, Trivandrum; Manipal University, Bangalore; Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore; All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; MS Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore; Bharati Vidhyapeeth University, Pune; Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Sanasthana, Bangalore; Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Krishnankoil; Light on Yoga Research Trust, Mumbai and Apollo Gleneagles Hospital, Kolkata. Under these projects, research is being carried out to investigate physical and mental ailments like Mild Cognitive Impairment in older adults, management of diabetes, motor and non-motor manifestations in patients of Parkinson's Disease, balance in elderly, schizophrenia, metabolic regulation, cardiovascular risk, intervention for opioid dependence, improvement in muscle function and gait characteristics in children with cerebral palsy, dementia, etc.

(b) and (c) Yoga and Meditation are traditional practices of India and their benefits are mentioned in ancient Indian Literature. The scientific research to understand the role of yoga and meditation in human well being is being conducted both-in India as well as in western countries. In 2015-16, to promote scientific research in yoga and meditation, the DST has started a new programme 'Science

and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM)' under its Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSRI). The aim of SATYAM programme is to explore the effect of yoga and meditation on mental and physical health which also includes its relationship with brain. Since its inception, 61 research projects have been supported under SATYAM.

Sub-Urban Rail Project

1534. SHRI P.C. MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Karnataka Government is yet to set up Special Purpose Vehicle to kick-start the Sub-Urban Railway project in Bengaluru;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to expedite the process of forming SPV;

(c) whether the State Government has utilised any of the funds allocated by the Central Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the delay in submission of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has hindered the process of forming the SPV on the Karnataka Government's end and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Government of Karnataka has agreed to modify the share holding pattern, Memorandum and Articles of Association of Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (K-RIDE), an existing company to function as a State Joint Venture Company of Ministry of Railways and Government of Karnataka in 49:51 ratio. Share holding pattern of K-RIDE has since been modified and share certificates in Demat form will be issued.

Accordingly K-RIDE will now take up and develop the suburban rail project in Bengaluru and thereafter will incorporate Project SPV for implementing the Bengaluru suburban project on its sanction.

(c) No fund has been allocated to State Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Formation of SPV is not delayed due to DPR.

[Translation]

Bombay High Court

1535. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to rename the Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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 High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 enabling the changing of the names of the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras into the High Courts of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, respectively was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19.07.2016. But the State Government of Tamil Nadu requested for changing the name of the High Court of Madras as the High Court of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, the High Court of Calcutta did not agree for the revised name. The Central Government has again sought views from the concerned State Governments and respective High Courts. No time frame can be fixed for approval of the Bill.

[English]

Facilities to Coal Mine Workers

1536. DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government extends welfare facilities for the coal mine workers and their family members;

(b) whether annual medical check-up is mandatory for coal mine workers working in PSU coal mines and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CIL and its subsidiary companies provide full medical facilities to all its employees and their dependent family members and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether contractual workers are also covered by medical facilities and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government for the welfare of coal mine workers and their family members?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) have well-structured welfare schemes/facilities for housing, water supply, sanitation, maintenance of roads and proper upkeep of colonies, indoor and outdoor medical treatment, post-retirement medical benefits, games and sports, gymnasiums, yoga Kendra, recreational facilities e.g. club, stadium, playgrounds, children park, library, community centre, canteen, rest shelter, bank, co-operative stores, education facilities including provision of school bus for children, scholarship schemes for the wards of the employees, reimbursement of tuition fees and hostel charges of the wards of the employees pursuing study in all Government Engineering and Medical Colleges, award/ reward to the employees and their wards for their achievement in their areas of work/education/games etc. Maternity leave and child care leave facilities are given to the women employees of the company.

(b) Annual medical check-up is not mandatory for coal mine workers. They are required to undergo Periodical Medical examination (PME) after every five years as per Rule 29 B (b) of Mines Rules, 1955. However, on the recommendation of the 10th Conference on Safety in Mines held in 2007, frequency of periodical medical examination has been brought down from existing five years to three years for the mining employees above 45 years of age. Employees engaged in food handling and preparation and handling of steaming material activities are undergoing routine stool examination once in every six months and sputum for AFB and chest radiograph once in a year. Employees engaged in driving/Heavy Earth Moving Machinery operation jobs are undergoing eye refraction test once in a year.

(c) CIL and its subsidiary companies provide full medical facilities to all employees and their dependent family members in the form of outdoor, indoor and referral services. Moreover, wherever required, employees and their dependent family are referred to outside Government and private hospitals. There are 332 super-speciality, multi-speciality and single speciality private empaneled hospitals all over India where the employees and their dependent family members can avail treatment free of cost whenever

referred. Retired employees along with their spouses can also receive treatment in these hospitals.

(d) The contractual workers are also provided treatment and occupational health services in the 70 hospitals owned by CIL spread across the coal mining areas.

(e) The coal mine workers are getting the facilities of Provident Fund and Pension as per Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, 1948 and Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998.

[Translation]

Fractured Railway Tracks

1537. SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways is facing the problem of fractured railway lines/tracks which are not fit for the high speed trains;

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

(c) the average of fractured railway lines per hundred kilometer; and

(d) the steps being taken to find out such fractured railway lines to prevent railway accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Preventive and corrective measures are taken by Railway Administration for timely detection and replacement of fractured Rail from track in time bound manner for smooth operation of trains.

(c) and (d) On Indian Railways' Broad Gauge track, average 6 rail fractures per hundred track km were recorded in 2017-18. Various steps taken to detect rail fracture and prevent accident are as under:

1. Ultrasonic Flawed Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.
2. Timely renewal of over-aged rails from track.
3. Visual examination of rails at joints by field staff.

4. Cold weather patrolling of track during coldest part of night to detect the rail fracture.

5. De-stressing of long welded rails.

6. Use of anti-corrosive paints to prevent corrosion.

7. Imposition of suitable speed restriction for trains till replacement of defective rail from track.

Influence on Working of SC Judges

1538. SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that there is reported news regarding influencing the working of honorable judges of Supreme Court of the country by putting undue pressure on them;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has acted upon to curb this illegal activity; 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 Judiciary is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution. The Government is committed to the independence of Judiciary and does not intervene in its functioning.

Lack of Opportunities for Citizens

1539. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the benefits of development do not reach all the citizens and if so, the facts thereof;

(b) whether crores of citizens of the country make their both ends meet with a meagre amount as per the report of the National Sample Survey Organisations;

(c) if so, the State-wise steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the employment opportunities for citizens both in rural and urban areas; and

(d) whether there is any provision to increase old age employment allowance in the country 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) The benefits of development are reaching the intended beneficiaries.

(b) Average Monthly Per-capita Consumption Expenditure (in Rs.) in India, along with estimated number of households and persons for each fractile class of Modified Mixed Reference Period Monthly Per-capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCEMMRP) during the period July, 2011 to June, 2012 as obtained from NSS 68th round Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) is given in the enclosed Statement-I. These are the latest estimates available from NSS survey on Consumer Expenditure. Explanatory Note in respect of concepts, definitions etc. used during the NSS 68th Round (July, 2011-June, 2012) round is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of the economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on Schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) and National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM). Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana and Startup India are initiated by the Government for facilitating employment. Besides these initiatives, flagship programmes

of the Government such as Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart City Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Housing for All, Infrastructure development, Industrial corridors and Sagar Mala have the potential to generate productive employment opportunities. Ministries/Departments/State run skill development schemes across various sectors to improve the employability of youth. Direct intervention Schemes such as the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) wherein Government reimburses 25 per cent of the stipend payable to apprentices also enhances employability of the youth to access employment.

Government has implemented the National Career Service (NCS) Project which comprises a digital portal that provides a nation-wide online platform for jobseekers and employers for job matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner and has a repository of career content.

Further, Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) has been initiated by the Government in the year 2016-17 for incentivizing industry for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme, the Government is paying the entire employer's contribution (12% or as admissible) towards the EPF and EPS for all sectors *w.e.f* 01.04.2018 to all eligible new employees for the next 3 years from the date of registration of new employees. The last date of registration under PMRPY is 31.03.2019. Under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, a minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- is ensured for every worker by the Government of India.

Statement-I

Average Monthly Per-capita Consumption Expenditure in Rs. in India, along with estimated number of households and persons for each fractile class of Modified Mixed Reference Period Monthly Per-capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCEMMRP) during NSS 68th Round (July, 2011 to June, 2012)

Fractile class of MPCEMMRP	Rural				Urban			
	average MPCE MRP (Rs)	percentage distribution of households	estimated no. of households (00)	estimated no. of persons (00)	average MPCE MRP (Rs)	Percentage distribution of household	estimated no. of households (00)	estimated no. of persons (00)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0-5%	521.44	4.0	69554	395156	700.5	3.4	26949	158034
5-10%	665.84	4.0	69063	395357	908.92	3.5	27743	157644

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10-20%	783.24	8.6	147460	790099	1118.09	7.7	60392	316387
20-30%	904.57	8.9	153542	789917	1362.69	8.0	62868	315992
30-40%	1017.8	8.9	153084	790737	1624.86	8.8	68694	316033
40-50%	1135.97	9.5	162813	790301	1887.65	9.2	72313	316099
50-60%	1266.08	9.9	170586	790052	2180.52	9.7	75583	316033
60-70%	1426.76	10.2	176263	790481	2547.94	10.3	80759	315913
70-80%	1645.36	10.9	187172	790241	3062.85	11.4	89047	315934
80-90%	2007.46	11.6	200308	790313	3892.6	12.6	98395	316236
90-95%	2556.33	6.3	108149	395123	5350.06	6.9	53817	157907
95-100%	4481.18	7.2	123314	395145	10281.84	8.4	65759	157961
all classes	1429.96	100.0	1721307	7902921	2629.65	100.0	782319	3160173

Source: NSS Report No.555: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2011-12, NSS 68th Round

Statement-II

Explanatory Note

Household: A group of person normally living together and taking food from a common kitchen constitutes a household.

Household size: The size of a household is the total number of persons in the household.

Household consumer expenditure: The expenditure incurred by a household on domestic consumption during the reference period is the household's consumer expenditure.

Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE): In NSS MPCE is defined as the ratio of household monthly consumer expenditure and household size (MPCE=household monthly consumer expenditure ÷ household size). Each individual's MPCE is defined as the MPCE of the household to which the person belongs.

Modified Mixed Reference Period MPCE (MPCEMMRP) This is the measure of MPCE obtained by the CES when household consumer expenditure on edible oil, egg, fish and meat, vegetables, fruits, spices, beverages, refreshments, processed food, pan, tobacco and intoxicants is recorded for a reference period of "last 7 days", and items of clothing and bedding, footwear, education, institutional medical care, and durable goods is recorded for a reference period of "last 365 days", and expenditure on all other items is recorded with a reference period of "last 30 days".

Fractiles and fractile classes of MPCE: The first fractile class of MPCE over the population is the level of MPCE below which 5% of the population lie, the second fractile class of MPCE is the level of MPCE below which 10% of the population lie, the third fractile class of MPCE is the level of MPCE below which 20% of the population lie and so on. The 12th fractile of the MPCE distribution consists of the top 5% of the population ranked by MPCE.

[English]

SCO Conclave

1540. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- whether she had attended a two day conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO);
- if so, the key issues discussed in the conclave;
- whether the SCO-related meeting focussed on boosting cooperation in fighting terrorism; and
- if so, the details of the discussion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (d) Yes, EAM attended the SCO Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe on 11-12 October, 2018. During the meeting, the Heads of Delegations exchanged opinions on wide ranging subjects, including regional and international economic cooperation. The Foreign Ministers

in their statements condemned terrorism as a grave threat to humanity and reiterated their resolve to combat the scourge of terrorism.

Joint Ventures of Railways

1541. PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of joint ventures/companies formed for construction/development of new railway lines with the various State Governments;

(b) whether the concerned State Governments have deposited their share in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has a new policy which provides that the State Governments' involvement is mandatory for new projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Joint Venture (JV) Companies have been formed with Eight State Governments with an Authorized Capital of Rs. 100 crore each. The paid up capital has been decided by each company separately. Details of paid up capital/share application money by the concerned State Government in each of the company are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Name of JV Company	Contribution deposited by State Government for equity shares in JVC	
			Percentage Equity	Amount (Rs.)
1.	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh Railway Corporation Ltd. (CRCL)	51%	25.5 cr.
2.	Gujarat	Gujarat Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (G-RIDE)	51%	18.005 cr.
3.	Haryana	Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (HRIDC)	51%	10.2 cr.
4.	Jharkhand	Jharkhand Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (JRIDCL)	51%	1 cr.
5.	Kerala	Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd. (KRDC)	51%	51 cr.
6.	Karnataka	Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd. (K-RIDE)	51%	2.49993 cr.
7.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (MRIDCL)	50%	40 cr.
8.	Odisha	Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Ltd. (ORIDL)	51%	26.01 cr.

(d) and (e) In view of the essential requirement of number of new rail infrastructure projects in various States to serve their core sector industries, ports, mines, industrial corridors etc., which cannot be taken up by Ministry of Railways at present at desired pace, State specific 'Joint Venture (JVs) Companies between the Ministry of Railways and willing State Governments have been incorporated to undertake project development, resource mobilization and monitoring of mutually identified rail infrastructure projects.

[Translation]

Train from Delhi to Seemanchal

1542. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for introducing any superfast train from Delhi to Purnia District of Seemanchal sub region in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any letter from the public representatives in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the time by which a new superfast train is likely to be introduced?

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

present, there is no proposal for introduction of superfast train between Delhi and Purnea.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. Demands, including that from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, have been received for introduction of new train between Delhi and Purnea, which have been examined but not found feasible, at present, due to operational constraints including terminal constraints at either ends. However, the 02 pairs of existing Mail/Express services including 15705/15706 Delhi-Katihar Champaran Humsafar Express (Bi-weekly) via Purnea introduced *w.e.f.* 10.04.2018, available between Delhi and Purnea, are considered adequate to cater to the present level of traffic.

[English]

Mobile Apps

1543. SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the frequently growing mobile apps in the country;

(b) whether there are guidelines in place regarding the extent of permissions which apps can seek from users, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these app companies are using their platform to deliver pornographic content to its users in a clandestine manner, if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) whether the Government intends to appoint any regulatory authority for monitoring/regulation of these apps and if so, the time by which it is likely to be in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) There is a huge growth of mobile Apps being developed in the world. Like websites, mobile Apps are also visible from anywhere across the world. There are no specific guidelines in place regarding the extent of permissions which apps can seek from users. These apps collect data from users based on their own terms & conditions and privacy policy as agreed by the users.

(c) No such incident has been reported to Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). However the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides legal framework for dealing with online obscene material including child sexual abuse. Sections 67, 67A and 67B of the IT Act provide punishment and fine for publishing or transmission of obscene material in electronic form.

(d) Government does not monitor/regulate content appearing on cyber space. There is no such proposal with MeitY at present.

[Translation]

Ticket Upgradation

1544. SHRI NAGENDRA PRATAP SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposes to receive payments through alternate modes other than cash for ticket upgradation during journey;

(b) if so, the details of other such mode of payment; and

(c) the time by which digital payment is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Instructions have been issued for integration of functionality of Excess Fare Ticket (EFT) generation and enabling of payments through Point of Sale (POS) machines in the Phase-II of the Hand Held Terminals (HHT) for Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) project.

However, no time frame can be fixed for providing the facility of digital payment during journey, as technical feasibility of digital payment modes with HHT is not yet ascertained.

[English]

Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources

1545. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to the North Eastern States under the non-lapsable Central pool of

resources scheme and the actual funding made available to the NE States, year-wise;

(b) the quantum of allocated funds which was actually utilized by the NE States and the quantum of funds lapsed at the end of the financial year; and

(c) whether the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources has indeed been a Central budgetary support rather than a pool for faster growth of NE States and if not, 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 funds allocated to the North Eastern States under the Scheme of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme administered by the Ministry in the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates
2015-16	975.00	605.10
2016-17	695.00	645.00
2017-18	695.50	700.07

The entire amount available at the RE stage was utilised.

(b) Under this scheme, the entire funds were released to State Governments on the basis of sanctions for new projects and utilisation certificates, Quarterly Progress Reports etc. in respect of ongoing projects.

(c) The annual allocation to Ministry of DoNER under NLCPR Scheme is determined through the normal budgetary process of the Government of India. Earmarked spending by Central Ministries in the North Eastern Region have contributed to improved connectivity and infrastructure. In recent years, the average growth rate of NE States has been relatively higher than the all India average.

Confirmed Tickets for Waitlisted Passengers

1546. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the plight of the overwhelming majority of the waitlisted passengers of the Railways, who are forced to cancel the tickets or compelled to travel without having berths despite a number of berths being vacant;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to redress the grievance of passengers in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation on the afore mentioned issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government will propose to introduce a new mechanism for railways to enhance the chances of confirmed tickets; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the salient features of the new mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) In the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS), confirmed berths/seats are allotted on first come first served basis till the availability and thereafter Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC)/Waiting List tickets are issued. The status of RAC/Waiting List tickets get automatically updated against the cancellation of confirmed berths/seats and also against release of unutilised reservation quotas.

While earmarking reservation quota in a train, the broad principle is that approximately 70% of the accommodation is earmarked for originating to destination stations whereas remaining is distributed amongst roadside stations which are defined in cluster as remote locations. Exceptions to this rule are also made by the Railway wherever situation so warrant keeping in view the demand. At times, the accommodation earmarked from some road side stations is vacant whereas that from originating station is full. Further if no one is booked from originating station to that remote, it gives an impression that accommodation is vacant but there is waiting list. Hence this type of impression goes when there is waiting list for the end-to-end

leg of journey, but for partial leg of journey accommodation is available. This issue has been raised on various forums e.g. through Right to Information (RTI), Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) etc. Whenever any such reference is received, the position is explained accordingly. Separate statistics of such references is not maintained.

(e) and (f) To facilitate those passengers who have to undertake journey at short notice and to save such passengers from the clutches of unscrupulous elements, Tatkal Scheme of reservation is available where the accommodation becomes available for booking on the previous day of journey from train originating station. Further, with a view to provide confirmed accommodation to waiting list passengers and to ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, a scheme known as Alternate Train Accommodation (ATAS) known as "VIKALP" has been introduced. For this facility, waiting list passenger has to give an option at the time of booking of ticket & passengers with waiting list status at the time of preparation of first reservation charts are shifted to other trains, subject to availability of vacant accommodation. Broad features of the Scheme are as under:

- i. The scheme is applicable to all passengers getting the status of waiting list at the time of booking irrespective of booking quota and concession.
- ii. Under this scheme, Waiting list passengers can give choice to opt for VIKALP Scheme.
- iii. VIKALP opted passengers who remain fully waitlisted after charting are only considered for allotment in the alternate train.
- iv. This scheme is applicable to all types of trains on all sectors.
- v. Either all passengers of a Passenger Name Record (PNR) or none is transferred to alternate train in same class.
- vi. The passenger can be considered for shifting to a train leaving from any station amongst the cluster of stations defined by Railways based on the convenience of the passengers to a station serving the destination station on the same analogy.

- vii. Waitlisted passengers of original train are not allowed to board the original train if allotted alternate accommodation.
- viii. Passengers once provided alternate accommodation in alternate train are treated as normal passengers in alternate train and are eligible for up gradation.
- ix. When a VIKALP opted passenger opts to cancel, after he/she has been given an alternate accommodation, he/she is treated as a confirmed passenger and the cancellation rules apply accordingly.
- x. No refund for difference of fare between the original train and the alternate train, including Tatkal charges, if any, is given to re-allocated passengers or realised from them.
- xi. Once a VIKALP passenger has been allotted alternate accommodation, journey modification is not permitted.

Development Work in Border Areas

1547. DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need of developmental works for faster development in border areas;
- (b) if so, whether the construction works in the border areas are getting affected due to provisions listed in the Defence Ministry's existing guidelines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the State Governments have requested the Ministry of Defence to allow the developmental works of small nature for faster development in border areas; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Need of developmental works for faster development in border

areas is the priority of Government. The strategic and operational infrastructure in Border areas by the Indian Army is important from development perspective as they contribute to the overall socio economic development of the border areas.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Defence issued Guidelines on "Security Consideration for Construction Activities/ Other Activities in Border Areas" in November, 2017. The spirit of these Guidelines is not to impose restrictions nor impede developmental activities in border areas; but to ensure that large scale/major construction projects with implications on National Security/Operations are taken up in a regulated manner.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Defence has issued an Addendum to the Guidelines in November, 2018 and now developmental works of small nature like construction, repair and maintenance of internal village roads/streets, construction and maintenance of village ponds, construction and maintenance of Governments buildings like Schools, Hospitals, Electrification etc by Panchayati Raj Institutions and other Central/State Government Statutory bodies have been allowed for faster development in border areas.

Quality of Food

1548. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average time taken by the Government in resolving the grievances/complaints of the passengers pertaining to poor food quality in long distance/premium trains has increased during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of such complaints received from the passengers of the said trains during the said period;

(c) the details of the penalties imposed on the contractors and the number of contracts terminated by the Government in such complaints so far;

(d) the role played by the Catering Monitoring Service Cell (CMSC) in addressing the said grievances/complaints and imposition of the penalties; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the catering services and prompt redressal of grievances/complaints of the passengers along with achievements thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The number of complaints regarding poor quality of food in trains have shown a decreasing trend and action taken thereon including imposition of fine, termination of contracts during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) A centralized Catering Services Monitoring Cell (CSMC) has been set up in Railway Board's office having a toll free number 1800-111-321 for prompt redressal of the passenger grievances related to the catering activities by providing real time assistance to travelling public. Further, on the same pattern Catering Monitoring Cells have been set up at Zonal and Divisional levels for daily monitoring of the catering activities.

(e) With the objective to provide quality food to rail passengers, new Catering Policy 2017 has been issued on 27.02.2017 wherein Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has been mandated to carry out the unbundling by creating a distinction primarily between food preparation and food distribution. In order to upgrade quality of food preparation, IRCTC shall be setting up new kitchens and upgrading existing ones.

Accordingly, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has taken various measures to ensure hygienic, quality and prompt redressal of grievances/complaints of the passengers as under:-

- (i) Upgradation of Base Kitchens/Kitchen Units.
- (ii) Deployment of Food Safety Supervisors.
- (iii) Installation of CCTV in Base Kitchens and their centralized monitoring.
- (iv) Sharing of live streaming of the Base Kitchens through website of IRCTC made operational.
- (v) Provision of E-Catering services at railway stations.
- (vi) Introduction of Optional Catering and Ready to Eat (RTE) Meals on selected trains.

- (vii) Upgradation and revision of a la carte Menu on selected trains.
- (viii) Display of Menu/Tariff list.
- (ix) Introduction of Eco-friendly Sugar Bagasse (Biodegradable) packaging material.
- (x) Provision of Service trolleys in Rajdhani and Duronto trains.
- (xi) Provision of Hand sanitizers in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains.
- (xii) Introduction of Automatic vending machines on Humsafar trains.
- (xiii) Provision of tablets to on board catering supervisors for passenger feedback and inspection applications.
- (xiv) Qualification and experience of on board Catering Service Staff has been fixed.
- (xv) Examination of quality of food, hygiene and cleanliness in pantry cars by third party audit.
- (xvi) Introduction of Hand held PoS machine along with QR code on pilot basis on selected trains.
- (xvii) Launching of awareness campaigns as under by IRCTC:
- MRP on all products-" No MRP, the license get cancelled"
 - "No Bill-The food is for FREE".
 - Strict compliance of instructions regarding 'no tips' including signage of "NO TIPS PLEASE" on sleeves and back of new uniforms of waiters/catering staff.
- (xviii) Provision of variety of cuisines through Food Plazas and Food Units over Indian Railways.
- (xix) Customer satisfaction survey by Third Party Agencies.
- (xx) Monitoring and supervision of catering service through Operation of centralized Catering Service Monitoring Cell (CSMC) toll free number 1800-111-321, Operation of All India Helpline No. 138, Twitter handle, CPGRAMS, E-Mail and SMS based complaints redressal.

Statement

The number of complaints regarding poor quality of food in trains and action taken thereon including imposition of fine, termination of contracts during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

Year wise No. of Complaints related to Quality of Catering Services in Trains over Indian Railways and Action taken thereon during the period 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (till 31.10.2018)

(in Rupees)

Year	Total No. of Complaints	Action Taken				Warned	Termination	Suitably Advised	Not Substantia- ted	D & AR Action	Any other	Total
		No. of cases	Amount of Fine imposed	Amount of Fine realised	Fined							
2015-16	2858	833	56,73,590	56,58,590	1181	0	381	214	4	245	2858	
2016-17	2280	974	81,22,580	79,22,580	689	1	277	80	4	255	2280	
2017-18	1757	460	35,94,916	27,43,916	362	7	301	83	0	577	1757	
2018- 19 (upto 31.10.2018)	1207	181	11,73,200	7,59,000	547	0	259	104	0	116	1207	

[Translation]

Senior Citizen Entitlement of Employees

1549. PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has worked out a plan to lower the age of senior citizen entitlement of employees to 58 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to increase or decrease the age for pension;

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

(e) the details of salient features of pension policy?

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) No Madam. Department of Social Justice & Empowerment has informed that there is at present no proposal in that Department for lowering the age of senior citizen. Government employees become entitle to pension on retirement. There is also no proposal to increase or decrease the age of retirement of Central Government Employees.

(e) The salient features of the pension entitlements of employees retiring from the Central Government are as under:

- i. A Government servant retiring in accordance with the rules, after completing a qualifying service of not less than 10 years, is entitled to a pension @ 50% of his last pay or 50% of average emoluments for the last 10 months, whichever is more beneficial to him/her.
- ii. After completion of 80 years of age or above, additional pension @ 20% to 100% is payable to the retired Government servant.

iii. A retired/retiring Government servant is entitled to, at his/her option, a lump sum payment, by commutation of a maximum of 40% of his/her pension.

iv. On retirement, a Government employee is entitled to a retirement gratuity based on his/her emoluments and length of qualifying service.

v. On death of a Central Government pensioner, the family is entitled to a family pension the amount of which is 50% of the last pay for a period of seven years, or for a period up to the date on which the retired deceased Government servant would have attained the age of 67 years had he/she survived, whichever is earlier. Thereafter, the amount of family pension is 30% of his last pay. The amount of family pension is also increased by 20% to 100% after the family pensioner attains the age of 80 years and above.

vi. The family of a Government servant, who dies while in service after having rendered not less than seven years' continuous service, is entitled to a family pension 50% of the last pay for a period of ten years. Thereafter, the amount of family pension is 30% of his/her last pay.

[English]

Umang App

1550. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of downloads of the UMANG app since its inception;

(b) whether the app has improved the efficiency of providing Government services to the people and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the app has helped specifically in the inclusion of the marginalised communities and also of people residing in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) UMANG has been downloaded more than 96 Lakh times since inception.

(b) UMANG app does the simplification in the service delivery mechanism of the Government services, which are digitally delivered, in consultation with the concerned department. Presently, through UMANG, citizens can avail 325 services of Central Government/respective State/UT Government, on a 24X7 basis on the web as well as mobile. Further, UMANG has a mechanism to improve its services based on the users' feedback. However, no formal impact assessment for improvement in the efficiency of providing Government services to people through UMANG app has been done, so far.

(c) and (d) UMANG provides major Government services in 13 Languages (12 Indian Languages apart from English) catering to various sectors such as Agriculture, Health, Pensions, Education, etc. Residents of Marginalized Communities can apply for various State services such as Caste Certificates, Income Certificates through UMANG app. Currently, farmers residing in rural areas can access over 32 services related to Crop Insurance, Soil Health Card, view Agro Advisory Services, check market prices of commodities in nearby Mandi, view/list the produce for buying/selling and also get information about Government's flagship schemes.

Financial Absconders Abroad

1551. SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of people involved in financial irregularities and facing criminal investigation fled from the country or are living abroad; and

(b) the details of efforts made to bring them back to the country and the present status of the efforts made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Ministry of External Affairs, not being the original repository of information requested in (a) and (b), and the same has been obtained from the primary investigating agencies namely the CBI, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

According to the information provided by the CBI, the list of people involved in financial irregularities and facing criminal investigation and who fled the country or are living abroad for the years 2015-2018 (up to 30.11.2018) are as follows: (i) Shri Pushpesh Baid (ii) Shri Vijay Mallya (iii) Shri Sunny Kalra (iv) Smt. Aarti Kalra (v) Shri Sanjay Kalra (vi) Smt. Varsha Kalra (vii) Shri Sudhir Kaura (viii) Shri Umesh Parekh (ix) Shri Kamlesh Parekh (x) Shri Vinay Mittal (xi) Shri Eklavya Garg (xii) Shri Chetan Jayantilal Sandesara (xiii) Shri Nitin Jayantilal Sandesara (xiv) Smt. Dipti Chetan Sandesara (xv) Shri Nirav Modi (xvi) Shri Neeshal Modi (xvii) Shri Sabya Seth (xviii) Shri Rajiv Goyal (xix) Smt. Alka Goyal (xx) Shri Bhadrash Kumar (xxi) Shri Arvind Bhai Bhuva (xxii) Shri Ashish Jobanputra (xxiii) Shri Jatin Mehta (xxiv) Smt. Sonia Jatin Mehta (xxv) Shri Suraj Mehta (xxvi) Shri Ranjan Kashyap (xxvii) Shri Ankush Sood (xxviii) Smt Saloni Sood (xxix) Shri Mehul Choksi

According to the information provided by the ED, the list of people involved in financial irregularities and facing criminal investigation and who fled the country or are living abroad are as follows: (i) Shri Vijay Mallya (ii) Shri Christian Michel James (iii) Shri Nirav Modi (iv) Shri Mehul Choksi (v) Shri Ashish Sureshbhai Jobanputra (vi) Mrs. Priti Ashish Jobanputra (vii) Shri Ramachandran Viswanathan (viii) Shri M.G. Chandrasekhar (ix) Shri Sanjay Bhandari (x) Shri Nitin Jayantilal Sandesara (xi) Shri Chetan Jayantilal Sandesara (xii) Smt. Dipti Chetan Sandesara (xiii) Shri Hiteshkumar Narendrabhai Patel (xiv) Shri Deepak Talwar (xv) Smt Deepa Talwar (xvi) Shri Sunny Kalra (vii) Smt Aarti Kalra (viii) Shri Sanjay Kalra (xix) Smt Varsha Kalra (xx) Shri Jatin Mehta (xxi) Shri Lalit Modi (xxii) Shri S. Harpal Singh Dutta (xxiii) Shri Ritesh Jain (xxiv) Shri Mugundhan Ganyam (xxv) Shri Pushpesh Kumar Baid (xxvi) Shri Nitish J. Thakur (xxvii) Smt. Purvi Modi (xxviii) Shri Mihir Rashmi Bhansali (xxix) Shri Aditya Nanawati (xxx) Shri Sunil Verma (xxxi) Shri Neeshal Deepak Modi (xxxii) Shri Nehal Modi (xxxiii) Shri Maiank Mehta (xxxiv) Shri Jayesh Indervadan Shah (xxxv) Shri Deepak Krishnrao Kulkarni (xxxvi) Shri Deepak Modi (xxxvii) Shri Subhash Shankar Parab (xxxviii) Shri Rajiv Saxena (xxxix) Shri Rajesh Gajera (xl) Shri Carlo Valentino Fernando Gerosa (xli) Shri Guido Ralph Haschke

According to information provided by the DRI five persons namely (i) Shri Hamel Mahendrabhai Langalia (ii) Shri Rajeev Verma (iii) Shri Syed Zainul Hasan (iv) Shri

Nirav Modi (v) Shri Mehul Choksi were found involved in various violations of Customs Act, 1962, and have fled the country or are living abroad.

(b) Efforts are being made for securing presence of these accused in the country by way of issuance of

LOC, RCN and Extradition requests. Action under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 has also been initiated in suitable cases. The details of the efforts made and the present status of the efforts is placed at the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No. Name	Efforts made to bring back economic offender and present status of efforts
1. Shri Pushpesh Baid	RCN issued. Two separate extradition requests sent to USA in 2015 and 2017, pending with US authorities. Multiple cases under trial and one case under investigation. Open dated warrant has been issued.
2. Shri Vijay Mallya	Shri Mallya was declared as Proclaimed Offender and properties worth Rs. 1694.52 crore have been attached. Application under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 filed for confiscation of properties worth Rs. 12500 crore. <i>Vide</i> Order dated 10.12.2018, the Westminster Magistrates' Court, London, recommended Extradition of Shri Mallya. Shri Mallya has two weeks to file an appeal. Matter pending with Government of UK. Final report and a supplementary charge sheet have been filed. Further investigation is in progress.
3. Shri Sunny Kalra	RCN issued. Shri Sunny Kalra was arrested on 05.02.2017 in UAE based on RCN.
4. Smt. Aarti Kalra	Formal request for extradition under process. Extradition request in respect of Smt Aarti Kalra sent to UAE in November, 2016. Matter pending with UAE authorities. Case is under trial.
5. Shri Sanjay Kalra	RCN issued. Shri Sanjay Kalra and Smt Varsh Kalra were arrested in UAE on the basis of RCN. Extradition request sent to UAE in 2016 was returned in 2017.
6. Smt. Varsha Kalra	The case is under trial.
7. Shri Sudhir Kaura	Declaration of PO is under progress. The case is under trial.
8. Shri Umesh Parekh	LOC issued against both accused. The main accused Nillesh Parekh was arrested on 08.05.2017 on the basis of LOC.
9. Shri Kamlesh Parekh	The case is under investigation. LRs under preparation.
10. Shri Vinay Mittal	Extradition request sent to Indonesia in March, 2017. Extradition was approved and the fugitive was successfully brought back to India on 20.9.2018. The case is under trial.
11. Shri Eklavya Garg	Shri Eklavya Garg has joined investigation in two cases. Case under investigation
12. Shri Chetan Jayantilal Sandesara	Diffusion Dispatch forms in respect of the three accused persons have been uploaded. LOCs and NBWs issued. RCN under process. Application under Fugitive Economic
13. Shri Nitin Jayantilal Sandesara	Offenders Act, 2018 filed. Case under investigation
14. Smt. Dipti Chetan Sandesara	
15. Shri Hitesh kumar Narendrabhai Patel	

Sl.No.	Name	Efforts made to bring back economic offender and present status of efforts
16.	Shri Nirav Modi	RCN has been opened against Shri Nirav Modi and Shri Neeshal Modi. Shri Nirav Modi has been declared a proclaimed offender; LOC was issued against Shri Nirav Modi, action for attachment of properties is also being taken against Shri Nirav Modi. Application under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 filed for declaring him a Fugitive Offender and for confiscation of his properties worth Rs. 1404.7 crore. Eighteen Letters of Request (LRs) have been sent to different countries. Two separate extradition requests in respect of Shri Nirav Modi forwarded to UK in August, 2018, pending with UK authorities. Separately, Extradition request in respect of Shri Nirav Modi, Shri Neeshal Modi and Shri Subhash Shankar Parab forwarded to UAE in August, 2018. Extradition request in respect of Shri Neeshal Modi sent to Belgium in October, 2018. Extradition request in respect of Shri Subhash Shankar Parab forwarded to Egypt in October, 2018. Charge sheet filed. Case is under further investigation.
17.	Shri Neeshal Modi	
18.	Shri Subhash Shankar Parab	
19.	Shri Sabhya Seth	Diffusion Dispatch forms in respect of the accused person has been uploaded. LOC issued. The case is under investigation.
20.	Shri Rajiv Goyal	RCN & LOCs opened against both accused.
21.	Smt. Alka Goyal	The case is under investigation.
22.	Shri Bhadresh Kumar	LOC has been issued. The accused has been proclaimed as offender.
23.	Shri Arvind Bhai Bhuva	The case is under investigation.
24.	Shri Ashish Jobanputra	LOC and RCN active. Documents being scrutinised for initiating overseas enquiries regarding funds diverted abroad. Matter being examined in light of Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018. Extradition request sent to USA in 2017. Cases under trial.
25.	Smt Priti Ashish Jobanputra	
26.	Shri Jatin Mehta	RCN requests against all three accused already sent to Interpol. In respect of Shri Jatin Mehta, Letter Rogatory (LR) sent to UAE and Application under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 is underway. Charge sheet filed in one case. Multiple cases under investigation.
27.	Smt Sonia Jatin Mehta	
28.	Shri Suraj Mehta	
29.	Shri Ranjan Kashyap	LOC issued. RCN is being issued. Was convicted and awarded punishment of 03 years imprisonment. He was granted bail by Hon'ble Delhi HC but it was found that he has fled the country.
30.	Shri Ankush Sood	LOC issued against both accused. Matter taken up with Interpol for issue of RCN. Case under investigation.
31.	Smt Saloni Sood	
32.	Shri Mehul Choksi	RCN has been opened. LRs sent to Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and USA. Prosecution compliant filed. Application requesting to declare Mr. Choksi a Fugitive Offender and for confiscation of his properties worth Rs. 2345 crore approx filed. Two separate extradition requests forwarded to Antigua and Barbuda in August, 2018. Case under investigation.
33.	Shri Hamel Mahendrabhai Langalia	Extradition request forwarded to UAE authorities in August, 2018.

Sl.No.	Name	Efforts made to bring back economic offender and present status of efforts
34.	Shri Rajeev Verma	Extradition request forwarded to USA in 2013, pending with US authorities.
35.	Shri Syed Zainul Hasan	Proceedings to declare as absconder still going on in the Subordinate Court.
36.	Shri Christian Michel James	Fugitive was successfully extradited back to India from UAE in December 2018.
37.	Shri Ramachandran Viswanathan	Prosecution complaint filed under provisions of PMLA. Investigation is in progress.
38.	Shri M.G. Chandrasekhar	
39.	Shri Sanjay Bhandari	LOC and NBW issued.
40.	Shri Deepak Talwar	LOC issued. Seeking cooperation from Government of UAE under MLAT provisions
41.	Smt Deepa Talwar	is pursued upon.
42.	Shri Lalit Modi	NBW issued. Investigation of money trail through LRs is under progress. LRs sent to Singapore, Hong Kong, UAE and Mauritius.
43.	Shri S. Harpal Singh Dutta	LOC issued.
44.	Shri Ritesh Jain	NBW issued. Prosecution complaint filed. Hon'ble Delhi High Court ordered interim stay on proceedings of the Provisional Attachment/Original Complaint. Writ petition filed by Shri Jain pending before Hon'ble Supreme Court.
45.	Shri Mugundhan Ganyam	Summons issued by Ld. Special Court, PMLA Chandigarh returned by Malaysian authorities with certain queries. The queries along with fresh summon have been issued again that has been sent to MHA.
46.	Shri Nitish J. Thakur	Extradition request sent to UAE authorities in April 2018.
47.	Shri Mihir Rashmi Bhansali	Extradition request forwarded to USA in November 2018.
48.	Shri Carlo Valentino Fernando Gerosa	Separate requests for the extradition of Mr. Gerosa and Mr. Haschke were forwarded in November, 2017 and January, 2018 respectively, to Italy. Italy returned the requests
49.	Shri Guido Ralph Haschke	in March, 2018. Separate requests for extradition of Mr. Gerosa and Mr. Haschke again forwarded to Italy in October, 2018.

[Translation]

Facility to BSNL/MTNL Subscribers

1552. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch any project to further improve the facility being given to subscribers of MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any directive is likely to be issued by the Union Government to MTNL and BSNL for the purpose; 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) Detail of projects undertaken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and assigned to them by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to further improve the facility being given to their subscribers is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Both BSNL and MTNL have their independent boards which take decisions in the best interest of the company as well as their subscribers.

Statement

Detail of projects undertaken by BSNL/MTNL and assigned to them by DoT to further improve the facility being given to their subscribers

BSNL:

1. Project for providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.
2. Implementation of comprehensive telecom development plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth.
3. Execution of BharatNet Project.
4. 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.
5. Implementation of transmission media plan for North Eastern Region.
6. Submarine Optical Fibre Project for providing connectivity to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
7. Setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi Hotspots at Rural Telephone Exchanges.
8. Augmentation of mobile equipment capacity/upgradation of mobile network in its areas under Phase-VIII.4 project.
9. Routers have been installed and commissioned where by IP-MPLS network has increased from 106 cities to 205 cities providing connectivity for broadband, NGN 2G/3G requirements.

MTNL:

1. MTNL has undertaken the task of improving its mobile network in Delhi and Mumbai to improve the downlink speed of 21.1 Mbps & uplink speed of 5.76 Mbps from 3.6 Mbps & 384 Kbps respectively.
2. Redeployment of Digital Subscribers Line Access Modules (DSLAMs) of existing wireline broadband network near to the subscriber premises thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of broadband service.
3. Introduction of new policy to engage partners on revenue share basis to extend its FTTH services,

to provide high speed broadband services to its customers.

4. MTNL has signed an MoU with New Delhi Municipal Corporation Smart City Limited (NDMCSCCL) on 18.08.2017, with the objective to provide various services like FTTH, Public Wi-Fi for making NDMC area as a SMART City.
5. To give boost to customer experience, Download Speed of Broadband subscribers is being upgraded to 8 Mbps progressively without any additional cost depending upon feasibility and line parameters.
6. Upgradation of outdoor network by refurbishing of Pillars and DPs is planned in phased manner to minimise the faults.
7. To improve copper pair quality, old drop wire was replaced with twisted drop wire and thermo sleeves have been put on open joints.
8. Proactive Monitoring of Broadband Faults.

[English]

Insurance under PBBY

1553. SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI:
SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of emigrants who have claimed the insurance from 1st August, 2017 till date and the professions (under section 2(o) of Emigration Act, 1983) they belong to;

(b) the total amount of money claimed by the emigrants from 1st August, 2017 till date;

(c) the total number of people who have emigrated to countries like Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan and Iraq; and

(d) the total amount of money claimed by the emigrants of the above mentioned four countries due to accidental death and permanent disability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIAJY KUMAR SINGH

(RETD)]: (a) The Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a mandatory insurance scheme for all Emigration Check Required (ECR) category workers going to ECR countries. The scheme provides an insurance cover of 10 lakhs in case of accidental death or permanent disability and some other benefits at a nominal insurance premium. As per available information, 201 emigrants have filed insurance claims from 1st August, 2017 till 31.10.2018 under this scheme. These emigrants belong to various professions as defined under section 2(o) of Emigration Act, which are as follows:—

- I. any unskilled work, including any form of industrial or agricultural labour;
- II. any domestic service;
- III. any service, not being a service in a managerial capacity, in any hotel, restaurant, tea-house or other place of public resort;
- IV. work as a driver of a truck or other vehicle, mechanic, technician or skilled labourer or artisan;
- V. work as an office assistant or accountant or typist or stenographer or salesman, or nurse or operator of any machine;
- VI. work in connection with, or for the purposes of, any cinema, exhibition or entertainment;

(b) As per information received from insurance companies, claims amounting to Rs. 1887 lakhs have been filed by emigrants from 1st August, 2017 till 31.10.2018.

(c) No emigration clearance has been issued *w.r.t.* Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan and Iraq since August 1, 2017.

(d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Railway Network in West Bengal

1554. SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposed action plan for the new railway networks/upgradation in the State of West Bengal;

(b) the status of the construction of proposed ROB new Bauria Railway Station under Kharagpur Division of SER;

(c) the status of the construction of new railway line from Amata to Bagnan under SER; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to survey new railway line from Shyampur to Udayanarayanpur *via* Bagnan-Amata under SER and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, 76 number of projects including 43 new lines, 1 Gauge Conversion and 32 Doubling projects have been sanctioned and are in different stages of execution in West Bengal.

(b) General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) of this ROB has been approved and detailed estimate of approaches is awaited from State Government of West Bengal.

(c) Work stalled due to land acquisition and job to the land losers' problem.

(d) No, Madam.

High Profile Cases in SC

1555. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ram Janambhumi case, the Rohingya Deportation case, the Cauvery Water Dispute case etc. are pending in the Supreme Court for a long time and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of cases still pending in SC;

(c) whether the Government has set-up a deadline for investigation of the cases which are filed in the SC, so that the verdict comes in a time bound manner and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time further required by the Hon'ble SC to clear the aforementioned high profile cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ram Janmabhumi case and the Rohingya Deportation cases are pending adjudication and the Cauvery Water Dispute Case has been decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The details of these cases are as under:—

- (i) Ram Janambhumi Case-This case is titled as M.Siddiq (D) through legal heirs vs. Mahant Suresh Das, Civil Appeal No. 10866-10867/2010. This appeal was filed in the Supreme Court on 06.12.2010. The matter was last listed on 29.10.2018 and the matter has been adjourned to first week of January, 2019.
- (ii) Rohingya Deportation Case-This case is titled Mohammad Salimullah vs. Union of India, WP (C) 793/2017. This Writ Petition was filed in Supreme Court on 30.08.2017. The matter was last listed on 30.11.2018 and has been directed to be listed in January, 2019.
- (iii) Cauvery Water Dispute-This case is titled as the State of Karnataka by its Chief Secretary vs State of Tamil Nadu by its Chief Secretary, Civil Appeal No. 2453/2007. The Appeal has been disposed of *vide* judgment dated 16.02.2018.

(c) and (d) The disposal of cases in Courts including Supreme Court is within the domain of Judiciary.

[Translation]

Misuse of RTI

1556. SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is gross misuse of the Right to Information (RTI) Act in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has obtained proof of this misuse;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check this misuse?

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) No specific information of gross misuse of the Right to Information Act, 2005 has been brought to the notice of the Government of India.

Right of seeking information under the Right to Information Act, 2005 is not unfettered. The safeguards against misuse are built *inter alia* in Section 8-exemption from disclosure of information; Section 9-grounds for rejection to access in certain cases; Section 11-third party information; Section 24-Act not to apply to certain organizations; etc.

[English]

Survey of New Rail Lines in Kerala

1557. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of survey of new railway lines in Kerala;

(b) whether any railway line has been sanctioned for the implementation and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Kanhangad-Panathur-Kaniyur Railway line is included in the list and if so, the total estimation of the line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Details of surveys for new railway lines falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala since 2014-15 are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of survey	Year of sanction	Length (In Km)	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kanhangad-Panathur-Kaniyuru	2014-15	91	Field survey is completed. Preparation of report has been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Kannur-Mattanur	2015-16	23	Survey completed. As per the survey report, total cost of the line was assessed as Rs. 313 crore with rate of return of (-) 8%. Survey report has been examined. However, the proposal could not be taken forward due to unremunerative nature and low traffic potential of the proposed new line.
3.	Kumuli-Sabarimala	2015-16	106	Survey has been taken up.
4.	Dindigul-Sabarimala	2016-17	201	Survey has been taken up.
5.	Thalassery-Mysuru	2017-18	240	Project has been identified by Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd (KRDCL) for feasibility study.

(b) Details of new projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala included in the Budget since 2014-15 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Year of sanction	Anticipated cost	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2018	Outlay 2018-19	Status
Doubling						
1.	Turavur-Ambalapuzha (50 km)	2015-16	829	0.55	5.15	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.
2.	Thiruvananthapuram-Kanniyakumari (86.50 km)	2015-16	1432	0.92	110	Land acquisition papers for Thiruvananthapuram-Parsala section submitted to State Government on 08.11.2016. No land handed over.
3.	Shoranur-Ernakulam (107 km)	2018-19	1518	..	0.1	New project included in the Budget 2018-19 subject to requisite clearances. Preparation of Detailed Project Report taken up.

(c) Kanhangad-Panathur-Kaniyuru new line project is not included in the Budget.

Leakage of Aadhar Data

1558. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the protection against leakage of data submitted to the Government authorities like UIDAI;

(b) the action taken against employees found guilty of leaking data of individuals or citizens to unauthorized persons; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has set up a Committee for Data Protection and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) data is fully secured/encrypted at all the

times *i.e.* at rest, in transit and in storage. For, further strengthening of security and privacy of data, security audits are conducted on regular basis and all possible steps are taken to make the data safer and protected. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process.

UIDAI's existing security controls and protocols are robust and capable of countering any attempts or malicious designs of data breach or hacking. Security of Aadhaar is of critical importance to the Government and has given it paramount significance. UIDAI constantly strengthens and reviews its infrastructure and ecosystems in line with the best International security practices and technological standards. UIDAI has multi-layered security and privacy considerations built into the core strategy of Aadhaar with three basic doctrines of minimal data, optimal ignorance and federated database which give higher level of security.

Various policies and procedures have been defined, which are regularly reviewed and updated thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of people, material and data in and out of secured and well-guarded UIDAI premises, particularly the data centers.

Legal status of UIDAI has further strengthened the security assurance of Aadhaar ecosystem manifold with enactment of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 which has stringent penalties/punishments for offenders. In the *ibid* Act, Chapter VI is on Protection of Information.

UIDAI is ISO 27001:2013 certified by STQC with respect to Information Security which has added another layer of information security assurance. Further in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 70 of the IT Act 2000, UIDAI data has also been declared as Protected System by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

(b) There have been no incidents/cases where Aadhaar data was leaked/breached from UIDAI's Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR).

(c) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is in process for bringing a Personal Data Protection Bill for protections of personal data of Indian Citizens'. In this regard, MeitY, on 31st July, 2017, constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) B N Srikrishna. A White

Paper outlining key data protection issues and international best practices was released by the said committee to solicit public comments. Inputs were received. The Committee deliberated on various inputs & has submitted its report along with draft Bill to MeitY.

The Draft Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill-2018 was published on MeitY website and comments were solicited from General Public, Central Ministries, State Governments and UTs. Responses have been received from a wide spectrum of stakeholders, which are presently under analysis after which the said PDP Bill, 2018 is intended to be laid in the parliament as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Defence Logistics to Check Terrorism

1559. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of quality defence logistics for soldiers combating the terrorists in the country;

(b) if so, the immediate measures being taken to ensure the supply of quality self-defence logistics to the soldiers;

(c) the extant status of the procurement of defence logistics in this regard; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that soldiers face minimum damage in countering terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) There is no acute shortage of defence logistics for soldiers combating the terrorists in the country. The Government is committed towards ensuring adequate availability of quality defence logistics for soldiers at all times. The requirement of defence logistics for soldiers is a dynamic concept which changes in accordance with contemporary security challenges and emergent threat perceptions. The operational efficiency of Armed Forces is continuously upgraded through provisioning of latest and State-of-the-Art technology weaponry system, equipment and protective gears. The acquisition of such items is undertaken as per laid down specifications and authorisation, which is an ongoing process for which necessary steps are taken regularly.

Medical Facilities in Trains

1560. SHRI HARI MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways provides any ambulance service having attendant facility in trains to carry patients suffering from serious diseases;

(b) if so, the amount charged from the patients for carrying them *vis-a-vis* road and air services;

(c) whether any train ambulance facility service is being provided or proposed to be provided by the Government to carry patients from Jharkhand and Bihar to their neighbouring States and Delhi; and

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

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

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Construction of New Rail Lines in Bihar

1561. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds for the construction of new railway line in Bihar as declared in the year 2014 by the railways;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the time limit fixed to complete the construction work of new railway line between Sultanganj-Katoria and Bariarpur-Mananpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No new line falling fully/partly in Bihar was included in Railway Budget 2014-15.

(c) Both Bariarpur-Mananpur (69 km) new line and Sultanganj-Katoria (76.5 Km) new line projects were included in 2007-08. Final Location Surveys for both these projects have been completed. Completion of project depends upon several factors including complete handing

over of encumbrance-free land by the State Government, statutory clearances, shifting of utilities, etc. Since issue of land acquisition is beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, no time-frame has been fixed for completion of these projects.

Private Sector in Defence Manufacturing

1562. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private industries granted license for defence production since 2008 till date State-wise;

(b) whether the Government owned industries and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) were consulted prior to granting licenses to private industries and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the PSUs thereon;

(c) the number of Government and Semi-Government industries working in the field of defence production in the country and the quantum of defence products manufactured by these industries since 2010; and

(d) whether these products have proved successful or failed in the test conducted by army and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The State-wise list of number of licenses which have been issued in Defence Industry is enclosed as per the given Statement-I. In many cases, a single company applies for multiple licenses as well. The list covers all such cases.

(b) The Industrial License applications are forwarded by licensing authorities to Department of Defence Production for views/comments. The applications are examined by the Standing Committee on Private Sector Participation in defence production which comprises of representatives from Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). Their views are accordingly considered before sending comments of this Ministry to the licensing authorities.

(c) There are 41 Ordnance Factories (OFs) and 9 Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) working in the field of defence production in the country. The Total production by them since 2010-11 is Rs. 3,53,439.46 crore.

(d) The Field Evaluation Trials of equipment is carried out prior to the signing of the contract. The contracts are allotted only to those vendors who are successful in trials and meet other provisions of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP).

Statement

*State-wise number of licences issued in
Defence Industry*

State/Union Territories	No. of Industrial Licenses issued since 2008
Andhra Pradesh	6
Chandigarh	2
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
Delhi	3
Goa	3
Gujarat	28
Haryana	27
Himachal Pradesh	3
Karnataka	57
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	13
Maharashtra	42
Puducherry	1
Punjab	4
Rajasthan	8
Tamil Nadu	16
Telangana	66
Uttar Pradesh	37
Uttarakhand	5
West Bengal	5
Other multiple locations	6
Total	335

[English]

PILs Pending in Courts

1563. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases and PILs pending in various High Courts and Supreme Court in the country, court-wise;

(b) the number of cases in the High Courts and Supreme Court which have been pending for more than 10 years along with the maximum duration of cases pending, court-wise;

(c) the details regarding the number of Public Interest Litigations (PILs) filed in the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country over the last three years, court-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government has taken cognizance of filing of frivolous litigations under the guise of PIL and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to initiate action to check such frivolous litigations and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) No separate data is maintained by the Supreme Court, High Courts and National Judicial Data Grid in respect of PILs. The information as available on the website of Supreme Court and National Judicial Data Grid in respect of pending cases including PILs is as under:—

Sl. No.	Details	No. of Cases Pending (including PILs)	Number of cases pending for more than 10 years	Data as on
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hon'ble Supreme Court	56994	-----	01.12.2018
2.	Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Allahabad	723415	276077	17.12.2018
3.	Hon'ble Calcutta High Court	242846	91496	
4.	Hon'ble Guwahati High Court	40399	350	

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Hon'ble Bombay High Court	464074	145425	
6.	Hon'ble Chhatisgarh High Court	63047	6622	
7.	Hon'ble Delhi High Court	73672	8019	
8.	Hon'ble Gujarat High Court	113302	13633	
9.	Hon'ble Himachal Pradesh High Court	36116	1359	
10.	Hon'ble Jammu & Kashmir High Court	91715	10520	
11.	Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court	87937	15326	
12.	Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	360262	46603	
13.	Hon'ble Karnataka High Court	235906	5907	
14.	Hon'ble Madhya Pradesh High Court	330075	63987	
15.	Hon'ble Manipur High Court	7697	1716	
16.	Hon'ble Meghalaya High Court	1029	0	
17.	Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court	393953	100714	
18.	Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court	739500	119837	
19.	Hon'ble Sikkim High Court	252	0	
20.	Hon'ble Tripura High Court	2912	1	

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Hon'ble Uttarakhand High Court	55463	22398	
22.	Hon'ble Madras High Court	398121	101727	
23.	Hon'ble Orissa High Court	169012	34813	
24.	Hon'ble Patna High Court	151169	21628	

(d) and (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time through its various judgments has observed that the Court must be careful to see that the member of the public, who approaches the court through Public Interest Litigation is acting bona fide and not for personal gain or private profit or political motivation or other oblique consideration and that the court must not allow its process to be abused. Public-Interest Litigation is a rule of declared law by the courts of record. However, the person (or entity) filing the petition must prove to the satisfaction of the court that the petition is being filed for the public interest and not as a frivolous litigation for pecuniary gain. The Supreme Court in the case of State of Uttaranchal vs. Balwant Singh Chauhal and others [CA No's. 1134-35/2002], issued certain directions in order to preserve the purity and sanctity of the PIL. Further Rule 12(3) of Order No. XXXVII of the Supreme Court Rules 2013 provides that 'The Court may impose exemplary costs on the petitioner (s) if it finds that the petition was frivolous or instituted with oblique or mala fide motive or lacks bona fides.' Since Hon'ble Supreme Court has been issuing guidelines from time to time to put a check on these meaningless litigation, Government has no proposal to further interfere in such matter.

Cases Pending in Andhra Pradesh

1564. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Andhra Pradesh (AP) High Court and various district courts and Tribunals, as on date;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to reduce the backlog of cases in the State by filling up vacant posts and by setting up fast track courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides details regarding cases pending in High Courts, District and Subordinate Courts As per the information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 3.60 lakh cases were pending in the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad, and 5.21 lakh cases were pending in the District and Subordinate Courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 13.12.2018. The number of cases pending in Tribunals is not available on the centralised web-portal viz. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

(b) and (c) The Government is committed to the mandate of the Preamble and Article 39A of the Constitution that the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity. The Government is, therefore, fully committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases to improve access to justice.

In August, 2018, the Minister of Law & Justice had written to all the Chief Justices of High Courts including Chief Justice of High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad that increasing pendency of cases is a source of concern both for the Government and Judiciary; that one of the underlying reasons behind the high pendency is sometimes the inordinate delay in filling up the vacancies of judicial officers. It was, accordingly, requested that the High Court may monitor the status of the vacancies regularly and to ensure proper coordination with the state Public Service Commission so that the examination and interviews are conducted in accordance with the time schedule prescribed by the Supreme Court in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case.

The 14th Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, *inter alia*, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., 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 requirements. At present, 708 such Fast Track Courts (including 59 Fast Track Courts in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) are functioning across the country. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs, twelve (12) Special Courts have been set up in eleven (11) States (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 (to amend the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012) has also been enacted on 11th August, 2018.

Projects in Foreign Countries

1565. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status regarding completion of all projects undertaken by the Government during last five years in the neighbouring and foreign countries;

(b) the year-wise details of budget allocated by the Indian Government and the foreign country/partner and the expenditure incurred therefor; and

(c) the project-wise time bound completion target and budget required for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIAJY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) As part of our active engagement with partner countries under development cooperation, the Government has since 2014 undertaken a number of projects under various modalities with our partner countries. Out of 325 main grant projects undertaken, 145 projects have been completed and the remaining projects are under various stages of implementation. This excludes Project Tied Assistance to Bhutan and large number of locally executed Small Development Projects (SDPs). The projects are wide ranging, covering different sectors such as connectivity, energy, hydropower, roads, agriculture, civil infrastructure, culture, capacity building, training, humanitarian assistance and healthcare.

(b) Funds for the grant projects are allocated from the Ministry's budget. The partner countries support and

facilitate the projects, as per mutually agreed understanding. Such support may, *inter alia*, include local and customs clearances, tax exemptions, utilities, land, and other

appropriate facilitation. Details of budget, year-wise, under the Ministry's different budget heads on grant projects are as follows:—

All figures in Rs. crore

Country/Budget Head	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
	Expenditure				Expenditure	Allocation (till October, 2018)
Bangladesh	197.84	155.68	82.59	78.02	175.00	63.26
Bhutan	4395.17	5368.47	3441.47	2590.14	2650.00	1499.86
Nepal	303.26	309.94	332.72	376.61	650.00	561.99
Sri Lanka	499.70	403.80	99.16	77.89	150.00	123.37
Maldives	26.07	55.04	80.00	109.24	125.00	25.75
Myanmar	104.34	117.07	123.62	223.55	280.00	265.75
Other Developing Countries	54.13	103.50	113.77	122.32	115.00	69.02
African Countries	142.86	283.83	286.39	172.72	200.00	69.88
Eurasian Countries	11.94	19.37	10.73	37.02	30.00	17.04
Latin American Countries	12.17	15.03	8.77	19.95	20.00	7.90
Afghanistan	723.52	880.44	263.02	365.96	400.00	374.51
Mongolia	2.28	0.11	1.94	0.42	5.00	0.62
Chahbahar Port	-	-	100.00	0.00	150.00	-
Mauritius	-	-	409.97	350.39	525.00	251.03
Seychelles	-	-	49.98	223.16	300.00	85.93

(c) Details of main ongoing projects undertaken during the last five years is enclosed at Statement. Timelines fixed for projects vary and are determined based on consultation with host Governments and the local ground situation. Every effort is made to implement projects as early as possible, in close consultation with

the host Governments. As regards the additional budget allocation required for implementation of these projects, an assessment on such requirement is made before each financial year based on progress in execution aligned with project implementation cycle.

Statement

Details of the Main Ongoing Projects Undertaken in the Last Five Years

(Rupees in crore)

Sl.No.	Project name	Country	Project cost
1.	Upgradation of Indo-Zimbabwe Technology Centre by HMT (I) Ltd	Zimbabwe	19.07
2.	Jaipur Foot Camp in Karbala	Iraq	0.55
3.	Supply of Equipments and Vehicles to the Martyrs' Foundation of Iraq	Iraq	3.82
4.	Commissioning of Buddha Statue for installation at Gandan University	Mongolia	1.00
5.	Chabahar Port Development	Iran	620.00

Sl.No.	Project name	Country	Project cost
6.	Setting up of Vocational Training Centre by HMT(I) at Khulna, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	9.78
7.	Construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline from Siliguri to Parabatipur	Bangladesh	285.00
8.	Dredging in Indo-Bangladesh Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol Routes	Bangladesh	245.00
9.	Upgradation of Monywa Hospital	Myanmar	13.00
10.	Assistance of Earthquake damaged pagodas at Bagan	Myanmar	45.00
11.	Setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Monywa	Myanmar	26.25
12.	Setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Thaton	Myanmar	14.22
13.	Five years comprehensive maintenance plan to Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Myingyan	Myanmar	5.67
14.	Five years comprehensive maintenance plan to Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Pakokku	Myanmar	3.70
15.	Construction of Prefabricated Houses in Rakhine State of Myanmar	Myanmar	25.80
16.	Supply of Midi Buses to Somalia	Somalia	6.50
17.	Supply of Medicines to Seychelles	Seychelles	3.00
18.	Donation of 10 Ambulances to Tanzania	Tanzania	5.00
19.	Donation of 5 Ambulances to Mali	Mali	2.75
20.	Upgradation of Entrepreneur and Technical Development Centre (ETDC) in Senegal	Senegal	23.00
21.	Setting up of Gandhi-Mandela Skills Training Institute in South Africa	South Africa	23.90
22.	Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Niger	Niger	283.00
23.	Construction/repair of 10,000 houses for Indian Origin Tamils in the Plantation sector	Sri Lanka	452.77
24.	Refurbishment of Buses	Afghanistan	18.67
25.	Upgradation of Women's Police Training Centre, Yamethin	Myanmar	103.50
26.	Gypsum Manufacturing Plant, Kabul	Afghanistan	15.60
27.	Metro Express	Mauritius	1870.00
28.	New Supreme Court	Mauritius	204.00
29.	New ENT Hospital	Mauritius	95.20
30.	Social Housing for poor	Mauritius	136.00
31.	E-Tablets for Primary schools	Mauritius	95.20
32.	Civil Service College	Mauritius	32.23
33.	Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals (SSSAN) 2017-22	Afghanistan	475.83
34.	Establishment of Agriculture University (ANASTU)	Afghanistan	12.45
35.	500 Scholarships for children of martyrs of Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces	Afghanistan	41.96
36.	Construction of Polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan	Afghanistan	2.65

Sl.No.	Project name	Country	Project cost
37.	Establishment of a National Police Academy (NPA) at Panauti	Nepal	550.00
38.	Construction of a Cultural Centre at Jaffna	Sri Lanka	77.18
39.	Expansion of Emergency Ambulance Services	Sri Lanka	97.33
40.	Rehabilitation of 16.9 km Road connecting Band-e-Amir to Bamyan-Yakawlang Highway	Afghanistan	53.00
41.	Construction of 2.38 km Asphalted Road connecting Mazar-e-Sharif Airport to Kabul-Char Saraka Road	Afghanistan	20.00
42.	Construction of 4000 houses for returning Afghan Refugees	Afghanistan	178.00
43.	Construction of the Union Community Centre	Grenada	3.78
44.	Kholongchhu Hydropower Project	Bhutan	3868.70
45.	Terai Roads Project (Phase-I)	Nepal	500.00
46.	Post-earthquake reconstruction projects	Nepal	1700.00
47.	Assistance to India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in ICT at Accra	Ghana	6.80
48.	Barefoot Vocational Training Centre under the IAFS-II	Burkina Faso	2.48
49.	Providing material and equipment	Rep. of Guinea	3.28
50.	Aid to Ghana-Providing five year support to India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in IT	Ghana	6.90
51.	Supply of Defence Equipment to Guinea	Guinea	3.29
52.	Supply of buses and fire engines to Liberia	Liberia	24.00
53.	Grant to Liberia in the Health sector	Liberia	7.00
54.	Donation of e-rickshaw to Senegal	Senegal	6.25
55.	Grant assistance to Senegal for renovation/Beautification of the Renaissance Monument Park in Dakar	Senegal	0.22
56.	Supply of equipment to Mali	Mali	12.00
57.	Supply of 150 Computers and Training of two experts in hardware in India	Sao Tome & Principe	1.30
58.	Procurement of 05 units of Station Wagon Vehicles	Mali	0.90
59.	Supply of medical equipment to Cote d'Ivoire	Cote d'Ivoire	2.00
60.	Setting up of English Language Lab in Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinea	3.41
61.	Supply of 10 Ambulance and 10,000 Bicycles to Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	6.00
62.	Grant assistance to Niger for hosting AU Summit in 2019	Niger	112.00
63.	Palestine-India Techno Park Project	Palestine	81.60
64.	Institute of Diplomacy Project	Palestine	30.60
65.	Construction of additional floor at Jawaharlal Nehru Boys School in Abu Dis	Palestine	1.70

Sl.No.	Project name	Country	Project cost
66.	Construction of Schools in Tamoon village in Tubas and Muthalth Al Shuhada Village in Jenin	Palestine	14.28
67.	Construction of Super-Specialty Hospital in Beit Sahour in Bethlehem Governorate	Palestine	197.20
68.	Supply of Equipment and Machinery for National Printing Press in Ramallah	Palestine	34.00
69.	Construction of India Palestine Centre for Empowering women, "Turathi"	Palestine	34.00
70.	Incubation Centre	Djibouti	34.00
71.	Project Trident-Grant	Mauritius	27.20
72.	Magistrate's Courthouse construction	Seychelles	23.46
73.	CSRS Restoration	Seychelles	40.80
74.	National Priority Projects	Seychelles	47.60
75.	Plant & Design-Build Contract for Civil and M&E works of Aluthgama, Mathugama and Agalawatta Integrated Water Supply Project in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	1319.20
76.	Plant & Design-Build Contract for Civil and M&E works of Polgahawela, Pothuhera and Alawwa Integrated Water Supply Project in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	624.24
77.	Conservation and Restoration of Vat Phou Temple Complex at Champasak Province	Lao PDR	163.20
78.	3 Quick Impact Projects on establishment of Fertilizer Analysis Laboratory at Department of Agriculture and Land Management, Promotion of Goat Raising in Lao PDR in Jieng Village, Thoulakhom District, Vientiane Province and Promote Green Cardamom Cultivation in Paksong District, Champasak Province	Lao PDR	1.02
79.	Study of Ground Water Resources of Kampong Speu Province	Cambodia	12.24
80.	QIP Proposal on Improving Local Community's Livelihood and Health through Rehabilitation of a Natural Pond in a Community Protected Area in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, Preah Vihear Province to be undertaken by Ministry of Environment	Cambodia	0.34
81.	QIP Proposal on Women's Economic Empowerment through Information and Communication Technology to be undertaken by Ministry of Women's Affairs	Cambodia	0.34
82.	QIP Proposal on Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools to be undertaken by Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of Cambodia	Cambodia	0.34
83.	QIP Proposal on Building Toilets (latrines) at Kong Noy Primary School, Tien Primary and Secondary School, Tropang Veng Primary School to be undertaken by Ministry of Women's Affairs	Cambodia	0.34
84.	QIP Proposal on Last mile TB care delivery in Cambodia to be implemented by Operation ASHA in coordinated with CENAT, M/o Health Cambodia	Cambodia	0.34
85.	Intensifying the Community-Directed Intervention (CDI) for Malaria treatment and health education intervention in multi-drug resistance	Cambodia	0.34
86.	Supporting Community Based Eco-tourism and Livelihood Opportunity (SEBET) for Tu tuek Pos Community Protected Area in Oral wildlife Sanctuary, Kampong Speu Province	Cambodia	0.34

Sl.No.	Project name	Country	Project cost
87.	Capacity Building of caregivers and professionals to empower children and adolescents with multiple disabilities and their families in Cambodia	Cambodia	0.31
88.	Installment of 23 Hand pumps in Sambor Prei Kuk Area, Kampomg Thom Province	Cambodia	0.34
89.	Conservation and Restoration of Ta Prohm Temple	Cambodia	29.32
90.	Smart Village in Ninh Thuan	Vietnam	68.00
91.	Phase-II; Advanced Resource Centre in Information and Communications Technology (ARC-ICT) in Hanoi.	Vietnam	2.94
92.	Construction of Chua Moi Bridge at Ho Dac Kien Commune, Chau Thanh District, Soc Trang Province	Vietnam	0.34
93.	Construction of Kindergarten of two classroom of Van Lung, Van Lung Commune, Phu Tho Town, Phu Tho Province	Vietnam	0.34
94.	Construction of Classrooms at Lac Son Primary School of Ca Na Commune, Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province	Vietnam	0.34
95.	Construction of 03 Classroom at Hai Long Kindergarten, Hai Hau District, Nam Dinh Province	Vietnam	0.34
96.	Construction of Two-room single-storey kitchen and dining room, Bo Ly kindergarten, Bo Ly Commune, Tam Dao District, Vinh Phuc Province	Vietnam	0.34
97.	Construction of Van Lam Primary School in Phuoc Nam Commune, Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province	Vietnam	0.63
98.	Construction of Phoc Huu Kindergarten at Hau Sanh Village, Phuoc Huu Commune, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province	Vietnam	0.65
99.	Construction of Sonca Kindergarten at Phuoc Dantown, Ninth Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province	Vietnam	0.65
100.	Construction of Phuoc Dong Primary School at Phuoc Dong Village 2, Phuoc Hau Commune, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province.	Vietnam	2.79
101.	Construction of Hieu Thien Primary School in Phuoc Ninh Commune, Thuan Nam District, Ninh Thuan Province	Vietnam	0.68
102.	Construction of Cham Community House at Phuoc Ninh Commune, Thuan Nam district, Ninh Thuan Province	Vietnam	0.67
103.	Construction of Cham Community house at Phuoc Huu Commune, Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province	Vietnam	4.08
104.	Phase: II-Vietnam-India Centre for English Language Training at the Telecommunication University in Nha Trang	Vietnam	34.00
105.	Indian Studies Centre at Ho Chi Minh Academy of Politics	Vietnam	3.06
106.	Establishment of Centre for Excellence in Software Development and Training in Ho Chi Minh city.	Vietnam	8.84
107.	CARICOM Secretariat ICT System up-gradation	Guyana	12.77
108.	ICT Resource Centre at Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science & Technology in Arusha, Tanzania.	Tanzania	8.34

Sl.No.	Project name	Country	Project cost
109.	Establishment of IT Training Centres in Morocco under IAFS-II	Morocco	3.11
110.	Setting up of VTC in Zanzibar under IAFS-II	Zanzibar	5.52
111.	Setting up of Business Incubator in Malawi	Malawi	5.69
112.	Setting up of Centres of Excellence in IT in Pacific Island countries	Papua New Guinea	3.10
113.	Setting up of Centres of Excellence in IT in Pacific Island countries	Vanuatu	2.66
114.	Setting up of Centres of Excellence in IT in Pacific Island countries	Samoa	2.66
115.	Setting up of Centres of Excellence in IT in Pacific Island countries	Cook Island	2.28
116.	Setting up of Centres of Excellence in IT in Pacific Island countries	Nauru	2.28
117.	Setting up of Centres of Excellence in IT in Pacific Island countries	Niue	2.28
118.	Setting up of Centres of Excellence in IT in Pacific Island countries	Fiji	3.10
119.	Conservation and Restoration of Cham Monuments in My son, Vietnam	Vietnam	15.71
120.	Up gradation of VTC in Belize	Belize	3.73
121.	Setting up of IT Centres at Guyana	Guyana	3.10
122.	Establishment of IT training centres in Namibia under IAFS-II	Namibia	5.33
123.	Centre of Excellence in IT in Jordan	Jordan	6.68
124.	Upgradation of Laboratory at SAARC Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Centre Kathmandu to a Supra-national facility	SAARC	6.75
125.	National Knowledge Network in SAARC	SAARC	15.74
126.	Solar electrification of one village each in SAARC Member State except India assumed to have 100 households.	SAARC	21.55
127.	Construction of Shahtoot Dam Project	Afghanistan	1604.80
128.	Agriculture Fellowship Programme through DARE/ICAR	Afghanistan	59.31
129.	Special Scholarship Scheme-1000 Afghan students per annum through ICCR 2012-16	Afghanistan	492.55
130.	Supply of 1000 Buses	Afghanistan	683
131.	Construction of India-Nepal Cross Border Rail Links	Nepal	680
132.	Construction of Integrated Check Posts at Biratnagar	Nepal	139.73
133.	Construction of Integrated Check Posts at Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa	Nepal	421.68
134.	Establishment of Polytechnic at Hetauda	Nepal	38.53
135.	Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project	Myanmar	2904.04
136.	Construction of 69 Bridges on Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa (TKK) road section	Myanmar	371.58
137.	Construction of Kalewa-Yargi Road	Myanmar	1459.3
138.	Establishment of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT)	Myanmar	134.8
139.	Establishment of Advanced Centre of Agriculture Research and Education (ACARE)	Myanmar	50.84

Sl.No.	Project name	Country	Project cost
140.	Upgradation of Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital	Myanmar	40.88
141.	Setting up of Institute for Security & Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES) at Addu City	Maldives	243.14
142.	Construction of Ministry of Defence (MOD) Building	Maldives	32.57
143.	Construction of Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link	Bangladesh	392.5
144.	Establishing a Rabindra Bhawan in the Complex Adjacent to Kuthibari at Kustia, Shilaidaha in Bangladesh	Bangladesh	15.53
145.	Techno-Economic Feasibility Study for 30 KM Dual Gauge Rail line from Feni to Belonia	Bangladesh	5.20
146.	Constuction of 2-Storeid Adibasi Shagshoil School & Niamatpur Girls' Hostel Project, Niamatpur, Naogaon	Bangladesh	1.04
147.	Construction of two storied Niamatpur girls school and college girls hostel with four storied foundation under Niamtpur Upazila, district Naogaon	Bangladesh	1.03
148.	Construction of Notomondop Manipuri Theatre, Kamalganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet	Bangladesh	0.31
149.	Implementation of Development Projects in Rajoir, Madaripur	Bangladesh	0.77
150.	Construction of Jaikalibari Temple at Lalabazar, Natore	Bangladesh	0.83
151.	Construction of 36 Community Clinics in 7 different North-East of Bangladesh	Bangladesh	7.69
152.	Construction of 2-storied Temple with foundation for 3-stories at Tilakpur, Kamalgang, Moulaiabazar, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	2.17
153.	Reg.construction of Ground Floor of a 5-Storeid 'Science Block' building at Alipur Rahmania School & College, Hathazari, Chittagong and (ii) providing assistance for procuring lab Equipment	Bangladesh	0.44
154.	Mahathma Gandhi Bhabon, Farakkabad Degree college, Farakkabad, Chandpur, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	0.92
155.	Construction of the 1st phase of GF + 7 storied Bhaktivedanta Bhawan at Sri Sri Kanailal Jiu Bigraha Mandir by	Bangladesh	4.74
156.	ISKCON at Savar, Dhaka Project Proposal for installing of 11 nos. of water treatment plants spread over Vandaria Pouroshobha, District Pirojpur, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	9.83
157.	Proposal for construction of a 4-storied building at Singhara Ramkanai High School, Anwara, Chittagong	Bangladesh	1.50
158.	Reconstruction work at the National Sree Sree Ramna Kalimandir & Sree Maa Anandamoyee Ashram, Shahabag, Dhaka	Bangladesh	5.98
159.	Construction of a five storied Building to house a Charitable Dispensary, Computer Training Centre and Students' Home at the Ramakrishna Mission, Mymensingh	Bangladesh	2.19
160.	Restroation of Sree Sree Anandomoyee Kali Mata Mandir in Nilphamari, Panchgarh District, Rangpur Division	Bangladesh	1.35
161.	Reconstruction of Shree Shree Kanailal Jiur Mondir, Palash, Narsingdi	Bangladesh	0.77
162.	Construction of a G+4 Storied Students' Hostel at ISKCON, Sylhet	Bangladesh	6.32

Sl.No.	Project name	Country	Project cost
163.	Construction of a G+4 Students Home 'Vivekananda Bhawan' at RK Mission, Dhaka	Bangladesh	5.22
164.	Construction of boundary walls of Chadardanga Crematorium Complex and reconstruction of a temple and community centre in the complex, Manirampur upazila, Jessore District	Bangladesh	0.59
165.	Renovation and upgradation of Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) Auditorium, Chittagong City Corporation, Chittagong	Bangladesh	1.74
166.	Reconstruction of Sri Sri Radha Gobindo Jeur ondir in Islampur Upazila, Jamalpur District	Bangladesh	0.30
167.	Construction of Ramakrishna Temple and its gate and other facilities and the construction of various facilities of Vivekananda Bidyaniketan including completion of school building and students hostel at Ramakrishna Seba Ashram, Ramkala, Khanshama Upazila, Dinajpur	Bangladesh	5.98
168.	Construction of Dharmarajika Orphanage Hostel Building at Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha, Atisha Dipankar Road, Sabujbagh, Dhaka	Bangladesh	4.12
169.	Construction of a G+1 Storied Girls Hostel with 8-Storied Foundation at Kumudini Complex	Bangladesh	4.30
170.	Construction of a G+1 Storied Building with 4 Storied Foundation Consisting a Hall Room and a Students' Common Room at Mahiganj Girls High School and College at Mahganj, Kotwali, Rangpur	Bangladesh	0.44
171.	Construction of G+1 storied school building with 4-storied foundation at Jamijuri Junior Boys' School, Dohazari, Chandanaish, Chittagong	Bangladesh	1.60
172.	Construction of a 5-storied students' hostel at Chandpur Ayachak Ashrama, Puran Adalotpara, Chandpur	Bangladesh	0.80
173.	Construction of a 4 storied building for Kashinagar Degree College, Chouddagram, Comilla	Bangladesh	1.50
174.	Sri Sri Kendriyo Loknath Mandir, Ganeshtala, Dinajpur	Bangladesh	1.14
175.	Construction of 2-storied Guest House Sree Sree Pranav Math (Branch of Bharat Sevashram Sangha) at Ramnathpur, Devhata Upazila Under Satkhira District, Khula Division	Bangladesh	1.32
176.	Construction of a four storied Academic building in Gachban Junior High School, Khagrachhari, Chittagong Division	Bangladesh	1.65
177.	Construction of a four storied Academic building in Matamuhuri Junior High School, Maungpaikhoi Headman Para, 2 No. Chokhyong Union, Ali Kadam, Bandarban, Chittagong Division	Bangladesh	1.65
178.	Construction of a four storied Academic building in Thega Khubbang High School, Barkal, Rangamati, Chittagong Division	Bangladesh	1.71
179.	Construction of an IT Centre at Bangladesh Police Academy, Sardah, Rajshahi	Bangladesh	9.28
180.	Gandhi Ashram Trust, Noakhali	Bangladesh	5.84

Custodial Deaths of Indians Abroad

1566. SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any report on custodial deaths of Indians in different jails of foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Indians currently in foreign countries prisons, country-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Government with its counterparts to give justice to these imprisoned Indians and bring them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIAJY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry, 40 Indian nationals died while serving their sentences in jails of 15 foreign countries.

(c) 8445 Indian nationals are in prisons in 68 foreign countries. Due to strict provisions of privacy laws, some countries do not readily share information about Indian nationals in their jails. Country-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The safety, security and well-being of Indians abroad is among the top priorities for the Government of India. Our Missions and Posts abroad remain vigilant and closely monitor any incident of attack/complaints of mistreatment against Indians. Such incidents are immediately taken up with the concerned authorities for taking action, as appropriate, to ensure that the cases are properly investigated and guilty punished. In some countries, where pro bono lawyers are available, the Mission arranges legal assistance to the Indian prisoners. In those cases, where Indian nationals complete their sentences and are waiting for completion of deportation formalities, Indian Missions/Posts in those countries take up the matter with the respective foreign Governments for speeding up the process including issue of final exit visas, waiver of penalties imposed on Indian workers, etc. from the concerned authorities and for the early return of the Indian nationals to India. Where required, the Indian Missions and Posts abroad also provide airfare

for facilitating the return of the Indian prisoners who have completed their sentence.

Statement

Country-wise number of Indians in foreign prisons

Sl. No.	Country	The number of Indians in foreign prisons reported
1	2	3
1.	Armenia	10
2.	Australia	71
3.	Austria	5
4.	Azerbaijan	4
5.	Bahrain	121
6.	Bangladesh	40
7.	Belarus	1
8.	Belgium	22
9.	Bhutan	66
10.	Brazil	2
11.	Brunei	1
12.	Cambodia	3
13.	China	234
14.	Cote D' Ivoire	3
15.	Cuba	1
16.	Cyprus	7
17.	Denmark	5
18.	Fiji	1
19.	Finland	1
20.	France	33
21.	Germany	51
22.	Ghana	1
23.	Greece	27
24.	Indonesia	22
25.	Iran	5
26.	Iraq	1
27.	Israel	2
28.	Italy	230
29.	Japan	7

1	2	3
30.	Jordan	26
31.	Korea (Republic of)	2
32.	Kuwait	483
33.	Kyrgyzstan	2
34.	Lao PDR	2
35.	Lebanon	5
36.	Malaysia	497
37.	Maldives	12
38.	Mauritius	1
39.	Mexico	1
40.	Mozambique	2
41.	Myanmar	56
42.	Nepal	1065
43.	Netherlands	1
44.	New Zealand	13
45.	Nigeria	1
46.	Oman	59
47.	Pakistan	549
48.	Panama	1
49.	Portugal	5
50.	Qatar	212
51.	Russian Federation	3
52.	Saudi Arabia	2224
53.	Senegal	1
54.	Singapore	117
55.	South Africa	6
56.	South Sudan	1
57.	Spain	41
58.	Sri Lanka	66
59.	Sweden	2
60.	Tanzania	4
61.	Thailand	43
62.	Uganda	1
63.	Ukraine	1

1	2	3
64.	United Arab Emirates	1606
65.	United Kingdom	267
66.	U.S.A	88
67.	Vietnam	1
68.	Yemen	1
Total		8445

Redressal of Public Grievances

1567. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of public grievances are pending for redressal with the Government and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to implement any effective grievance redressal mechanism for quick disposal of public grievances in the country; 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) No, Madam. As per the data available on the online Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), the year-wise number of grievances received and disposed off during the period from 1.1.2014 to 13.12.2018 in respect of Ministries/Departments of Government of India is as under:—

Year	Received	Disposed
2014	270413	263562
2015	879230	769633
2016	1194931	1187111
2017	1417891	1493567
2018 (Till 13.12.2018)	1065727	1074784

There has been about fivefold increase in the number of grievances received in CPGRAMS from 2014 to 2017. The rate of disposal has also kept pace with the number of grievances received during the period. High rate of disposal has been achieved since the Government has taken every possible step to put in place a strong Grievance Redress Mechanism.

(b) and (c) Government has taken several steps to make the Grievance Redressal Mechanism effective for quick disposal of public grievances which are as under:

- (i) Review of Grievances of identified Ministry/Department is undertaken every month during meetings conducted on PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) platform.
- (ii) For effective monitoring of grievances at Secretary level, an electronic Dashboard has been created showing the consolidated status of grievances disposed and pending, on CPGRAMS. Weekly reminders through SMS are also being sent for pending grievances.
- (iii) A Grievance Analysis Study in respect of top 20 grievance receiving Ministries/Departments/Organizations listed on CPGRAMS for identifying grievance prone areas, their root cause analysis and suggested systemic reforms for reducing such grievances, has been carried out by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. Several suggested systemic reforms have been implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments. Some of these reforms are: automatic refunds on cancellation of Railway Tickets, Single Window Pension through disbursing Banks, intensive mechanized cleaning of coaches, e-verification of Income Tax Returns, expeditious Income Tax Returns upto Rs. 50,000/-, etc.
- (iv) In continuation of the Grievance Analysis Study in respect of top 20 Ministries/Departments receiving maximum grievances on CPGRAMS, another Grievance Analysis Study for next 20 Ministries/Departments receiving bulk of the grievances has also been carried out by

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.

- (v) A Public Grievances Call Centre has been set up for reminding the concerned officials of top 40 Ministries/Departments/Organizations for expeditious disposal of grievances pending for more than 2 months.
- (vi) An Award Scheme has been launched for recognising outstanding performance with respect to disposal of grievances on CPGRAMS on a quarterly basis through issue of Certificate of Appreciation.
- (vii) Review meetings are being taken on regular basis with the representatives of Central Ministries/Departments for monitoring pendency of public grievances.
- (viii) Training on CPGRAMS is conducted on regular basis.
- (ix) A new Mobile App which is more user-friendly for lodging of public grievances has been developed. The Grievance Action Status can also be viewed on the mobile itself. This has been integrated with Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG). This initiative also facilitates lodging of grievance anywhere anytime.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Licences of Companies

1568. SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended to cancel the licences of companies which have failed to start the services on time;

(b) if so, the details of such companies whose licences have been cancelled during the last three years; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against such companies 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) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through its letter dated 18th November, 2010 had, *inter alia*, recommended to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for cancellation of licenses as per the license conditions in addition to levy of liquidation damages in respect of those Licensees (i) who have complied with the roll out obligations with delay involving more than 52 weeks, and the roll out of network is not satisfactory; and (ii) who have not complied with the roll out obligations and the period of 52 weeks from the due date of compliance has expired or where service has not been started even though registration has been made with the TERM Cell.

(b) and (c) No such licenses have been cancelled by Department of Telecom during the last three years.

[English]

Civil Service Officers

1569. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength and the actual number of officers in position in the civil services, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for the undermanning of the services; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the posts of officers from the central services after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh?

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 data of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) is maintained by Department of Personnel & Training and Ministry of Home Affairs respectively. The details of sanctioned strength and the actual number of officers in position in IAS and IPS as on 01.01.2018 are attached as the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively. The data in respect of other Central Services is not Centrally maintained.

(b) Vacancies in a service are caused due to factors such as retirement, resignation, death, removal from service etc. All these factors are recurring in nature and relative with the rate of recruitment. The occurrence of vacancies and its filling up is an ongoing process.

(c) The shortfall in various cadres of IAS and IPS is a pan India phenomenon. To address the problem the Government has increased over the years, annual intake of IAS & IPS officers under Direct Recruitment Quota. In promotion quota prompt actions have been taken for holding of Selection Committee Meeting for appointment by promotion/selection of State Service Officers in IAS and IPS.

Statement-I

Cadre-wise strength of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) as on 01.01.2018

Sl. No.	Cadre	Total Authorized Strength	Total officers in Position as on 1.1.2018
1	2	3	4
1.	AGMUT	337	285
2.	Andhra Pradesh	239	161
3.	Assam-Meghalaya	263	216
4.	Bihar	342	235
5.	Chhattisgarh	193	161
6.	Gujarat	297	247
7.	Haryana	205	148
8.	Himachal Pradesh	147	120
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	137	86
10.	Jharkhand	215	140
11.	Karnataka	314	220
12.	Kerala	231	156
13.	Madhya Pradesh	439	361
14.	Maharashtra	361	320
15.	Manipur	115	94
16.	Nagaland	94	68
17.	Odisha	237	201
18.	Punjab	221	189

1	2	3	4
19.	Rajasthan	313	248
20.	Sikkim	48	39
21.	Tamil Nadu	376	313
22.	Telangana	208	142
23.	Tripura	102	72
24.	Uttar Pradesh	621	511
25.	Uttarakhand	120	91
26.	West Bengal	378	280
Total		6553	5104

Statement-II

*Cadre-wise strength of Indian Police Service (IPS)
as on 01.01.2018*

Sl. No.	Cadre	Total Authorized Strength	Total officers in Position as on 1.1.2018
1	2	3	4
1.	AGMUT	309	256
2.	Andhra Pradesh	144	118
3.	Assam-Meghalaya	188	159
4.	Bihar	242	197
5.	Chhattisgarh	142	92
6.	Gujarat	208	166
7.	Haryana	144	115
8.	Himachal Pradesh	94	79
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	147	87
10.	Jharkhand	149	125
11.	Karnataka	215	174
12.	Kerala	172	127
13.	Madhya Pradesh	305	266
14.	Maharashtra	302	253
15.	Manipur	89	69
16.	Nagaland	75	56
17.	Odisha	188	119
18.	Punjab	172	141

1	2	3	4
19.	Rajasthan	215	194
20.	Sikkim	32	29
21.	Tamil Nadu	263	221
22.	Telangana	139	99
23.	Tripura	69	54
24.	Uttar Pradesh	517	426
25.	Uttarakhand	73	63
26.	West Bengal	347	287
Total		4940	3970

Defence Preparedness

1570. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the existing State of technology of defence preparedness of the country's armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government plans to take any step for setting up an institutional arrangement to oversee the state of preparedness of the country in futuristic warfare; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Review of defence preparedness of the country's Armed Forces, including the State of technology is a continuous process. Procurement of defence equipment is undertaken from various domestic as well as foreign vendors, based on threat perception, operational challenges and technological changes and to keep the Armed Forces in a State of readiness to meet the entire spectrum of security challenges. The DRDO undertakes design and development of strategic, complex and security sensitive systems in the fields of missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, radars, electronic warfare systems, sonars combat vehicles, combat aircraft, sensors, etc. for the Armed Forces as per their specific Qualitative Requirements for enhancing the national security of the country.

A Defence Planning Committee (DPC) under the Chairmanship of National Security Adviser (NSA) has also been set up on 18.4.2018 to facilitate comprehensive and integrated planning for defence matters. The DPC would analyse/evaluate inputs to defence planning, *inter alia*, national defence and security priorities, foreign policy imperatives, operational directives and associated requirements, relevant strategic and security-related doctrines, defence acquisition and infrastructure development plans, including the 15 year Long Term Integrated Perspectives Plan (LTIPP), defence technology and development of the Indian defence industry and global technological advancements.

Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings

1571. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of ULCs, State-wise;
- (c) the time frame set by the Government to prevent train accidents at ULCs; and
- (d) the details of security and safety measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. As on 01.04.2018, there were 5792 Unmanned Level Crossings (UMLCs) out of which 3479 were on Broad Gauge (BG), 1135 on Meter Gauge (MG) and 1178 on Narrow Gauge (NG). All level crossings on BG (3479) have been identified for elimination.

(b) and (c) As per Section 131 of Motor Vehicles Act and Section 161 of The Railways Act, the onus for safe movement over UMLC has been put entirely on the road users. However, in view of the loss of human life at UMLCs, Railways have taken proactive measures to eliminate them on Broad Gauge (BG) route through closure/merger/grade-separator/manning. All UMLCs on BG have now been eliminated except 28 UMLCs (27 in Rajasthan and 1 in Uttar Pradesh) which have also been planned to be eliminated on priority.

(d) Indian Railways have taken the following proactive measures to ensure the safety and security at unmanned level crossings:

- (i) SMS-based campaigns to create awareness amongst road users.
- (ii) Social awareness campaigns to educate road users with the use of various print and electronic media for observance of safe practices prescribed in Motor Vehicles Act and The Railways Act.
- (iii) Public awareness campaigns at different places like villages, Gram Panchayat, weekly market, bus stands, schools and other public places.
- (iv) Nukkad Nataks organized at public places with theme "Safety at Level Crossings".
- (v) Drives to ensure availability of basic infrastructure at unmanned level crossings including whistle boards, road warning boards, speed breakers, visibility etc. as per the laid down standards.
- (vi) Periodic inspection of such crossings by Railway officials to ensure the above and for taking corrective actions, if any.
- (vii) Level crossing awareness week is organized each year by the Zonal Railways, which also includes the 'International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD)'.
(viii) Joint awareness and safety campaigns are being done with State Police Departments and RTO officials to ensure safety measures and observance of rules by road users to prevent accidents at UMLCs.
- (ix) In addition, to ensure safety, all unmanned level crossings have been provided with Gate Mitra to counsel/warn the road users for observance of safe practices while negotiating the unmanned level crossings.

[Translation]

State Domestic Product

1572. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the per capita net State Domestic Product of Jharkhand is less than national average;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) the details regarding the per capita net State domestic product of Jharkhand and National average during the last three years;

(d) the details of assistance provided by the Government to the State Government of Jharkhand to bring per capita net State domestic product at par with national average; and

(e) the success achieved in this regard due to the said assistance?

Per Capita Domestic product (2011-12 Base year)

(in per capita Amt. in Rs.)

Sl. No.	State/Country	Item	Current Prices			Constant Prices		
			2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Jharkhand	Per Capita NSDP	52,754	59,799	63,754	44,524	49,174	50,562
2.	India	Per Capita NNI	94,731	1,03,870	1,12,835	77,826	82,229	86,668

Source: For Sl. No. 1: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments

NSDP: Net State Domestic Product

NNI: Net National Income

(d) and (e) In addition to the Central transfers based on recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, Central Assistance is provided to the State in the form of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Livelihoods Mission-Ajeevika Deen Dayal Upadhyaya- Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Urban Rejuvenation Mission-AMRUT & Smart Cities Mission etc. The Central Sector Schemes covers a large number of interventions to help the development of the State and improving its per Capita income.

The details of transfer of funds to the State of Jharkhand in the last three years is given in the table below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Items	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 RE
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Share in Central Taxes	15,969	19,142	21,144

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) and (c) The details of the per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of Jharkhand and the per capita National Income (NNI) of India for the last three years are given in the table below:-

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Grants of 14th Finance Commission	1,095	1,601	1,583
3.	Central Assistance to State Plans (including CSS)	5,888	7,634	8,972
4.	Central Sector Schemes	689	917	881
Total Central Transfer (1 to 4)		23,641	29,294	32,580

The per capita net State Domestic Product of Jharkhand State has shown improvement over the past three years, as can be seen from the table of "Per Capita Domestic Product" above.

[English]

Smart Railway Stations

1573. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Land Development Authority and National Building Construction Corporation have signed a MoU with the Urban Development Department to develop 10 railway stations as the smart railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these smart railway stations will provide commercial space to set up business centres and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these smart counters will be developed on PPP mode and self-sustaining financial model theory; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. An MoU between Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. has been signed on 30.06.2017 for redevelopment of 10 stations *viz.* Tirupati, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Nellore, Madgaon, Charbagh (Lucknow), Gomtinagar, Kota, Thane New, Ernakulam Jn. and Puducherry as a part of the SMART City project launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Contracts have been awarded for redevelopment of Gomtinagar and Charbagh (Lucknow) railway stations. Bids have been invited for redevelopment of Puducherry and Tirupati stations.

(c) Yes, Madam. Station redevelopment is planned by leveraging commercial development of land & air space in and around stations, *i.e.* vacant railway land and air space not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs shall be leased out to interested parties for setting up commercial establishments.

(d) and (e) The revenues realized from commercial development of stations should be sufficient to at least cover the entire cost of station redevelopment after meeting the full expenditure on real estate development and Maintenance obligations, *i.e.* station redevelopment project would be cost neutral to Railways.

Special Schemes for Minorities in Rural/Border Areas

1574. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing schemes to promote economic and social development of minorities through State Channelizing agencies and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has consulted local populace before framing the said schemes and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any special schemes have been framed for the minorities living in far flung rural and border areas as well as in hilly terrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (e) The Government has implemented various schemes for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) Centrally notified Minority Communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. These schemes are applicable across the country including the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu and those living in far flung rural, border areas as well as in hilly terrains. Details of the schemes implemented by this Ministry is available on the Ministry's website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

The schemes implemented by the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) are operated through State Channelizing Agencies nominated by the State Government/UT Administration. For availing assistance under NMDFC schemes, the annual family income eligibility criterion under Credit Line-1 is Rs. 98,000 for rural areas and Rs. 1.20 lakh for urban areas. Higher annual family income eligibility criterion of upto Rs. 6.00 lakh has also been introduced as Credit Line-2, for increasing coverage of beneficiaries under NMDFC Schemes.

NMDFC organizes Regional Review Meetings and Annual conferences where representatives of the SCAs and State Governments are invited for discussions regarding

issues faced in implementation of the schemes at field level. The SCAs are the interface with the beneficiaries/target groups, as they are implementing the scheme at the local level. The SCAs interact with the beneficiaries/target groups during the Awareness Camps organized at the local level. Based on the discussions and feed back during such meetings, necessary modifications are made in the schemes & implementation procedure, to suit the field level requirements of the beneficiaries.

State-wise & Scheme-wise disbursement of funds and coverage of beneficiaries for the last four financial years including current financial year up to 30.11.2018 is given in the enclosed Statement.

The details of the schemes being implemented by NMDFC in the country including the States of Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu are available on the website of NMDFC (www.nmdfc.org).

Statement

State-wise & scheme-wise disbursement of funds and coverage of beneficiaries for the last four F.Y's including current F.Y. (upto 30.11.2018)

National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation

(Amt. Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State	2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019	
		Amt.	Benefs.	Amt.	Benefs.	Amt.	Benefs.	Amt.	Benefs	Amt.	Benefs
1.	Chandigarh	0.20	21	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.20	13	0.00	0
2.	Chhattisgarh	3.00	825	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	2.22	148
3.	Delhi	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.25	17	0.00	0
4.	Gujarat	0.00	0	2.00	133	2.00	133	2.87	192	3.00	200
5.	Haryana	1.00	377	9.60	974	0.00	0	5.30	353	0.00	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5.50	580	3.75	250	5.28	353	3.00	201	3.00	201
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	20.00	2,106	38.84	2,890	48.35	3,341	78.61	5,340	61.30	4,186
8.	Karnataka	20.00	2,105	10.00	667	7.50	500	5.60	373	0.00	0
9.	Kerala	92.50	22,624	141.60	19,439	119.50	21,467	167.00	31,134	138.20	19,547
10.	Maharashtra	10.00	1,053	0.00	0	5.00	333	5.00	2,000	0.00	0
11.	Mizoram	2.00	211	2.00	133	5.24	349	0.00	0	0.00	0
12.	Nagaland	8.50	2,083	0.00	0	0.00	0	3.00	1,200	0.00	0
13.	Puducherry	2.00	549	5.00	917	2.00	467	0.00	0	0.00	0
14.	Punjab	11.00	1,159	4.50	300	1.00	67	2.00	133	0.00	0
15.	Rajasthan	20.00	2,275	20.00	1,333	26.25	1,832	15.00	1,000	0.00	0
16.	Tamil Nadu	38.50	14,737	10.00	2,333	35.00	11,667	33.00	10,866	7.00	1,467
17.	Tripura	12.00	1,263	15.00	999	26.20	1,746	25.00	1,667	0.00	0
18.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0	1.00	67	0.00	0	0.00	0	1.00	67
19.	West Bengal	185.00	56,784	210.00	55,668	220.00	66,333	225.00	75,000	120.00	28,000
Grand Total		431.20	1,08,752	473.29	86,103	503.32	1,08,588	570.83	1,29,489	335.72	53,816

Women Participation in S&T Schemes

1575. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
 SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
 DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
 SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
 DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
 SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
 SHANKARRAO:
 SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:

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

- (a) the salient features of the Science and Technology (S&T) Schemes for Women;
- (b) the achievements of the said schemes in providing new opportunities for gainful employment of women especially in rural areas;
- (c) the status of implementation of these schemes in various States including Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether the Government has taken initiatives to ensure participation of women in the field of science and technology through implementation of suitable gender enabling programmes; 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) The Department of Science & Technology has been implementing a scheme "Science & Technology for Women" with a view to empower women through inputs of Science and Technology. The broad objectives of this scheme are:

- (1) To promote research, development and adaptation of technology to improve the quality of life, working conditions for women.
- (2) To provide newer opportunities for gainful employment of women especially in rural areas and empower them through inputs of S & T.
- (3) To reduce drudgery of women through application of Science and Technology.
- (4) To look into women health and nutrition through the application of S & T.

(b) The Scheme is focused on empowering women in livelihood generation through suitable technologies and available natural resources in their native areas which has led to income generation and creation of livelihood opportunities for them. The Scheme is implemented through grant-in-aid projects to S&T based Government and Non-Government Organizations. Besides individual projects, the scheme also focuses on establishing Women Technology Parks (WTP) that are envisaged to act as a resource centre to train women in rural technologies based on the natural resources for their livelihood and income generation. More than 10,000 women have been trained over last three years through 36 Women Technology Parks and other livelihood related projects located in different parts of the country.

(c) Total 98 individual projects including eight (8) in Maharashtra and ten (10) in Tamil Nadu have been supported under Science & Technology for Women Scheme in last three years. Further, 36 Women Technology Parks (WTPs) have also been established throughout the country including three (3) in Maharashtra and six (6) in Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has started new scheme 'Knowledge Involvement Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN)' in 2014-15 to ensure participation of women in the field of Science and Technology (S&T) through gender enabling programs. One of the program, 'Women Scientist Scheme' provides career opportunities to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career. There are three major components of Women Scientist Scheme namely, (i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, (ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for research projects that entail S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and (iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) that enables them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) professional. In 2016-17, 'Mobility' component has been introduced under KIRAN to address relocation issue of working Women Scientists. In 2017-18, DST launched new program 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake International collaborative research in premier institutions in USA for duration of 3-6 months. Further,

Women Scientists & Technologists are also encouraged to avail capacity building programs related with research & development, entrepreneurship, managerial skills and leadership under 'National Program for Training of Women Scientists & Technologists working in Government Sector' of DST. Under KIRAN, institutional support is also provided through Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) Programme in order to enhance women's participation in Research & Development activities in S&T Domain. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is also implementing 'Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE)' to enhance the participation of Women Scientists in Biotechnology research.

Development of Electronics and IT Sector

1576. SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:
SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN:
SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has any special projects, schemes for development of Electronics and Information Technology sectors in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total amount allocated and disbursed in the last three years in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has taken any effective steps to support and develop the large number of small and medium-sized IT and ITES companies in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The Government has launched an India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) under Digital India Programme. IBPS provides employment opportunities through promotion of investment in IT/ITeS sector across the country including Tamil Nadu.

The IBPS incentivises setting up of 48,300 seats for BPO/ITeS operation through financial support up to

Rs. 1 lakh per seat in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) towards Capital and Operational expenditure. The Scheme also provide special incentives to the units for promoting employment to women and especially abled persons, setting-up of operations in locations other than the State Capitals, generating employment beyond target, and promoting local entrepreneurs, within the overall Viability Gap Funding of Rs. 1 lakh per seat. Till now, in the State of Tamil Nadu 45 units have been approved to setup BPO/ITeS operations for a total of 6370 seats, Out of which 26 units for a total of 4120 seats have started operations across 17 locations.

Electronic manufacturing Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) has been launched by the Government in 2012. The Scheme provides 20-25% subsidy for investments in capital expenditure for setting up of new electronic manufacturing facility or expansion of the existing electronic manufacturing facility. These incentives are available in any industrial area notified by Centre/State/local authorities across the country.

(b) The total outlay of the IBPS scheme is Rs. 493 crore of which till now Rs. 1.68 crore has been disbursed/approved to BPO/ITeS units in Tamil Nadu. Under the M-SIPS, 9 applications with proposed investment of Rs. 4,547 crore have been approved for the State of Tamil Nadu of which Rs. 43.67 cr. has been disbursed.

(c) and (d) In addition to IBPS and M-SIPS, Government is implementing Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme and the Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP) Scheme for the promotion of IT/ITeS/Hardware industry including SMEs. A total of 58 STPI Centres have been established in the country, out of which 5 STPI Centres are operational in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Seasonal Outlook for Temperature

1577. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued seasonal outlook for the Temperature during the cold weather season for the forthcoming winter season;

(b) if so, whether foreign agencies have also issued during the cold weather season for the forthcoming winter seasons;

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

(d) whether average error in IMD's winter forecast has come down each of the last three years and if so the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for accurate weather prediction forecast in country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) IMD has issued temperature outlook for Cold Weather (December, 2018 to February, 2019) on 3rd December, 2018 (Press release is attached as Statement-I) The country experiences cold waves (days with abnormally cooler temperatures) primarily during December to February. The outlooks are based on predictions using an ocean-atmosphere coupled climate model developed under the monsoon mission. The forecast outlook consists of forecast for subdivision scale minimum temperatures for the cold weather season.

The forecast suggests that above normal seasonal minimum temperatures ($>0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) are most likely over most of the subdivisions of the country except Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the north, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast, Odisha in the east and Chhattisgarh in Central India, where normal (between 0.5°C & -0.5°C) seasonal minimum temperatures are most likely to prevail.

In addition, IMD also issue weekly cold wave alerts and warnings based on the same model. The forecasts are made available to disaster managers and public through State Meteorological offices and also through IMD, Delhi website (www.imd.gov.in)

(b) No, Madam

(c) Does not arise

(d) The performance of the winter forecast is being monitored.

(e) Coupled Forecasting system (CFS) model improvement efforts are continued based on the performance creation and verification statistics on monthly and seasonal basis by the R & D group of India Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM, Pune) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF, Noida).

Statement

Press Release

New Delhi, 3rd December, 2018

Government of India

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Seasonal Outlook for the Temperatures during December, 2018 to February, 2019

Highlights

- Above normal subdivision averaged seasonal minimum temperatures are likely during the upcoming cold weather season (December, 2018 to February, 2019) over all the meteorological subdivisions of the country.
- Below normal Cold Wave (CW) conditions are likely over core CW zone of the country.

1. Background

Since 2016, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has been issuing seasonal forecast outlooks for subdivision scale temperatures over the country for both hot and cold weather seasons based on predictions from the Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System (MMFCS). MMFCS has now been used to prepare seasonal outlook for the subdivision scale averaged minimum temperatures during the cold weather season of December, 2018-February,

2019 season. The forecast was prepared using 40-ensemble member forecasts

Forecast for the December, 2018 to February, 2019 Season Minimum Temperatures

Fig.1 Depicts the forecasted distribution of the sub-division averaged seasonal minimum temperature anomalies (departures from the long term (1981-2010) normal) over India for December, 2018 to February, 2019. The forecast suggests that above normal seasonal minimum temperatures (>0.5° C) are most likely over most of the sub divisions of the country except Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the north, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast. Odisha in the east and Chhattisgarh in Central India, where normal (between 0.5° C & -0.5° C) seasonal minimum temperatures are most likely to prevail.

Assessment suggests that only about 39% probability of above normal minimum temperatures in the Core Cold Wave (CW) zone during the november, 2018-January, 2019 season. (Fig.2). Core CW zone covers States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Telangana and met Subdivisions of Marathwada, Vidharbha Saurashtra and Madhya Maharashtra.

2. ENSO conditions in the Pacific Ocean

Currently Equatorial Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are above average across most of the Pacific Ocean. The latest forecasts from global climate models indicate strong probability of weak El Nino conditions to develop during the winter season.

3. Extended Range Forecast Services

IMD also provides extended range forecasts (7-day averaged forecasts for the next four weeks) of maximum and minimum temperatures over the country updated every week. This is based on the Multimodel ensemble dynamical Extended Range Forecasting System currently operational

at IMD, New Delhi. The forecasts are available through IMD, Delhi website (www.md.gov.in).

Nov IcMMCFsv2 PDF corrected min Forecast Anomaty DJF

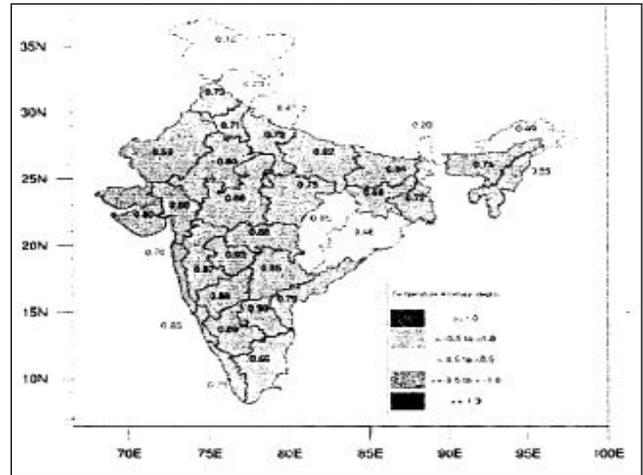


Fig. 1. Minimum Temperature Anomaly forecast for December, 2018 to February, 2019.

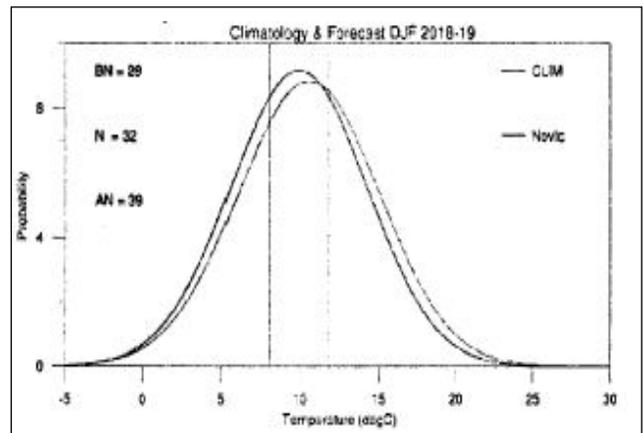


Fig.2. Climatological probability distribution of grid point maximum temperatures during December, 2018 to February, 2019 over Core Cold wave Zone (CCZ) is shown along with forecast probability distribution of the same for December, 2018 to February, 2019.

Military Exercises

- 1578. KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
- SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
- SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
- SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
- SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted three major military exercises with the United States, Russia and Japan recently;

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

(c) the number of troops involved from each country for the said joint military exercises;

(d) the details of the joint military exercises that are likely to be undertaken with other countries during the next year; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost military cooperation with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The details of military exercises conducted in 2018 by our Armed Forces with the United States, Russia and Japan are as under:—

Sl.No.	Country	Name
Joint Exercises conducted by Army		
1.	United States	Exercise Yudh Abhyas and Exercise Vajra Prahar
2.	Russia	Exercise INDRA
3.	Japan	Exercise Dharma Guardian
Joint Exercises conducted by Air Force		
1.	United States	Exercise Cope India-18
2.	Russia	Exercise AVIAINDRA-18
3.	Japan	Exercise Shinyu Maitri
Joint Exercises conducted by Navy		
1.	United States & Japan	Trilateral Exercise Malabar 2018
2.	Russia	Exercise INDRA Navy 2018
3.	Japan	Exercise JIMEX-2018

In the Exercise Yudh Abhyas with United States, 350 personnel participated from each side. 36 Personnel from Indian Army and 13 from US Army participated in Exercise Vajra Prahar with US. With Russia, 250 personnel participated from both sides in Exercise INDRA. In Exercise Dharma Guardian with Japan 25 personnel participated from each side. In Air Exercise Cope India-18 with US, 202 US Air Force personnel participated. In Air Exercise AVIAINDRA-18 with Russia, 30 member delegation participated from both side. In Air Exercise Shinyu Maitri with Japan, 18 aircrew/observes participated. In Naval Exercises, navies of US/Japan/Russia/India participated with relevant naval assets/ships/aircrafts etc.

Our Armed Forces are represented by various units/troops in such exercises which is decided based on the nature and requirement of specific exercise. The expenditure incurred varies on the magnitude of our participation and assets deployed during such exercises and are met almost entirely from operational budget of the Services. The aims and objectives of these exercises include providing operational exposure to the armed forces, enhance interoperability and undertaking mutual exchange of best practices, special operations tactics and to develop cooperation among the armed forces of participating nations etc. In this process the current tactical and technological practices/techniques etc., are exchanged during such exercises.

(d) and (e) The conduct and planning of such exercises is a continuous process. Relevant steps are taken from time to time to engage friendly countries to enhance the scope of defence cooperation based on the principle of mutual benefit and our own strategic requirements. The countries with which joint military exercises are proposed to be conducted during the next year include Australia, Bangladesh, China, France, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK and USA among others.

Weather Information to Farmers

1579. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:

SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
 SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
 KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
 SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of forecast information centres functioning under the IMD, till date, State/UT-wise

(b) the manner in which the IMD department is helping the poor farmers who are fully dependent on weather for their crops;

(c) whether it is easy today to spread awareness amongst farmers by IMD for proper communication and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the statistics about helping the poor farmers and spreading awareness by the IMD during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the measure taken/being taken by the Government to update the IMD system?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) IMD has 3-tier forecasting system; at national level there is National Weather Forecasting Centre (NWFC), New Delhi; at regional level there are 6 Regional Meteorological Centres (RMCs) viz. Guwahati, Nagpur, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai and there are 18 numbers of Meteorological Centres (MCs) viz. Itanagar, Shillong, Agartala, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Lucknow, Dehradun, Shimla, Srinagar, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Port Blair issuing forecasts for their respective areas of responsibility. In addition to this, services for aviation are provided by Meteorological Offices (MOs) located at various airports in India.

Weather Forecast based Agromet Advisories are disseminated to farmers of all districts through 130 Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) established under "Gramin Krishi

Mausam Sewa (GKMS)" made functional by IMD in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities, institutes of ICAR, IITs. List of 130 AMFUs are mentioned in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) IMD, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) under GKMS scheme issues district level weather forecast for the next five days covering all the districts in the country. Based on the weather forecast, Agromet Advisories are communicated to the farming community through multichannel dissemination systems including SMS to 42 million farmers using mobile phones. Agromet Advisories include crop specific advisories for field crops, horticultural crops and livestock and are found to be useful in deciding day-to-day agricultural operations by the farmers in the country.

(c) In addition, IVR (Interactive Voice Response Technology) through Kisan Portal launched by Ministry of Agriculture as well as through private companies like Handygo, Reliance Foundation, Mahindra Samriddhi, IKSL etc. under PPP mode are also used in dissemination of Agromet Advisories.

(d) IMD along with AMFUs organize Farmers' Awareness Programmes (FAP) across the country to create awareness about GKMS Scheme and enhance outreach of Agromet Advisories. In addition, scientists from AMFUs and IMD organize and participate in Kisan Melas, Kisan Ghoshtis, Field Day etc. and details about GKMS Scheme are explained to the farmers. Details of number of farmers receiving Agromet Advisories through SMS during last three years and current year are mentioned in the enclosed Statement-II.

The Government has introduced several latest Information Technologies (IT) to disseminate the information to farmers. Such measures taken by the IMD are as follows

1. Toll free number has been generated to disseminate the weather information to the users.
2. Many collaborative partners are also being invited to disseminate the information.
3. Alerts and warning for extreme weather events like cyclone, depression, unusual rainfall, hail

- etc. are communicated to farmers using SMS.
4. Farmers are also requested to register for SMS services through internet, field visits, Kisan Melas, Farmer Awareness Programsetc.

(e) After successful implementation of district level AAS, IMD is venturing into Block level forecast through establishment of 530 District Agromet Units (DAMUs) in addition to existing 130 Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) currently (total-660 districts).

Statement-I

State-wise List of AMFUs

Sl.No.	State	No.	Agro-climatic Zone	AMFUs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	High Altitude Tribal Zone	Chintapalle
		2	Scarce Rainfall Zone of Rayalaseema	Anantpur
		3	North Coastal Zone	Anakapalle
		4	Krishna Godavari Zone	Lam (Guntur)
		5	Southern Zone	Tirupati
2.	Assam	6	Hill Zone	Diphu
		7	Lower Bramhaputra Valley Zone	Gosaigaon
		8	Upper Bramhaputra Valley Zone	Jorhat
		9	Barak Valley Zone	Karimganj
		10	Central Bramhaputra Valley Zone	Shillongani
		11	North Bank Plain Zone	Sonitpur
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	Sub Tropical Hill Zone	Basar
4.	Bihar	13	North West Alluvial Plain Zone	Pusa
		14	South Bihar Alluvial Zone	Sabour
		15	North East Alluvial Zone	Agwanpur
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	North Hill Zone of Chhattisgarh	Ambikapur
		17	Bastar Plateau Zone	Jagadapur
		18	Chhattisgarh Plain Zone (including Balaghat Distt.)	Raipur
6.	Gujarat	19	Middle Gujarat Zone	Anand
		20	Bhal and Coastal Zone	Arnej
		21	North West Zone	Bhachau
		22	North Gujarat Zone	Dantiwada
		23	South Sourashtra Zone	Junagadh
		24	South Gujarat Zone	Maktampur

Sl.No.	State	No.	Agro-climatic Zone	AMFUs
		25	South Gujarat Heavy Rainfall Zone	Navasari
		26	North Saurashtra Zone	Targhadia
7.	Haryana	27	Eastern Zone	Kaul
		28	Western Zone	Hissar
8.	Himachal Pradesh	29	Mild Hills Sub Humid Zone	Seobagh
		30	High Hill Temperate Dry Zone	Kukumsheri
		31	Sub-Montane & Low Hills Sub-Tropical Zone	Palampur
		32	Mid Hills Sub-Humid	Nauri (Solan)
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	33	Sub Tropical Zone	Chatha (Jammu)
		34	Cold Arid Zone	Leh
		35	Intermediate Zone	Pahalgam (Rajouri)
		36	Valley Temperate Zone	Srinagar
10.	Jharkhand	37	Central & North Eastern Plateau Zone	Dumka
		38	Western Plateau Zone	Ranchi
		39	South Eastern Plateau Zone	Darisai
11.	Karnataka	40	Eastern Dry Zone	Bengaluru
		41	North East Transition Zone	Bidar
		42	North Dry Zone	Vijayapura
		43	Coastal Zone	Brahamavar
		44	North Transition Zone	Dharwad
		45	Central Dry Zone	Hiriyur
		46	Southern Dry Zone	Naganhalli
		47	Southern Transition Zone	Neveli
		48	North East Dry Zone	Raichur
		49	Hill Zone	Sirsi
12.	Kerala	50	High Altitude Zone	Ambalavayal
		51	Problem Areas Zone	Kumarakom
		52	Northern Zone	Pillicode
		53	Central Zone	Trissur
		54	Southern Zone	Vellayani

Sl.No.	State	No.	Agro-climatic Zone	AMFUs
13.	Madhya Pradesh	55	Satpura Plateau Zone	Chhindawara
		56	Malwa Plateau Zone	Indore
		57	Kymore Plateau and Satpura Hill Zone	Jabalpur
		58	Jhabua Hills Zone	Jhabua
		59	Nimar Valley Zone	Khargone
		60	Gird Zone	Morena
		61	Central Narmada Valley Zone	Powerkheda
		62	Vindhya Plateau Zone	Sehore
		63	Bundelkhand Zone	Tikamgarh
14.	Maharashtra	64	Central Vidharba Zone	Akola
		65	North Konkan Coastal Zone	Dapoli
		66	Western Ghat Zone	Igatpuri
		67	Sub Montane Zone	Kolhapur
		68	South Konkan Coastal Zone	Mulde
		69	Scarcity Zone	Parabhani
		70	Western Maharashtra Plain Zone	Pune
		71	Central Maharashtra Plateau Zone	Rahuri
		72	Eastern Vidharba Zone	Shindewahi
15.	Manipur	73	Sub Tropical Plain Zone	(Imphal) Lamphelpat
16.	Meghalaya	74	Temperate Sub Alpine Zone	Umiam
17.	Mizoram	75	Mild Tropical Hill Zone	Kolasib
18.	Nagaland	76	Mild Tropical Hill Zone	Jharanapani
19.	Odisha	77	East and South Eastern Coastal Plain Zone	Bhubaneswar
		78	Western Undulating Zone	Bhawanipatna
		79	North Eastern Ghat Zone	G. Udaigiri
		80	North Central Plateau Zone	Keonjhar
		81	North Eastern Plateau Zone	Keirei
		82	North Eastern Coastal Plain Zone	Ranital
		83	Eastern Ghat High Land Zone	Similiguda
		84	West Central Table Land Zone	Chiplima

Sl.No.	State	No.	Agro-climatic Zone	AMFUs
		85	Mid Central Table Land Zone	Mahisapat
		86	South Eastern Ghat Zone	Malkangiri
20.	Punjab	87	Western Zone	Bhatinda
		88	Western Plain Zone	Faridkot
		89	Undulating Plain Zone	Gurudaspur
		90	Central Plain Zone	Ludhiana
		91	Sub-Montane Undulating Zone	Kandi
21.	Rajasthan	92	Arid Western Plain Zone	Bikaner
		93	Flood Prone Eastern Plain Zone	Bhartpur (Sewar)
		94	Southern Humid Plain Zone	Banswara
		95	Transitional Plain Zone of Inland Drainage	Fatehpur (Sikar)
		96	Semi Arid Eastern Plain Zone	Jaipur (Durgapura)
		97	Arid Western Plain Zone	Jodhpur (CAZRI)
		98	Southeastern Humid Plain Zone	Kota
		99	Irrigated North Western Plain Zone	Sriganganagar
		100	Sub Humid Southern Plain and Aravali Hill Zone	Udaipur (CTAE)
22.	Tamil Nadu	101	North Eastern Zone	Chennai
		102	Western Zone	Coimbatore
		103	Southern Zone	Kanniwadi
		104	Southern Zone	Kovilpatti
		105	Cauvery Delta Zone	Aduthurai
		106	North Western Zone	Namakkal
		107	High Rainfall Zone	Pechiparai
		108	High Altitude Hilly Zone	Ooty
23.	Puducherry	109	Karaikal	Karaikal
24.	Telangana	110	South Telangana Zone	Hyderabad
		111	Northern Telangana Zone	Jagtiyal
25.	Tripura	112	Mild Tropical Plain Zone	Lembuchera
26.	Uttar Pradesh	113	Central Plain Zone	Allahabad
		114	North Eastern Plain Zone	Bharari

Sl.No.	State	No.	Agro-climatic Zone	AMFUs
		115	Bundelkhand Zone	Baharaich
		116	Central Plain Zone	Faizabad
		117	Western Plain Zone	Kanpur
		118	South Western Semi Arid Zone	Modipuram
		119	Eastern Plain Zone	Varanasi
27.	Uttarakhand	120	Bhabar and Tarai Zone	Pantnagar
		121	Hill Zone	Ranichauri
		122	Sub Humid Sub Tropic	Roorki
28.	West Bengal	123	Hill Zone	Kalimpong
		124	New Alluvial Zone	Kalyani
		125	Laterite and Red Soil Zone	Kharagpur
		126	Terai Zone	Pundibari
		127	Coastal Saline Zone	Kakdwip
		128	Old Alluvial Zone	Majhian
29.	Andman Nicobar	129	Port Blair	Port Blair
30.	New Delhi	130	Western Semi Arid Zone	New Delhi

Statement-II*Status of Dissemination of Agromet Advisories for August, 2015*

State	IFFCO	Nokia	Reuter	Handygo	Nabard	Mahindra & Mahindra	State Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Uttar Pradesh + Uttarakhand	320469	129100	24431				474000
Odisha	207027	3531	1612				212170
Goa			149				149
Madhya Pradesh + Chhattisgarh	27870	42720	37594				108184
Tamil Nadu	18203	94652	1970				114825
Bihar+Jharkhand	211893	37800	1990				251683
Gujarat	27533	62610	66015				156158
West Bengal	58506	57509	11354				127369
Maharashtra	27095	97908	56611	12512	50000	92500	336626

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Haryana	7558	52136	2836	1604			64134
Punjab	19859	20956	14962				
Rajasthan	54974	12430	17068				84472
Karnataka	75350	69565	6068				150983
Andhra Pradesh	45542	111300	15649				172491
Kerala	3809	61451					65260
Himachal Pradesh	4725	5131	1734				11590
Jammu and Kashmir		11311	401				11712
Assam		31739					31739
Meghalaya			135				135
Delhi			843				843
Total							2430300
SMS sent by AMFUs through nic, way 2 sms etc.							130198
Reliance foundation (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry)							17000
SMS sent through Kisan Portal							8924056
Grand Total							11501554

Status of Dissemination of Agro-advisories for September, 2016

State	IFFCO	Nokia	Reuter	Handygo	Reliance Foundation	Kisan Sanchar	Mahindra & Mahindra	State Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttar Pradesh	519783	105600	32014	4409		5963		667769
Uttarakhand			149			52		201
Odisha	383889	84	1		273547			657521
Madhya Pradesh	50052	9243	35412	3242	101889	3415		203253
Chhattisgarh			304					304
Tamil Nadu	22783	5171	3		274973	109		303039
Bihar	321779	10264	10	19655		3755		355463
Jharkhand						800		800
Gujarat	45399	10990	5520		93214		23226	178349
West Bengal	113311	997	1939		7541			123788

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maharashtra	34270	10799	31557	34135	1589754	1816	172493	1874824
Haryana	12777	3880	24	3091		2031		21803
Punjab	22612	4529	20055					47196
Rajasthan	83722	146	28303		895	2127		115193
Karnataka	104456	4578	2193		1846			113073
Andhra Pradesh	68814	6027	1847		253620	106		330414
Telangana								
Kerala	3094	581			73400			77075
Himachal Pradesh	9653	890	1					10544
Jammu and Kashmir		314						314
Assam		1375						1375
Meghalaya			2					2
Delhi			2					2
Total								5082302
SMS sent by AMFUs through NIC, way 2 sms etc								129961
SMS sent through Kisan Portal								14136682
Grand Total								19348945

State-wise SMS sent through Kisan Portal and PPP Mode in December, 2017

State	Kisan Portal	IFFCO	Handygo	Reliance Foundation	Kisan Sanchar	Mahindra & Mahindra	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	2172955	74302		811352	106		3058715
Telangana	74728						74728
Arunachal Pradesh	1640						1640
Assam	21790						21790
Bihar	355197	297033	7863		3755		663848
Chhattisgarh	1230080						1230080
Gujarat	314516	39217		243421		272031	869185
Haryana	520857	10754	590		12078		544279
Himachal Pradesh	255450	15884					271334
Jammu and Kashmir	15310						15310
Jharkhand	593779				800		594579

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Karnataka	171613	95276		25436			292325
Kerala	478587			101124			579711
Madhya Pradesh	511271	58936	2474	172498	3415		748594
Maharashtra	3264050	35904	5703	1672570	1816	445321	5425364
Manipur	442						442
Meghalaya	1041						1041
Mizoram	3488						3488
Nagaland	11695						11695
New Delhi	2079						2079
Odisha	699033	274038		788163			1761234
Punjab	258763	21481					280244
Rajasthan	278185	92716		108675	2127		481703
Tamil Nadu	857270	15321		443425	109		1316125
Tripura	0						0
Uttar Pradesh	3435412	455230	7701		5963		3904306
Uttarakhand	82832						82832
West Bengal	277591	68643		19373	52		365659
SMS sent by AMFUs through NIC							112846
Total	15889654	1554735	24331	4386037	30221	717352	22715176

State-wise SMS sent through Kisan Portal and PPP Mode in July, 2018

State	Kisan Portal	IFFCO	Reliance Foundation	Kisan Sanchar	Total
Andhra Pradesh	4165835	103599	661739	106	4931279
Telangana	833828		5432		839260
Arunachal Pradesh	3698				3698
Assam	79064				79064
Bihar	475966	474205		3755	
Chhattisgarh	1278946				1278946
Gujarat	998905	54124	188258		1241287
Haryana	1001228	14660		12078	1027966
Himachal Pradesh	517833	21906			539739
Jammu and Kashmir	11786				11786
Jharkhand	613781		5030	800	619611
Karnataka	273161	85385	38139		396685
Kerala	598618		73823		672441

State	Kisan Portal	IFFCO	Reliance Foundation	Kisan Sanchar	Total
Madhya Pradesh	843534	120004	112062	3415	1079015
Maharashtra	4120958	51262	979496	1816	5153532
Manipur	1999				1999
Meghalaya	1065				1065
Mizoram	5543				5543
Nagaland	16317				16317
New Delhi	2135				2135
Odisha	1477782	377851	641342		2496975
Punjab	551008	33782	3414		588204
Rajasthan	834778	193181	72849	2127	1102935
Tamil Nadu	1009080	45031	363451	109	1417671
Tripura	10579				10579
Uttar Pradesh	7173422	802939	19626	5963	8001950
Uttarakhand	150689			52	150741
West Bengal	721431	89695	13632		824758
SMS sent by AMFUs through NIC					112846
Total	27772969	2467624	3178293	30221	33561953

Demand and Production of Coking Coal

1580. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

DR. HEENA VIJAYAKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- the quantity of coking coal existing in the country at present and the quantity of demand thereof;
- whether there is huge difference in the demand and production of coking coal and if so, the details thereof;
- whether India is to remain heavily dependent on imported coking coal and if so, the present status thereof;
- whether the Government proposes to acquire coking coal reserves sites in foreign countries;

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

(f) the time by which those are proposed to be acquired alongwith the amount of funds earmarked for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The details of Coking Coal reserve as on 01.04.2018 is given below:—

Type of Coking Coal	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
Prime Coking (MT)	4649	664	0	5313
Medium Coking (MT)	13914	11709	1879	27502
Blendable/Semi Coking (MT)	519	995	193	1707
Total	19082	13368	2072	34522

(b) The estimated of demand of coking coal made by NITI Aayog and domestic production of coking coal during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 is given below:—

(in million tonnes)

Year	Estimated Demand	Actual production of Coking Coal	Gap
2017-18	63.17	40.92	22.25
2018-19	58.37	22.60#	35.77

April-October, 2018

(c) The entire demand of coking coal is not met from domestic production as the supply of high quality coal/ coking coal (low-ash-coal) in the country is limited and thus no option is left but to resort to import of coking coal. As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. The import of coking coal during the year 2017-18 was 47 MT and in the current year 2018-19 (upto September) was 25.94 MT.

In order to increase the production of indigenous coking coal NIT has been issued under Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 for allocation of 6 Coking Coal blocks (Total extractable reserve-282 MT) with overall peak production capacity of 12.63 MT per annum. Further, CIL has a plan to augment supply of Coking Coal through washed coking coal.

(d) and (e) India is deficient in techno-commercially extractable coking coal reserves. CIL has taken initiatives towards acquisition of coking coal assets abroad, with particular focus in Australia and Canada, with a view to import the produces to India and enhance raw material security of the country. Certain assets have been identified which are under different stages of due diligence.

(f) CIL is continuously searching for coking coal assets coming up for sale in the global market and identifying suitable assets for acquisition. The acquisition process will entail conducting detailed due diligence and closure of the

commercial deal. The time required for such process is asset specific and therefore it is not possible to indicate any specific time period by which such deal can be closed.

Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation

1581. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has sought a loan of Rs. 2800 crore for railway works under the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the railway works under the MUTP-III are in progress and if so, the details thereof and their present status;

(c) whether the Railways has identified the work to be undertaken through the proposed loan and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is likely to approach the Asian Development Bank, established by the BRICS countries for the above loan and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Railway Finance Corporation has a better ranking in the loan market and if so, the reasons for taking loan from foreign institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The Government of India (CCEA) has sanctioned MUTP-III project at a cost of Rs. 10947 crore. The details of works, their status and loan component involved are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Completion cost (Rs. in crs.)				Status of work as on 12.12.2018
		Loan	MoR#	GoM#	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	New Suburban corridor between Panvel-Karjat on Central Railway (double line) (28 Kms)	1280	320	1182	2782	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition is under process. • Joint Measurement of all 24 villages completed. • Design approval is under process.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	New Sub Urban corridor link between Airoli-Kalwa (elevated) on Central Railway (4 Km)	357	59.5	59.5	476*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint measurement for Dighe & Kalwa villages for land acquisition, has been done. • Tender for Dighe Station awarded and works have been taken up. • Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) report submitted to MMRDA in Sept, 18 for rehabilitation of Project Affected Persons (PAPs).
3.	Quadrupling of the Virar-Dahanu Road on Western Railway (31.5 Km)	2684	447.5	447.5	3578	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition is under process. • Joint Measurement completed for 27 villages out of 31 villages.
4.	Procurement of Rolling Stock (565 coaches)	1326	1082	1082	3491	ICF, Chennai cancelled the tender and fresh tender process will be taken up.
5.	Trespass Control on mid-section on Central & Western Railway	413	69	69	551	Tenders for FOB, etc. awarded and work has been taken up.
6.	Technical Assistance	69	0	0	69	Nine number of different technical studies at a total cost of Rs. 19.38 crore have since been sanctioned.
Total		6129	1978	2840	10947	

MoR-Ministry of Railways, GoM-Government of Maharashtra

* Project will now be funded with equal Funding from MoR & GoM without availing Loan. The Loan component of this project will be adjusted against the loan component of other works of MUTP-III.

(d) For financing the loan component of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP-III), Ministry of Railways had approached Ministry of Finance for the same. Ministry of Finance was advised to pose the loan proposal to various Multilateral Development Bank *i.e.* AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) and NDB (National Development Bank). Indian Railways through Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) is in talks with these Banks to raise the required loan component for MUTP-III.

(e) Indian Railway through Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) is in talks with AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) and NDB (National Development Bank) to raise the required loan component for MUTP-III. This is in line with the funding pattern of previous Mumbai Urban Transport Projects which were financed through World Bank, a Multilateral Development Bank. This has been done in consultation with Ministry of Finance. Possibility of seeking loan from Indian Railway Finance Corporation

(IRFC) alongwith Multilateral Development Banks has been conveyed to Ministry of Finance. A decision in this matter will be taken after consultation with Ministry of Finance.

Fossil Fuel

1582. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report prepared by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Oil Change International (OCI), and Fundacion Ambientey Recursos Naturales (FARN) indicates India as emerging as a global example in doing away with subsidy for fossil fuels and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether subsidy to fossil fuels is often perceived as a perpetrator of energy inequality across the world;

(c) if so, whether subsidy is benefiting the rich rather than the poorest members of society and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether energy companies, investors and insurers have written to G20 countries to end subsidy to fossil fuels by 2030, if so the details thereof; and

(e) whether India has undertaken substantial reforms in subsidy to fossil fuels and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The report prepared by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Oil Change International (OCI), and Fundacion Ambientey Recursos Naturales (FARN) has not been referred and examined in the Ministry of Coal.

(d) No Such information is available with the Ministry of Coal.

(e) As informed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG), the prices of petrol and diesel have been made market-determined by the Government with effect from 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol and diesel in line with international product prices and other market conditions.

As regards Subsidized Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene, the Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for Subsidized Domestic LPG and Retail Selling Price (RSP) of PDS Kerosene.

Government, as a measure of Good Governance has introduced well targeted system of subsidy delivery to LPG consumers through PAHAL. Under PAHAL Scheme, a LPG consumer purchases refill at non-subsidized price and applicable subsidy is directly transferred into the bank account of consumer. So far, more than 23.13 crore LPG consumers have joined the PAHAL Scheme.

Government has also taken steps to rationalise the subsidy outgo by excluding such LPG consumers or his/her spouse having taxable income of above Rs 10 lakhs from availing LPG subsidy *w.e.f.* 1.1.2016.

[Translation]

Konkan Railway Corporation Limited

1583. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited's (KRCL) plan to augment and enhance line capacity of its 736 km route connecting Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and parts of Kerala is under scanner and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the works were not progressing at the envisaged pace and as per the Government's schedule and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railway Board has prepared progress report of the project and if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to take help of the National Geo-physical Research Institute and the Ministry of Science and Technology to resolve issues faced in the foundation works; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Konkan Railway's proposal for Capacity Augmentation by adding 141 km track doubling and 18 additional new stations has been cleared by NITI Aayog and Expanded Board for Railways. The proposal has been sent to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for approval.

(b) and (c) The works of Capacity Augmentation of Konkan Railway route will commence on receipt of statutory approvals for the project.

(d) Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Geophysical Research Institute, an arm of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. However, this MoU is not related to the capacity augmentation proposal of KRCL.

(e) The MoU was signed with an objective to bring about speedy and accurate acquisition of geological information from surface to around 400 metres depth by heli-borne geophysical surveys in prospective tunnel projects undertaken by KRCL. With this collaboration, KRCL aims to propagate the technologies and prowess now available in India in meeting the challenges posed by uncertain geological conditions plaguing tunneling in mountains and hilly terrain.

Wi-Fi at Railway Stations

1584. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations where Wi-Fi services are proposed to be provided, State-wise;

(b) the names of service providers with which agreement has been signed for providing free Wi-Fi services at railway stations along with the details of conditions prescribed in the agreement;

(c) whether the Ministry has any data regarding the percentage of people using free mobile Wi-Fi service at present and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total fund allocated by the Government so far for providing free Wi-Fi service at railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Wi-Fi services have been provided at 715 no. of railway stations as on 14.12.2018. Wi-Fi services are proposed to be provided on 5734 railway stations. State-wise list of 5734 Railway stations is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways has entered into an agreement with M/s. Mahataa Information India Private Limited (M/s. MI IPL), an Indian subsidiary of Google Inc. for providing free Wi-Fi at 438 A1 and A category stations. The complete cost has been shared by RCIL and MI IPL.

RCIL has also entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universal Services Obligation

Fund (USOF)/Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications for providing Wi-Fi services at 200 rural railway stations.

(c) Yes, Madam, Free mobile Wi-Fi services at 715 railway stations have been used by 1.3 million unique users till the month of October, 2018.

(d) The cost of providing Wi-Fi at 438 stations where RCIL has entered into agreement with M/s. MI IPL is shared by RCIL & M/s. MI IPL and no fund has been provided by Government. However, the cost of providing Wi-Fi at 200 rural stations where RCIL has entered into an agreement with Ministry of Communications, the funds of Rs. 27.77 crore have been provided by Ministry of Communications under USOF.

Statement

List of Stations (State-wise) where Wi-Fi Internet Facility are planned

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Stations
1.	Andhra Pradesh	449
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	02
3.	Assam	225
4.	Bihar	366
5.	Chhattisgarh	109
6.	Delhi	25
7.	Goa	06
8.	Gujarat	352
9.	Haryana	117
10.	Himachal Pradesh	42
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	29
12.	Jharkhand	191
13.	Karnataka	159
14.	Kerala	110
15.	Madhya Pradesh	363
16.	Maharashtra	489
17.	Manipur	02
18.	Meghalaya	02
19.	Mizoram	01

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Stations
20.	Nagaland	02
21.	Odisha	207
22.	Puducherry	03
23.	Punjab	211
24.	Rajasthan	453
25.	Tamil Nadu	428
26.	Telangana	10
27.	Tripura	12
28.	Uttar Pradesh	785
29.	Uttarakhand	19
30.	West Bengal	565
Total		5734

[English]

Reverse Auction Model

1585. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR:
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a reverse auction model for the sale of bandwidth for meeting fiscal needs and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has approved National Communications Policy-2018, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has plans to provide universal broadband service of 50 Mbps speed to every citizen under this scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds invested in the scheme, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Yes Madam. The Government has approved National Digital Communications Policy-2018. The National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP-2018) has been notified in the Gazette of India *vide* No. 2-14/2018-Policy (Pt-I) dated 22nd October, 2018 with a vision to support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society. One of the goals of NDCP-2018 is to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen by 2022.

Minority Welfare Schemes

1586. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Physical and Financial Achievements of Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) and NAI ROSHNI Schemes for the last four years and the current financial year;

(b) the number of Minority Youths placed after participating in SEEKHO AUR KAMAO (Learn and Earn) during the last five years;

(c) whether SEEKHO AUR KAMAO ensures placements of minimum 75% trainees, out of which at least 50% placement is in organized sector and if so, the number of minority youths provided employment during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of recruitment of people from minority communities by various Ministries/Departments, PSUs and PSBs, during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The details of physical and financial achievements under the Schemes of USTTAD and Nai Roshni during last four years and current year are as follows:-

- (i) **Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD):** an

amount of Rs. 69.19 crore has been released from the year 2014-15 to till date. Total 16,200 trainees have been trained till now under USTTAD Scheme. Further, physical targets of 2017-18 have been combined with the physical targets of 2018-19 around 7,300 trainees.

- (ii) **Nai Roshni-the Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women:** An amount of Rs. 70.13 crore has been released for 2,86,500 women candidates from the year 2014-15 to till date.

(b) **“Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)”-Skill development Initiative for minorities:** “Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)” is a placement linked skill development scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) all over the country. Total 1,17,689 trainees have been placed during last five years after being trained.

(c) Yes Madam, the State-wise trainees placed during last three years is enclosed in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) is the nodal Department for collection of data and other matters regarding recruitment of minority communities in the Central Ministries/Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs), Public Sector Companies and Financial Institutions. The consolidated data on recruitment of the various minority communities in respect of Government Services and PSUs, collected from various Ministries/Departments by the DoPT during the period 2012-13 to 2015-16, is as under:

During 2012-13, 6.91% employees from minority communities were recruited in Government services and PSUs. During 2013-14, 7.89% employees from minority communities were recruited in Government services and PSUs. For the year 2014-15, 8.56% employees from minority communities were recruited in Government services and PSUs (as per information received from 79 Ministries/Departments). For the year 2015-16, 7.5% employees from minority communities were recruited in Government services and PSUs (as per information received so far from 44 Ministries/Departments only).

Statement

State-wise trainees placed during the last three years

Sl.No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1946	483	24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	217	0	0
3.	Assam	3048	789	70
4.	Bihar	1492	1305	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	607	235	0
6.	Delhi	322	463	0
7.	Gujarat	1714	390	0
8.	Haryana	1411	700	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1011	484	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2479	2485	327
11.	Jharkhand	1595	1738	0
12.	Karnataka	1549	179	143
13.	Kerala	224	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3197	1099	112
15.	Maharashtra	1209	804	1318
16.	Manipur	1003	564	0
17.	Meghalaya	378	391	0
18.	Mizoram	437	393	0
19.	Nagaland	242	395	0
20.	Odisha	658	494	0
21.	Punjab	2112	1515	32
22.	Rajasthan	2083	0	0
23.	Sikkim	397	387	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	803	0	731
25.	Telangana	1784	1716	0
26.	Tripura	418	283	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5442	3939	84
28.	Uttarakhand	358	1140	0
29.	West Bengal	3806	4890	0

FTCS for Crime against Women

1587. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

(a) the total number of operational Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for crimes against women in the country;

(b) whether Government has conducted periodic monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the said courts;

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

(d) the details of measures being undertaken by the Government to ensure that all the State Governments set up FTCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts, as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts and their monitoring is done by respective High Courts. As per information received from the High Courts, 708 FTCs are functional in the country as on 30th September, 2018.

(d) The Union Government submitted a Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission (FC) for strengthening of the judicial system in States at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 9749.00 crore, which, *inter alia*, included establishment of 1800 FTCs for cases of heinous crimes involving women, children, senior citizens 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 Central Government has urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the activities mentioned in the 14th Finance Commission recommendations from their State budgets from 2015-16 onwards. Further, this issue was also discussed in the Chief Ministers' and Chief

Justices' Conference held on the 24th April, 2016 wherein it was resolved to strengthen the existing coordination and monitoring mechanism between the State Governments and the Judiciary for effective implementation of the recommendations of the 14th FC. 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.

[Translation]

Cyber Crime Cases Registered

1588. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:
SHRI GEORGE BAKER:
SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN:

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

(a) the details of the number of cases of Cyber Crimes registered during the last three years and the current year across the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether these numbers are increasing every year and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is planning to strengthen the powers of Telecom Regulator and Telecom Commission in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be done;

(d) whether there are large number of fake accounts on various e-mail and social networking sites which are being used for committing cyber fraud/crime and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against the concerned websites and individuals; and

(e) the action formulated by the Government to safeguard the interest of the users of Digital India against leakage of sensitive data through cyber attacks?

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

(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 9622, 11592 and 12,317 cyber crime cases were registered during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. This includes cases registered under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and related sections of Indian Penal Code and Special & Local Laws involving computer as medium/target. NCRB is yet to publish cyber crime data for the year 2017. State-wise cybercrime details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) There is no such proposal with the Ministry at present.

(d) and (e) Cyber Space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for committing cyber crime through the use of social media is higher than ever. Instances of using the social networking websites by terror groups has come to the notice of the Government from time to time. With the proliferation of

Information Technology and related services there is a rise in instances of cyber crimes in the country like elsewhere in the world. The Police and Public Order are State subjects under the Constitution and as such the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crimes including cyber frauds/crime and for prosecuting the criminals through Law Enforcement machinery within their jurisdictions. The Social Networking Sites are also providing for reporting of such duplicate accounts on their sites.

Further, National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) collects and maintains statistical data of police recorded cognizable crimes from 36 States/Union Territories. As per the data maintained by NCRB, A total of 428 cases, 1,083 cases & 1,597 cases were registered under Punishment for cheating by personation by using computer resource [section 66D of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000] during 2014, 2015 & 2016 respectively, showing a mixed trend. Data for the year 2017 is under compilation.

Statement

*State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Charge Sheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON),
Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Charge Sheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted
(PCV) under Total Cyber Crimes during 2014-2016*

Sl.No.	State/UT	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
2014							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	282	90	9	236	116	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18	0	0	2	0	0
3.	Assam	379	22	1	351	22	1
4.	Bihar	114	15	1	111	17	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	123	58	0	105	83	0
6.	Goa	62	5	1	14	9	2
7.	Gujarat	227	71	0	174	109	0
8.	Haryana	151	62	3	121	101	4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	38	14	0	16	36	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37	3	0	4	3	0
11.	Jharkhand	93	24	0	57	29	0
12.	Karnataka	1020	118	2	372	177	2
13.	Kerala	450	168	12	283	209	13

Sl.No.	State/UT	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
14.	Madhya Pradesh	289	237	6	386	386	15
15.	Maharashtra	1879	445	3	942	641	3
16.	Manipur	13	1	0	3	1	0
17.	Meghalaya	60	11	0	12	12	0
18.	Mizoram	22	4	0	4	4	0
19.	Nagaland	0	1	0	0	1	0
20.	Odisha	124	17	0	17	17	0
21.	Punjab	226	62	7	159	73	7
22.	Rajasthan	697	161	7	248	248	8
23.	Sikkim	4	0	0	2	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	172	23	3	120	28	5
25.	Telangana	703	61	1	429	80	1
26.	Tripura	5	0	0	1	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1737	267	7	1223	383	8
28.	Uttarakhand	42	21	0	39	37	0
29.	West Bengal	355	79	2	212	90	2
Total State(S)		9322	2040	65	5643	2912	82
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13	2	0	5	3	0
31.	Chandigarh	55	24	6	45	24	8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	0	0	1	0	0
33.	Daman and Diu	1	1	0	2	2	0
34.	Delhi UT	226	49	5	56	57	5
35.	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total UT(S)		300	76	11	109	86	13
Total (All India)		9622	2116	76	5752	2998	95

2015

1.	Andhra Pradesh	536	139	19	522	197	23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	5	0	4	4	0
3.	Assam	483	84	11	457	83	11
4.	Bihar	242	59	1	1567	116	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	103	93	19	99	115	29
6.	Goa	17	5	0	5	3	0
7.	Gujarat	242	119	0	272	310	0
8.	Haryana	224	87	2	205	189	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	50	26	1	38	28	1

Sl.No.	State/UT	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	34	7	0	12	9	0
11.	Jharkhand	180	37	3	172	41	5
12.	Karnataka	1447	186	3	293	264	3
13.	Kerala	290	219	8	191	267	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	231	143	4	230	221	5
15.	Maharashtra	2195	438	2	825	720	4
16.	Manipur	6	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	56	17	1	20	18	2
18.	Mizoram	8	11	8	18	11	10
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	386	65	0	110	90	0
21.	Punjab	149	64	17	136	95	24
22.	Rajasthan	949	185	10	295	280	11
23.	Sikkim	1	1	0	1	1	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	142	77	6	125	88	8
25.	Telangana	687	105	15	430	136	25
26.	Tripura	13	0	0	8	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2208	789	89	1699	1375	112
28.	Uttarakhand	48	15	5	23	16	7
29.	West Bengal	398	154	0	287	170	0
Total State(S)		11331	3130	224	8044	4847	291
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	4	0	2	4	0
31.	Chandigarh	77	17	4	22	20	4
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	1	0	0	1	0
33.	Daman and Diu	1	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Delhi UT	177	53	3	53	55	3
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	0	1	3	0	1	4
Total UT(S)		261	76	10	77	81	11
Total (All India)		11592	3206	234	8121	4928	302

2016

1.	Andhra Pradesh	616	144	15	307	177	18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	1	0	1	1	0
3.	Assam	696	114	3	699	117	3
4.	Bihar	309	105	1	285	110	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	90	77	18	105	96	19

Sl.No.	State/UT	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
6.	Goa	31	9	0	18	14	0
7.	Gujarat	362	146	0	298	231	0
8.	Haryana	401	98	12	148	113	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	31	8	0	15	9	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	28	11	0	21	18	0
11.	Jharkhand	259	103	22	288	121	22
12.	Karnataka	1101	199	7	318	271	7
13.	Kerala	283	160	3	227	176	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	258	144	12	261	242	14
15.	Maharashtra	2380	502	6	1009	768	12
16.	Manipur	11	6	0	10	6	0
17.	Meghalaya	39	6	0	1	6	0
18.	Mizoram	1	2	2	2	2	2
19.	Nagaland	2	0	0	1	0	0
20.	Odisha	317	135	4	150	151	7
21.	Punjab	102	67	15	137	102	21
22.	Rajasthan	941	117	6	226	189	10
23.	Sikkim	1	0	0	1	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	144	53	2	96	77	2
25.	Telangana	593	182	0	451	211	0
26.	Tripura	8	4	0	8	4	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2639	1094	58	2374	1439	80
28.	Uttarakhand	62	25	14	40	37	18
29.	West Bengal	478	133	0	416	154	0
Total State(S)		12187	3645	200	7913	4842	253
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	1	0	1	1	0
31.	Chandigarh	26	23	1	26	23	1
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3	0	3	3	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Delhi UT	98	35	0	47	40	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry	2	4	0	0	4	0
Total UT(S)		130	67	1	77	71	1
Total (All India)		12317	3712	201	7990	4913	254

Source: Crime in India

Setting Up of New Mobile Towers

1589. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:
DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal relating to setting up of new mobile towers of BSNL in Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the district-wise number of locations in Jharkhand where the said towers are proposed to be set up especially in Kodarma, Hazaribagh, Giridih and Dhanbad Districts?

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) has planned to set up 894 new mobile BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) in Jharkhand State, under its ongoing Phase VIII.4 mobile network expansion project, out of which 531 BTSs have already been installed and commissioned so far. District-wise number of remaining locations including Kodarma, Hazaribagh, Giridih and Dhanbad districts where BTSs are to be set up, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

District-wise number of locations in Jharkhand where BSNL's BTSs are proposed to be set up in ongoing Phase VIII.4 mobile expansion project

Sl.No.	District	No. of proposed sites
1.	Kodarma	6
2.	Hazaribagh	3
3.	Giridih	3
4.	Dhanbad	3
5.	Bokaro	1
6.	Chatra	5
7.	Deoghar	9
8.	Dumka	8

Sl.No.	District	No. of proposed sites
9.	Godda	8
10.	Gumla	67
11.	Jamtara	5
12.	Khunti	23
13.	Latehar	14
14.	Lohardaga	41
15.	Pakur	5
16.	Palamu	35
17.	Ramgarh	4
18.	Ranchi	25
19.	Sahebganj	10
20.	Saraikela	10
21.	Simdega	13
22.	West Singhbhum	25
23.	Garhwa	16
24.	East Singhbhum	24
Total		363

Progress in Telecom Sector

1590. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism is proposed to be set up in the Department of Telecommunications to review the progress in the telecommunication sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the work carried out so far in this direction; and

(d) the outcome 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) The Department of Telecommunications collects telecom and internet subscription and penetration data from the TSPs on a regular basis for monitoring telecom/internet growth in India. The data is submitted to the Telecom Commission for perusal and review.

The Government is also implementing key projects for boosting telecom infrastructure in India, especially in the remote and rural areas. The projects include (a) Flagship BharatNet project (b) Connectivity to uncovered villages of the North Eastern Region (NER) (c) Setting up of mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and (d) Submarine Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) connectivity between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These projects are regularly monitored and their progress reviewed at various levels.

No additional mechanism to review the telecom sector progress is proposed to be set up at this stage.

[English]

**Telephone and Internet Facilities in
Gram Panchayats**

1591. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets planned to provide telephone and high speed internet connectivity in Gram Panchayats under BharatNet and targets achieved so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats, particularly in Gujarat, which have not yet been provided with telephone and high speed internet service facility, district-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that these targets have already missed various deadlines and there is still failure in operationalization;

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

(e) the action taken to operationalize the BharatNet network; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government to provide better telephone and high speed internet services facility to Gram Panchayats?

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

- i. BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner to provide high speed broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. BharatNet Phase I to connect 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) has been completed in December, 2017. As on 09.12.2018, OFC laying & equipment installation has been completed at 1,16,492 GPs, which are Service Ready, and the remaining GPs are under implementation. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.
- ii. A total of 43088 villages, including GPs, in the country are to be covered by mobile services. For Gujarat, the District-wise details of uncovered villages are given in the enclosed Statement-II and GPs which are yet to be made Service Ready under BharatNet are in the enclosed Statement-III. As per the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018; all uncovered areas, including GPs, are targeted to be connected by 2022.

(c) to (e)

- i. BharatNet is the aggregation or middle layer of communication network, with last mile connectivity to be provided by Service Providers or States. The network is planned to be completed by March, 2019.
- ii. Network Operating Centre (NOC) is set up to monitor the operation of the network and the project is presently in the implementation phase. The NOC reports are being monitored on a regular basis. To monitor project implementation, the progress is also being monitored closely.
- iii. To ensure better utilization of BharatNet, a Wi-Fi network is being set up under the project. On an average, 5 Wi-Fi Access Points (APs) are being set up at each GP. Of these, 3 will cater to Government institutions such as schools, hospitals and police stations, and 2 will be available for citizens. So far, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed at 39,365 GPs and out of them, services are being provided in 10,815 GPs, catering to more than 11 lakh subscribers with a data usage of over 50 TB per month.

Further, a total of 99, 711 FTTH connections have been provided from BharatNet network.

(f) The other steps, taken by the Government, to provide better telephone and high speed internet services facility to villages including Gram Panchayats are:

- i. **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas:** A project to provide mobile connectivity in Phase-I has been completed and 2341 towers have been installed. Phase-II of the project has been approved, and 4072 towers are planned under this project.
- ii. **North Eastern Region (NER):** Following measures have been taken for expansion of mobile coverage in NER:
 - Under Comprehensive Telecom Development plan for NER, BSNL has been assigned the installation of 2817 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 4119 uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two Districts of Assam.
 - M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited have been selected to install 2004 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 2128 villages and along National Highways in NER (except Meghalaya).
 - 2173 mobile towers in 2374 uncovered villages and along National Highways in Meghalaya are planned.

Statement-I

Status of Provision of High Speed Broadband connectivity under BharatNet

Sl. No.	State/UT	GPs where Optical Fibrecable laid and equipment installed (Service Ready)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1183
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	43
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
4.	Assam	1589
5.	Bihar	5865
6.	Chandigarh	13

1	2	3
7.	Chhattisgarh	4052
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21
9.	Daman and Diu	17
10.	Gujarat	5113
11.	Haryana	6186
12.	Himachal Pradesh	226
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	263
14.	Jharkhand	2309
15.	Karnataka	6110
16.	Kerala	1129
17.	Madhya Pradesh	12689
18.	Maharashtra	15126
19.	Manipur	248
20.	Meghalaya	122
21.	Mizoram	23
22.	Nagaland	86
23.	Odisha	3496
24.	Puducherry	101
25.	Punjab	7911
26.	Rajasthan	8451
27.	Sikkim	14
28.	Telangana	2047
29.	Tripura	527
30.	Uttar Pradesh	27940
31.	Uttarakhand	1511
32.	West Bengal	2081
Total		116492

Statement-II

District-wise details of uncovered villages of Gujarat

Sl.No.	District Name	No of Uncovered Villages
1.	Ahmedabad	14
2.	Amreli	22
3.	Anand	1
4.	Banas Kantha	61

Sl.No.	District Name	No of Uncovered Villages
5.	Bharuch	30
6.	Bhavnagar	35
7.	Dohad	9
8.	Gandhinagar	2
9.	Jamnagar	70
10.	Junagadh	51
11.	Kachchh	176
12.	Kheda	4
13.	Narmada	120
14.	Navsari	5
15.	Panch Mahals	28
16.	Patan	25
17.	Porbandar	19
18.	Rajkot	37
19.	Sabar Kantha	40
20.	Surat	11
21.	Surendranagar	33
22.	Tapi	65
23.	The Dangs	226
24.	Vadodara	153
25.	Valsad	25
Total		1262

Statement-III*District-wise Status of connectivity in respect of Gujarat*

Sl. No.	District	Total No. of GPs	Service Ready GPs	Balance yet to be connected GPs
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	462	0	462
2.	Aravalli	295	0	295
3.	Bharuch	543	354	189
4.	Banas Kantha	784	0	784
5.	Dahod	638	0	638
6.	Dang	71	0	71

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Devbhoomi Dwarka	239	0	239
8.	Gandhinagar	294	264	30
9.	Gir Somnath	329	0	329
10.	Junagadh	901	0	901
11.	Kheda	565	491	74
12.	Patan	466	361	105
13.	Amreli	585	425	160
14.	Kutchch	605	410	195
15.	Navsari	370	370	0
16.	Bhavnagar	758	659	99
17.	Anand	351	351	0
18.	Mahesana	594	340	254
19.	Mahisagar	291	0	291
20.	Morbi	338	0	338
21.	Narmada	220	0	220
22.	Porbandar	147	83	64
23.	Panch Mahals	438	0	438
24.	Rajkot	592	0	592
25.	Sabarkantha	420	404	16
26.	Surat	567	0	567
27.	Surendranagar	539	0	539
28.	Tapi	283	0	283
29.	Valsad	373	92	281
30.	Vadodra	534	241	293
31.	Chhota Udaipur	324	268	56
Total		13916	5113	8803

*[Translation]***Internet and Broadband Users**

1592. SHRI LALLU SINGH:
SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any annual target to increase the number of internet and broadband users across the country;

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

(c) the access rate of internet separately in rural and urban areas during the last three years;

(d) the action taken/worked out by the Government to reduce this gap in urban and rural areas; and

(e) whether internet/broadband services particularly in rural and various border areas across the country are not satisfactory and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Government has not fixed any specific annual targets for the internet and broadband services in the country. However the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018,

unveiled by the Government recently, has the following goals for 2022 for increasing the internet and broadband penetration in the country:

- Provide universal broadband connectivity at 50Mbps to every citizen
- Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
- Enable 100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions
- Enable fixed line broadband access to 50% of the households
- Enable deployment of public wi-fi hotspots, to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022
- Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas.

(c) The details of internet access in rural and urban areas during the last three years and the current year is given below:—

Year	Urban			Rural		
	Total Internet connections (in million)**	Population* in '000'	Number of internet connections per 100 population	Total Internet connections (million)**	Population* in '000'	Number of internet connections per 100 population
2015-16	230.71	396045	58.25	111.95	872916	12.82
2016-17	285.68	403514	70.79	136.52	880086	15.51
2017-18	348.12	410996	84.70	145.82	887045	16.44
2018-19 (upto Sept, 2018)	365.94	418475	87.44	194.07	893765	21.71

* Population projected by Registrar General of India (RGI)

** Source: Internet connection by TRAI

(d) With the aim of boosting broadband infrastructure in the rural areas and reducing the digital divide, the Government is implementing the flagship BharatNet project in a phased manner for providing Broadband connectivity to all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Phase I of BharatNet for connecting 1 lakh GPs has been completed in December, 2017. Phase II of the project is under implementation. As on date a total of 1,21,859 Gram Panchayats have been connected on Optical Fibre Cable

(OFC) by laying 3,02,621 Km of OFC. Of this, 1,16,492 GPs are now service ready.

Public Wi-Fi Access

The BharatNet project also envisages access to broadband service through Wi-Fi in all the GPs in the country for ensuring last mile connectivity. At each GP, on an average, five Access Points (APs) are envisaged to be provided, of which three APs are for Government

institutions and two APs for public places. In addition to the Wi-Fi hotspots provisioned in BharatNet, the Government proposes to setup 25,000 Public Wi-Fi hotspots infrastructure at BSNL's Telephone Exchanges in rural areas.

(e) Information on performance in rural & various borders areas is not maintained separately. However, performance of service providers against the Quality of Service standards for Broadband & Wireless services laid down by the TRAI is monitored through Quarterly

Performance Monitoring Reports (PMR) submitted by service providers for the service area as a whole.

As per PMR for the quarter ending September, 2018, for Broadband Services, all the service providers are meeting the benchmarks for all the parameters except the service providers as mentioned in the enclosed Statement.

As regards wireless data services, all the service providers are complying with the benchmark for various Quality of Service parameters.

Statement

Service Providers not meeting the QoS benchmarks as per the PMR for the quarter ending 30th September, 2018

Sl.No.	Service Provider	Parameter not met	Benchmark	Service Area
1.	MTNL	Faults Repair % of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99%	Delhi & Mumbai (98.32%)
2.	Atria Convergence Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Faults Repair Response time to the customer for assistance % age of calls answered by operator (Voice to voice) within 60 sec % age of calls answered by operator (Voice to voice) within 90 sec	=>99% >60% >80%	All India (98.74%) All India (39.00%) All India (58.00%)
3.	Intech Online Pvt. Ltd.	Faults Repair % of faults repaired by next working day >90% % of faults repaired within 3 working day Billing Performance % age of bills disputed	>90% =>99% <2%	Mum. & Mah. (80.81%) Mum. & Mah. (88.70%) Mum. & Mah. (3.01%)
4.	Ishan Netsol Pvt. Ltd.	Service Provisioning Faults Repair Bandwidth utilisation/throughput No. of Intra network links having Bandwidth utilisation >90% during peak hours (TCBH) No. of Upstream links for International connectivity having bandwidth utilisation >90% during peak hours (TCBH)	100% =>99% 0 0	Gujarat (99.76%) Gujarat (98.48%) Gujarat (62) Gujarat (18)
5.	K Net Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Service availability/uptime (for all user) in % age	>98%	Tamil Nadu (50.05%)

Sl.No.	Service Provider	Parameter not met	Benchmark	Service Area
6.	TATA (TTSL)	Faults Repair	% of faults repaired by next working day (>90 %)	>90% All India (82.00%)
			% of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99% All India (94.00%)
7.	TATA (TTML)	Faults Repair	% of faults repaired by next working day (>90%)	(>90%) Maharashtra (77.00%)
			% of faults repaired within 3 working day	=>99% Maharashtra (91.00%)
8.	You Broadband	Service Provisioning	% age of connections provided within 15 days of registration of demand	100% All India (99.71%)

[English]

Vacancies in High Courts

1593. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:
SHRI RAJU SHETTY

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

(a) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in various benches of High Courts in the country and the number of cases pending in various benches;

(b) the time since when the posts are lying vacant and the reasons therefor and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to fill these vacancies?

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) Statement showing vacancies of Judges and number of pending cases High Court-wise is attached.

(b) and (c) Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities.

As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges of High Courts (MoP), the Chief Justices of the High Courts are required to initiate the proposals for filling up of vacancies of Judges in their respective High Courts. As per the existing MoP, the

Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposals for filling up of vacancies of a Judge in a High Court six months prior to the occurrence of vacancies but this timeline is rarely adhered to. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges and also due to increase in the strength of Judges. Hence, the time frame for filling up of the vacancies cannot be indicated.

Statement

Vacancies of judges and number of pending cases

As on 14.12.2018

Sl.No.	Name of High Court	Vacancies	Pending Cases
1.	Allahabad	51	721844
2.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh	34	360384
3.	Bombay	23	464074
4.	Calcutta	35	242635
5.	Chhattisgarh	07	63013
6.	Delhi	21	73612
7.	Gauhati	05	40398
8.	Gujarat	23	112913
9.	Himachal Pradesh	05	36084
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	08	91658
11.	Jharkhand	06	87930
12.	Karnataka	29	181706

Sl.No.	Name of High Court	Vacancies	Pending Cases
13.	Kerala	09	192633
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	330122
15.	Madras	14	397933
16.	Manipur	02	9167
17.	Meghalaya	01	1028
18.	Odisha	13	167589
19.	Patna	25	150900
20.	Punjab and Haryana	30	393953
21.	Rajasthan	25	738585
22.	Sikkim	0	252
23.	Tripura	01	2891
24.	Uttarakhand	02	55412
Total		387	4916716

Common Service Centre Scheme

1594. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:

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

(a) The extent to which the Government has achieved the objectives of implementing the Common Service Centre Scheme in the country;

(b) the salient features of the scheme along with the number of such Centres set up across the country so far, State-wise;

(c) the details of the funds provided under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the cases of irregularities in the functioning of such Centres have come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefore along with the action taken/ being taken by the Government in such cases so far; and

(f) the other steps taken/ being taken by the Government for effectively implementing the CSC Scheme across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government has achieved the objectives of implementing the Common Service Centre Scheme in the country. The primary objective of the CSC is to provide e-governance services within the reach of the citizen, by creating the service delivery ICT infrastructure. It helps in making a transparent service delivery mechanism and reducing citizens' effort in visiting Government offices.

Till 30 November, 2018, a total of 2,10,630 CSCs have been made operational at the GP level. The State/ UT-wise status of operational CSCs at GP level is shown in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Financial year-wise funds provided are as under:—

1.	During 2015-16	:	Rs 145.00 crore	
2.	During 2016-17	:	Nil	
3.	During 2017-18	:	Nil	
4.	During FY 2018-19	:	Rs 50.00 crore	
Total			:	Rs 195.00 crore

(d) Yes Madam.

(e) The cases of irregularities in delivery of services related to Banking, Digi Pay and also over charging of services have been noticed against some CSCs. Whenever, such an objectionable activity is noticed, the ID of CSC has been disabled in immobilizing it. During the last 3 years, 335 CSCs have been disabled, in such a way.

(f) The Government has been interacting with all stakeholders (State/Central Government & Private entities) for integration of various Government to Citizen (G2C) & Business to Citizen (B2C) services. Currently, this service count has increase to 350 services.

Statement*State-UT-wise status of roll out of CSCs as on November, 2018*

State/UT	Total No. of Functional CSCs including GP Level		No. of GP	No. of Functional CSCs at GP level	
	As on 31 May'14	As on 30 Nov'18	As on 30 Nov'18	As on 31 May'14	As on 30 Nov'18
1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttar Pradesh	11258	69642	59021	10048	49662
Maharashtra	21116	39761	27855	16997	26447
Bihar	6046	27846	8386	4743	17662
Madhya Pradesh	6673	20712	22822	5226	17289
West Bengal	3771	11237	3341	2949	7448
Gujarat	5392	10837	14270	5346	10076
Rajasthan	3113	15216	9891	3107	11884
Chhattisgarh	1347	13939	10966	1149	10352
Jharkhand	4217	12872	4398	2859	7828
Tamil Nadu	482	9603	12524	480	6439
Haryana	46	11229	6204	36	7003
Odisha	3018	11792	6804	2364	6918
Andhra Pradesh	5542	8063	12918	3256	5233
Punjab	1566	7669	13016	563	4650
Karnataka	288	6735	6024	287	3627
Telangana	0	5369	8685	0	3904
Uttarakhand	989	5184	7954	456	4541
Assam	3167	4780	2548	1890	2480
Himachal Pradesh	2095	3606	3226	849	2311
Kerala	1837	3676	941	1002	1673
Jammu and Kashmir	891	2320	4204	203	1688
Manipur	243	648	165	54	334
Tripura	146	613	1178	113	380
Meghalaya	151	520	1463	3	167
Nagaland	121	312	1203	44	198
Mizoram	98	165	713	43	116
Arunachal Pradesh	168	151	1806	123	59
Goa	5	83	192	0	37
Sikkim	24	46	185	19	26
State Total	83810	304626	252903	64209	210432

1	2	3	4	5	6
NCT of Delhi	77	1393	0	0	0
Puducherry	48	194	98	38	98
Chandigarh	1	61	12	1	27
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	58	76	1	53
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	28	20	0	12
Daman and Diu	0	14	15	0	10
Lakshadweep	13	8	10	10	7
UT Total	140	1756	231	50	207
Grand Total	83950	306382	253134	64259	210639

New Railway Lines

1595. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the new railway lines commissioned across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, zone-wise along with the Rate of Return of such lines during the said period;

(b) the details of the narrow gauge lines converted into broad gauge lines across the country during the said period, zone-wise;

(c) the number of proposals of converting narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines pending with the Government, as on date, zone-wise;

(d) whether the underutilization of funds have been reported by the Ministry of Railways in commissioning of new railway lines or conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines during the said period;

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

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Zone-wise details of New Railway lines commissioned across the country during the last three years and current year are as under:—

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Section Commissioned	Length (in Km)
1	2	3	4
1.	CR	Belapur-Kharkopar	25
2.	CR	Lonand- Phaltan	27
3.	CR	Ahmednagar-Narayndoh	12
4.	ECoR	Bolangir-Bhainspalli	15.70
5.	ECoR	Begunia-Rajsunakhala-Bolgarh	10
6.	ECoR	Rajsunakhala-Bolgarh	13
7.	ECoR	Bolgarh-Nayagarh	12.08
8.	ECR	Balumat-Shivpur	25
9.	ECR	Biraul-Harnagar	8
10.	ECR	Kanwar-Maheshmunda	25.30
11.	ECR	Patna Bridge	28
12.	ECR	Munger Bridge	15
13.	ECR	Tilaiya-Kheraund	25
14.	ECR	Hazaribagh-Barkakana	57
15.	ECR	Barkakana-Sidhwar	7
16.	ECR	Tatisilwai-Shanki	31
17.	ER	Jamalpur-Munger	8.1
18.	ER	Banka-Chandan	40.36
19.	ER	Jamalpur-Munger-Sabdapur-Sahebpur Kamal + Sabdalpur-Umeshnagar	22.89
20.	ER	Arambagh-Goghat	9.45

1	2	3	4
21.	ER	Barapalasi-Hansdiha	28.5
22.	NCR	Agra-Etawah	110
23.	NCR	Etawah-Mainpuri	58
24.	NCR/ WCR	Tikamgarm-Mawai-Chattarpur- Khajuraho	114
25.	NER	Maharajganj-Mashrak	36
26.	NER	Bathua Bazar-Panchdewaari	11
27.	NF	New changrabandha-New Coachbehar	70
28.	NF	New Maynaguri-New Dhamauni-Y Connection	6
29.	NFR	Teteliya-Kamlazari	10
30.	NFR	Bogibeel Bridge and North & South Bank	48.60
31.	NFR	Agartala-Udaipur	44
32.	NFR	Jiribam-Vangaichingpao	12
33.	NFR	Udaipur-Garjee	10
34.	NFR	Karimganj Bypass	3.5
35.	NFR	Gauripur-Alamganj	10
36.	NFR	Garjee-Santir Bazar	13
37.	NR	Amb Andaura-Daulatpur	16
38.	NR	Jind-Sonepat	80
39.	NWR	Makrana-Bidiad	9
40.	NWR	Dausa-Deedwana	35.44
41.	SC	Yerragunta-Nossam-Banagana Palli	45
42.	SC	Banaganapalli-Nandyal	28
43.	SC	Mathampalli-Raghavapuram- Janpahad	19
44.	SC	Kaddapa-Pendlimari	21
45.	SC	Mellacheruvu-Mathampalli	10
46.	SC	Jagtiyal-Morthad	51
47.	SC	Devkadra-Jaklair	28
48.	SC	Morthed-Nizamabad	45.6
49.	SE	Jharsuguda-Barpali	41
50.	SE	Barpali-Sardega	9

1	2	3	4
51.	SECR	Dallirajhara-Dhondi	17
52.	SECR	Gudum-Bhanuoratappur	17
53.	SER	Dhutra connection	3
54.	SER	Barkichampi-Tori	30
55.	SER	Tori-Balumat	20
56.	SWR	Rayadurga-Kalyandurg	40
57.	SWR	Kadaripalli-Kalyandurga	23
58.	SWR	Nilamangala-Sharvanabelagola	111
59.	SWR	Ginigerla-Chikkabenaikal	27
60.	SWR	Gulbarga-Kamalapur	42
61.	SWR	Homnabad-Kamalapur	30.4
62.	SWR	Bagalkot-Khajjidoni	30
63.	WR	Gandhidham-Tuna Port	11
64.	WR	Chhota Udepur-Motisadli	22
65.	WR	Indore-Rau	12
66.	WR	Rau-Tihi	9

Further, it is informed that commissioning of New Lines is done in phases for which rate of return cannot be worked out.

(b) Zone-wise details of Gauge Conversion of narrow gauge across the country during last three years and current year are as under:-

Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	Section Commissioned	Length (in Km)
1.	ER	Balgona-Srikhand	30
2.	ER	Srikhand-Katwa	6.7
3.	ER	Ahmedpur-Katwa	51.92
4.	SECR	Jabalpur(Kachpura)-Garha- Sukrimangla-Nainpur	44
5.	SECR	Sukrimangela-Ghunsore	36
6.	SECR	Chhindwara-Bhandarkund	35
7.	SECR	Ghunsore-Nainpur	35
8.	SECR	Balaghat-Samnapur	16
9.	SECR	Nainpur-Chiraidongi	18

CR-Central Railway, NWR-North Western Railway, ER-Eastern Railway, SR-Southern Railway, ECR-East Central Railway, SCR-South Central Railway, ECoR-East Coast Railway, SER-South Eastern Railway, NR-Northern Railway, SECR-Southeast Central Railway, NER-North Eastern Railway, SWR-South Western Railway, NCR-North Central Railway, WR-Western Railway, NFR-Northeast Frontier Railway, WCR-West Central Railway

(c) Proposals/suggestions/representations, both formal and informal regarding Railway projects are received from State Governments, Ministries of Central Government, elected representatives, organizations/rail users etc. by Railways at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Division Office etc.

As receipt of such proposals/complaints/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained.

(d) to (f) The completion of Railway projects requires coordination with various departments for acquisition of land, statutory clearances, shifting of utilities etc. leading to cost overrun. As a result, the period of execution of various projects gets prolonged. Moreover, funds to each project are allocated every year depending on the total budget outlay, progress made in each project and relative priority.

For timely completion of the projects, Railway is holding regular meetings with stakeholder on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, statutory clearances, law & order issues, shifting of utilities etc.

Data on Income Inequality

1596. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government collects data on income inequality in the country;

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

(c) the details of income earned by top 0.1, 1 and 10 per cent earners and bottom 50 per cent earners as a ratio of the total GDP;

(d) the ill-effects of income inequality on Indian society and economy;

(e) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to reduce income inequality in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT

SINGH): (a) to (f) In India, the data on class distribution of income is not compiled Centrally. However, household consumption expenditure data collected by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) could be used as a proxy to capture the economic inequality in terms of consumption expenditure. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. The disparities in the class distribution of consumption expenditure are measured by the Lorenz ratio from the NSSO data on Consumer Expenditure. Based on consumption expenditure data, the Gini coefficient (measuring the inequality between different expenditure classes of the population) in rural areas is observed to be almost same in 2004-05 and 2011-12 at 0.27 and 0.28 respectively. In the urban areas, the Gini coefficient has increased marginally from 0.35 in 2004-05 to 0.37 in 2011-12.

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

Monitoring of SDGs

1597. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:

SHRI PREM DAS RAI:

SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has approved the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government in tracking and reporting data on progress towards SDGs;

(c) whether the Government aims to expedite collection of data on outcome achieved with regard to implementation of SDGs and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India is lagging behind to meet targets under the SDGs;

(e) if so, the details of India's progress in meeting the various targets set under the SDGs and whether any Committee has been set up to study the compliance with the SDGs or with specific goals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to achieve all the SDGs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF) in consultation with various Ministries/Departments. The Government has also approved constitution of a High Level Steering Committee (HLSC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) with members from NITI Aayog, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Ministry of Finance to periodically review and refine the National Indicator Framework. These Indicators will help in monitoring and tracking the progress of SDGs at national level based on the data provided by various Ministries/Departments implementing the SDGs concerned.

(c) The Government is expediting collection of data on outcome achieved through the National Indicator Framework in consultation with Ministries for monitoring implementation of SDGs.

(d) and (e) The assessment of India's performance in achievement of SDGs is a continuous process based on the National Indicator Framework developed by MoSPI

and further assessment by Ministries and NITI Aayog. The Baseline Report of NIF with base year 2015-16 will use the data collected from Ministries and help in setting a benchmark for measuring SDGs with associated targets up to 2030. Various schemes and programmes of the Ministries/Departments are also mapped and aligned by NITI Aayog for achievement of SDGs and monitoring the same. NITI Aayog has also constituted a Task Force consisting of representative from NITI Aayog, Central Ministries, State Governments and Think Tanks.

(f) NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs. It has carried out a detailed mapping of the 17 Goals and 169 associated targets on central Ministries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other Government initiatives to facilitate better awareness, common understanding and faster implementation of the programmes/schemes/initiatives with a focus on the SDGs. NITI Aayog is also regularly interacting with the States/UTs for strengthening the SDG implementation mechanisms.

Defence Cooperation with Foreign Countries

1598. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has a laid down priority for defence cooperation with the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is being practically implemented;

(c) the countries with which there is an agreement or MOU signed for defence cooperation; and

(d) the number of countries with which military Exercise is being carried out annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Defence cooperation with foreign countries is taken forward as per mutual interests, with priority on interaction with friendly nations and countries in our near and extended neighbourhood.

(b) Defence cooperation activities are implemented in various forms including Joint Military Exercises, training courses, Subject-Matter Exchanges on specialised issues, high level visits, defence industry ventures, exchanges on defence technology and Research & Development, as well as Service level Staff Talks.

(c) Agreements or MoU for defence cooperation has been signed with 68 countries on different aspects of cooperation.

(d) Bilateral military exercises with over 25 countries were carried out by our defence forces, including the Indian Coast Guard, during the previous year.

Honouring Soldiers by British Government

1599. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Government has honoured adequately the supreme sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of Indian soldiers, recruited into the British Army during the colonial era, who laid down their lives fighting the World Wars alongside the Allied forces defending the British Empire and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the British Government to honour the martyrdom of nearly 83000 Sikh soldiers who fought in the British Imperial Army alongside the Allied forces in the World Wars I and II, erected a monument for them whilst neglecting the sacrifice of other Indians and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the statue was disfigured on the very day it was erected by the Sikh community and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the British Royals on a state visit spoke disparagingly of the number of the Indians killed in the unprovoked fire opened on unarmed Indians in Amritsar by Colonel Edward Harry Dyer and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government on all of the above issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The British Government has honoured the supreme sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of Indian soldiers, recruited into the Army during the colonial era, who laid down their lives fighting the World Wars alongside the allied forces defending the British Empire. Many war memorials and cemeteries were built at various places all over the world, including India Gate at New Delhi. Also the Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains the graves of the

soldiers of Commonwealth Nations including India, who laid down their lives during world wars. 40 Indians were awarded Victoria Cross during the two World Wars and frontier conflict. Over 13,000 soldiers of Indian Army were decorated with various awards during the World Wars.

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

Threat of Strike by CSC's

1600. SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that UIDAI is facing revolt from the Common Service Centres which are now threatening to go on a strike after being removed from the citizen directory initiative;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that UIDAI has removed CSCs from carrying out Aadhaar registration and updation services, and has now come out with a tender to give the job to a large private operator who will be tasked with setting up of Aadhaar Seva Kendras; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) to (d) Government has decided to shift Aadhaar enrolment and update centers in bank branches, post offices and Government premises and phase out enrolment centers operating from private locations. There are already over 30,000 Aadhaar enrolment and Update centers operational in designated banks branches, post offices and Government premises.

Accordingly, CSC e-Gov after expiry of its MoU with UIDAI, has been asked to exit from UIDAI system in phased manner without causing inconvenience to the residents.

In addition, UIDAI has proposed to invite proposals from competent and eligible entities for engagement of Service Providers for the Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASK) to be managed by UIDAI and provide appointment based Aadhaar Enrolment, Update and other miscellaneous Aadhaar Services in 53 cities of the country.

Data Hacking

1601. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that data hacking is a regular feature in Indian IT system;

(b) if so, whether in spite of Government security support, over 150 Government portals have been hacked since 2017;

(c) whether it is also a fact that siphoning of bank account has become common phenomena and has increased over 3% in last six months;

(d) if so, the details of year-wise complaints received and action taken thereon since 2016 till date; and

(e) the plan of action of the Government to stop data breaches or hacking in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) With the innovation of technology and rise in usage of cyber space for businesses, the cyber attacks are also on the rise worldwide as well as in the country. Defacement/hacking attempts do occur on Internet facing servers by malicious actors like elsewhere in the world. As per information reported to and tracked by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), 172 and 105 Government websites, which includes 74 and 31 websites hosted on NICNET managed by National Informatics Centre (NIC), were hacked during the year 2017 and 2018 (upto November) respectively.

(c) and (d) As per information reported to Indian Computer Emergency response Team (CERT-In), a total of 3, 14 and 6 financial fraud incidents affecting ATMs, Cards, Point of Sale (PoS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have been reported during the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto November) respectively. Further, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has registered a total of 1191, 1372, 2059 and 921 cases of frauds involving ATM/Debit Cards, Credit Cards and Internet Banking Frauds reported (amount involved Rs 1 lakh and above) during the year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (Upto 30 Sept, 2018) respectively.

(e) In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology and emerging cyber threats, continuous efforts are required to be made by owners to protect networks by way of hardening and deploying appropriate security controls. Government has taken several measures to enhance the cyber security posture and prevent cyber attacks including breaches and hacking. These *inter alia*, include:

- (i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis to ensure safe usage of digital technologies. Regarding securing digital payments, 28 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.
- (ii) All authorised entities/banks issuing PPIs in the country have been advised by CERT-In through Reserve Bank of India to carry out special audit by empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and to take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.
- (iii) All the new Government websites and applications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the websites and applications is to be conducted on a regular basis after hosting.
- (iv) Government has issued guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) regarding their key roles and responsibilities for securing applications/infrastructure and compliance.
- (v) Government has empanelled 76 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (vi) All organizations providing digital services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
- (vii) Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

- (viii) Cyber security mock drills and exercises are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 38 such exercises have so far been conducted by CERT-In where organisations from different sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeSetc participated.
- (ix) CERT-In conducts regular training programmes for network/system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations regarding securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks. 22 trainings covering 746 participants conducted in the year 2018 (till November).
- (x) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The Centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same.
- (xi) Government has initiated setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. Phase-I of NCCC has been made operational.
- (xii) National Informatics 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, anti-virus solution. Additionally, periodic security audits of resources are performed followed by subsequent hardenings. These are complemented by round-the-clock monitoring of security events and remedial measures are carried out for solving the problems subsequently.

Web Portal on Mobile Towers

1602. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any web portal of information sharing on mobile tower and EMF Emission Compliances, with a view to generate confidence and conviction with regard to safety and harmlessness from mobile towers, clearing any myths and misconceptions; and

(b) 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 (b) Yes, Madam. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched "Tarang Sanchar", a web portal on 2nd May, 2017 for information sharing on Mobile Towers and Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Emission Compliances, with the objective to generate confidence and conviction with regard to safety and harmlessness from mobile towers, clearing any myths and misconceptions. The portal www.tarangsanchar.gov.in has information about mobile towers of all the States. The EMF Portal provides a public interface, where an easy search feature has been provided for viewing the mobile towers in vicinity of any locality. By click of a button, information on EMF compliance status of mobile towers can be accessed. Detailed information about any tower site, if requested, is sent on email to the users. The portal also has 'EMF Overview' and 'Learn' Sections, which provide numerous articles, booklets and videos, to further educate the citizens about EMF and coverage of telecom services. Public can also access the 'DoT Initiatives' section which has information with various leaflets, articles and Frequently Asked Questions. The portal has the complete collated technical details of over 20.20 lakh Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) spread across the country, of all technologies (2G, 3G, 4G etc.) and of all Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for all the States.

Bharat Net Scheme

1603. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:
KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds that have been spent on the Bharat Net Scheme by the Government till date;

(b) the number of villages that have commercial FTTH (fiber-to-the home) connections in the country, State/UT-wise;

(c) the number of villages that have been connected with commercial broadband under the Bharat Net Project;

(d) whether the Government has undertaken any measures to increase uptake of connections under the Bharat Net Project by Gram Panchayats;

(e) the role and duties of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) and other agencies in the implementation of the Bharat Net project; and

(f) the details regarding outstanding due from BSNL, BBNL and other agencies in the operation and maintenance for the Bharat Net project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Rs. 17,786 crore has been spent under the Bharat Net Scheme by the Government till date.

(b) and (c) Free FTTH have been provisioned for all GPs under BharatNet for one year and 14980 FTTH (fiber-to-the home) commercial connections have been provided by BSNL under BharatNet Project. The State-wise details of FTTH connections is enclosed as Statement-I.

(d) Yes. To trigger the ecosystem and promote BharatNet utilization, highly concessional Tariff for bandwidth and dark fibre for utilizing the network for service delivery has been formulated and applied.

There are multiple measures, taken for the utilization of BharatNet *e.g.*

- Several conferences/meetings have been held with multiple stake holders like, TSPs/ISPs/Cable Operators/States etc. for encouraging the utilization of BharatNet in rural areas.
- Wi-Fi Hotspots installations by CSC-SPV at 32,828 GPs.

- Rajasthan has been given the work of commissioning the Wi-Fi Hotspot at 10,000 GPs.

- BBNL is providing Wi-Fi Network for all GPs. Agencies for over all 1.05 lakhs GPs have been selected.

- The States have been encouraged take FTTH connections under BharatNet.

(e) The roles and duties of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) and other agencies in the implementation of the Bharat Net project is enclosed as Statement-II.

(f) The payment of operation and maintenance charges are made by BBNL on the basis of invoice received and examined, from the agencies. This is done on continuous basis.

Statement-I

State/UT-wise FTTH Connections

States/UTs	Number of connections from BharatNet
1	2
Assam	740
Andhra Pradesh	19
Bihar	60
Chhattisgarh	268
Gujarat	679
Haryana	13
Jharkhand	348
Karnataka	4716
Kerala	1475
Madhya Pradesh	3899
Maharashtra	1358
Odisha	94
Puducherry	16
Punjab	33
Rajasthan	890
Telangana	38
Uttar Pradesh-East	143

1	2
Uttar Pradesh-West	08
Uttarakhand	65
West Bengal	118
Total	14980

Statement-II

The role and duties of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) and other agencies in the implementation of the Bharat Net project

- i. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is Executing Agency of BharatNet. The primary role of BBNL is to establish, manage & operate the BharatNet Infrastructure. BBNL is also monitoring the progress of work.
- ii. BSNL is one of the implementing agency among various Project Implement Agency (PIA) like PGCIL, RailTel, State Governments, Private Agencies etc. BSNL has implemented the substantial portion of Cable laying works under BharatNet Phase-I. It is also implementing a part of the BharatNet Phase-II project under CPSU-led Model of implementation.
- iii. Under the Revenue Sharing arrangements signed between BBNL and BSNL, BSNL is to maintain OFC, operate and market network, funds in lieu of this is provided by BBNL to BSNL.

[Translation]

Illegal Routing of Calls

1604. SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to check illegal routing of international call through local lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the year-wise details of loss incurred to the revenue due to such illegal routing of international calls through local lines during the last two years; and

(d) the number of firms involved in illegal routing during the last two years along with action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Government has taken measures to check illegal routing of international calls through local lines by setting up a grey market call centre where the subscribers provide the information about such calls on toll free number 1963/180011420. The information received at this call centre is analysed and investigated. Based on the investigation, First Information Report (FIR) is filed with the concerned Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) as needed.

(c) The year-wise details of loss incurred to the revenue due to such illegal routing of international calls through local lines during the last two years are as below:—

Year	Total notional loss
2016-17	750.13 crore + Interest
2017-18	788.92 crore + Interest

(d) The number of firms found involved in illegal routing during the last two years is as below:—

Year	No. of firms involved
2016-17	11
2017-18	13

For all the unearthed setups of illegal routing of international calls, FIRs were lodged with the concerned LEAs.

Encroachment of Land

1605. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway land has been illegally occupied in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the zone-wise and State-wise details of such land along rail lines under the occupation of land mafia;

(d) whether the Government has formed any concrete plans to get such lands vacated from illegal occupation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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 which also includes the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Railways do not maintain State-wise details of encroached land. However, zone-wise details/data are maintained by Railways and the same are as under:—

Zonal Railway	Land under encroachment (in Hectares)
Central	58.05
Eastern	20.52
East Central	1.99
East Coast	14.21
Northern	202.93
North Central	40.94
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
Total	844.38

Railways carry out regular surveys of encroachment and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachments) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopris and squatters, the same are got removed in consultation with and 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.

Poor Quality of Food

1606. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:
SHRI R.P. MARUTHARAJAA:
SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA:
SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH:
SHRI LALLU SINGH:
SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:
SHRI B.V. NAIK:
DR. A. SAMPATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise details of the complaints including the complaints from Members of Parliament received by the Railways regarding serving of poor quality meal, contaminated water and violation of guidelines in trains as well as at railway stations during the current year;

(b) the action taken/penalty imposed by the Government in every such case especially against the license holding vendors;

(c) whether the Railways has developed any mechanism to provide safe, healthy and nutritious food in the trains as well as at the railway stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to provide hygienic and safe food in trains and at railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Strict action is taken against contractors/suppliers whenever any complaint regarding poor quality of food is substantiated. Accordingly, the zone-wise details of the complaints including the complaints from Members of Parliament received by the Railways and the action taken/penalty imposed during the current year period (01.01.2018 to 31.10.2018) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) To provide safe, healthy and quality food to passengers, a new Catering Policy has been issued on 27th February, 2017. As per Catering Policy, 2017, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited

(IRCTC) has been mandated to carry out unbundling by creating a distinction primarily between food preparation and food distribution on trains. To ensure hygienic and safe food to passengers, following measures have been taken by Railways:

- (i) To upgrade quality of food preparation, IRCTC is setting up new kitchens and upgrading existing ones. To ensure centralized monitoring of the kitchen activities, CCTVs have been installed in Base Kitchens/Kitchen Units. Sharing of live streaming of the Base Kitchens through website of IRCTC has been made operational.
- (ii) To ensure compliance of Food Safety Norms, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certification from Designated Food Safety Officers of each catering unit is mandatory. Food Safety Supervisors have been deployed at Kitchen Units to monitor food safety and hygienic practices. Food samples collected by Food Safety Officers/Supervisors are sent to the nominated accredited Laboratories under Food Safety & Standard Act for analysis and testing. Penalties are imposed in cases of detection of unsatisfactory food samples and prosecutions are carried out as per provisions of Food Safety & Standard Rule-2011.
- (iii) Examination of quality of food, hygiene and cleanliness in Pantry Cars and Kitchen Units is done through Third Party Audit. Customer

satisfaction survey is also conducted through Third Party Agencies.

- (iv) Regular and surprise inspections are conducted by railway officials including Food Safety Officers. Detailed instructions/guidelines have been issued to the Zonal Railways for conducting inspections.
- (v) Apart from above, to ensure hygienic and safe food to passengers following recent initiatives have also been taken by Railways:-
 - (a) Introduction of Optional Catering and Ready to Eat (RTE) Meals on selected trains.
 - (b) Introduction of Eco-friendly Sugar Bagasse (Biodegradable) packaging material.
 - (c) Provision of Service trolleys in Rajdhani and Durgam trains.
 - (d) Provision of Hand sanitizers in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Durgam trains.
 - (e) Introduction of Automatic vending machines on Humsafar trains.
 - (f) Provision of tablets to on board catering supervisors for passenger feedback and inspection applications.
 - (g) Provision of variety of cuisines through Food Plazas and Food Units over Indian Railways.

Statement

The zone-wise details of the complaints including the complaints from Members of Parliament received by the Railways regarding serving of poor quality meal, contaminated water and violation of guidelines in trains as well as at railway stations during the current year (01.01.2018 to 31.10.2018) and the actions taken thereof are as under

Zonal Railway	No. of Complaints	Action Taken								
		Fined		Warned	Termination	Suitably Advised	Not Substantiated	D & AR Action	Any Other	Total
		No. of cases	Amount of Fine Imposed (Rs.)							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Central	88	27	3,35,500	8	0	17	12	0	24	88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
East Central	235	170	5,67,000	3	0	3	0	1	58	235
East Coast	82	33	54,500	36	0	5	3	0	5	82
Eastern	2	1	500	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
North Central	80	33	2,56,000	3	0	2	24	1	17	80
North Eastern	51	22	31,000	9	0	0	18	2	0	51
North-east Frontier	14	1	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	13	14
Northern	134	50	5,21,500	8	0	5	39	8	24	134
North Western	135	70	4,81,500	10	0	6	11	0	38	135
South Central	6	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	6
South East Central	20	12	8,500	3	0	0	5	0	0	20
South Eastern	4	4	46,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Southern	118	41	1,62,000	7	0	12	6	0	52	118
South Western	105	52	2,50,008	5	0	31	6	0	11	105
West Central	74	63	5,19,500	2	1	0	8	0	0	74
Western	120	37	2,89,000	20	0	39	7	0	17	120
Total (All Zones)	1268	616	35,72,508	115	1	124	141	12	259	1268
IRCTC	6261	1875	1,19,55,265	2207	0	981	414	0	784	6261
Grand Total (All Zones + IRCTC)	7529	2491	1,55,27,773	2322	1	1105	555	12	1043	7529

* WCR-Termination TSV Contract M/s Doon Caterers of Train No. 12121-22 terminated on 04.01.2018 due to repeated complaints of 'Overcharging

Forecasting and Prevention of Floods

1607. DR. BANSNILAL MAHATO: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the technology adopted by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) for forecasting and prevention of floods;

(b) the technology being used in the country in comparison to the international standards;

(c) whether the Government proposes to forecast and avert the wide spread floods situation widespread devastation through the existing forecasting technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the proposal received by the Government during the last three years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) In order to meet specific requirements of flood forecasting, which is provided by Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Water Resources, India Meteorological Department (IMD) operates Flood Meteorological Offices (FMOs) at thirteen locations viz., Agra, Ahmedabad, Asansol, Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jalpaiguri, Lucknow, New Delhi, Patna, Srinagar, Bengaluru and Chennai. Apart from this, IMD also supports Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) by providing Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) for Damodar river basin areas for their flood forecasting activities.

(c) and (d) MoES currently uses the Global Forecasting System (GFS) with a horizontal resolution resolution of 12 km. In addition, a Global Ensemble Forecast System

(GEFS) for short and medium range prediction at 12 km using 21 members of the model has been developed and is operational since 01 June, 2018. The resolution (12 km) of the GEFS is the highest among all the operational global operational weather forecast centres in the world. Using this prediction system, IMD provides Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for issuing flood alerts.

(e) Nil

[English]

Legislation on Temple Entry of Women

1608. DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering or is in the process of drafting any legislation, including an amendment to the Constitution of India, to overturn the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in *Indian Young Lawyers Association & Ors vs The State of Kerala & Ors* in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 373 of 2006, which allowed women of all ages to enter the Sabarimala temple;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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.

Unreserved Mobile Ticketing Facility

1609. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Unreserved Mobile Ticketing facility (UTS on Mobile) to enable seamless booking of unreserved tickets including season tickets and also platform tickets all over Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether booking of unreserved tickets on all non-suburban sections across all zonal Railways will be now made available on mobile; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. With a view to promote cashless transaction, contact less ticketing and enhance customer convenience, Indian Railways have launched the 'UTSONMOBILE' app through which unreserved tickets, season tickets and platform tickets can be booked through mobile phone.

(c) and (d) The unreserved mobile ticketing facility launched on pilot basis over Mumbai suburban area in 2014 has been expanded to cover all suburban and non-suburban sections across all Zonal Railways *w.e.f.* 1st November, 2018.

Doctor-Patient Ratio in AFMS

1610. SHRI OM BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that there is a tremendous decrease in proportionate doctor to patient ratio in AFMS?

(b) if so, the details of the action taken to improve the prevailing situation;

(c) whether AFMS has no experience with regard to the Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear Warfare (CBRN); and

(d) if so, the steps initiated by the Government to get rid of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Current authorised strength of doctors in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) is 7257 and there is no acute deficiency of doctors.

(c) and (d) Training of doctors and paramedics in Chemical-Biological-Nuclear-Warfare (CBRN), building of infrastructure & innovations for management of CBRN casualties is an ongoing activity in the AFMS and workshops/training on this subject are organised from time to time.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 O'clock.

11.11 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twelve of the clock.

12.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs

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

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from some members on various matters. The matters, though important, do not warrant interruption of business of the day. The matters can be raised through other opportunities. I have, therefore, disallowed all the notices of the Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs

At this stage, Shri Thota Narasimham and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.02 ½ hrs**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

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): Madam, on behalf of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.815(E) in Gazette of

India dated 28th August, 2018 under sub-section (3) of Section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9978/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9979/16/18]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9980/16/18]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9981/16/18]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9982/16/18]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9983/16/18]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9984/16/18]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, Mohali, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, Mohali, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9985/16/18]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing, Mohali, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing, Mohali, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9986/16/18]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9987/16/18]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9988/16/18]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9989/16/18]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9990/16/18]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the

- Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9991/16/18]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9992/16/18]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9993/16/18]
- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9994/16/18]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9995/16/18]
- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9996/16/18]
- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9997/16/18]
- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9998/16/18]
- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the ESSO-National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the ESSO-National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9999/16/18]
- (22) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10000/16/18]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited, Bulandshahr, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited, Bulandshahr, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10001/16/18]

(23) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited and the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10002/16/18]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):
Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10003/16/18]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10004/16/18]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10005/16/18]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Good Governance, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Good Governance, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Good Governance, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10006/16/18]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Semi-Conductor Laboratory, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Semi-Conductor Laboratory, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10007/16/18]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10008/16/18]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHOJ SINGH): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10009/16/18]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

- (i) The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. 311-04/2017-QoS in Gazette of India dated 19th July, 2018.
- (ii) The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges

and Co-location Charges (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. F.No. 416-2/2018-NSL-I in Gazette of India dated 28th November, 2018.

- (iii) The Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (Sixth Amendment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (7 of 2018) published in Notification No. F. No. 305-03/218 QoS in Gazette of India dated 31st July, 2018.

- (iv) The Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. 324-5/2018-CA in Gazette of India dated 18th July, 2018.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10010/16/18]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10011/16/18]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and sub-section (4) of Section 10 of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933:—

- (i) The Use of Very Low Power Radio Frequency Devices or Equipments for Inductive Applications (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Amendment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.996(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th October, 2018.

- (ii) The Use of Very Low Power Ultra-wideband Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No.

G.S.R.1046(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th October, 2018.

(iii) The Use of Low Power and Very Low Power Short Range Radio Frequency Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1047(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th October, 2018.

(iv) The Use of Wireless Access System including Radio Local Area Network in 5 GHz band (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1048(E) in Gazette of India dated 22nd October, 2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 10012/16/18]

(6) A copy of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Commercial Radio Operator's Certificate of Proficiency and Licence to operate Global Maritime Distress and Safety system) Amendment Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.1088(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th November, 2018 under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, together with a corrigendum thereto published in the Notification No. G.S.R.1179(E), dated 6th December, 2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 10013/16/18]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 10013A/16/18]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of World

Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 10014/16/18]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chandigarh Waqf Board, Chandigarh, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chandigarh Waqf Board, Chandigarh, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 10015/16/18]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Waqf Board, Silvassa, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Waqf Board, Silvassa, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 10016/16/18]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

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): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. O.N.55(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd September, 2018, regarding Delimitation of Constituencies in the State of Andhra Pradesh and to update Schedule

III to the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 issued under Section 9(1)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Section 11(1)(b) of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10017/16/18]

12.03 hrs

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL
AND RESOLUTIONS**

45th Report

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Madam, I beg to present the Forty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

...(Interruptions)

12.03 ½ hrs

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

124th to 131st Reports

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2018-19):-

- (1) 124th Report on the subject 'Delay in Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System, Irregular LTC Claims and Avoidable Expenditure on Hired Servers'.
- (2) 125th Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their 78th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Stressed Assets Stabilization Fund (SASF)'.
- (3) 126th Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their 92nd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'.
- (4) 127th Report on the subject 'Supply and Infrastructure Development for Natural Gas'.

(5) 128th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Ninety-fourth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Implementation of Public Private Partnership-Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi'.

(6) 129th Report on the subject 'Apparel Export Promotion Council'.

(7) 130th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-seventh Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Hydrocarbon Production Sharing Contracts'.

(8) 131st Report on the subject 'Avoidable Procurement of a Mobile Nitrogen Gas Generator Plant, Infructuous Procurement of Material, Development of Integrated Aerostat Surveillance System and Irregular Expenditure on Construction of Vehicle Testing Ground'.

...(Interruptions)

12.04 hrs

**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF
WOMEN**

Statements

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Guwahati): I beg to lay on the Table the following Final Action Taken Statements (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Statement showing final action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and V of the 7th Report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2015-2016) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2014-2015) on the subject 'Working Conditions of Women in Public Sector Banks'.

- (2) Statement showing final action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and V of the 12th Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2017-2018) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 8th Report of the Committee (2016-2017) on the subject 'Empowering Women through Self Help Groups'.

12.05 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 207th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 202nd Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern 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): Madam Speaker, with your kind permission, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 207th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 202nd Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

...(Interruptions)

12.05 ½ hrs

- (ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 61st Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2018 -19) pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 61st Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

...(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs

- (iii) (a) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 29th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2017-18) (Demand No. 20) on Army, Navy and Air Force, pertaining to the Ministry of Defence****

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 29th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2017-18) (Demand No. 20) on Army, Navy and Air Force, pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.

- (b) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 30th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2017-18) (Demand No. 20) on Ordnance Factories, Defence**

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 10018/16/18

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 10019/16/18

** Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 10020/16/18

**Research and Development Organisation,
Directorate General of Quality Assurance
and National Cadet Corps, pertaining to the
Ministry of Defence***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 30th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2017-18) (Demand No. 20) on Ordnance Factories, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Directorate General of Quality Assurance and National Cadet Corps, pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 32nd Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Creation of Non-Lapsable Capital Fund Account, instead of the present system', pertaining to the Ministry of Defence**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 32nd Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Creation of Non-Lapsable Capital Fund Account, instead of the present system', pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: If you want to speak something then at least members of your party should go back.

...(Interruptions)

12.07 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Constitution of Joint Parliamentary Committee on purchase of Rafale Fighter Jets

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 10021/16/18

** Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 10022/16/18

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga): Madam Speaker, there is a serious apprehension among the people in the country over the irregularities and alleged corruption in the acquisition of Rafale fighter jets. ...(Interruptions) The decision has been arbitrary, against the security of the nation and resulted in loss of technology transfer to HAL, a public sector enterprise, and also massive loss to the national Exchequer. The matter needs to be investigated by a Joint Parliamentary Committee to fix accountability. ...(Interruptions)

This is a very important matter. That is why, we are demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee. You kindly allow that, in which all details will come out and every file will be checked by Parliament and not the Supreme Court. ...(Interruptions) The Supreme Court has given its judgement based on a false letter from the Government. That is why, I am requesting you to allow us ...(Interruptions) I request you. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: On the same issue, he wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : That is why, we are requesting for a JPC. Kindly allow JPC. Please ask the Government to give us a JPC. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (Raiganj): Madam, since the day this session started, we are demanding that a decision should be held and the Government is also saying the a discussion should be held. ...(Interruptions) It is a matter related to corruption. The way the Government has given *testimony in the Supreme Cout in the case of Rafale defence deal. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: They are saying that they will not be able to discuss in the House. It is disregard of the House. We want(Interruptions)

*Not recorded

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): Madam, I would like to tell the opposition through you that the Government is ready to discuss the matter fully in the case of Rafale or any other matter related to public interest. ...*(Interruptions)*

As far as the concern of opposition is about J.P.C. is concerned. The whole country is a witness to the fact that the decision of the Supreme Court has made everything very clear. There is no doubt in this regard in the country. There is no need for JPC. The Government is fully prepared to discuss the notices given by ruling party and also by the opposition parties.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Rajnathji, do you want to speak?

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Madam Speaker, I would like to submit that if the opposition wants to discuss the matter of Rafale, we are ready for a discussion.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (Paschim Champaran): Madam Speaker, thank you. I would like to draw your attention towards a dividing statement of a sitting Member of this House, Shri Kamal Nath ji. Hon'ble Shri Kamal Nath ji himself is a member of Lok Sabha and as a member of Lok Sabha, we all take oath in the name of the Constitution "We the people of India", and though he himself belongs to Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh but he has given a statement in Madhya Pradesh that the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will not be allowed to get job there. Therefore, first of all, I would like to say to Shri Kamal Nath ji that he had taken away the rights for.....*. So this House should condemn Shri Kamal Nath ji as he has indulged in a shameful act of dividing this country on the basis of languages and States. Therefore, Kamal Nath ji should come to the House and seek on apology from the country.

*Not recorded

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Devji M. Patel, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia, Shri Shiv Kumar Udasi, Shri A.T. Nana Patil, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are allowed to associate themselves with the subject raised by Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, do you want to say something?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam Speaker, we are in favour of running the House peacefully. It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee meeting that all discussions will be allowed. As demanded by different political parties, let the discussion start. You can interact with leaders of different political parties in order to see that the House runs properly. The Congress Party is asking for discussion on some issues. The Trinamool Congress Party is asking for discussion on some other issues. Maybe the ruling Party is asking for discussion on some issues. The Session is going to conclude soon. Why not allow all the Members of Parliament of different political parties to raise their issues and to take part in the discussion? If Shri Kharge asks for a JPC, let the discussion be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: If all of you are ready for the discussion, the Government too is ready to have the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Let the opposition parties allow the discussion to be held and let the House run properly. It is the responsibility of the ruling Party to see that the House runs smoothly. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for having given me an opportunity to raise the Privilege Motion.

As we all know, Sabarimala is the largest annual pilgrimage in the whole world. Around 30 million devotees visit

Sabarimala every year. I have visited Sabarimala as a pilgrim for more than 40 years. This year also I went to Sabarimala on 21st November. Four other devotees also accompanied me. When I reached Nilakkal, 22 kms. away from Sabarimala, I was told that private vehicles were not allowed to go beyond that limit. The pilgrims were forced to take the Government buses to go to Pamba. I witnessed the pain and anguish of the pilgrims, especially of the senior citizens and children. Some devotees were forced to go by Government buses.

Unfortunately, some of them did not have much money and they had to walk. In order to provide relief to them, I enquired from the policeman about the reason as to why only the Government buses were being allowed and not the private buses. There was no answer for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Yathish Chandra, IPS officer who was in charge of that area intervened in the matter and told me that the private buses would not be allowed because there is a chance of landslide. Earlier, there was landslide also. ...*(Interruptions)* He also told that the private buses would not be allowed because of the congestion in Pamba. I asked him if there was no congestion 19.12.2018 51 because of the Government buses, how could there be congestion because of the private buses? For that, there was no proper response. ...*(Interruptions)*

Instead of replying to my question, the officer asked me in a very harsh tone whether I would take the responsibility, if some untoward would happen. ...*(Interruptions)*

I construe this as a mark of disrespect to an elected representative of this House. Madam, I request you to allow me to raise question on this Privilege Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The Privilege Notice is with me. I will go through it.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1400 hours.

12.17 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...*(Interruptions)*

14.01 hrs

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

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga): Madam, please ensure that JPC is constited and also please ask them to give a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, I have said about this. Did not you hear this morning?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If the matter is closed, then. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.02 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not shout like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.02 ½ hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, matters under rule 377 will be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been allowed to raise the matters under rule

* Treated as laid on the Table

377 today and who are willing to lay them on the Table, may lay them individually on the Table within 20 minutes. Only those matters will be considered laid on the Table, the rest will be considered lapsed.

...(Interruptions)

(i) Need to expedite payment of arrears to sugarcane farmers in Amroha Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR (Amroha): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of sugarcane payment of sugarcane farmers in the Garhmukteshwar Legislative Assembly in my parliamentary constituency Amroha. People of this area mainly cultivate sugarcane and depend on it for their livelihood but they are facing financial difficulties due to non-payment of sugarcane.

Since the BJP Government has been formed in the State there has been unprecedented improvement in the sugarcane payment of farmers. Most of the sugar mills in the State are making payment timely, but sugar mills located in the Garhmukteshwar Legislative Assembly have not yet paid the last year's payment of sugarcane to the farmers and this time, it has been more than a month that the mills are operating but there is no hope of the payment yet.

Along with this, regional farmers have alleged that the mill management has taken loans fraudulently in the name of farmers in connivance with the banks.

I request the Government to investigate the above matter and do justice to the farmers and make arrangement for the sugarcane payment to the farmers so as to help them in their livelihood.

(ii) Need to give permission to wipe out vilayati babul or Prosopis juliflora in Rajasthan and other States

SHRI HARI OM SINGH RATHOD (Rajsamand): At present Vilayati Babul is rapidly increasing in the pasture of Rajasthan and in many other States, and its utility is very less. As per the notification F-15 (33) Forest-98-Jaipur, dated 24.07.2016 issued by Rajasthan Government, it has been allowed to cut Vilayati Babul bush outside forest

areas and transport it by making coal. In this regard local Patwari, Tehsildar and Sub-Divisional Officer are allowed to issue sanction for necessary action and also sanction for transport. In Rajasthan, there is ban to cut Vilayati Babul from the root except in forest areas.

The wood of these trees are used only for making coal under Ujjawala Yojana of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Even in revenue land, where it is allowed to cut, there is no exemption to cut it from the root. Only the cutting has been allowed. As a result of this, in the next rainy season, several branches grow from one tree. Thus pasture are becoming grassless and these trees become helpful in breeding of mosquitoes. In this regard, the farmers of Jaitaran Legislative Assembly of Rajsamand in my Lok Sabha Constituency had requested for permission to cut these trees from the root.

Therefore, keeping in view the above facts and circumstances, I would like to request the Central Government to issue orders to cut the Vilayati Babul (*Prosopis Juliflora*) in Rajasthan and other States also.

(iii) Need to reopen the Hathua sugar mill, Mirganj in Gopalganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI JANAK RAM (Gopalganj): I would like to raise the issues related to the restoration and restarting of Mirganj sugar mill lying closed in my parliamentary constituency, Gopalganj (Hathua). Gopalganj is one of the major agricultural districts. Sugarcane is cultivated here on a large scale. Sugarcane is the main source of income of farmers but sugar mills have been closed for years in the second largest city of Mirganj (Hathua) of the district. With the closure of the sugar mill, on the one hand, thousands of employees have become unemployed and their families are on the verge of starvation. As a result it is causing economic loss to the farmers, while on the other hand, farmers of this area are very much worried about their sugarcane crops. They have to send their sugarcanes to the sugar mill in the neighboring State Uttar Pradesh. Due to erroneous industrial policies of the previous Government, sugar mill has been closed. I would like to request the Government that order should be given to pay the outstanding arrears of the workers of sugar mills and also to the sugarcane farmers. Many people are forced to

leave sugarcane farming. By restarting the closed Hathua mill the financial crisis of this area can be checked and migration of people in large scale can also be stopped. Besides, unemployed people will get the opportunity of jobs.

I would like to urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly restart Hathua Sugar Mill as soon as possible and ensure the payment of wages of the labourers from the State Government.

(iv) Need to construct a road along right side embankment of river Bagmati from Janar Gram to Piprahi Dhala via Dubba Ghat (Dekuli) in Sheohar district, Bihar

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (Sheohar): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important subject of public interest. Under my parliamentary constituency, Sheohar district is a flood affected area where people have to face the havoc of flood of Bagmati river passing through this area. The right embankment of Bagmati river is about 40 km long from Janar Gram to Piprahi Dhala via Dubba Ghat (Dekuli) in Sheohar district. Thousands of people of dozens of villages live on the bank of this river, for whom the only option to contact the district headquarter is this Dam. Traffic on this embankment is completely affected in flood days, so people face a lot of difficulties. If a road is constructed on the said dam, it can be used as a life line in addition to normal days, especially in days of flood also and the backwardness of this area will come to an end.

I, therefore, request the Government that a road should be constructed on about 40 km long embankment from Janar Gram to Piprahi-Dhala via Dubba Ghat (Dekuli) so that people could easily move from one place to another place.

(v) Need to provide safe and clean drinking water in Darbhanga and surrounding areas in Bihar

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (Darbhanga): People in Darbhanga and nearby districts are suffering from serious fatal diseases due to high level of arsenic in the ground water. The problem is not being solved at the ground level even after crores of rupees being given to the State through National Water Quality Sub-Mission Head. There is a huge backlog of the amount that has been given for providing

pure drinking water in this area, but no effective work could be done there.

I, therefore, request the Government to get the work done as soon as possible under the scheme so that fatal diseases caused by drinking water could be prevented.

(vi) Need to provide stoppage of various trains at railway stations under Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad): I have been demanding the stoppage of various trains at the main stations of my parliamentary constituency for many years. In this regard, I have sent several letters to the Government and the General Manager, East-Central Railway and also discussed the issue personally with the Hon. Railway Minister, but no action has been taken till now. My area is very much sensitive under the Left Wing Extremism (LWE). If stoppage of trains is given there the railway passengers can easily reach their homes.

Stoppage of Dehradun/Sealdah Express at Paraiya Station of East-Central railways; Buddha Purnima/Kisan/Purushottam/Shalimar/Lalkuan Express at Guraru Station; 12987/12988 Ajmer Sealdah/11045/11046 Diksha Bhoomi/Kalka Mail/Chambal Express/Shipra and Chennai-Egmore Express at Anugrah Narayan station; Howrah-Mumbai, Howrah-Jodhpur, Tata-Amritsar, Ajmer Sealdah Mail/Express at Rafiganj; Mahabodhi Express at Jakhim Station; Jammu Tawi Sealdah; Vrakhana Palamu/Rajgir Sarnath Buddha Purnima/Mahabodhi Express at Facer; 13243/13244 Inter-city Express at Bghoi Kusha station is also required in the public interest and also in the interest of the Railways. I have made my demand in public interest and under railway rules. Bhabhua Road Station of East-Central Railway is C-category station and there is a stoppage of 8 pair of mail/express trains at this station. Anugrah Narayan station is 'A' category station. Despite this, there is no stoppage of the trains at this station running on Bhabhua road. Why it is so?

It is also noteworthy that earlier there was stoppage of Patna-Dehri-Mughalsarai fast passenger train at the Bghoi Kusha station, but this train service has been cancelled and Bhabhua Intercity express has been started. However, this train does not have stoppage at the said station, whereas after the train service was cancelled, the stoppage of this train should have been made at Bghoi Kusha station.

I, therefore, request the Government to issue the appropriate instructions to the competent authority for stoppage of the above mentioned trains at the stations mentioned above with immediate effect.

(vii) Need to improve railway services and passenger facilities at Daltonganj railway station in Palamu Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (Palamu): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important subject. There is huge scarcity of basic amenities at Daltonganj railway station in my parliamentary constituency, Palamu (Jharkhand), whereas Rajdhani Express train including various Super fast trains run through this railway station. I make the following demands from the Honorable Railway Minister:

1. An AC Three-Tier bogie should be attached to Train number 14371 Triveni Link Express which runs from Barwadih to Bareilly.
2. Train No. 14371 Triveni Link Express should be extended upto Delhi,
3. Train number 12877/78 Ranchi-New Delhi Garib Rath, which runs three days a week, should be run four days a week and 5 minutes stoppage should be given to it at Daltonganj station.
4. Train number 53611 running from Barwadih to Dehri-On-Son should be run as Express train upto Varanasi.
5. Train number 12873 Jharkhand Swarn Jayanti Express should be run on time and 5 minutes stoppage should be given to it at Dalanganj railway station.
6. Automatic escalator should be installed at Daltonganj railway station, which will facilitate passengers to move from one platform to another.
7. Proper catering service should be provided at Daltonganj railway station.

I, therefore, urge the Honorable Railway Minister to kindly fulfill the above mentioned demands in the public interest as soon as possible.

(viii) Need to set up a Yoga based Natural Medicine Center in Tehri Garhwal District, Uttarakhand

SHRIMATI MALA RAJYALAKSHMI SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards my parliamentary constituency, Tehri district in Uttarakhand. Devbhoomi Uttarakhand is now known as Yoga Bhumi which has been a center for Yoga and Ayurveda for decades. The mountains of the Devbhoomi, Uttarakhand spontaneously inspire for Yoga and Ayurveda. Those who come here have a feeling of divinity. Therefore, this State is the best place for the Natural Medicine Center based on Yoga. Natural greenery of this place works as medicine. There is a world famous Tehri lake in Tehri district, which is about 43 kilometers in length. The people of this area demand that a world-renowned Natural Medicine Center based on Yoga should be established in Tehri. This will provide naturopathy for the people of India and abroad and lakhs of people will be benefitted by this. Besides, thousands of locals will also get employment. This will also help in stopping migrations.

I, therefore, request the Union Minister of Ayurveda, Naturopathy to take necessary action to set up a world-renowned natural medicine center based on Yoga in Tehri in Uttarakhand.

(ix) Need to expedite construction of Mahoba to Orai new railway line in Uttar Pradesh

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur): I come from Bundelkhand and it is economically backward area. There is an urgent need for rapid development of rail-road routes in this area. Keeping this in mind, the Central Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Modi ji approved the Orai-Mahoba Rail Line in the Budget of 2016-17. With this, other projects of the Railways for the development of Bundelkhand, such as Jhansi-Bina Line Project-155.75 km, Jhansi-Manikpur Double Line Project-411 km, Lalitpur Birari Project-15.8 km and Dholpur-Jhansi-Bina-321 km have also been sanctioned by the Ministry of Railways, which reflects the commitment of the Government of India for the development in Bundelkhand.

But Mahoba-Orai railway route, is 90 km long, and its estimated cost is Rs. 1800 crores. Two years have passed but this scheme is still pending. This Scheme is very much essential for the traffic in this area. With the construction of

the rail line, the passengers of Mahoba-Charkhari-Rath-Orai will get a lot of facilities.

I have personally, and through correspondence requested the Government several times to complete this scheme and today again, I urge the Honourable Railway Minister to complete the Mahoba-Orai rail line as soon as possible so that this would help not only in the development of Bundelkhand but benefit a lot the passengers travelling in this area.

(x) Regarding construction of bridge on Brahmaputra, Assam

[English]

SHRI RAMEN DEKA (Mangaldai): Darrang district on the north bank of Brahmaputra is not well connected with rest of Assam. The proposed bridge on Brahmaputra from Kuruwa to Narengi will boost the connectivity of Darrang which leads to economic development also.

In view of this, I urge upon the Government to start the construction work at the earliest.

(xi) Need to expedite construction of flyover and service road on Jhansi-Kanpur NH at Kalpinagar in Jalaun Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): In my parliamentary constituency, about 200 km long National Highway (4 lane) has been constructed between Jhansi-Kanpur in Jalaun, Garothha, Bhoganipur area in which only 1.7 km stretch has been left unconstructed at Kalpinagar. Now, the obstacles have been overcome. The concerned company is still having Rs. 19 crores outstanding, with it. So, instructions should be given to the company to construct the service lane immediately. An estimate of 72 crores 71 lakhs rupees has been presented for the said construction, out of which about Rs. 19 crores are still with the company. The remaining amount of about 54 crores 60 lakhs rupees is pending for approval with the Chairman of the NHAI.

I, therefore, request to send the outstanding amount to the concerned company and give instructions for speeding up the construction of service roads and flyovers, so that people could get rid of the traffic jam and the lives of people could be saved from accidents.

(xii) Need to review the decision to privatize various airports in country

DR. UDIT RAJ (North-West Delhi): In the year 2009, five airports-Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Nagpur were privatized. As a result of this thousands of people belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes, etc. lost their reservation which was being given to them, while these five airports were running in profit. When formulating the policy for privatization, it was said that only the sick and loss making Government undertakings and departments would be privatized. Recently, there was a plan to privatise 6 more airports-Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Gauhati, Mangalore and Trivandrum, while these are also profitable airports. If these airports are privatized, then the mistake made in 2009 would be repeated.

I would like to demand from the Minister of Civil Aviation to stop privatisation of these airports with immediate effect in the public interest.

(xiii) Regarding restoration of rail bridge in Murshidabad district of West Bengal

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (Baharampur): In West Bengal a discarded rail bridge namely "Nashipur-Azimganj" situated in Murshidabad district is being restored for the last so many years. It is a very strategic rail bridge which may converge both the Sealdah and Howrah division as a result of which the distance would be shortened by 50 kms from Kolkata to North Bengal and Northern States. More than 95% works have been completed but it is yet to be completed resulting in great disappointment to the people. It is learnt that the delay in acquiring a few yards of land has become the stumbling block for its completion. I, therefore, would request the Railway Ministry to look into this issue and take necessary action to complete the restoration work at the earliest.

(xiv) Regarding Financial package to deal with unprecedented floods in Kuttanad region, Kerala

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Mavelikkara): Due to the unprecedented floods and its continuing effects, the people of kuttanad region have been subjected to

far more hardships than they suffered earlier. The floods have caused total destruction of life and property to the people of Kuttanad in all 13 Gram Panchayats of Kuttanad Taluk and made the already weak and dilapidated bunds further vulnerable. The bunds of Padasekharams have been breached and flood water has entered into the paddy cultivation resulting into the loss running into crores of rupees and homes damaged beyond repair. In this situation, I would request the Government to urgently release the second tranche of Kuttanad package so that the bunds can be strengthened and roads, drinking water distribution and damage to agrarian sector could be effectively addressed to and the region could be brought back to its normal State.

(xv) Regarding setting up of Mega Food Park in Meghalaya

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (Shillong): Meghalaya receives the highest rainfall in the country, as a result of which it has bumper food production every year. But unfortunately the high yield is not utilised up to its full potential due to lack of a well-developed and established supply chain, market links and food processing units.

To ensure that Meghalaya has food security as well as increased utilization of its agricultural produce, I request the Government to establish a Mega Food Park in the State as well as develop all the other necessary infrastructure required for a well-functioning supply chain and market links. These steps will definitely give a much needed fillip to agricultural and allied sectors in the State.

(xvi) Regarding construction of dams at Nallar and Anamalaiar in Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (Pollachi): The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had insisted on the construction of 2 dams with a capacity of 93 tmc at Nallar and Anamalaiar by fully utilizing the water received from Upper Nirar and from Lower Nirar Dams at a cost of Rs. 1540 crores.

The water received from South West Monsoon in the Upper Nirar Dam is now diverted through the Solayar Dam, Parambikulam Dam and Thunakkadavu Dam and finally reaches Tirumoorthy Dam through Contour Canal after passing through a long distance of 120 Kms. Due to the long distance covered by water before it reaches

Thirumoorthy Dam, the loss due to evaporation, seepage and percolation is high. Sometimes, during rainy seasons, the water flow is in excess.

To avert these losses and for managing the water effectively, another canal should be constructed under the tunnel at a length of 14.4 km which is necessary. Hence, a dam is the need of the hour at Nallar (3214 ft), which is situated above the level of Thirumoorthy Dam (1336 ft).

By constructing a Dam at Nallar (3214 ft), it is easy to install 2 Substations with the capacity of 175 MW each to generate 350 MW of electricity and the tail race water from the power houses will reach Thirumoorthy Dam (1336 ft). Due to this, my constituency people will be benefitted. By this an additional 5000 acres of dry land will be converted into cultivable land 19.12.2018 immensely benefitting the agriculturists. It will augment the supply of drinking water in the surrounding villages. Further, additional 350 MW electricity generating units can be created and the existing loss of water will be minimized and effectively managed.

I request the Central Government to execute the Nallar and Anamalaiar Water projects immediately by allocating a sum of Rs. 1540 crores to my Pollachi constituency at the earliest.

(xvii) Regarding improvement of railway services and facilities in Kancheepuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (Kancheepuram): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the following important Railway Demands of my Kancheepuram Parliamentary Constituency pending for very long with Railway Ministry:—

- (i) Construction of Subway at Level Crossing No 45, between Thirukalukundram and Chengalpattu.
- (ii) Completion of Rain Water Channel at Level Crossing No. 54, Chengalpattu-Thirukalukundram Railway Crossing.
- (iii) Escalator Facility in Chengalpattu Railway Station in PF2-1 No. & PF3&4-1 No.
- (iv) Increase connectivity of EMU from Kancheepuram Railway Station to Chennai Beach-Thirumalpur & Sriperumbudur.

- (v) Stoppage of Train No 16127/28 Guruvayur Exp; 16105/06 Thiruchendur Exp; 16853/54 Cholan Exp; 16351/Mumba Nagercoil Exp; 16101/Rameswara Exp; 16713/14 and 16351/52 at Madurantakam Railway Station. (These Trains had stoppings here before the Gauge Conversion)
- (vi) Mahabalipuram to Puducherry & Guduvanchery to Avadi *via* Sriperumbudur and Irunkattukottai Railway Route has been sanctioned. This Project was considered way back in 2008.

During the last 4 Years I have been continuously meeting the Railway Minister, his PS, EDPG, GM Southern Railway, but nothing has happened so far.

Hence, I request the Railway Minister to look into the above demands and do the needful at the earliest.

(xviii) Need to address the problem of homelessness in the country

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (Hooghly): With ever-growing population of the country, the homelessness too has been growing uninterrupted in the country. Particularly in urban areas, homelessness has grown enormously. Study of the Supreme Court Panel as appeared in the Times of India dated 27th August, 2017, 'No Shelter for Urban Homeless' is very disturbing. To add to the dismal picture, 50% of funds released under the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) which was launched in 2013 are not utilised by States. It seems the Centre being the implementing authority has failed in monitoring the NULM at the State level, inspite of having its vast machinery.

There is a need to urgently address homelessness otherwise we would be encouraging slums mushrooming everywhere specially in the urban areas. I would like to urge the Central Government to address homelessness specially in urban areas.

(xix) Regarding improvement of BSNL services in Jajpur district of Odisha

SHRIMATI RITA TARAI (Jajpur): There is an immediate need to improve all BSNL services in the district of Jajpur, Odisha immediately.

All the services provided by the BSNL are non-existent. Land line, mobile, Telephony, Broadband, High

speed internet in all the parts of the district are non-functional. Despite several complaints, the services remain the same.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and ensure functioning of all services of BSNL in Jajpur District of Odisha.

(xx) Need to set up Passport Seva Kendra in Mira Bhayander and Navi Mumbai under Thane Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJAN VICHARE (Thane): People tourists and students living in Mira Bhayandar and Navi Mumbai under my Lok Sabha constituency, Thane, have been demanding to open passport service center for their areas for a long time.

If the passport service center opens in the Navi Mumbai area, its benefits will reach up to 20 lakh people living in Navi Mumbai. Also more than 25 lakh people living in Khargar, Panvel and the surrounding urban areas will benefit from it because presently, people living in these areas have to travel 15 to 50 kms to Thane city for passport related work, thereby their time and money is wasted. Long ago, in June, 2017, announcement of the opening of Passport Seva Kendra in Navi Mumbai was made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but it has not yet been implemented.

It is, therefore, requested to kindly open passport service centers in Mira Bhayandar and Navi Mumbai under my parliamentary constituency Thane.

(xxi) Need to provide crèche facility in Kendriya Vidyalayas

[English]

SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) is one of the largest school chains with 1,196 schools, 13 lakh students and 46,000 employees spanning 25 regions in the country.

The 'Maternity Benefit Act, 2017' mandates that every office with 50 and more employees are required to provide a child care facility for working mothers.

Despite women comprising almost 50 per cent of total staff in KVs, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has

not formulated any policy for implementing provisions of the Act. In the absence of creche in KVs, women employees resort to Child Care Leave (CCL) which is denied as most of the school staff is women.

All KVs with own building have infrastructure for setting up creche facility. It will not only help women employees in resuming work immediately after their maternity leave, but will also certainly help in balancing their family office life.

I request the Minister of HRD to formulate policy to provide creche facility in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

(xxii) Need to accord the status of religion to Lingayats.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTY (Hathkangale): As we all know that Lingayat Religion founder, Dharma Guru Mahatma Basaveshwar was a great philosopher, social reformer and saint, He is also called World Guru and Bhakti Bhandari.

During the 12th century, when superstition, untouchability and communal insanity was at its height, the common people were misguided about religion and there were clouds of hypocrisy in the clean and pure sky of religion. At the same time, the Guru Basaveshwar appeared in India like the rising Sun. Mahatma Basaveshwar is still the diamond of Indian culture whose glow is always new and eternal.

Today, almost 800 years later, Guru Basaveshwar is very relevant in the mind of the people living in areas near Karnataka and Maharashtra. According to those who believe in the Lingayat religion, Lingayat is a religion and it is not a caste and they are struggling to get recognition from the Government for the Lingayat society as a religion.

I very humbly urge the Government that just like Jain and Buddhist societies were recognized as separate religions, in the same way, Lingayat Society should be recognized as a religion, through which the true tribute to Lingayat Dharmaguru Shri Basaveshwar ji can also be given, who is the symbol of equality, brotherhood, ethics, prosperity and progress.

14.04 hrs

SURROGACY (REGULATION) BILL, 2018

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 16, the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Madam, I beg to move*:

“That the Bill to constitute National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards and appointment of appropriate authorities for regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

Madam, it is a historic day when this Parliament is taking up the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill of 2016. ... (Interruptions)

It is a long-awaited Bill. ... (Interruptions) All sections of society, and practically every political party was of the opinion to see to it that commercial surrogacy should be immediately stopped and altruistic surrogacy should be the only way on ethical grounds. ... (Interruptions) We all know that India had become a hub of surrogacy clinics where commercial surrogacy was going on. ... (Interruptions) Even the 228th Report of the Law Commission had recommended strongly for prohibiting commercial surrogacy. ... (Interruptions) Not only that, the issue related to the unethical practices and the issue related to the exploitation of surrogate mothers was also an issue, which was discussed at length. ... (Interruptions) Then there was also the issue of children born through surrogate mothers being abandoned. ... (Interruptions) These were the issues that needed to be deliberated and discussed. ... (Interruptions) Rackets were being run by intermediaries for importing human embryos. ... (Interruptions) This was also one of the issues, which was discussed. ... (Interruptions)

* Moved with the recommendatoin of the President.

[Shri Jayant Prakash Nadda]

Practically, the NGOs and civil society were also of the opinion that such type of commercial surrogacy should be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)* The Supreme Court also took notice of it. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, the Cabinet Secretariat had decided that the Department should come out with a legislation. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Keeping all these factors in view, the Union Government went through the deliberations. Along with this, there were assurances in Parliament. In total 11 assurances were there-six from Lok Sabha, and five from Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Government had decided that very soon we would be coming out with a legislation. Now the day has come. Today, this legislation has come. Keeping the Indian ethos in mind, trying to stop the exploitation of mothers, and see to it that the children are not abandoned and foreigners do not get away over surrogacy, we have decided to come with this Surrogacy Bill 2016 to regulate it.

We are moving towards the pure altruistic surrogacy. We are completely banning commercial surrogacy which would prevent exploitation of women in India. In future, children born through surrogacy will be taken care of. ...*(Interruptions)*

These are the issues brought before the Bill. Provisions in the Bill are basically aimed at defining a 'mother' and a 'surrogate mother'. Secondly, it is aimed at which family will get the permission to go for surrogacy. What are the limitations which would ensure that that does not happen? ...*(Interruptions)*

These provisions are given in the Surrogacy Bill. I am of the considered view that the Bill should aptly be put before Parliament and Parliament should deliberate on this Bill. Suggestions would be well taken care of. I would request the Members of all Parties to participate in this debate, and pass this Bill, after considering all the details of the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

Thanking you, Hon. Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to constitute National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards and appointment of appropriate authorities for regulation of the

practice and process of surrogacy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

This is a very important Bill. Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (Barasat): Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in favour of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016. This is a very important Bill, particularly with respect to women who have been exploited extensively in a certain part of Gujarat-I don't want to name it-and elsewhere in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

Actually for surrogacy to take place, it has to be preceded by. In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) which has been compared to man's landing on moon because in IVF, a woman's ovaries are stimulated to give multiple number of oocytes, and then they are fertilized outside in the laboratory by a person who sits in the laboratory for hours together, controlling the different parameters which support life like oxygen, carbon dioxide, humidity and all the other protein molecules which let the embryo grow and survive. ...*(Interruptions)*

This IVF has been so difficult that it took nearly 100 years before the birth of Louise Brown who could be announced by Professor Robert Edwards and Patrick Steptoe of England in 1979, followed shortly by Subhash Mukherjee giving birth to Kanu Priya or Durga in Bengal, followed in, 1986-87 by the birth of Imran. Professor Robert Edwards has been given the Noble Prize for this IVF baby's birth, Louise Brown. Our very own Indian Council of Medical Research gave lifetime achievement to Dr. Ghosh Dastidar and Chakravarty for their work in India. So, only after IVF is done, is embryo available for transfer and surrogacy to follow.

At the onset, I would like to bring to your notice that here it is given that the embryo is only up to 56 days.

In this age of cryopreservation today, sometimes, we can cryopreserve the embryo for years together. So, 56 days, counted from the day of fertilisation, should be replaced by any number of days before the baby is given in the mother's womb. During that period, it can be cryopreserved. That has to be looked at. ...*(Interruptions)*

Also, in the subclause (k), 'foetus' means that the human organisation during that period of development beginning from 57th day should therefore also be changed because foetus takes place inside the womb. So, both the provisions of 56 days and 57 days would have to be changed. ...(*Interruptions*)

Let us have a public debate like we had for the ART Draft Bill. I think it was started in 1998-99 by Indian Council of Medical Research. We had three-four public debates in different parts of the country but I do not know the fate of that Bill. Even till today, it has not been tabled. This subject of surrogacy should have come along with the ART Bill because as I explained, without having an IVF Laboratory and a Test Tube Baby Laboratory, we cannot have surrogacy. ...(*Interruptions*) So, these two subjects should have been brought together. By bringing this separately, maybe, we are trying to hinder those unscrupulous people who are exploiting women. That should have been brought together. So, I suggest that we have a public debate throughout the country and take the opinion of different categories of people including experts. ...(*Interruptions*) Here also, there is a mention about embryologist, but there is a sea change in the subject of ART at the moment. When I was a student in the 1980s, an embryologist was not as same as an embryologist today. Particularly, an embryologist who is growing the child in the laboratory today has his experience in In-Vitro growth, so, a specialised embryologist is making the babies today. This also has to be changed here. ...(*Interruptions*)

I understand that there have been many meetings with the Ministry, with the officers and with the professional bodies but when the final draft of the Bill was made and this was tabled here, the professional bodies like the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecologist Societies of India, ISAR or the NGOs were not consulted. I think there has to be another meeting before this Bill is passed. ...(*Interruptions*)

The hon. Supreme Court, Madam, has recently decriminalised Section 377 and the LGBT community has been accepted to be a part of the mainstream. So, we have same sex couples now. But, in this Bill, there is no mention of the same sex couples. Being a part of such a team which works on this, the person knows, the doctor knows that the demand from the transgender and LGBT community, same sex couples, whether they are two men

or two women, they come with a demand of a child. ... (*Interruptions*) Two-men couples require a surrogate mother. Two-women couples do not require a surrogate mother if both women are healthy. But we have to include them if we have to do justice. We have just passed the Transgender Welfare Bill two-three days back. If we have to do justice to a transgender couple or a same sex couple, then their mention has to be in this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*) So, we have to consider these points very seriously. The drafting was hasty, we need another Bill.

It is also a matter of great concern and despair that we leave the treatment of infertile couples mostly to the hands of private clinics. Many Government hospitals do not have the setup to carry out In-Vitro fertilisation and embryo transfer. ...(*Interruptions*) To my understanding, All India Institute of Medical Sciences has a unit but that is not sufficient for the whole of the country. So, training should be given through people who have worked on this for more than thirty years now and then the doctors can be appointed and super-specialised embryo labs can be set up in the medical colleges and Government hospitals to make the treatment for infertile couples who cannot afford expensive treatment easily.

Each injection for stimulation of ovaries costs between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 3,000. So, the Government has to step in by the side of these couples to help them and also to keep the unscrupulous private clinics at bay from exploiting these couples. ...(*Interruptions*) The Government should have some extra funds. A separate fund should be created for infertile couples.

There might be couples in which the woman has no uterus from birth. There might be couples in which a woman has no internal genitalia from birth. There is a disease called "Rokitansky Kustner Hauser Syndrome" in which the woman has nothing. ...(*Interruptions*) So, for cases like that it is useless to wait for five years for treatment. The patient is ageing everyday and as her age increases her reserve of cohort of follicles waiting to grow every cycle is reducing. So, we have to have a provision for such women who have no uterus when we are giving them medical surrogacy. The most important call for medical surrogacy is a woman who has no uterus, who has no reproductive organs. Her mention should be made here. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Dr. Kakali Ghosh Dastidan]

Also, we must vehemently stop fashion surrogacy that is taking place in our country, not only commercial surrogacy in which the surrogate mother is being exploited. I do not want to name them but there are film stars and relatives of film stars who are going in for surrogacy and are using surrogate mothers only because they do not want their figure to be destroyed. ...*(Interruptions)* Fashion surrogacy must stop in this country. We must only do medical surrogacy by which we will stand by the women who are suffering.

Till today our society looks down upon women who do not get children. They say, "In the morning we should not look at your face because you are infertile and my day will be bad". But it is a disease. She is not a baanjh a curse. She is not trying to harm anybody socially. It is only that she has not been given the power to procreate. ...*(Interruptions)* And when medical treatment is available, why should not we stand by her?

Also, we have to compensate surrogates. I understand that we do not support commercial surrogacy; we do not. But our own children, Indians living abroad, NRIs not being able to conceive children abroad should be included in here so that not only Indian couples living in India but Indian couples living abroad are also given the facility. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Medical Council Act of 1956 has defined the term Embryologist but we have to change this definition because today's Embryologist is much different from what it was in 1956. It says here, a oocyte means a naturally ovulating oocyte. ...*(Interruptions)* But now oocyte does not only mean a naturally ovulating oocyte. In today's science, a woman is given injections, follicle stimulating hormones, to get multiple eggs. Those eggs are retrieved either by ultrasound or by laparoscope and we might get 18 to 20 oocytes from a lady and we might freeze them and we might make babies from them. Those are also oocytes. ...*(Interruptions)* So, that is another mistake here.

When both members of a couple are suffering with proven infertility, when the altruistic purpose is applicable, we have to keep in mind the LGBT community also and we must have a public debate before we pass this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam Speaker, the Minister while introducing the Bill in this House for consideration and passing has said it is a momentous day today while we are considering the Surrogacy Regulation Bill of 2016. ...*(Interruptions)* It is indeed a momentous day today that despite turmoil inside the House, he thought it fit that we should also deliberate on some serious subject that has been in the mind of large section of society of our country for quite some time. ...*(Interruptions)*

Surrogacy is the practice where one woman carries the child of another with the intention of handing over the child after birth. ...*(Interruptions)* The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy and allows altruistic surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy involves no compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical and insurance expenses related to the pregnancy. ...*(Interruptions)* The intending couple must be Indian citizen and married for at least, five years with at least, one of them being infertile. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, the surrogate mother has to be a close relative who has been married and has a child of her own. ...*(Interruptions)* Undertaking surrogacy for a fee, advertising it or exploiting the surrogate mother will be punishable with imprisonment for ten years and a fine of up to Rs. 10 lakhs. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Bill permits surrogacy only for couples who cannot conceive a child. This procedure is not allowed in case of any other medical conditions which could prevent a woman from giving birth to a child. ...*(Interruptions)* The surrogate mother and the intending couple need eligibility certificates from the appropriate authority. The Bill does not specify a time limit within which such certificates will be granted. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, these are certain points I am referring to and I expect the Minister will reply to these concerns which I am expressing here. ...*(Interruptions)* It also does not specify an appeal process in case, the application is rejected. The surrogate mother must be a close relative. ...*(Interruptions)* The Bill does not define the term close relative.

Madam, in 2005, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had issued guidelines to regulate surrogacy arrangements. ...*(Interruptions)* The guidelines

stated that—"the surrogate mother would be entitled to monetary compensation, the value of which would be decided by the couple and the surrogate mother". ... *(Interruptions)*

In 2008, the Supreme Court of India in the Baby Manji Yamada vs Union of India case, highlighted the lack of regulation for surrogacy in India. ...*(Interruptions)* In 2009, the Law Commission of India observed, to which the Minister referred to, that surrogacy arrangements in India were being used by foreign nationals and it could lead to exploitation of poor women acting as surrogate mothers. ...*(Interruptions)* The Law Commission recommended prohibiting commercial surrogacy, allowing altruistic surrogacy and enacting a law to regulate surrogacy. ... *(Interruptions)*

In 2015, Government notified prohibitory surrogacy for foreign nationals. ...*(Interruptions)* In 2016, November 21st, this Bill was introduced in this House. The Standing Committee of Health and Family Welfare submitted its report on 10th of August, 2017. Now, it is listed for consideration and passing. Only two hours have been allotted for the deliberation of this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

Before I come to the key issues of this Bill, Madam, which need further consideration and elaboration, I must say, today, surrogacy industry thrives amid regulatory gaps. ...*(Interruptions)*

India has an estimated 20 to 25 million infertile couples. For medical practitioners, it is a market opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)* There were 59 clinics offering IVF, that is, in vitro fertilisation in 2001. By 2011, it went up from 59 to 600 within a span of 10 years. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister can tell us what the number is today if he has made a count.

Commercial surrogacy has been allowed in India since 2002 but remains an unregulated grey area. ... *(Interruptions)* In 2008, the court said in a judgement that surrogacy as a medical procedure is legal in several countries including in India without elaborating on what makes surrogacy legal. ...*(Interruptions)* In 2008, another case on the citizenship of surrogate babies led the Gujarat High Court to State that there is an extreme urgency to

push through legislation which addressed issues that arise out of surrogacy.

Hon. Speaker Madam, United Nations-backed study conducted in 2012 estimates the surrogate business in India to be worth more than USD 400 million a year. ... *(Interruptions)* But civil society activists say that the size of the market could well be more than twice that amount. This was the position in 2012. We are in the last month of 2018 now. This Bill in India is the first attempt to regulate the sector and I congratulate the Government for it. ... *(Interruptions)* The Bill also seeks to streamline the process of restructuring surrogates who currently earn anything between Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 4 lakh for services with a 25 per cent bonus for delivering twins. ...*(Interruptions)* The Bill also requires the commissioning couples to approach registered ART banks and not private IVF clinics as is currently the case. ...*(Interruptions)* One problem, however, is the lack of hard data about the sector. Surrogacy has always been a debatable topic. Countries such as Germany, France and Italy have banned it, whereas United Kingdom, Canada, China etc. allow certain forms of surrogacy. ...*(Interruptions)* In India, this surrogacy Bill is a cause for concern in many ways. While the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare did not touch upon the controversial issue of the dissolving homosexual couples or single parents from availing surrogate services to which my previous speaker referred to, it has come down hard on the exclusion of divorced or widowed women and live-in couples. ... *(Interruptions)* The Committee has said surrogacy is one of the least used options by childless Indians. If these categories are to be banned, then why have surrogacy at all? ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, it has recommended to broad-base the eligibility criteria and widen the ambit of persons who can avail surrogacy services by including live-in couples, divorced women and widows also. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Minister why the Government has not accepted the view of the Standing Committee.

Now I come to the four key issues which need consideration of this House and of the Government. The first is the definition of infertility. It is restricted to failure to conceive. ...*(Interruptions)* That is how the Bill determines it. Under clause 2(p), clause 4 sub-clause (iii) (a) (i), "infertility

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

is a condition that has to be proven by an intending couple in order to be eligible to commission a surrogacy procedure. ...(*Interruptions*) The Bill defines infertility as “inability to conceive after five years of unprotected coitus or other medical condition preventing a couple from conception”. This definition does not cover all cases in which a couple is unable to bear a child.

In countries like the Netherlands, South Africa and Greece, altruistic surrogacy is very much permitted. There are certain other gaps also, which I am sure the Government is aware about. ...(*Interruptions*)

This Bill specifies various eligibility conditions for couples intending to undertake surrogacy under section 4 (iii) (c); under section 48 (a) additional eligibility criteria are to be specified through regulations. Why should we have this excessive delegation of legislative powers? ... (*Interruptions*) It should be specified in the parent law. It cannot be delegated to regulation. ...(*Interruptions*)

In order to initiate a surrogacy procedure, the surrogate mother and the intending couple are required to obtain certificates of eligibility and essentiality upon fulfilling various conditions. However, the Bill does not specify a time limit by which the authority will grant these certificates. ...(*Interruptions*) The Bill does not specify a review or appeal procedure in case the surrogacy applications are rejected. I would like to remind this House that other laws such as those on Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 and the adoption-related provisions of the Juvenile Care and Protection Act, 2015 have prescribed time periods within which applications should be processed and they have also provided procedures for review and appeal in case applications are rejected. ...(*Interruptions*)

The Bill states that the surrogate mother has to be a close relative of the intending couple who commission the surrogacy. The Bill does not specify who would be a close relative. ...(*Interruptions*) The Standing Committee has addressed this issue very minutely and it requires reconsideration by the Government. The Standing Committee has observed that surrogacy by close relatives would always be out of compulsion and coercion, not because of altruism. Such an arrangement within the family may first create deeper psychological and emotional impact

on the surrogate child; secondly, parental custody issues would also arise; and thirdly, inheritance and property disputes may also arise. ...(*Interruptions*) The Committee had recommended the criterion of being a close relative to be removed and to allow both related and unrelated women to become surrogates.

Another important point here is, whether power is a tool or the objective of coercion. ...(*Interruptions*) Is it power that creates knowledge or knowledge that creates power? If there is no certain truth, how does the power-knowledge nexus operate in creating the world that thrives on activity and information that have been internalised generations after generations until they become norms and moral dictums of the society? ...(*Interruptions*) These questions arguably apply the most in parenting. The obligation to bear children is so deeply nurtured in any social structure that distancing oneself from it is a stigma. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, I would say, our scriptures have sanctified surrogacy of many forms. Regulate it, but do not commercialise it. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Madam Speaker, Hon'ble Modi's Government along with Shri Naddaji has brought an historical Bill today in the House. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab was saying that for discussion on this Bill only two hours time has been allotted. ...(*Interruptions*). If Congress friends had cooperated, then there could have been a long discussion on this, but the Congressmen are afraid as they, who are repeatedly discussing on Rafale. The Congress is so much involved in corruption that it is not ready to discuss any topic, while Bharatiya Janata Party wants to discuss any issue. ...(*interruptions*). In 1948, it started with the Jeep scandal, then currency scandal and Bofors scandal. As regards JPC., I would like to say that JPC was constituted in Bofors case and it became clear that Rajiv Gandhi ji had*

In the same way, the Supreme Court's judgment came in 2G case, in which it was stated ...* even in that case, JPC was constituted. I have to say that there should be a debate on every matter. If they are ready for a debate, then the Bharatiya Janata Party is also ready for it ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

As far as this Bill is concerned, Hon'ble Shri Naddaji has said that the surrogacy industry is worth rupees two billion and 80 per cent surrogacy is becoming commercial, due to which image of India is declining in the International Forum. Therefore, Honorable Shri Naddaji has brought this Bill as a Minister in the Govt of Honorable Modiji. Shri Naddaji has said two or three things. I highly respect Kakoli Dastidarji and Mahtab ji ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Naddaji said that, the Government of India has brought this Bill on the basis of Indian civilization and culture. If something has been said in the Standing Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* Please tell us, who is living with whom in the live in relationship, it is not registered anywhere, anybody can live with anyone. If you relate it to surrogacy, if you include this with it, will you not exploitation it commercially? It has become a very big reason internationally. ...*(Interruptions)*

Even the Supreme Court's Judgment came in 377. It said then that we are not going to marry right now. It was discussed here that if two adult couple get married then they can become surrogate. What we can do under Indian civilization and culture, on the basis of that we have brought this Bill. The judgment of the Supreme Court of 2008 was quoted. You can see how big an issue is there in Supreme Court's Judgment where a surrogate child went to Japan ...*(Interruptions)* but the law of Japan is not ready to give him citizenship. His parents are from Japan and the law of Japan says that he will not be given citizenship. If such a situation comes, what will the Indian Government do? In the same way, I want to tell about Australia. ...*(Interruptions)* Australian couple came here, two children were born to them, out of two children they took one child with them and left a child here. Now the problem is who is the mother of that child, who is the father, who will feed him? India has faced such kind of problems, therefore, this Bill was brought in India. ...*(Interruptions)*

Let me tell you once again that Congress raises voice every time. ...*(Interruptions)* Our Government is very much concerned about the women, the villages, the poor, the backwards, the Dalits and the tribals. ...*(Interruptions)* The report of the Law Commission came in the year 2009. This Bill came on October 5, 2005. The Law Commission has recommended that a Bill should be brought on surrogacy. There was Congress Government from 2009 to 2014, it did not control it. ...*(Interruptions)* We brought something

in this regard in 2015 so that we could control it to some extent. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, now I would like to discuss this Bill, something has been said about infertility. ...*(Interruptions)* In the case of infertility, he/she should be an Indian Citizen. If we talk about NRI, there are many cases where people come here and get married and return to their country or they get married second time. So, we have mentioned about Indian Citizens in this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* When we talk about the clinic, we are not talking about Government clinics only, we are talking about licensing the private clinics. In five years it becomes clear that whether a child will born or will not born. If you do not have a child, you see that even today, there is a trend in the society that women who do not have a son, daughter or any child they need respect, protection and security. The time of five years is very much to decide whether this male is capable or not or whether the female is capable or not to have their own child. ...*(Interruptions)* We, therefore, speak of five years' time. Suppose a girl is born, many people think that they should have a boy, they feel that they will not have a boy. Suppose a boy is born then many people think that they should have a girl. The way Kakoli ji has said there should not be fashion surrogacy. So he has said that a person should not have a child of his own. There is a definition in this regard and age limit is also mentioned. Suppose, certain age for men is 26 to 55 years. ...*(Interruptions)* This age is 23 to 50 years for women. ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that this Government has done a lot of work from time to time. I want to tell you that in its clause 3, it is not mentioned about the commencement of it. You should understand about the close relationship, there are two things in it. This is a big question as to what will be the close relationship? ...*(Interruptions)* So far as the Act of 1984 is concerned, suppose if someone has to do transplant, in this case, the son, daughter or wife is considered as a close relative. In the same way, we have passed the Company Bill and there is a separate definition of relative in it. ...*(Interruptions)* But, these are different things and you have kept it free. I urge you to reply as to how these things will be corrected in a close relationship. It would be better if you answer it. ...*(Interruptions)*

After this, we leave formulated Regulation of Surrogacy and Surrogacy Procedures. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Nishikant Dubey]

We have provided for District Medical Board Clause-4. Arrangements have been made as to which districts will be the members of the Medical Board. Which will be the surrogacy clinic, we have made arrangement in this regard. Who will be its members at national level, who will be its members at State level, because it is not the time to give speeches. The Government of India has brought a good and historic Bill after a lot of deliberation. ...*(Interruptions)*. Hon'ble Modi ji's idea is about women, the poor, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas', eradication of Congress party's corruption. I urge the House that the Bill be passed. With these words Jai Hind, Jai Bharat..

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (Baramati): Madam, I stand on behalf of my Party to make a short speech because it is a very important speech. I wish we had more time. But, I would, on behalf of all my colleagues, request that you give them a hearing. If the JPC is formed, maybe we can have a better debate here. I would request my colleagues to hear what they are saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing such an important social issue. It is because surrogacy is not just about the morals, as the earlier hon. Member was speaking, it is about parenthood. Nobody can justify what the yardstick of a parenthood is. There are just a few short points that I would like to ask. ...*(Interruptions)*

The hon. Minister has said that there is a five-year clause. Sir, fertility does not take five years to be justified. So, why five years? There could be couples who scientifically can prove that they are infertile. So, I really do not feel the scientific reason of a five-year clause. So, I would request the hon. Minister to re-think the five-year clause. ...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly, there could be very fertile couples who do not have children. History and data show it, if you look at the National Survey of India. As a matter of fact, Mahtab Ji had a question in the year 2014 in this 16th Lok Sabha where the reply was that 8.2 per cent women have fertility issues, which is a substantial number. ...*(Interruptions)* So, in this case, there could be no evidence of fertility. But, there could be men and women, who are both fertile, but

do not manage to have children. So, sometimes, it even challenges science. Suppose a couple is married for several years and cannot have a child. But, they are still fertile and do not produce. So, why should they be left out of this, if they are deserving couples? So, I request the hon. Minister to reconsider as to why this should be. There are cases and data has shown it. So, these are two Clauses I will like you to re-look at. ...*(Interruptions)*

A lot has been said technically about 'close relative' by Dr. Kakoli. That is something he needs to clarify. I request him to do that. ...*(Interruptions)*

Another issue is about 'single parent'. There are so many single parents in the Adoption Bill. You allow single woman and man to adopt children. So, if you can adopt a child, why can you not have a surrogate child? There are categories like widow, single, divorcee or transgender. ...*(Interruptions)* After passing such a historic Bill just day before yesterday, I see no reason why it has to have a condition of being married. Can a single parent not have children? There are generations where people have had that. So, I do not think we should do that. We must insist that they get it.

Out of 42 recommendations made, only 11 have been taken up by this. So, you could take all 42 recommendations or give a clarification for not taking up. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Lastly, there is a certificate required. Now what will be the time-bound manner for us to get certificate because the application is made but there is no methodology spelt out? So will that be done? If so, how soon will that be done? In this country, if there are one lakh women, 136 women die also in pregnancy. So, it is a very sensitive issue and with the noise, I would like to express it but at least given the circumstances, I would like to make a small intervention. It is a very good Bill and we support it. ...*(Interruptions)*. But it is not modern enough. I would submit that a child is something which is an emotional thing. Let us not get caught only into the rights and wrongs of the Bill. Every human being deserves the child. It is the ultimate that any parent can have. Madam, fortunately, you and I have had that blessing. So let us make sure that every couple deserves a child and let us give them a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*. Let us not get into just the illegality. Let us see that it is a fair and a good legislation which will help all parents who are looking for this happiness. ...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD (Bhongir): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I also congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*).

Madam, in the Hindu mythology, Lord Balrama was born through surrogacy where the Devki's pregnancy was transferred to Rohini by Maya. We have had umpteen instances of surrogacy in Mahabharata and other mythologies. ...(*Interruptions*).

Now we are caught between science and the common sense. The science gives opportunity to the childless couples to have a child through surrogacy as they are infertile because of various reasons. We have to give this facility of motherhood to the infertile couple. There is no doubt about it. ...(*Interruptions*).

Madam, the whole problem about this Bill is that it has been brought in because of the commercial nature of surrogacy. If we have to take into consideration the commercial nature of surrogacy, what is happening now? As has been pointed out by the speaker who just now spoke, there is a five year clause. ...(*Interruptions*). As a doctor I can say that we do not have to wait for five years in all the cases. There are certain medical conditions like lack of ovaries, lack of wombs, lack of sperms, azoospermia in the male, etc. In such cases, they are infertile outrightly. You do not have to wait for five years. Suppose we fall from 10th floor of a building. We do not have to wait to know what will happen because either we would get injured or else we would die. ...(*Interruptions*). Similarly, in the infertile couple who are suffering from azoospermia, we do not have to wait for five years. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister to re-consider it. If there is no chance of a couple getting fertile, they have to go for surrogacy. ... (*Interruptions*).

The second question is regarding the commercial use and illegality. Now what is commercial use? We have three people in this whole scenario. One is the intending couple. The second is the surrogate mother and the third is the doctor and the centre which would give the scientific service. Now the definition of 'close relative' is not given anywhere. ...(*Interruptions*). The surrogate mother can be a close relative or a cousin or she may not be a close relative. Suppose an authority gives them a certificate that they are close relatives but the surrogate mother takes

money for extending the services of surrogacy. Then, who will be punished? Is the surrogate mother going to be punished or would the doctors who are going to give service be punished or is the intending couple going to be punished? This point has not been made in this Bill. If the surrogate mother takes the money even if she is a close relative, do you mean to say that that close relative is going to be punished? ...(*Interruptions*). If the doctor does not know what is the commercial agreement between the close relative and the intending couple, is the doctor going to be punished? I think though the intention is good, the content can be misused. Whenever we bring more authorities into the system, the chances of misuse are more. ...(*Interruptions*).

My request would be this. ...(*Interruptions*) As there is so much of pandemonium going on in the House, I would like to State that better late than never, while framing the rules and the guidelines if the hon. Minister can correct all these things, it would be better because the people who extend the services should not be punished unnecessarily. ...(*Interruptions*) Otherwise, I can challenge that no one in this country will ever attempt to extend the services of the surrogacy. Before we take a challenge; before we put a legislation, we have to take care of three parties involved in the entire gamut of the surrogacy-the surrogate mother, the intending couple and the service provider. ...(*Interruptions*) These three people should be safeguarded. I hope, the Minister will take precautions while framing the guidelines. Thank you very much.

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (Patiala): First of all, I stand here to congratulate the hon. Minister of Health, Shri J.P. Naddaji for putting forward and bringing out this most advanced Bill on surrogacy. Surrogacy is a big problem in India. ...(*Interruptions*) Infertility has grown manifold during the last ten to fifteen years and the infertility centres have cropped up and sprangled up like anything as much as to the tune of 6000, all over the country and are exploiting the issueless couples to a big extent. ...(*Interruptions*) This Bill was mandatory to regulate the surrogacy rules; surrogacy problems in our country.

I have few suggestions to make. First of all, it is not in the interest of the intending parents or the infertile parents. It is in the interest of the surrogate mother which is also to be looked at equally by this law.

[Shri Dharam Vira Gandhi]

Secondly, I fully agree with my earlier speaker that the age for decision to have a child through surrogacy should not be decided by years. It can be decided within a very short period of time, for example, in the case of congenital absence of ovaries and total azoospermia. ... (*Interruptions*) These are the conditions for which the patient can be taken up for a surrogate child even after one year or so, if the couple desire so.

Thirdly, I firmly believe that only Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), who are passport holders should be allowed to avail the facility of surrogacy in India. The Foreign Passport Holders or the Foreign Nationals should not be allowed to avail the surrogacy provisions or the surrogacy facilities in our country. ... (*Interruptions*) So, I once again congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing out this very-very important and advanced Bill to this country. I stand and support this Bill fully and wholeheartedly. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde-
Not Present.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Madam Speaker, you have given me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill, I would like to thank you for this. ... (*Interruptions*)

The Government is constituting the National Surrogacy Board and the State Surrogacy Board by making provision of correct procedure and regulation regarding surrogate mother. This is a very commendable step. ... (*Interruptions*) It is no longer a matter of cheating the surrogacy mother and leaving her after the work is over. Now commercial surrogacy is also starting. ... (*Interruptions*). It is being legalized. There is a need to pay a little attention, because it is seen that in the initial period, that woman is highly valued and she is taken care of, but after the work is over she is left on her condition. There are restrictions on surrogacy in many developed countries also. ... (*Interruptions*)

So, this point has to be kept in mind. The Government will have to ensure that there is no incidents of unethical behaviour and exploitation of surrogate mothers and abandonment of children through surrogacy after work is over. ... (*Interruptions*). It is expected that after the enforcement of this law, there will be control over unethical

behavior with surrogate mothers in their rental services in the country. ... (*Interruptions*)

The incidents of commercial surrogacy will stop. The children born in surrogacy will not be exploited. At the same time, the disadvantaged couple will be able to enjoy the happiness of becoming parents.

With these words I conclude while supporting this Bill. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (Banka): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Surrogacy Bill, 2016. There is a slogan of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padahao" in the country, but today the identity of daughter is in danger. They are being raped and Muzaffarpur in Bihar is a living example of this. ... (*Interruptions*) Today, the woman is being insulted in the country and the Government has failed to save her. As far as this Bill is concerned, a big fraud and business of earning wealth has been committed in the name of surrogacy in our Indian civilization, Indian values, and Indian culture. ... (*Interruptions*). This has been made a business. The law is being made, but it should be kept in mind that it is not misused. We believe that a law is made to do good work, but as it was said that good days will come, but good days have not come, bad days have come. Rs. 15 lakhs will come, but have not come. Two crore young people were promised jobs, but they were told to open shops of 'pakodas'. ... (*Interruptions*) Good Bills have been introduced in the country just for showing off. But as regard the surrogacy Bill that has come today, I have to say that there should be good use of it and the law should be implemented well and it should not be considered as a fraud or business. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kollam): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. ... (*Interruptions*) The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016 is a very comprehensive Bill which is prohibiting the commercial surrogacy as well as legalising surrogacy. ... (*Interruptions*) That is the significant feature of this Bill. This Bill is also preventing the unethical practices which are being followed in the country in the field of surrogacy. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to highlight a point regarding the children born out of the surrogated mother. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sufficient care and protection should be provided to the children who are born out of the surrogated mother because after their birth, most probably there is a chance of discrimination. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam, another important fact which I would like to point out to the hon. Minister is—most of the hon. Members have already spoken about it—regarding the distinction between commercial surrogacy and ethical surrogacy. ... (*Interruptions*) This has not been well explained in this Bill. It has to be made very clear. That is the only one deficiency or lacuna which is found in this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*) So, the commercial surrogacy as well as the ethical surrogacy, as it has been rightly stated in the aims and objects of the Bill, the word itself is very clear. ...(*Interruptions*) So, that has to be distinct. Otherwise, it will be creating problems.

As rightly pointed out by Shrimati Supriya Sule, the fertile couples can have children even five years after their marriage. Some persons want to maintain their beauty and so they want to avoid child birth. ...(*Interruptions*) In this way, this can be misused. On this point also, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

These are the points which I wanted to make. With these words, I support the Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, 9 members have expressed their views on this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*) I had initially said that today is a historic day, when a historical Bill is being discussed. ...(*Interruptions*). It is a historical occasion that despite so much interruptions there has been a quality debate. I would like to congratulate all of you for this quality debate. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I really appreciate all the hon. Members who have positively participated in this debate. ...(*Interruptions*) The quality debate which has taken place and the issues which they have raised shows really the concern of the Members of Parliament as to how we are concerned about protecting the dignity and interests of women, protecting the children and also see that they are not exploited and at the same time ensure that they are given the best type of treatment from the point of view of medical science. ...(*Interruptions*)

The issues which have been raised about their health and their concerns are well taken.

15.00 hrs

First of all, I would like to appreciate the quality of debate which has taken place in this Parliament in so much of noise and hue and cry. But this debate has taken place and I really thank all of you. The issue for which this Bill has come is first of all to see to it that commercial surrogacy does not take place.

[*Translation*]

We totally reject commercial surrogacy. This is also the report of the Law Commission and understanding of the Supreme Court. [*ENGLISH*] All sections of the society, all NGOs and all civil societies have said that commercial surrogacy should go, But at the same time, the intention is to save the family [*TRANSLATION*] and if no child is born in the family, then how can we regulate it so that by this the modern science facility they could have their own baby. It is keeping this in view that this Bill has been brought. Family means, a registered, declared Husband and wife and after all their efforts. [*ENGLISH*] conception is not taking place and this is proved that the conception is not taking place, [*TRANSLATION*] For this purpose, it has been tried to regulate through this Bill. All the members have said that an attempt has been made to regulate the un-regulated area for the first time. We want to move further. From this view point we want to present this Bill.

As far as the questions you have raised on some issues, I would like to say that as many as 23 amendments are going to be made in it from which many things are going to become clear. I would like to explain them to you.

As far as the ART Bill is concerned, why ART Bill was not brought with it? All the suggestions regarding the ART Bill have been received. They are under consideration. [*ENGLISH*] But at the same time, the Law Commission and the Supreme Court were clear that the surrogacy bill should come as soon as possible. [*TRANSLATION*] So we have to segregate this Bill it and the ART Bill. [*ENGLISH*] But that is also very much under consideration. We have received all inputs from all organizations and we are working on it. This is what I have to say and [*TRANSLATION*] we have brought the Surrogacy Bill.

[English]

The second issue was about the embryo. We have said "56 days", but Madam Kakoli said that it could be saved for years together. In the same way, about the foetus, we have mentioned 57 days, but she said it could be saved for a much longer time. This will be deliberated while framing the rules and regulations and we are open to that. So, this is how I would like to comment on this issue.

The issue related to Section 377, [TRANSLATION] on that issue, I want to say that this regulation and this facility will be given to the Defined Families. [ENGLISH] Section 377 only withdraws the criminalization of the same sex living together, but people in live-in relationship, or a single parent-they do constitute the family So, keeping that factor in view, [TRANSLATION] we are trying to give this facility only to those who are the defined families.

[English]

With regard to the query on the foetus and embryologist, as I told you that it would come under the rules and regulations and we would take care of it accordingly.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: There are many families where either the mother or father or the parents have died. So, I humbly request you not to say that a family should be complete or it should be husband and wife.

I would humbly request you, Sir. It is not fair to say that a single parent is not a family. If you do not mind, please clarify it because it is going on the records of the Parliament. It is my humble request.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Supriya Suleji, I respect your sentiments. But at this point of time, we are talking about the family. There are other methods also of adoption and other ways where a person, a single family can have a child. So, that would be taken care of.

Madam, the third point was about the NRIs. At present, NRIs are included in the Bill. It is only the foreigners, who are not included. But NRIs are included in the Bill. That is what I would like to say about it. ... (Interruptions)

On the issue relating to the certificate of infertility, the certificate is to be given within 90 days. Here, the number

of days have been specified. So, the certificate will be given within 90 days. ... (Interruptions)

In the same way, the appeal against the decision of not allowing surrogacy will be decided within 30 days. They can appeal within 30 days; and they will be heard and given the opportunity. So, accordingly, it would be decided. ... (Interruptions)

There was one big issue about the close relatives. This also will be decided in the rules and regulations. Accordingly, we would have discussions. So, this issue will also be taken care of and we will move forward. ... (Interruptions)

Shri N.K. Pramachandranji asked about altruistic surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy is a surrogacy where there is no commercial consideration. So, I have tried to address his point. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Madam, the hon. Minister has said that a lot of changes would come forth in the regulations.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Mahtabji, there would be no changes. The issues raised by you will be taken care of in the rules and regulations.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: This is one of my points that you are delegating a lot of law-making provisions to the regulators. That should not happen. That should be rather part of the Bill and the part of the law. It would be easier. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: I totally agree with you. But for the first time, it is being regulated. We will take care accordingly. ... (Interruptions)

So, with these words, Madam Speaker, I would request that this House should consider this historic Bill and pass it unanimously. Thank you. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to constitute National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards and appointment of appropriate authorities for regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration "

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The House will, now, take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Definitions

Amendments made:

'Page 1, for lines 10 to 14, substitute—

'(a) "abandoned child" means a child born out of surrogacy procedure, deserted by his intending parents or guardians and who has been declared as abandoned by the appropriate authority after due enquiry;'. (3)

Page 2, line 32, for '(n) "human embryologist", substitute '(n) "embryologist". (4)

Page 3, after line 12, insert—

'(ya) "sex selection" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (o) of section 2 of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994;'. (5)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Prohibition and regulation of surrogacy clinics

Amendments made:

'Page 3, line 40, omit "human". (6)

Page 3, line 46, omit "human". (7)

Page 4, line 5, omit "human". (8)

Page 4, line 18, omit "human". (9)

Page 4, line 26, omit "human". (10)

Page 4, after line 30, insert—

"(viii) no surrogacy clinic, registered medical practitioner, gynaecologist, paediatrician, embryologist, intending couple or any other person shall be involved in any form of sex selection for surrogacy." (11)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 Regulation of surrogacy and surrogacy procedure

Amendments made:

'Page 5, line 21, after "surrogate mother", insert "for a period of sixteen months covering postpartum delivery complications." (12)

Page 5, for lines 34 to 36, substitute—

"(IIA) no woman shall act as a surrogate mother by providing her own gametes."

"(III) no woman shall act as a surrogate mother more than once in her life time:" (13)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 Written informed consent of surrogate mother

Amendment made:

Page 6, after line 11, insert—

"(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the surrogate mother shall have an option

to withdraw the practice of surrogacy before the implantation of embryo in her womb.” (14)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 and 8 were added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 Prohibition of Abortion

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kollam): Madam, I beg to move:

Page 6, line 21,-

after “surrogacy clinic,”
insert “hospital,”. (24)

Page 6, lines 22 and 23,-

for “except in such conditions”
substitute “except when the pregnancy is dangerous to the life of surrogate mother, with due certification to the effect from District Medical Board,”. (25)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 24 and 25 to clause 9 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clauses 9 to 13 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 9 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Clause 14 Constitution of National Surrogacy Board

Amendment made:

Page 8, line 5, *omit* “human”. (15)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving amendment nos. 26 to 28 to clause 14?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Yes, Madam, I beg to move:

Page 8, line 5,-
after “human embryologists”

insert “working in the Medical Educational Service or Health Service under the Central Government or a State Government”. (26)

Page 8, line 7,-
after “prasuti-tantra”

insert “working in the Medical Educational Service or Health Service under the Central Government or a State Government”. (27)

Page 8, line 8,-
after “social scientists”

insert “working under the Central Government or a State Government”.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 26 to 28 to clause 14 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 16 Meetings of Board

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, I beg to move:

Page 8, line 41,-
for “six months”

substitute “four months”. (29)

Page 8, line 46,-
after “shall be decided”

insert", after obtaining written opinion from the experts and after giving due consideration to the reports,". (30)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 29 and 30 to clause 16 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 18 Disqualification for appointment as Member

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I beg to move:

Page 9, line 21,-

after "a practicing member or"

insert "directly or indirectly connected to the functioning of a surrogacy clinic or in an organization directly or indirectly connected with a surrogacy clinic or". (31)

Page 9, line 24,-

after "or representing"

insert "or relating to". (32)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 31 and 32 to clause 18 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 18 to 23 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 18 to 23 were added to the Bill.

Clause 24 Composition of State Board

Amendment made:

Page 10, line 40, *omit* "human". (16)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving amendment nos. 33 to 36 to clause 24?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Yes, Madam, I beg to move:

Page 10, line 33,-

after "nominees"

insert "not below the rank of Joint Secretaries". (33)

Page 10, line 40,-

after "human embryologists"

insert "working in the Medical Educational Service or Health Service under the Central Government or a State Government". (34)

Page 10, line 42,-

after "prasuti-tantra"

insert "working in the Medical Educational Service or Health Service under the Central Government or a State Government". (35)

Page 10, line 43,-

after "eminent social scientists"

insert "working in the State Government service". (36)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 33 to 36 to clause 24 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 25 was added to the Bill.

Clause 26 Meetings of State Board

HON. SPEAKER: Premachandran ji, are you moving your amendment no. 37 to clause 26?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, I am not moving my amendment.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clauses 26 to 31 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 26 to 31 were added to the Bill.

Clause 32 Appointment of appropriate authority

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I beg to move:

Page 12, line 44,--

after “Family Welfare Department”

insert “or Medical Education Department”. (38)

Page 13, line 3,--

after “medical practitioner”

insert “in Medical Education Service or Health

Service of the State Government”. (39)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 38 and 39 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to clause 32 to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 32 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32 was added to the Bill.

Clause 33 Functions of appropriate authority

Amendment made:

Page 13, line 25, after “clause (iii) of section 4”, insert

“within a period of ninety days”. (17)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 33, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 34 Powers of appropriate authority

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I beg to move:

Page 13, line 28,--

after “summoning of”

insert “any person required for proper

adjudication of the complaint or”. (40)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment no. 40 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to clause 34 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 34 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 34 was added to the Bill.

Clause 35 Prohibition of commercial surrogacy, exploitation of surrogate mothers and children both through surrogacy

Amendment made:

Page 14, for lines 12 to 16, substitute--

“embryo or human gametes for surrogacy or for surrogacy procedure”; and

(g) conduct sex selection in any form for surrogacy.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Penal Code, contraventions of the provisions of clauses (a) to (g) of sub-section (1) by any person shall be an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years and with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees.” (18)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 35, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 35, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 36 Punishment for contravention of provisions of Act

Amendments made:

Page 14, line 22, *omit* "human". (19)

Page 14, lines 27 and 28, for "which shall not be less than five years", *substitute* "which may extend to five years". (20)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 36, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 36, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 37 Punishment for initiation of commercial surrogacy

Amendments made:

Page 14, line 34, *omit* "human". (21)

Page 14, line 37, for "which shall not be less than five years", *substitute* "which may extend to five years". (22)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 37, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 37, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 38 Penalty for contravention of provisions of Act or Rules for which no specific punishment is provided

Amendment made:

Page 14, line 42, for "which shall not be less than three years", *substitute* "which may extend to three years". (23)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 39 to 51 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short title extent and commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 5, for "2016", *substitute* "2018". (2)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

"Page 1, line 1, for "Sixty-seventh", *substitute* "Sixty-ninth". (1)

(Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed”.

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

15.20 hrs

CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL, 2018

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has requested me that the item number 19, which is very important for consumers, should be taken first for which I have given permission.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I want Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to start it.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Madam Speaker, I beg to move*

"That Bill to provide for the protection of the interests of consumers and for the said purpose, to establish authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of consumers' disputes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Madam Speaker, we have brought this Bill, in place of the Bill of 1986. This Bill is very important. This new Bill has been brought after 87-88 years. You know that today the country's population is more than 125 crores and all of them are consumers. ...(Interruptions) all these are the consumers of the ...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please wait a minute.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister may continue tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am again and again requesting all of you.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Give me one minute.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Your AIADMK problem of Cauvery cannot be solved here. I cannot solve it here.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You have to discuss it. I will allow a discussion. I am not saying 'no' for discussion. But only after discussing, we can solve it. Like this, if you want to solve the problem, this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: That means, the message goes that you do not want to solve the problem. The message goes that you do not want the Cauvery issue to be solved.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: So, please, I am again and again requesting you. Do not do that. That is why, I am saying, you go to your seat and let us have discussion. Otherwise I cannot do that. You cannot solve it. You cannot get solution. You cannot get solution like this. I am again requesting you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: We will take it tomorrow as the first item.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: We will take it tomorrow as the first item.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: So, the House stands adjourned to meet again on Thursday, the 20th December, 2018 at 11 a.m.

15.24 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 20, 2018/Agrahayana 29, 1940 (Saka).

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

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