# LOK SABHA DEBATES
## (English Version)

**Fourteenth Session**
**(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**

*(Vol. XXIX contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

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

# CONTENTS

*Sixteenth Series, Vol. XXIX, Fourteenth Session, 2018/1939 (Saka)*

**No. 10, Wednesday, March 7, 2018/Phalguna 16, 1939 (Saka)**

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Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER
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SECRETARY GENERAL
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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[HON. Speaker *in the Chair*]

*...(Interruptions)*

*(At this stage, Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri Jayadev Galla, Shri Y.V. Subha Reddy, Shrimati V. Sathyabama and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

*...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 161, Hon. Member, Adv. Narendra Keshav Sawaikar.

*...(Interruptions)*

**11.01 hrs.**

## ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[English]

Hon'ble Speaker: Q. No. 161

### Tower Footprint

*161. ADV NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has expanded its tower footprint in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Goa;

(c) whether all the existing towers are not functional and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make all the towers functional and provide better services to its customers?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House. Statement (a) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has expanded its mobile network throughout the country, including Goa (except Delhi and Mumbai). As on 31.01.2018, BSNL has 66,857 towers which includes 216 towers in Goa. To further improve its network BSNL has finalised Phase-VIII.4 GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) expansion project consisting of:

- Replacement of old equipment having high operational cost & AMC,
- Addition of 3G capacity for increasing 3G footprint,
- Introduction of 4G services.

BSNL is also hiring towers from other infrastructure providers to provide better services to its customers. The circle-wise details of BSNL towers is at Annexure-I. As on 31.01.2018, BSNL uses 17,562 such hired towers across the country. The circlewise details of mobile towers added by BSNL by hiring towers from other infrastructure providers is at Annexure-II.

Out of total 66,857 towers of BSNL, as on date 585 towers are non functional due to non-availability of equipment, land issues and non-availability of the State Electricity Board power suply. Operation and maintenance of towers is an ongoing activity in BSNL. BSNL will make these non-functional towers functional during the next financial year based on assessment of techno commercial viability.

### *Annexure-I*

*Circle-wise details of BSNL Towers*

| Sl.No. | Name of Circles/ State | Mobile Towers as on 31.01.2018 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | 160 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 3437 |
| 3. | Assam | 1364 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Bihar | 1908 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 1638 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 4594 |
| 7. | Goa | 216 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 977 |
| 9. | Haryana | 1557 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1043 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 1404 |
| 12. | Kerala | 4081 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 4113 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 5681 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 4629 |
| 16. | North East-I | 635 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 17. | North East-II | 676 |
| 18. | Odisha | 2471 |
| 19. | Punjab | 2325 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 4000 |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu | 4821 |
| 22. | Telengana | 2386 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 4759 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 2291 |
| 25. | Uttarakhand | 1041 |
| 26. | West Bengal | 2258 |
| 27. | Kolkata TD | 869 |
| 28. | Chennai TD | 1523 |
| | Total | 66857 |

### *Annexure-II*

*Circle wise details of Towers leased-in (Hired) by BSNL from other Infrastructure Provider*

| Serial | Name of Circle | Number of Towers Hired as on 31-Mar-2017 | Number of Towers Hired as on 31-Jan-2018 | Number of Towers added from 01-Apr-2017 to 31-Jan-2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 1663 | 1682 | 19 |
| 3. | Assam | 149 | 259 | 110 |
| 4. | Bihar | 855 | 855 | 0 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 95 | 95 | 0 |
| 6. | Chennai TD | 531 | 558 | 27 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 390 | 393 | 3 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 248 | 256 | 8 |
| 9. | Haryana | 654 | 692 | 38 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 240 | 253 | 13 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | Jharkhand | 248 | 262 | 14 |
| 12. | Kerala | 1392 | 1453 | 61 |
| 13. | Kolkata TD | 274 | 274 | 0 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 1649 | 1679 | 30 |
| 15. | Maharashtra* | 1526 | 1625 | 99 |
| 16. | Madhya  Pradesh | 208 | 213 | 5 |
| 17. | North East–I | 120 | 247 | 127 |
| 18. | North East–II | 80 | 97 | 17 |
| 19. | Odisha | 1045 | 1122 | 77 |
| 20. | Punjab | 1218 | 1236 | 18 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 731 | 737 | 6 |
| 22. | Tamil  Nadu | 997 | 1008 | 11 |
| 23. | Uttarakhand | 115 | 176 | 61 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 1282 | 1282 | 0 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 782 | 796 | 14 |
| 26. | West  Bengal | 306 | 312 | 6 |
| | Total | 16798 | 17562 | 764 |

*Maharashtra Circle also includes State of Goa.

## WRITTEN  ANSWERS  TO  QUESTIONS

[English]

### Littering  at  Railway  Premises

*162.  SHRI  BHARTRUHARI  MAHTAB:
       SHRI  RAHUL  SHEWALE:

Will  the  Minister  of  RAILWAYS  be  pleased  to  state:

(a)  whether  the  number  of  persons  penalized/fine collected  from  them  for  littering  at  Railway  premises  has been  much  higher  in  Northern  Railway  Zone  than  other Zones  of  Railways  during  each  of  the  last  three  years and  the  current  year;

(b)  if  so,  the  details  thereof  along  with  the  number of  persons  penalized  and  fine  collected  from  them  during the  said  period.  Zone-wise;

(c)  the  cases  of  violation  of  the  instructions/directions issued  by  the  Government  for  use  of  eco-friendly  and bio-degradable  packaging  material  for  supply  of  food and  other  items  in  Railway  premises  which  have  come to  the  notice  of  the  Government  during  the  said  period along  with  the  action  taken  thereon;

(d)  whether  the  National  Green  Tribunal  (NGT) has  shown  concern  over  failure  of  Railways  in controlling  littering  on  tracks;  and

(e)    if  so,  the  details  thereof  and  the  steps  taken by  the  Government  in  this  direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The total number of persons penalized and amount collected as penalty for littering at railway premises during the last three years (financial year) and current financial year (upto January 2018), zonewise are as under:

| Year | 2014-2015 (April 2014 to March 2015) | | 2015-2016 (April 2015 to March 2016) | | 2016-2017 (April 2016 to March 2017) | | 2017-2018 (April 2017 to January 2018) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Railways | No. of persons penalized | Amount (in Rs.) | No. of persons penalized | Amount (in Rs.) | No. of persons penalized | Amount (in Rs.) | No. of persons penalized | Amount (in Rs.) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Central | 28,239 | 33,39,570 | 18,191 | 30,84,795 | 52,101 | 70,04,775 | 43,716 | 55,61,215 |
| Eastern | 35,327 | 37,28,802 | 52,587 | 53,90,550 | 47,314 | 43,48,370 | 43,839 | 44,73,900 |
| East Central | 13,255 | 24,39,350 | 12,234 | 21,87,900 | 16,134 | 29,85,720 | 8,871 | 15,83,800 |
| East Coast | 25,493 | 20,97,430 | 21,669 | 18,89,320 | 13,937 | 12,66,587 | 8,653 | 8,00,380 |
| Northern | 44,185 | 47,14,980 | 93,803 | 98,08,499 | 97,075 | 98,32,756 | 63,911 | 78,01,932 |
| North Central | 13,727 | 17,64,185 | 52,660 | 62,94,575 | 1,20,785 | 1,26,76,155 | 51,330 | 62,48,020 |
| North Eastern | 5,479 | 7,84,200 | 8,587 | 14,24,722 | 18,572 | 24,12,835 | 12,353 | 14,50,910 |
| Northeast Frontier | 12,120 | 12,93,563 | 9,927 | 11,85,237 | 9,016 | 9,43,590 | 6,110 | 7,42,854 |
| North Western | 38,040 | 38,33,777 | 42,317 | 45,91,235 | 43,542 | 50,08,816 | 34,040 | 38,63,417 |
| Southern | 4,704 | 9,75,600 | 3,049 | 6,20,100 | 1,403 | 2,85,000 | 771 | 2,00,530 |
| South Central | 54,317 | 1,08,64,750 | 43,323 | 86,71,900 | 50,292 | 1,01,16,450 | 31,600 | 63,52,330 |
| South Eastern | 25,763 | 2129156 | 24,598 | 19,42,571 | 22,900 | 18,71,630 | 17,577 | 14,30,040 |
| South East Central | 36,791 | 27,49,297 | 41,641 | 31,31,102 | 32,589 | 25,68,115 | 22,479 | 19,30,109 |
| South Western | 6,241 | 7,96,200 | 4,234 | 8,72,700 | 5,717 | 12,26,430 | 9,172 | 19,86,390 |
| Western | 26,509 | 23,43,825 | 44,661 | 30,52,410 | 75,871 | 77,57,950 | 52,980 | 93,83,150 |
| West Central | 7,864 | 8,78,900 | 4,623 | 4,89,500 | 5,156 | 5,45,650 | 4,196 | 4,38,900 |

(c) No such case has been reported.

(d) and (e) Indian Railways accords high priority to cleanliness at stations and railway tracks. However, in many locations there are large jhuggi clusters located on encroached Railway land in Delhi and other major urban areas where large quantity of Municipal Solid

Waste (MSW)/garbage is being dumped on the vacant Railway land alongside the tracks by such jhuggi dwellers.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed in this regard as under:

"MSW accumulated already in the encroached Railway land in Delhi area should be cleared and disposed off apropriately by Railway as a one time effort after which action should be taken to maintain these areas clean by growing of trees and levying monetary compensation of Rs. 5000/- on polluters under "Polluters Pay Principle".

Apropriate sized dustbins must be put up at convenient locations in all such encroachment areas and arrangements made by the local government for disposal of MSW collected in such dustbins, as per the extant rules.

Suitable mobile toilets/eco-friendly toilets have to be provided for the use of encroachers in the Railway land by the local government on the Railway track and nearby areas of Delhi area.

Similar instructions should be issued to other Zonal Railways also."

Following instructions have been issued to Zonal Railways in this regard:

(i) Major Railway stations in Delhi and other areas are to be covered by Cleaning and Rag picking contracts. Railway has undertaken all out efforts to clear the garbage from railway track and nearby areas followed by plantation, wherever feasible, in a planned manner as a one time effort.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to assist local Government authorities to provide dustbins and mobile toilets for use by the encroachers living on Railway land by the track side.

(iii) Persons throwing litter/garbage in Railway areas are counseled and also punished with fines under Indian Railways (Penalties for activities affecting cleanliness at railway premises) Rules, 2012.

(iv) Notices for imposing fines of Rs. 5000/- have also been issued in recent past.

## Operational Oceanography

*163. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upcoming International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services proposes to sign up with UNESCO to cater to the worldwide need for building technical and management manpower capacity in marine, coastal sustainability and response to marine natural hazards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made particularly to set up such services in Andhra Pradesh in view of its long coastline in the State especially for areas like Visakhapatnam district and also to face the situation like tsunami of 2004 as many districts in the State are vulnerable;

(c) whether the Government proposes long-term courses for students and trainees in operational oceanography which involves systematic oceanographic studies towards providing information services to fishermen disaster management, shipping, ports, coastal management, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details worked out for the purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes. Madam. A proposal for signing agreement with UNESCO has been aproved towards setting up of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOocean) at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), to build manpower capacity in marine, coastal sustainability and response to marine natural hazards, particularly for the countries in the Indian Ocean rim and islands region as well as Africa.

(b) The centre is currently operational with facilities available at Indian Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. So far, over 771 scientists including 655 from India and 116 from 36 other countries have been trained at this centre in various aspects of operational oceanography. A wide range of training

programs are envisaged by ITCOocean covering different areas of ocean science and services which include natural oceanic disasters such as Tsunami.

A state-of-the-art e-class room facility with capacity of 48 participants has been established at INCOIS, Hyderabad. In December 2012, the ITCOocean project was aproved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for implementation at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crores during 12th Plan. So far, expenditure to a tune of Rs. 23 crores has been incurred. At present, the other infrastructure facilities like building and training hostel are being established. The construction work is expected to be completed by December 2018.

A decision for upgrading ITCOocean centre as Category-2 Centre of UNESCO was adopted during the 29th Assembly of IOC, UNESCO, Paris on 27th June 2017. The proposal also was aproved by the 39th Session of UNESCO General Conference held on 7th November 2017. Accordingly, the Union Cabinet aproved the establishment of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography, as a Category-2 Centre (C2C) of UNESCO, in Hyderabad on 15th December 2017.

(c) Yes. Madam.

(d) The ITCOocean will target the following trainees: (i) university students who would like to pursue their career in (operational) oceanography. Priority will be given to students from mainly Indian Ocean rim countries; (ii) staff of operational oceanographic centers and related facilities; (iii) staff of government departments involved with oceanographic services and marine activities; (iv) decision makers who need familiarization with oceanographic data; (v) people involved in ocean state forecasts, hazard related warnings, and coastal planners; (vi) staff of other operational oceanographic centers; and (vii) who need familiarization with operational oceanographic products. The ITCOocean will initially focus on offering short term courses spanning from 1 to 4 weeks. A "certificate of participation" will be issued jointly by INCOIS and UNESCO/IOC to participants who have completed the course, meant for staff of operational oceanographic centres. In addition to the courses jointly planned and conducted with UNESCO/IOC, INCOIS shall also conduct short term courses either its own or in collaboration with the relevant organizations that promote capacity building and education in ocean sciences.

**Telecommunication Services**

*164.  PROF. RICHARD HAY:
          SHRI GEORGE BAKER:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS will be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that various telecommunication services including mobile and internet facilities are not satisfactory in rural, hilly/remote and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such areas with poor telecom services/connectivity, State/UT-wise including Kerala, West Bengal and Maharashtra and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve such services and the achievements made so far in this regard along with the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government has signed or is likely to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with any entity in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government is planning to approve a modified strategy to remedy the aforesaid situation in these areas and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Quality of Services benchmarks for telecommunication services are notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under TRAI Act, 1997 at the level of License Service Area (LSA) as a whole. These LSAs cover all States and Union Territories of India. For mobile services, the network related key benchmarks include:

   i. 'Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) Accumulated downtime' (not available for service) which measures the downtime of the BTS including its transmission links/ circuits during the period of a month but excludes all planned service downtime for any maintenance, (benchmark $\leq 2\%$).

ii. 'Call Set-up Success Rate (within Licensee's own network)' is ratio of established calls to call attempts in TSP's network, (benchmark $\geq$ 95%).

iii. 'Traffic Channel (TCH) Congestion' is a measure of congestion in the network's Traffic Channel(s) which carry user's speech or data, (benchmark $\leq$ 2%).

iv. 'Call Drop Rate' is a measure of reliability of network for maintaining a call once it has been correctly established, (benchmark $\leq$ 2%).

v. 'Worst affected cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel (TCH) call drop rate' are those cells in which call drop rate exceeds 3% during any particular hour of the day. The number of such cells is required to be less than 3% of the Cells in LSA, (benchmark $\leq$ 3%).

As per TRAI's Performance Monitoring Report for the quarter ending in September 2017, it is observed that most of TSPs comply to TRAI's benchmarks in majority of LSAs.

The non-compliant Telecommunication Service Providers (TSPs) are mainly M/s Aircel, M/s TTSL, and M/s Telenor. (Details in enclosed Statement) M/s Aircel in Kerala LSA and M/s Telenor in Maharashtra LSA for 2G services and M/s Aircel & BSNL in West Bengal LSA for both 2G & 3G services, do not meet the performance parameter, 'Worst affected cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel (TCH) call drop rate'.

There has been significant improvement observed in terms of compliance to these TRAI benchmarks over the last two years, as reported by TRAI on quarterly basis. This has been facilitated by concerted efforts made by the Government at policy-level and augmentation of telecom infrastructure by TSPs. As a result, about 6.66 lakh additional 2G/3G/4G BTS have been installed by TSPs in the country during the period July 2015 to February 2018. Additionally, about 6.67 lakh 2G/3G BTS-Cells have been rectified by TSPs during the period July 2016 to December 2017.

(c) to (e) The Government is making all efforts to provide affordable tele-connectivity to all habitated areas of the country and has also been working on dedicated programs through Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide tele-connectivity in rural areas, hilly or remote or tribal locations including islands in the territory of India as detailed below.

(i) Bharat-Net plans to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country for providing broadband connectivity in the Gram Panchayats. With the completion of Phase-I, about 2.61 lakh kilometers of Optical Fiber Cable has been laid to connect 1,11,257 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of which 1,02,414 GPs are service-ready. This infrastructure is available to all TSPs on non-discriminatory basis for providing local access at rural-level.

Phase-I works have been executed by M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), M/s RailTel and M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL). Efforts are already on-going for Phase-II which plans to extend connecting infrastructure to all 250,000 GPs by March 2019 by involvement of States, private sector, and Central Public Sector Units (CPSUs). MOUs with 08 States namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Odisha have already been signed.

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

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

(iii) In order to provide internet services in rural areas, BSNL is also setting up Public Wi-Fi hotspots at 25,000 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas of the country. As on 23.02.2018, Wi-Fi hotspots have been set-up/installed in 2306 and service delivery commenced in 2138 exchanges. Remaining shall be installed progressively.

(iv) Further, Common Service Centre- Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV), under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, is also setting up 'Wi-Fi Choupals' in 5,000 GPs of the country by using BharatNet infrastructure, 5145 'Wi-Fi Choupals' have been setup/installed and service delivery has commenced in 1833 GPs as on 31.12.2017.

Besides, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is facilitating region-specific programs to extend tele-connectivity as detailed under:

### (i) North East Region:

Providing coverage to 8621 villages is included as part of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North Eastern Region. Further, Optical Fibre Network in North Eastern Region is also under-augmentation in which 319 nodes out of 323 planned in Assam have been already commissioned by 31.12.2017. Similarly, 188 nodes in the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura have been planned of which 123 have been commissioned by 31.12.2017. Further, out of 407 nodes planned in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland, 92 nodes have been commissioned by 31.12.2017.

M/s Bharti Airtel has been entrusted to set up over 2004 mobile towers to connect about 2128 villages in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, parts of Assam and National Highways in North-Eastern States. Besides, M/s BSNL has been assigned to install 2,817 mobile towers to provide coverage in 4,119 uncovered villages.

### (ii) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, includes submarine optical fiber connectivity program which targets to connect mainland of India (Chennai) to Andaman & Nicobar Islands by December 2018. Moreover, satellite-based connectivity is targetted for bandwidth augmentation by December 2018. Proposal of setting-up 172 towers to provide 2G + 4G coverage in 172 uncoverd villages and 42 towers for coverage of entire 129 kilometers NH 223 including 80 kilometer falling within Jarawa Tribal Reserve belt.

### (iii) Lakshadweep Islands

A similar plan on the lines of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been developed for improved connectivity in Lakshadweep Islands which includes laying of submarine optical cable between Kochi to Lakshadweep Islands, augmentation of satellite bandwidth and extended mobile coverage. 10 new BTS will be set-up to improve Quality of Services for which work has been awarded to M/s BSNL and likely to be completed by March 2018. Under BharatNet project, 69 GPs are planned to be connected.

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

(Rupees in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Activity | Subsidy Disbursed | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 as on date |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Shri Amarnath Yatra | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6.91 |
| 2. | BharatNet (previously NOFN) | 1351.86 | 2415.10 | 5600.00 | 4350.00 |
| 3. | Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas | 596.51 | 617.05 | 280.68 | 446.84 |
| 4. | Setting up of 25000 public Wi-Fi hotspots at rural block exchanges | 0 | 0 | 0 | 187.50 |
| 5. | 'Wi-Fi Choupal' at 5,000 Gram Panchayats by CSC | 0 | 0 | 35.70 | 68.16 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in A&N Islands | 0 | 8.10 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 4.65 | 0 |
| 8. | Replacement of MARR VPTs – after 1.7.2003 | -0.48 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Replacement of MARR VPTs – between 1.4.02 to 30.06.03 | -0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme | 9.97 | 3.21 | 0.24 | 0 |
| 11. | Sanchar Shakti Scheme | 0.35 | 0.29 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | VPTs in Uncovered villages | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 13. | VPT in Newly Identified Uncovered inhabited Villages as per Census 2001 | 6.35 | 2.78 | 4.23 | 1.31 |
| 14. | OFC infrastructure in Assam | 31.40 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | OFC NE-I | | 3.95 | 14.48 | 0 |
| 16. | OFC NE-II | | 0.00 | 13.04 | 0 |
| 17. | Provision of Rural Community Phone | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. | RDELs provided from 01.04.2005 to 31.03.2007 | 0.26 | 0.83 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | RDELs installed between 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2005 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Operational Subsidy for wire-line RDELs as difference between regulated rental and actual rental (1.4.02 to 31.1.2004) | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. | Operational Subsidy for wire-line RDELs in lieu of phased out ADC | | 0 | 1250.00 | 0 |
| 22. | RDELs provided after 31.03.2007 | 10.04 | -0.30 | 2.53 | 0 |
| 23. | Solar PV based mobile phone charging facility | 0.68 | 0.30 | 0.40 | 0 |
| 24. | Operation & Maintenance of VPTs | -0.47 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| 25. | Rural wire-line broadband scheme | 80.54 | 48.66 | 21.09 | 10.60 |
| | Grand Total | 2086.98 | 3100.00 | 7227.03 | 3721.89 |

*Statement*

*The status of non-compliances observed at TSP-level, as per TRAI Report for quarter ending September 2017, in respective LSAs is given below:*

**Table A: For 2G services**

| Sr | License Service Area | TSPs not complying to TRAI benchmarks | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | BTS Accumulated downtime (not available for services) | Call Set-up Success Rate (within licensee's own network) | Traffic Channel Congestion | Call Drop Rate | Worst affected cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel call drop rate |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | Benchmark(s) | ≤ 2% | ≤ 95% | ≤ 2% | ≤ 2% | ≤ 3% |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | | | | | |
| 2. | Assam | | Aircel | Aircel | Aircel | |
| 3. | Bihar | | | | Aircel | Aircel |
| | | | | | | Telenor, TTSL |
| 4. | Chennai | | | | | |
| 5. | Delhi | | | | | Aircel |
| 6. | Gujarat | | | | | |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | | | | | Aircel |
| 8. | Haryana | | | | | |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | | | | | Aircel |
| 10. | Karnataka | | | | | |
| 11. | Kolkata | | | | | |
| 12. | Kerala | | | | | Aircel |
| 13. | Mumbai | | | | | Aircel |
| 14. | Maharashtra | | | | | Telenor |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | | | | | Vodafone |
| 16. | North-East | Aircel | | | | Aircel |
| 17. | Odisha | | | | | Aircel |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18. | Punjab | | TTSL | TTSL | | TTSL |
| 19. | Rajasthan | | | | | Aircel, TTSL |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | | | | | Aircel |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | | | | | Telenor |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | | | | | |
| 23. | West Bengal | | | | | Aircel, BSNL |

**Table B: For 3G services**

| | | TSPs not complying to TRAI benchmarks | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sr | License Service Area | BTS Accumulated downtime (not available for services) | Call Set-up Success Rate (within licensee's own network) | Traffic Channel Congestion | Call Drop Rate | Worst affected cells having more than 3% Traffic Channel call drop rate |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | **Benchmark(s)** | ≤ 2% | ≤ 95% | ≤ 2% | ≤ 2% | ≤ 3% |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | | | | | |
| 2. | Assam | Aircel | | | | Aircel |
| 3. | Bihar | | | | | Aircel |
| 4. | Chennai | | | | | |
| 5. | Delhi | | | | | RCom |
| 6. | Gujarat | | | | | |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | | | | | |
| 8. | Haryana | | | | | |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | | | | | Aircel |
| 10. | Karnataka | | | | | |
| 11. | Kolkata | | | | | |
| 12. | Kerala | | | | | |
| 13. | Mumbai | | | | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Maharashtra | | | | | |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | | | | | |
| 16. | North-East | Aircel | | | | Aircel |
| 17. | Odisha | | | | | Aircel |
| 18. | Punjab | | | | | |
| 19. | Rajasthan | | | | | |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | | | | | Aircel |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | | | | | |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | | | | | |
| 23. | West Bengal | | | | | Aircel, BSNL |

### Submarine Optical Fibre Cable

*165. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of laying of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable from Chennai to Port Blair; and

(b) the expected time limit for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The present status of laying of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable from Chennai to Port Blair is as follows:

On 21.09.2016, the Government aproved the proposal for provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable connectivity between Mainland India (Chennai) and Port Blair, and five other Islands of Andaman & Nicobar, *i.e.*, Car Nicobar, Little Andaman, Havelock, Kamorta and Great Nicobar Islands. The total capital cost of this project is Rs. 880.03 Crore to be funded from USOF, and operating cost of Rs. 44.47 Crore per year to be borne by MHA/UT. Further on the basis of need communicated by the UT Administration, the Submarine OFC connectivity to two more Islands, Rangat and Long Island, was also included in the project with the aproval of

competent authority on 22.08.2017. The total additional capital cost for these two Islands is Rs. 51 Crore. BSNL has been nominated as the Project Execution Agency, while TCIL has been nominated as Technical Consultant. After consultation with Ministry of Defence, BSNL floated the tender on 07.07.2017 for Design, Engineering, Procurement, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of four Fibre Pair Submarine Cable System between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands on Turnkey basis. Tender has been opened on 06.02.2018 and is under evaluation.

(b) The timeline for the completion of Project is two years from the award of work.

### Cancellation of Trains

*166. SHRI NISMKANT DUBEY:
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains which have been cancelled due to fog this year in the country and the revenue loss incurred by the Railways as a result thereof;

(b) whether any strategy has been prepared to combat the problem of delay of trains due to fog and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new technology is being implemented to reduce the delay/ cancellation of trains due to fog:

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

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that trains run on time during the winter season?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) With a view to manage the operational bottlenecks during foggy weather, Indian Railways had cancelled aprox. 40 train services of Mail express trains per day from 1st November 2017 to 13th February 2018 including planned cancellation of 24 pairs of Mail Express trains and frequency reduction of 29 pairs of Mail express trains during the period from 01st December 2017 to 13th February 2018. This also includes day to day operational need based cancellations done due to abnormal late running of trains through fog affected areas from November 2017 to February 2018. The monetary loss to the Railways is not calculated train-wise or on the basis of punctuality of the trains. Therefore, the data regarding loss suffered by the Railways due to cancellation and delay of trains is not maintained.

(b) to (e) Yes, Madam. For smooth and safe movement of trains in fog, the following actions have been taken:

(1) Railways ensure the following during winter:

(i) Adequate availability of detonators at stations.

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

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

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

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

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

(vii) Counseling of staff involved in train operation.

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

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

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

(2) In addition, the following technological advancements with respect to signaling are being undertaken:

(i) Indian Railways have implemented Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system conforming to European Train Controlling System (ETCS) Level-I on 342 Route kilometers in which Movement Authority (Distance to travel) displayed in the Loco Cab is updated, whenever Loco passes over a balise fitted on track. This enables loco pilot to know the condition of signals ahead even when the visibility of signals is poor due to fog or any other reasons.

(ii) Indian Railways is now planning to implement an advanced version of Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system namely European Train Controlling System (ETCS) Level-II on its entire BG network of 60,000 Route Kilometers which will enable continuous updating of Movement Authority in Loco Cab through wireless network. The continuous updating of Movement Authority will ensure improved speed and line capacity as compared to ETCS Level-I.

(iii) A Global Positioning System (GPS) based 'Fog PASS device' has been developed which displays the name and distance of aproaching signals and other critical landmarks like Un-

manned level crossings etc. in advance during poor visibility conditions. It is expected to help reduce stress on Loco Pilots while running in foggy weather. About 6940 fog safe devices have been commissioned in 6 (Six) Zonal Railways (East Central, Northern, North Central, North Eastern, Northeast Frontier and North Western Railways) where the trains pass through fog affected region.

### Research Contracts

*[Translation]*

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

(a) whether the Government has awarded research contracts to consultants, NGOs, educational and research organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years along with the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether research contracts are displayed on the websites of the Ministry;

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

(e) the details of the internal process for deciding the subjects of research contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) In line with the NITI Aayog's mandate to be developed as a Knowledge and Innovation hub, a new set of guidelines *viz.* "Research Scheme of NITI Aayog 2015" have been framed in December 2015 for funding research studies that are considered important for the national development agenda. Under this Scheme, a total of 25 research proposals have been sanctioned assistance during the last three years *i.e.* during 2015-16 to 2017-18 (upto February 2018). These research studies awarded to consultants, NGOs, academic and research institutions, cover a range of subjects such as energy, science & technology, drought mitigation, healthcare, state finances, project apraisal, development planning, trade agreements, judicial case

studies, railways, ecommerce, etc. The reports of the completed research studies are posted on website of NITI Aayog *viz.* www.niti.gov.in.

As per the Scheme guidelines, the funding of the research studies is undertaken under three categories *viz.* (i) consultancy through advertisement/ bidding, (ii) consultancy by empanelment, and (iii) consultancy by nomination. The uper limit of financial assistance for individual proposals is Rs.25 lakh. The norms for procurement of consultancy services under General Financial Rules issued by the Department of Expenditure are followed. Research Evaluation Committees are constituted under the Scheme for considering the proposals.

### CCTV Footage under RTI

*[English]*

*168. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh initiatives have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the Government to make available the footage of CCTV cameras in courts to the public under the Right to Information Act, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the rationale behind the move; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) In Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 99 of 2015 (Pradyuman Bisht versus Union of India & others), Supreme Court of India, *inter-alia*, directed that CCTV cameras (without audio recording) may be installed inside the subordinate courts and at such important locations of the court complexes as may be considered apropriate in at least two districts of every State/Union Territory (with the exception of small States/Union Territories where it may be considered to be difficult to do so by the concerned High Courts). The Hon'ble Supreme Court further directed that it is desirable that CCTV cameras are installed in all subordinate courts in such phased manner as may be considered apropriate by the High Courts. In pursuance of the above direction of the Hon'ble Court,

a copy of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court was forwarded to Registrars General of all High Courts and Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UTs by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice vide D.O. letter No.15018/10/2015-Jus.II/e-Courts dated 28th August, 2017 for taking action to install cameras in all Subordinate Courts. The respective High Courts are to decide and take action for installation CCTV cameras in the subordinate courts in their jurisdiction. It has been further directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court that the footage of the CCTV cameras will not be available under R.T.I. and will not be suplied to anyone without permission of the concerned High Court.

### NPB Pistols

*169.   SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:
        SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government in a Board Meeting held on 28 February, 2017 discussed and deliberated regarding the approval for co-production of Non-Prohibited Bore (NPB) pistols for the Department of Defence Production;

(b) if so. the details thereof and the list of members who participated in the meeting and recommended the proposal;

(c) whether the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) had given any specific reply to the Government in this regard;

(d) if so. the current status of the proposed project for the manufacture of NPB pistols under the co-production programme; and

(e) whether there has been delay in according approval to the said proposal which has already been approved in the said Board Meeting and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (e) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) had floated a Request for Information (RFI) to identify Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for selection of technological partner for manufacture of Non-Prohibited Bore (NPB) small arms under 'Make in India'

programme. OFB after discussions on their 2nd Ordnance Factory Board meeting held on 28th February, 2017, wherein DGOF & Chairman, 09 Members of Ordnance Factory Board and 02 Permanent Invitees were present, forwarded the proposal for aproval of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed with OEM for cooperation. The MoU was returned to OFB in July 2017 as it was found deficient in terms of procedure followed. OFB was asked to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the selection of technological partner. OFB has forwarded a revised draft SOP in February 2018 incorporating suggestions from the Ministry.

### Science Festivals

*170.   SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR:
        SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has organized Science Festivals in the country;

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

(c) the number of festivals organized so far along with the achievements thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to hold 4th India International Science Festival (IISF) in Lucknow in future and if so, the details including the aims and objectives thereof along with the expected number of delegates likely to participate in the event; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to promote science and technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes Madam. The Ministry of Science and Technology organizes India International Science Festival every year in collaboration with Ministry of Earth Sciences. All the Departments under Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences participate in the event. Various other Ministries and Departments of Central and State Government also participate in the event.

(b) The prime objective of the festival is to instill scientific temper among the masses and showcasing India's contribution in all the fields of S&T from ancient to the modern period. It also aims to build a strategy for the development of rural India through the advancement of Science and Technology. Further, the science festival also intends to showcase innovative affordable technologies for the benefit of masses. To showcase and highlight the flagship programmes of Government of India like Swacch Bharat, Swastha Bharat, Make in India, Digital India, Smart Villages etc is also a major aim. IISF tries to bring world class scientists and technocrats to visit the festival and give exposure to Indian youth and students.

(c) Three IISF have been held so far, since the year 2015. Ist IISF at IIT Delhi, New Delhi; 2nd IISF at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi and 3rd IISF at Anna University, Chennai.

**Achievements**

- The festivals focused on the major scientific achievements by youth and future prospects in the scientific arena through Young Scientists' Meet (YSM), Mega Science, Technology and Industrial Expo, International Science Film Festival, Innovation Models and 'INSPIRE' presentations, IRIS (Initiative for Research and Innovation in Science) National Science Fair, Scientist–Students Interaction, workshops and interactive sessions, and the largest collective science practical session 'Catalysis'.

- IISF had been the first science festival organized in our country to promote the 'potential benefitsØ of science to the society', and simultaneously inculcating and nurturing the scientific caliber.

- School students from adopted villages by Hon'ble MPs under the Pradhan Mantri SansadØ Aadarsh Gram Yojna have been invited in the IISF which inspired them and got exposure to interact with eminent scientists from BARC, DRDO, IISc, TFRI etc.

- 25 State councils on Science & Technology took part in the last expo at IISF 2017.

- 300 Labs & Institutions across the country have participated and displayed their achievements and contributions in the field of Science & Technology.

- 25 Central Ministries were present in the Expo.

- Science Models, Science Parks, Biotechnology Programme of India, Space Satellite Models,Ø Defence Missiles and Warfare Tanks, Hands on Projects, etc. were few of the attractions of the Expo.

- Achieved "Guinness Book World Record" for successful conduct of Largest Practical Science Lesson by 2000 school students during IISF-2015.

- One thousand and forty nine (1049) students of 9 and 10 standards from twenty one (21) different schools in Tamilnadu gathered at the venue of IISF-2017 in Anna University to achieve a "Guinness Book World Record".

(d) Yes Madam, Government proposes to hold the 4th IISF during 5th October – 8th October, 2018 at Lucknow, UP and a total number of 12,500 delegates are expected for the event comprising of students, young scientists, women scientists, farmers, innovators, global scientists and technocrats with Indian origin, successful startups and grassroots innovators etc. Objective of the festival is to instill scientific temper among the masses and showcasing India's contribution in the field of S&T over the years. It aims to build a strategy for rural India through the advancement of Science and Technology. Further, the science festival also intends to make innovation beneficial for the people and develop technology that is affordable to the masses.

Selected students from North East region would be special invitees for IISF 2018 where they can interact with eminent scientists of our country.

As a part of mutual students exchange programme we are inviting 200 selected students from SAARC countries to the festival.

(e) Various schemes/awards etc. have been launched by Ministry of Science & Technology to promote the science & technology in the country. Some of the schemes/awards are National Women Bioscientist Awards, National Bioscience Awards for Career Development, The Innovative Young Bio technologist Award (IYBA), DBT-CTEP Programme, Ramalingaswamy Re-entry Fellowship, Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) programme, etc.

## Paperless Work Initiatives

*171. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding paperless work initiatives undertaken through digitization and e-office system in the Central Government Offices;

(b) whether any physical or time targets have been fixed for the change over to e-office system in all Central Government offices and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of e-office/paperless system on bureaucratic set-up, employees and employment opportunities along with the steps being taken to promote employment opportunities for the youth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG) is the monitoring agency to ensure e-office implementation in all Central Ministries/ Departments. As on 28.2.2018, 34 Central Ministries/ Departments were on complete e-office platform, which includes digitization of all records and working on e-office system. 39 more Ministries/Departments are in the process of taking action for moving into complete e-office platform. The number of e-files in Central Ministries/ Departments has increased from the level of 7,848 on 7.10.2016 to 7, 63,828 on 28.02.2018.

(b) E-office implementation is a continuous exercise. The Departments are continuously monitored in order to expedite their pace of implementation.

(c) E-Office, as envisaged, is not likely to significantly impact employment oportunities. Its main objectives include the following:

(i) Improvement in efficiency of government processes and service delivery mechanisms.

(ii) Improvement in productivity, quality, resource management, turn-around time and increased transparency by replacing the old manual process with an electronic file system wherein files can be tracked and their status is known at all times.

(iii) Increased accountability – the quality and speed of decision making is easier to monitor.

(iv) Assured data security and data integrity.

(v) Transformation of the government work culture and ethics.

## Special Courts For Pending Cases

*[Translation]*

*172. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE NET be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to develop any new system or set up special courts to dispose of the pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government is likely to consider any such action plan and 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) Setting up of subordinate courts including special courts lies within the domain of the State Governments which set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the concerned High Courts. The Government of India in its Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission proposed setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) across the country at a cost of Rs. 4,144 crore for trial of cases of heinous crimes, involving senior citizens, women, children, physically challenged and persons affected with terminal ailments etc. The 14th Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Union Government and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the form of enhanced tax devolution (from 32% to 42%) to meet such requirements. The States have, therefore, set up FTCs from the additional tax devolution provided to them as per their requirement. As per available information, at present there are 727 Special

Fast Track Courts functioning in various States. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I. In addition, State governments have set up 12 Special Courts to deal with criminal cases related to legislators, and the details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

### Statement-I

*Special Fast Track Courts*

| Name of the States/UTs | Number of Fast Track Courts |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh, Telangana | 72 |
| Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram | 0 |
| Bihar | 55 |
| Chhattisgarh | 21 |
| Delhi | 14 |
| Goa | 4 |
| Gujarat | 0 |
| Haryana | 0 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 5 |
| Jharkhand | 14 |
| Karnataka | 0 |
| Kerala | 0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 0 |
| Maharashtra | 100 |
| Manipur | 3 |
| Meghalaya | 0 |
| Odisha | 0 |
| Punjab | 0 |
| Puducherry | 0 |
| Rajasthan | 0 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| Sikkim | 2 |
| Tamil Nadu | 69 |
| Tripura | 3 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 273 |
| Uttarakhand | 4 |
| West Bengal | 88 |
| Total | 727 |

### Statement-II

*Special Courts to deal with criminal cases related to legislators*

| Name of State | Number of Special Court |
|---|---|
| Telengana | 1 |
| Tamilnadu | 1 |
| Karnataka | 1 |
| Bihar | 1 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1 |
| Kerala | 1 |
| Maharashtra | 1 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1 |
| West Bengal | 1 |
| Delhi | 2 |
| Total | 12 |

[English]

### Supply of Coal to Power Stations

*173. DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to supply coal to power stations near mines through piped

conveyor belt system in the near future and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this move will check dust pollution caused during coal transportation by trucks to such plants and freeing up railway rakes for supplies to far away units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes Madam. It has been decided that all Power Plants located within 20 km. from Pithead shall construct elevated closed belt conveyor within next 2 years (up to 1st April 2020).

(b) Yes Madam. This move will check dust pollution and free up railway rakes for suplies to far away power plants.

(c) As informed by Coal India Limited, there are 25 power plants (within 20 KM) covered under FSA, LOA, Bridge Linkage, Shakti, Forward auction etc with installed capacity of 21850 MW. The Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) of the thermal power plants, located within 20 km from nearest mine and not having any captive mode of transportation, works out to be around 19.5 Million Tonne.

*[Translation]*

### Anti-Collision Device

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

(a) the present status of installing anti-collision device to check train accidents;

(b) whether the said device has been successfully tested and installed and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the action plan to improve the said device to make it more effective for checking train accidents;

(d) whether any machine/instrument is also being used in addition to taking assistance of railway employees for detecting the cracks in railway tracks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the system in place in other countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Anti Collision Device (ACD) developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), was provided under a pilot project on 1736 Route Kilometres on Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). During trials, complex operational and technical problems were experienced which could not be fully resolved by KRCL due to design limitations of ACD. As such, proliferation of ACD has not been undertaken.

Indian Railways have now planned to provide Automatic Train Protection (ATP) conforming to ETCS level-2 standards on the entire Indian Railway Broad Gauge (BG) network. This will provide technological aid to Loco Pilots for avoiding Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD).

Presently following different Automatic Train Protection (ATP) Systems are existing on Indian Railways:

(i) Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System based on proven European Train Control System (ETCS-L1) Technology has been implemented on 342 RKMs (200 RKMs Delhi-Agra Section, 117 RKMs Chennai Suburban section and 25 RKMs of Metro Railway, Kolkata).

(ii) An ATP called Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) is presently functional on 364 RKMs in the Mumbai suburban section of Central Railway (240 RKMs) and Western Railway (124 RKMs).

(iii) An ATP system indigenously developed called Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) is under trail on 250 RKMs of South Central Railway as a pilot project.

(d) Track circuiting used for signalling and interlocking also detects rail crack in track circuited area. However, track circuit is available on a limited length on the IR network. Also, a trial of Ultrasonic Broken Rail Detection System (UBRD) to detect in service rail/weld failures on Northern Railway and North Central Railway over 25 km of track each is under progress.

(e) Literature survey has been carried out by RDSO to know the system placed in other countries for detection of cracks in rails.

Track circuiting used for signalling and interlocking also detects rail crack in track circuited area in several countries. Besides, following technologies are available/

under development/under trial world over, which are potential solution for broken rail detection system:

(i) Ultrasonic Broken Rail Detection System (UBRD).

(ii) Rail Fracture & Instruction Detection System (Using distributed Optical Fibre Sensing).

(iii) Rail ACCOUSTIC-TR: Broken Rail Sensing System.

(iv) Loco vision analytics and Rail integrity monitoring system.

(v) Audio Frequency Continuous Track Circuiting (AFTC).

(vi) Other track circuit based patented technologies.

[English]

### Indo-ASEAN Summit

*175. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Declaration of the Indo-ASEAN Summit talked of new set ups for maritime co-operation and terror fight and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all the countries which participated in the Summit have agreed on maritime cooperation and terror fight;

(c) if so, the major take-aways from Indo-ASEAN Summit held in January 2018 in New Delhi;

(d) the manner in which such cooperation is likely to be taken forward with ASEAN in future; and

(e) whether any action plan or blueprint has been prepared in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Delhi Declaration, agreed to deepen ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, across the entire spectrum of political-security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation. Inter alia, it also agreed to strengthen and deepen maritime cooperation and cooperation in combating terrorism. A copy of the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the end of the Summit in New Delhi on January 25, 2018, is attached.

Beyond the commitments made in the Delhi Declaration, India also offered to undertake (i) Pilot Project on rural connectivity which would create digital villages in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. (ii) Training programmes on Telecom and Networking Technologies (iii) 1000 fellowships for ASEAN scholars to pursue integrated PhD programmes in IITs, and (iv) greater inter-university exchanges.

(d) and (e) ASEAN India cooperation would be taken forward by further strengthening all relevant, high level institutional mechanisms, and working towards effective operationalisation of the "Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2016-2020)".

### Training of Youth

*176. SHRIKAUSHAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to train a large number of youth for operation and repair of latest equipment in the field of electronics and information technology which can generate a lot of employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The key steps taken by the Government and other agencies to train the youth in the areas of operation and repair of equipment in the field of electronics and information technology for enhancing their employability are as under:

(i) The Government has aproved two schemes for Skill Development in Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector to cover all States/UTs of the country. These two Schemes have a cumulative target of skilling 4.18 lakh beneficiaries (in five levels courses) at a cumulative outlay of Rs. 525 crore with a Grant-in Aid of Rs. 454.85 crore over a period upto March 2019. Under these Schemes, 1893 training partners are affiliated with three key agencies namely Electronic

Sector Skill Council (ESSC), Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) and National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT). As on 01.3.2018, a total of 2,80,254 candidates have been trained in 51 courses in Operation, Repair & Service, out of which 1,75,098 candidates have been duly certified. The Agency-wise break-up is as follows:-

| Agency | Enrolled & Trained | Certified |
|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| TSSC | 1,36,099 | 81,383 |
| ESSCI | 1,02,775 | 75,831 |
| NIELIT | 41,380 | 17,884 |
| Total | 2,80,254 | 1,75,098 |

(ii) In addition to above, Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI), has trained a total of 3,01,839 candidates in the current financial year in 10 Job Roles relating to Installation & Maintenance and Service/Repair for Electronics & IT Hardware sector under various schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Skill Development Programs of Central as well as State Governments, and through corporate suport under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

(iii) Similarly, Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) has trained 82,441 candidates in the related job roles during the current year. It has identified 30 Job Roles/ Qualification Packs in respect of operations, maintenance and repair of modern communication networks and terminal equipment to meet the requirement of the industry.

(iv) National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), is engaged in formal and non-formal education in the field of Electronics and IT including training programmes on repair and maintenance of electronics and IT equipment. NIELIT is also functioning as one of the Key Implementing Agencies as well as the Programme Management Unit for the two Schemes of MeitY mentioned at Para (i) above. In addition, some other related activities are given as under:

- Under sponsorship of Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour· & Employment,

NIELIT provides training to SC/ST job seekers registered with Employment Exchange on Computer Hardware Maintenance – CHM (O level) course. This project is implemented at 21 locations across India under monitoring of 15 NIELIT Centres. Since FY 2013-14, a total of 5,230 candidates have been trained under CHM-O level.

- NIELIT Kohima and Shillong under a project entitled "Setting up of Medical Electronics· Laboratory" for repairing and maintenance of Medical Electronics Equipment of various Hospitals in these States and also to provide training to Youths, Paramedical & Medical staff, have trained 4 (four) batches with 126 trainees so far.

- NIELIT Centre, Kolkata under a project entitled "Capacity Building for empowerment of SC candidates on ICT at Cooch Behar district of West Bengal" to establish smart mode IT based Resource Centre at District Welfare Department, Cooch Behar, West Bengal, has trained 303 candidates.

(v) MeitY has funded a project for Skill Development in Electronics Hardware, which is implemented by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) and NIELIT Chandigarh to provide training to 10,000 candidates on a One-year Diploma course at 50 select NCPUL Centres. As on 31-12-2017, a total 9,747 candidates have been enrolled under the programme out of which 9,039 candidates have been trained.

(vi) Government has aproved a project titled "Investment Promotion for Mobile Manufacturing - Practical Hands-on for Mobile Handset Design Engineers-Phase-I" as part of "Make in India" under which training was conducted in India as well as at International Trade Institute, Hsinchu, Taiwan India for a duration of 45 days during 1st Dec. 2016 to 13th Jan. 2017. A total of 41 candidates from mobile and components Industry including Indian Cellular Association, MediaTek and NIELIT participated in this training programme. Under the Phase- II of the project, a training program of 28 days (6 days in India and 22 days in Taiwan) has been aproved.

(vii) Electronics Service & Training Centre at Ramnagar, Uttarakhand under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is offering various programmes in electronics, computer and mobile phone repair and maintenance and other allied fields. The Centre has trained a total of 9,467 and 6,301 candidates during the F.Y. 2016-17 and F.Y. 2017-18 respectively.

(viii) The Directorate General of Training (DGT) (erstwhile DGE&T, Ministry of Labour and Employment) in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India offers various courses of one/two year duration in electronics repair and maintenance and allied fields *viz.* Electronics Mechanic, Information & Communication Technology System Maintenance, Instrument Mechanic, Mechanic Auto Electrical & Electronics, Mechanic Mechatronics, Power Electronics Systems, Computer Hardware & Network Maintenance through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). Under, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), since year 2016, a total of 2,90,690 candidates have been trained in 9 courses, out of which 1,99,252 candidates have been certified, as per data provided by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

(ix) Under the Information Security Education and Awareness programme of MeitY, a total of 28,069 candidates are under-going training/trained in various formal/non-formal courses; 4,457 Government officials have been trained; and 606 awareness workshops have been conducted covering 65,342 participants. Further, MeitY through its organizations such as NIELIT (40 Centres), C-DAC (11 Centre) and others have trained and certified more than 14.43 Lakh candidates in last 4 years in various areas of Electronics and Information Technology including cyber security, Internet of Things, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Embedded Systems, VLSI Design, etc. In addition, under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Sakhsarta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), more 1.08 crore candidates from rural India have been trained in digital literacy. Recently, new campus of NIELIT Centre Patna has been inaugurated.

### Indigenous Production of Defence Equipment

*177.   SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:
        SHRI B. V. NAIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any special innovative projects for the development of indigenous production of defence equipment in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the funds earmarked and allocated for such projects during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government has provided any funds to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) projects for the development of innovative, intelligent and the state-of-the- art technology gadgets in the country during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the list of projects pending for approval during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Some of the new special innovative projects (Cost > Rs. 50 Crore) undertaken by DRDO in the last three years (1st January 2015 – till date) are:

**Mission Mode Projects:**

- Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) system for Indian Army

- Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) weapon system for Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) for Indian Navy

- Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM)

- Guided Pinaka Rocket System

- Marinised Engineered AIP Energy Module (MAREEM)

**Technology Demonstration Projects:**

- RudraM-II Air to Surface missile

- RudraM-III missile

- Anvesha

- Naval Anti Ship Missile-Short Range

- Supersonic missile assisted release of torpedo (SMART)

- Ground Based High Power Microwave (HPM) Directed Energy Weapon System

- Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

- Akash Mk-1S missile

- Stealth Wing Flying Test bed (SWiFT)

- AESA based Integrated Sensor Suite (ABISS) for Maritime and Pollution Surveillance

- Dhruvastra - Air to Surface Missile

- ATGM for MBT Arjun Mk-II

- Electric Gun and Turret Drive System (ELEGANT)

As can be seen the above projects covers a wide variety of technology domains from aeronautics to missiles and naval systems.

Details of funds earmarked is enclosed in the Table below:

| Sl. No. | Project Title | DoS | PDC | Cost (Rs. in Crore) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Mission Mode Projects:* | | | | |
| 1. | Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) system for Indian Army | 08-03-2017 | 07-03-2023 | 17262.16 |
| 2. | Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) weapon system for Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) for Indian Navy | 24-03-2017 | 23-09-2022 | 1076.30 |
| 3. | Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) | 08-12-2017 | 07-12-2022 | 981.50 |
| 4. | Guided Pinaka Rocket System | 08-02-2017 | 07-02-2020 | 192.05 |
| 5. | Marinised Engineered AIP Energy Module (MAREEM) | 21-06-2016 | 21-08-2020 | 181.68 |
| *Technology Demonstration Projects:* | | | | |
| 6. | Rudra M-II | 07-03-2016 | 06-03-2020 | 489.06 |
| 7. | Rudra M-III | 20-02-2017 | 19-02-2022 | 485.08 |
| 8. | Anvesha | 06-05-2016 | 05-05-2021 | 479.28 |
| 9. | Naval Anti Ship Missile-Short Range | 18-08-2017 | 17-08-2021 | 434.06 |
| 10. | Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) | 11-11-2016 | 10-05-2021 | 340.00 |
| 11. | Ground Based High Power Microwave (HPM) Directed Energy Weapon System | 06-06-2017 | 05-06-2022 | 180.00 |
| 12. | Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) | 27-01-2015 | 26-07-2018 | 73.46 |
| 13. | Akash Mk-1S missile | 08-06-2016 | 07-06-2018 | 70.42 |
| 14. | Stealth Wing Flying Testbed (SWiFT) | 05-12-2016 | 04-12-2020 | 70.31 |
| 15. | AESA based Integrated Sensor Suite (ABISS) for Maritime and Pollution Surveillance | 03-03-2016 | 02-03-2019 | 67.23 |
| 16. | Dhruvastra-Air to Surface Missile | 24-01-2018 | 23-01-2021 | 66.74 |
| 17. | ATGM for MBT Arjun Mk-II | 10-05-2016 | 09-05-2020 | 66.02 |
| 18. | Electric Gun and Turret Drive System (ELEGANT) | 28-06-2016 | 27-06-2020 | 56.00 |

There is a well established mechanism followed in DRDO for the sanctioning of the projects. On compliance of the same, projects are sanctioned accordingly.

**Employment Opportunities in Telecom Sector**

*178. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people have become jobless in the telecom sector during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the employment opportunities in the said sector are likely to increase in view of the emergence of new technologies and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total investment made in telecom sector during the said period; and

(e) the number of telecom companies shut down or merged with other companies during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Telecom sector is one of the highly competitive high-tech sector and is currently going through a phase of consolidation with mergers and acquisitions hapening among various companies. Mergers and acquisitions can have an impact on certain specific telecom service providers. New entrants also tend to shake up the market; however, they also create direct and indirect employment oportunities. Overall, it may be mentioned that there is a vast potential for growth in this sector, especially with the increasing convergence in voice and data and related technologies and the consequent demand for telecom services.

Keeping in view the need for better connectivity and for increasing the potential for further growth, the Government is implementing programmes to improve connectivity through its flagship project 'BharatNet' which aims at linking each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats of India through a vast optical fibre network that in turn would boost various economic activities in the rural sector. This endeavour will open up avenues for better access for service providers such as telecom operators, cable TV operators, ecommerce companies, etc. to launch new services and in turn aid creation of local employment oportunities. Other flagship schemes of the Government like Digital India, Make-in-India and Smart Cities also are expected to create employment oportunities in telecom sector.

(c) As per 'Skill Plan' of Department of Telecommunication, prepared based on inputs from Environmental Scan Report-2016 of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), assessment of Indian Cellular Association (ICA), Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC), an additional skilled manpower requirement to the tune of 47,75,500 from the present strength of 40,04,500 is estimated in telecom sector till the end of financial year 2021-22, meaning thereby an increase of 119.25% over the present strength in a period of five financial years.

(d) Telecom sector comprises telecom services sector and telecom manufacturing sector. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is permitted in telecom equipment manufacturing via automatic route. Under the automatic route, investment in telecom equipment manufacturing can be made in the country without prior aproval of the Government. Moreover, FDI is largely a matter of private business decisions.

As per the audited/unaudited financial information submitted by licensed telecom service providers submitted to TRAI, the capital investment in the last three years is as under. However, these figures do not reflect the capital investment for the entire telecom sector.

Capital investment (Gross Block* in
Capital Work in Progress)
(Rs. in Cr.)

| Sl.No | Year | Capital Investment in Rs. Cr. |
|-------|---------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | 2014-15 | 726400 |
| 2. | 2015-16 | 913814 |
| 3. | 2016-17 | 1044027 |

*The total value of acquiring all fixed assets (even though a different points of time) is called ''Gross Block" or "Gross Fixed Asset". The worth of the fixed assets after providing for depreciation is called "Net Block".

The FDI equity inflow in the telecom sector for the last 3 years and current year (as obtained from DIPP website) is as under:

| Year | FDI Equity inflow (in Rs. Crores) |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 17,372 |
| 2015-16 | 8,637 |
| 2016-17 | 37,435 |
| Apr 2017-Dec 2017 | 39,264 |

INVESTMENTS MADE BY GOVERNMENT IN ITI LTD

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had aproved capital grant of Rs 2264 Cr. to be given in the form of equity for project implementation (CAPEX) to ITI Ltd. for upgrading its manufacturing infrastructure and new projects for its revival. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 472 Cr. has so far been released to ITI during the last three years. In addition to the above, MoF has made the following budget allocation for F.Y. 2018-19, in the form of equity:

  i.  Rs. 137 Cr. in R.E of 2017-18

  ii. Rs. 100 Cr. in B.E of 2018-19

The status of funds released to ITI against this aproval in the last years and current year is as under:

| Sl.No. | Year | Equity Infusion in Rs. Cr. |
|--------|------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 2014-15 | 192 |
| 2. | 2015-16 | — |
| 3. | 2016-17 | 80 |
| 4. | 2017-18 | 200 |

USOF SUBSIDIES DISBURSED IN LAST THREE YEARS

Under the various schemes of USOF, the following subsidies have been released during the last 3 years, primarily for creating infrastructure in rural and remote areas.

| Year | Subsidy disbursed (Rs. in Crores) |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 2086.98 |
| 2015-16 | 3100.00 |
| 2016-17 | 7227.03 |

(e) During the last three years, four telecom companies have closed down telecom operations, three companies were acquired/merged and seven companies are in the process of merger. Details are available in enclosed Statement.

*Statement*

*Details of Telecom companies*

1. During the last three years, the following companies closed down their telecom operations:

  (i) M/s Videocon closed down services in the services areas of Gujarat, UP (West), Madhya Pradesh, UP (East), Bihar and Haryana in 2016.

  (ii) M/s Quadrant Teleservices has closed down GSM services in Punjab service area in 2017.

  (iii) M/s Reliance Communications Ltd has closed down voice services in 2017.

  (iv) M/s Aircel Limited has closed down telecom services in service areas of Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (West) and Maharashtra in January, 2018. The taking on record of surrender of licenses is under process in the Department of Telecommunications.

2. During the last three years, the following telecom companies were merged/acquired.

  (i) M/s Sistema Shyam Tele Limited (M/s SSTL) was acquired by M/s Reliance Communications Limited (M/s RCOM) in 2017

  (ii) Infotel Telecom limited (ITL) merged with Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL) in 2017.

  (iii) M/s Augere Wireless Broadband Services India Pvt. Ltd. merged with M/s Bharti Airtel Limited in 2017.

3. The following telecom companies are in the process of merger:

 (i) Merger of M/s Tikona Digital Networks Private Ltd. with M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd.

 (ii) Merger of M/s Telenor (India) Communication Private Limited with M/s Bharti Airtel Limited

 (iii) Merger of M/s Vodafone India Limited & M/s Vodafone Mobile Services Limited with M/s Idea cellular Limited

 (iv) Demerger of telecom business of M/s Reliance Telecom Limited in 5 service areas namely Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and merger of the same into M/s Reliance communications Limited

 (v) Merger of M/s Airtel Broadband Services Private Limited with M/s Bharti Airtel Limited

 (vi) Merger of Vodafone Group entities into Vodafone Mobile Services Limited

 (vii) Merger of M/s Aircel cellular Limited and M/s Aircel Limited consequent to merger of Chennai service area with Tamilnadu service area.

*[English]*

### Stoppages of Trains

*179. DR. A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any criteria for fixing stoppages of various trains at different stations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, whether the Government intends to fix such criteria and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether instances of violation of criteria have been noticed during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government intends to lay down new criteria/re-fix the existing criteria for stoppages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

At present, Indian Railways have a policy on stopage of trains. Some of the important criteria are as under:-

(1) Total sale of tickets at the station for both Up and Down directions distance wise, class-wise & cost wise.

(2) Traffic pattern at the station.

(3) Availability of alternative services, convenience and occupancy of existing services.

(4) Nature of train and occupancy in question.

(5) Passing time of the train in question at the station where stopage is under consideration.

(6) Operational constraints- effect on the line capacity of the section and punctuality of other services.

The policy guidelines which encompasses both the operational and commercial aspects for provision of stopage of trains inter alia stipulates that the minimum number of tickets to be sold at the station so as to recover the cost of stopage (which ranges from 12,716/- to 24,506/- depending upon traction, composition and other factors) should be 40 or more tickets per day per train for sleeper class for a distance of 500 kms or its equivalent in terms of cost for mixed class of passengers like AC, General and distance (multiple of 100 kms) toward/from destination/originating stations of the train. The policy also stipulates that no additional stopage to be provided in sections having capacity utilization above 90%. Additionally, population and significance of the town/city and new developments thereat, are other factors taken into account while considering provision of new stopages.

(c) No, Madam. However, large number of consistent requests are received for provision of stopages of trains at various stations. Experience suggests that most of the requests do not meet the extant commercial parameters stipulated in the policy guidelines for provision of stopages. Generally, in those cases where the overall running time is not impacted by the provision of additional stopage, Indian Railways, with due aproval of

the Competent Authority, resorts to provision of experimental stopages for limited period with the dual intent to meet the aspirations of travelling public as also to gauge the volume of traffic.

(d) and (e) No, Madam. At present, there is no such proposal.

### Long Haul Trains

*180. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has introduced long haul trains to boost freight operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number and details of long haul goods trains that are running at present;

(c) whether the Railways proposes to introduce more such trains during this financial year and if so, the details thereof

(d) whether loop lines are required to run long haul trains and if so, the number of loop lines that have been commissioned till date and the number of loop lines that are likely to be commissioned; and

(e) whether the Railways is planning to run long haul trains for passengers also and if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to accrue to the Railways as a result thereof?

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

(b) At present long haul trains are being run on identified sections where it is operationally feasible to do so. During the period April2017 to January-2018, 7562 long haul trains have been run on various Zonal Railways. Zone wise details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Running of long haul trains depends on traffic conditions, congestion and sectional capacity. Both coaching and freight trains are run on most of the sections of Indian Railway. Since these trains are having differential speeds, there are a limited number of

coaching free paths available for running of long hauls. In order to facilitate running of more long haul trains, long loops (having capacity to accommodate two full length trains) have been planned on various sections.

The details of the long loops already commissioned and planned for commissioning are enclosed as Statement-II.

(e) At present there is no proposal for long haul trains for passenger.

### *Statement-I*

Details of Total 7562 long haul trains run on Indian Railways during the year 2017-18 (April 2017 to January 2018).

| | |
|---|---|
| Central Railway: | 79 |
| East Central Railway: | 987 |
| East Coast Railway: | 1102 |
| Eastern Railway: | 50 |
| North Eastern Railway: | 600 |
| North Central Railway: | 57 |
| North east Frontier Railway: | 94 |
| Northern Railway: | 1342 |
| North Western Railway: | 117 |
| South Central Railway: | 143 |
| South Eastern Railway: | 40 |
| Southern Railway: | 79 |
| South East Central Railway: | 1200 |
| South Western Railway: | 3 |
| Western Railway: | 488 |
| West Central Railway: | 1181 |

### *Statement-II*

Details of Loop lines that have been commissioned till date and that likely to be commissioned:

**Commissioned:**

| Sl.N. | Rly. | Name of the Work | Cost (Rs. in crore) | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | East Coast Railway | Provision of Long Haul Loop on R/1 adjacent to DN main line at Gangadharpur (GNGD) station. | 4.80 | Completed |
| 2. | East Coast Railway | Ganjam - Long haul loop on down side | 6.26 | Completed |
| 3. | East Coast Railway | Paradeep - Long haul loop towards Cuttack end near coaching yard at new passenger terminal | 8.94 | Completed |
| 4. | East Coast Railway | Dumuriput - Longer loop line | 4.03 | Completed |
| 5. | East Coast Railway | Gumada - Conversion of L4 as longer loop line with common loop status for python trains | 5.66 | Completed |
| 6. | East Coast Railway | Kotpar Road - Longer loop lines | 5.41 | Completed |

Yet to be commissioned:

| Sl.N. | Rly. | Name of the Work | Cost (Rs. in crore) | Target date of completion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Central Railway | Gaigaon - Yard remdelling for handling long haul trains | 10.18 | 31.03.2019 |
| 2. | Central Railway | Itarsi - Amla - Nagpur - Wardha - Bhusawal - Jalgaon (713.86 km) - Longer loop | 58 | 31.12.2019 |
| 3. | East Coast Railway | Provision of Long Haul loop on R/1 (DN Loop) for long Haul train operation at Hindol Road station of Khurda Road division | 8.55 | Under Finalization |
| 4. | East Coast Railway | Chipurupalli - Conversion of L4 into longer loop with common loop status for python trains | 8.13 | 31.03.2019 |
| 5. | East Coast Railway | Sigdam - Conversion of line No.1 to longer loop | 9.79 | 31.03.2019 |
| 6. | East Coast Railway | Naorla Road-Lanjigarh Road & Lanjigarh Road Bhawanipatna - Intermediate block hut to avail longer loop | 11.80 | 31.03.2019 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | East Coast Railway | Handapa - Longer loop for long haul train operation | 7.02 | 31.03.2019 |
| 8. | East Coast Railway | Bagbahra - Provision of longer loop for long haul train operation | 7.13 | Under Finalization |
| 9. | East Coast Railway | Maneswar - Provision of longer loop for long haul train operation | 5.81 | Under Finalization |
| 10. | East Coast Railway | Muribahal - Provision of longer loop for long haul train operation | 9.91 | Under Finalization |
| 11. | Northern Railway | Mughalsarai - Lucknow - Moradabad - Ambala - Jalandhar - Amritsar (1150 km) - Longer loops | 165 | Under Finalization |
| 12. | North Central Railway | Allahabad Division - Longer loops (10 stations) | 59.25 | 31.03.2019 |
| 13. | North Central Railway | Kitham & Ghosrana - Longer loop lines for running of python trains | 9.38 | Under Finalization |
| 14. | South Central Railway | Vijayawada - Gudur (295 km) - Longer loop | 29.37 | 31.03.2019 |
| 15. | South Central Railway | Visakhapatnam - Vijayawada (350 km) - Longer loop | 30.46 | 31.03.2019 |
| 16. | South Eastern Railway | Kokpara - Longer loops to run long haul trains (Up loop) | 3.58 | Under Finalization |
| 17. | South East Central Railway | Shahdol - Long loop line | 9.95 | 31.12.2018 |
| 18. | South East Central Railway | Koka - Long loop line | 10.39 | 31.03.2019 |
| 19. | South East Central Railway | Salwa - Long loop line | 14.18 | 30.06.2018 |
| 20. | South East Central Railway | Hathbandh - Long loop line | 11.91 | Under Finalization |
| 21. | West Central Railway | Nagda-Mathura - Long haul loops (8 stations) | 56.41 | Under Finalization |
| 22. | West Central Railway | Majholi - Extension of line No.3 & 4 for long haul trains | 8.51 | 30.06.2019 |
| 23. | West Central Railway | Bansa Pahar - Additional loop to accommodate long haul trains | 9.21 | 30.12.2019 |
| 24. | West Central Railway | Kota - Bina (303 km) - Longer loop | 30 | Under Finalization. |

### Threat from China

1841. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite good relations, China, is posing any threat to the country in Arunachal Pradesh as per affidavit submitted by the Government in the Honble Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) China disputes the international boundary between India and China. In the Eastern Sector, China claims aproximately 90,000 square kilometers of Indian territory in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side on several occasions, including at the highest level.

Government is fully seized of the security needs of the country and remains prepared to deal with and counter all kinds of security challenges including at our borders.

### Politicisation of Armed Forces

1842. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
         SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of any attempts for politicisation of the armed forces;

(b) if so, the Government policy on the issue; and

(c) the measures being taken to implement the policy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) Armed Forces in India are apolitical.

### EMF Portal

1843. SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch EMF portal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said portal has been launched in some of the States on trial basis;

(d) if so, the list of States in which the said portal has been launched; and

(e) the total number of mobile towers that have been installed in the State of Kerala, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Madam, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched "Tarang Sanchar", a web portal on 2nd May, 2017 for information sharing on Mobile Towers and 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 and can be accessed from anywhere. 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. Additionally, any person can request for EMF emission measurement at a location by paying a nominal fee of Rs.4000/- online. Respective field unit of DoT conducts the test in presence of aplicant, if so desired and provides the test reports. 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 17.20 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.

(e) The total number of mobile towers that have been installed in the State of Kerala district-wise are as follows:

| Sl. No. | Name of District | Number of Towers |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Allapuzha | 820 |
| 2. | Ernakulam | 2098 |
| 3. | Idukki | 627 |
| 4. | Kannur | 1316 |
| 5. | Kasargod | 691 |
| 6. | Kollam | 1057 |
| 7. | Kottayam | 1144 |
| 8. | Kozhikode | 1245 |
| 9. | Malapuram | 1414 |
| 10. | Palakkad | 1276 |
| 11. | Paathanamthitta | 759 |
| 12. | Thiruvanthapuram | 1779 |
| 13. | Thrissur | 1301 |
| 14. | Wayanad | 403 |
|  | Total | 15930 |

[Translation]

**IPPB**

1844. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:
　　　SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:
　　　SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of setting up of India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) and the time by which the IPPB is likely to be set up in 1.55 lakh post offices;

(b) whether all the formalities have been completed to start this project on the target date and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of post offices where payment banks are likely to be opened, State/UT-wise;

(d) the number of postal department ATMs operating in different parts of the country, State/UT-wise; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to grant approval for connecting ATMs of IPPB with the network of ATMs of other banks and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Madam, the status of setting up of India Post Payments Bank is as under:

(i) After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted the License on 20.01.2017 to roll out Payments Bank, two branches have been launched on 30.01.2017 at Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi (Jharkhand) along with 6 access points and the remaining 650 branches will be launched by April 2018.

(ii) The preparatory works for roll out of 650 branches including the civil, electrical, branding and furniture are in final stages.

(iii) M/s HPGS renamed as M/s EIT Services India Pvt. Ltd. has been engaged as System Integrator (SI) for setting up of IPPB on 14.08.2017. The work for development of technology platform is in advanced stage.

(iii) Training of banking personnel and DoP employees is ongoing in Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Gurgaon and at various postal training centers across India.

(iv) Recruitment of personnel for banking operations from various sources is going on. As on date, 528 Managers (Aproximately) have been on-boarded.

Further, IPPB aims to have a pan-India reach (650 branches, average one in each district) by April. 2018. The roll out of all the 1.55 lakh access points will be completed in a phased manner starting from April, 2018 to September, 2018. The preparatory works for rollout of all 650 branches such as Technology build out, physical

readiness including branding and furniture, Recruitment and training of staffs of DoP, etc. are under process.

(c) The list of number of post offices where Payments Bank is likely to be opened is enclosed as Statement-I.

(d) Madam, The number of postal department ATMs operating in different parts of the country, state/UT wise is enclosed as Statement-II.

(e) In line with the Cabinet's decision, IPPB intends to rollout 5,000 ATMs over a period of time. At present, IPPB will leverage the DOP ATMs for its banking operations, which are already connected with network of ATMs of other banks.

### *Statement-I*

*List of number of Post Offices where payments Bank is likely to be opened*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Number of IPPB Branches |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 1 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 24 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 10 |
| 4. | Assam | 26 |
| 5. | Bihar | 38 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 1 |
| 7. | Chattisgarh | 27 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haweli | 1 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 0 |
| 10. | Delhi | 3 |
| 11. | Goa | 1 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 32 |
| 13. | Haryana | 20 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 12 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 8 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 16. | Jharkhand | 22 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 31 |
| 18. | Kerala | 14 |
| 19. | Lakshwadeep | 1 |
| 20. | Madhya pradesh | 42 |
| 21. | Maharastra | 41 |
| 22. | Manipur | 9 |
| 23. | Meghalya | 8 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 6 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 9 |
| 26. | Odisha | 33 |
| 27. | Puducherry | 1 |
| 28. | Punjab | 22 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 33 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 1 |
| 31. | Telangana | 23 |
| 32. | Tamil Nadu | 36 |
| 33 | Tripura | 5 |
| 34 | Uttar Pradesh | 73 |
| 35 | Uttarakhand | 12 |
| 36 | West Bengal | 25 |
| | Total | 650 |

### *Statement-II*

*The number of Postal Department ATM's operating in different parts of the country*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | No. of Operational DoP ATMs |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 58 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 3. | Assam | 26 |
| 4. | Bihar | 44 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 2 |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 14 |
| 7. | Delhi | 26 |
| 8. | Goa | 4 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 41 |
| 10. | Haryana | 20 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 22 |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 12 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 19 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 76 |
| 15. | Kerala | 52 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 51 |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 71 |
| 18. | Manipur | 2 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 6 |
| 20. | Mizoram | 1 |
| 21. | Nagaland | 2 |
| 22. | Odisha | 44 |
| 23. | Puducherry | 1 |
| 24. | Punjab | 24 |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 64 |
| 26. | Sikkim | 1 |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 96 |
| 28. | Telangana | 37 |
| 29. | Tripura | 6 |
| 30. | Uttar Pradesh | 88 |
| 31. | Uttrakhand | 18 |
| 32. | West Bengal | 63 |
| | Grand Total | 993 |

*[English]*

### Allocation of Mine Blocks

1845. PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received and considered a number of requests of certain States for allocation of separate mine blocks for the use of their power stations during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of mine blocks allocated to various States during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Requests have been received from time to time from various State Governments for allocation of coal blocks/mines. The allocation of coal blocks are made under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and the Rules made thereunder wherein there is a process prescribed for allotment of coal blocks as per which State Government companies can aply as and when aplications are invited by Ministry of Coal through a Notice Inviting Aplication (NIA) for allocation of coal blocks. Aplications, if any, are considered as per the norms specified. Similarly the allocation of 204 cancelled coal mines are made under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 (CMSP Act) and the Rules made there under. Under the provisions of the said Act there is a process prescribed for allotment of coal mines as per which State Government companies can aply as and when aplications are invited by Ministry of Coal/Nominated Authority through NIA for allocation of coal mines. Aplications, if any, are considered as per the norms specified. The details of the coal/lignite blocks/mines which currently stand allotted under the provisions of MMDR Act and CMSP Act to various State Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years is given below:

| Sl. No. | Name of Coal/ Lignite Block | Allotee Company | End-use/ Sale of Coal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

*Coal Blocks (MMDR Act)*

| Sl. No. | Name of Coal/ Lignite Block | Allotee Company | End-use/ Sale of Coal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kente Extension | Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. | Power |
| 2. | Tentuloi | Odisha Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. | Power |
| 3. | Kudanali-Luburi | (i) Jammu & Kashmir State Power Dev. Corp. Ltd. (ii) NTPC Ltd. (Joint-allocation) | Power |
| 4. | Chandrabila | Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Ltd. | Power |
| 5. | Mahajanwadi | Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd. | Power |
| 6. | Sarapal-Nuapara | Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corp. Ltd. | Power |
| 7. | Kalyanpur-Badalpara | Haryana Power Generation Corp. Ltd. | Power |
| 8. | Pachwara-South | Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited | Power |
| 9. | Brahmani | Orissa Minerals Development Company | Sale of Coal |
| 10. | Kerwa | Kerwa Coal Limited (Joint Venture of Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corpn. and M.P. State Mining Corporation Ltd.) | Sale of Coal |

*Lignite Blocks (MMDR Act)*

| Sl. No. | Name of Coal/ Lignite Block | Allotee Company | End-use/ Sale of Coal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Panandhro Extension | Gujarat Mineral Development Corp. Ltd. | Power |
| 2. | Bharkandam | Gujarat Mineral Development Corp. Ltd. | Sale of Coal |
| 3. | Ghala | Gujarat Mineral Development Corp. Ltd. | Sale of Coal |

*Coal mines (CMSP Act)*

| Sl. No. | Name of Coal/ Lignite Block | Allotee Company | End-use/ Sale of Coal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Badam | Bihar State Power Generation Co. Ltd. | Power |
| 2. | Gare Palma Sector III | Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Co. Ltd. | Power |
| 3-4. | Gidhmuri, Paturia | | Power |
| 5. | Gare Palma Sector I | Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited | Power |
| 6. | Banhardih | Jharkhand Urja Utpadan Nigam Ltd. | Power |
| 7. to 12. | Baranj I, Baranj II, Baranj III, Baranj IV, Manora Deep & Kiloni | Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. | Power |
| 13. | Gare Palma Sector II | Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd. | Power |
| 14-15. | Manoharpur & Manoharpur Dipside | Odisha Coal & Power Limited | Power |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Pachhwara Central | Punjab State Power Corp. Ltd. | Power |
| 17. | Parsa | Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. | Power |
| 18-19. | Parsa East, Kanta Basan | | Power |
| 20. | Tadicherla-I | Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited | Power |
| 21. | Rajbar D & E | Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. | Power |
| 22. | Naini | The Singareni Collieries Company Limited | Power |
| 23. | Saharpur Jamarpani | UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. | Power |
| 24. | Barjora | West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. | Power |
| 25. | Barjora (North) | | Power |
| 26-27. | Gangaramchak, Gangaramchak Bhadulia | | Power |
| 28. | Kasta East | | Power |
| 29. | Pachhwara North | | Power |
| 30-31. | Tara East & West | | Power |
| 32. | Patal East | Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Limited | Sale of Coal |
| 33. | Baitarni West | Odisha Mining Corporation Limited | Sale of Coal |
| 34. | Madanpur South | The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development | Sale of Coal |
| 35. | Suliyari | Corporation Limited | Sale of Coal |
| 36. | Penagaddpa | The Singareni Collieries Company Limited | Sale of Coal |
| 37. | Gourangdih ABC | West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Limited | Sale of Coal. |

*[Translation]*

## USOF and Linking of Panchayat and Post Offices with Optical Fibre

1846. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds the Government proposes to spend out of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for promoting basic rural facilities under Digital India in the current financial year;

(b) the total number of gram panchayats and rural post offices provided link with optical fibre network in the country including Jharkhand along with the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the time by which the target of linking all the gram panchayats and the rural post offices with the optical fibre network is likely to be achieved;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with the pace of work for launching internet services with the fibre; and

(e) if not, the efforts made by the Government to expedite this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Rs. 6000 crore has been proposed to be spent out of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for promoting basic rural facilities under Digital India by providing broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the current financial year 2017-18.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of the total number of Gram Panchayats (GPs) provided link with optical fibre network in the country, including Jharkhand, under BharatNet Project are given in the enclosed Statement.

BharatNet Project is to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.5 lakh GPs in the country, out of these 1.03 lakh GPs have been made Service Ready. The Project is to be completed by March 2019. The extension of broadband connectivity to institutions at GP level is proposed through State Government or the concerned Departments. Department of Post does not have any plan to provide optical fibre connectivity in the country, including in Jharkhand.

(d) and (e) Yes Madam. In December 2017, Phase-I of BharatNet has been completed by connecting one lakh GPs. As on 25.02.2018, a total of 1,12,677 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected by laying 2,65,296 km OFC. The number of Service Ready GPs is 1,03,279. A modified strategy to implement BharatNet has been aproved by Cabinet on 19.07.2017, which provides optimal mix of media to connect GPs, implementation by State-led Model, Private Sector, CPSU Model, laying of fresh fibre from Block to GPs and setting up of last mile architecture at all GPs. The timeline for completion of the Project is March, 2019.

### *Statement*

*State/UT-wise Status of BharatNet (as on 25.02.2018)*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Number of Service Ready GPs |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 14 |
| 2. | Assam | 1443 |
| 3. | Bihar | 4937 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 13 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 3559 |
| 6. | Dadar and Nagar Haveli | 0 |
| 7. | Daman and Diu | 0 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 4401 |
| 9. | Haryana | 5803 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 162 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 169 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 1502 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 6071 |
| 14. | Kerala | 1129 |
| 15. | Lakshadweep | 0 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 10649 |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 13437 |
| 18. | Manipur | 123 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 122 |
| 20. | Mizoram | 18 |
| 21. | Nagaland | 61 |
| 22. | Odisha | 2402 |
| 23. | Puducherry | 101 |
| 24. | Punjab | 6761 |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 8134 |
| 26. | Sikkim | 4 |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 0 |
| 28. | Telangana | 2042 |
| 29. | Tripura | 489 |
| 30. | Uttar Pradesh | 26352 |
| 31. | Uttarakhand | 1361 |
| 32. | West Bengal | 2020 |
| 33. | Andaman and Nicobar | 0 |
| 34. | Andhra Pradesh | 0 |
| | Total | 103279 |

### Misuse of Servers by Cyber Criminals

1847. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of servers are being misused by cyber criminals in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to take any concrete and effective steps to stop this malpractice; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) Organisations use servers to host websites and aplications for dissemination of information and providing services to users. The servers not configured properly and having vulnerable software are prone to hacking and could be misused by cyber criminals. In tune with the dynamic nature of Information Technology and emerging cyber threats, continuous efforts are required to be made by owners to protect servers by way of hardening and deploying apropriate security controls.

(b) and (c) Government has taken various steps for preventing cyber attacks and enhancing the cyber security of information technology infrastructure in the country, these are:

i. All the new government websites and aplications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the websites and aplications is to be conducted on a regular basis after hosting. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has empanelled 67 security auditing organizations to suport and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.

ii. CERT-In is regularly tracking the hacking of websites and alerts the website owners concerned to take actions to secure the websites to prevent recurrence. CERT-In also issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis.

iii. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers/servers on regular basis.

iv. Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 15 such drills have so far been conducted by CERT-In where 148 organisations from different States and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated. In addition 3 drills were conducted in coordination with The Reserve Bank of India and The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology.

v. CERT-In conducts regular training programmes for network/system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations regarding securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks. 22 training programs covering 610 participants were conducted during the year 2017.

vi. 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.

vii. 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.

viii. 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 aproach 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.

*[English]*

### Establishment of Cultural Centres

1848. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to establish cultural centres across the globe to leverage Indias cultural and creative strengths similar to the Alliance Francaise Centres (France), Goethe Institutes (Germany), Instituto Cervantes (Spain) and Confucius Institutes (China) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has created any roadmap in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) To leverage India's cultural and creative strengths, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, an autonomous body under the Ministry of External Affairs, has set up 37 cultural centres across the globe. ICCR run cultural centres have their own unique characteristics.

(b) and (c) ICCR's first culture centre was established in the year 1972. Since then it has established 37 centres in 35 countries. Centres in Sydney and Hanoi were established recently in the year 2016 and 2017 respectively. During the recent visit of Prime Minister of India to Israel, announcement for the opening of Indian Cultural Centre in Israel was made. The centres are established with due diligence to ensure that our creative and cultural strengths are leveraged to the best results.

(d) Not aplicable.

*[Translation]*

### Denial of Services due to Non- Availability of Aadhaar Number

1849. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

Will the Minister ofELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether essential services at several places at present are being denied to persons having no aadhaar number;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines to State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) to (c) Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 has a provision to have alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of subsidy, benefit or service to even those individuals who have not been assigned any Aadhaar number. All the notifications/circulars, issued by various Ministries/Departments of Government of India, have clearly outlined that lack of Aadhaar by any individual will not prevent delivery of any service, subsidy or benefit.

In order to provide more clarifications on requirement of Aadhaar in respect of specific cases, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Department of Food and Public Distribution (PDS) and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mission have issued the following circulars:

1. UIDAI circular dated 24.10.17 on "Exception handling in PDS and other welfare schemes"

2. Ministry of Food and Public Distribution letter dated 24.10.17 on "Exception handling in PDS and other welfare schemes"

3. DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat circular dated 19.12.2017 on "Exception handling".

**Vacant Posts**

1850. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
        SHRI KIRTI AZAD:
        SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:
        DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government gives any suggestions to the departments concerned for taking necessary steps to fill up the vacant posts on an early basis, if delay is noticed in filling of vacant posts across the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has any data of the posts lying vacant in all the Ministries and Departments in the country and if so, the details thereof, department-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the unemployed get employment and the rate of unemployment in the country does not go up;

(e) whether there is delay in making new recruitments for filling up a large number of posts lying vacant for a long time in the country and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether a number of cases of delay in declaration of results in cases of recruitments being made are also coming to light and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Department of Personnel & Training (DoP&T) has issued instructions vide Office Memorandum (OM) Number 22011/4/2013-Estt.(D) dated 08.05.2017 prescribing Model Calendar for timely convening of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meeting and to ensure that aproved select panels are ready on the date of commencement of vacancy year.

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

(c) Annual Report on Pay & Allowances of Central Government Civilian Employees 2016-17 published by Pay Research Unit, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance containing information on Central Government civilian employees group-wise (Gazetted/Non Gazetted) estimated number of Central Government civilian regular employees Ministry/Department wise as on 01.03.2016 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) The Government is implementing the National Career Service (NCS) as a Mission mode Project for transformation of the National Employment Service to provide a variety of employment related services like career counseling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, aprenticeship internships etc. To provide these services online, a National Career Service Portal has been developed. The NCS Project is suported by Call Centre/Helpdesk and a network of delivery channels including employment exchanges. National Career Service portal is hosted at URL www.ncs.gov.in and a toll free number 1800-425-1514 is operational.

A scheme called Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana has been launched in the year 2016-17 for incentivizing industry for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme employers would be provided an incentive to enhance employment where the Government is paying the employer's contribution of 8.33 % EPS made for the new employees. In textile (aparel and made-up) sector, the Government is also paying the 3.67% EPF contribution of employers in addition to paying the 8.33% EPS Contribution.

(e) and (f) UPSC conducts Direct Recruitment to various Group 'A' and Group 'B' Gazetted posts based on the number of vacancies reported by the Ministries/Departments/Union Territories.

Structured Examinations for Direct Recruitment is conducted by the UPSC in accordance with the Rules of Examinations notified by the various Nodal Ministries/Department of the Government of India. These

examinations are conducted as per the Annual Programme of Examinations issued six months in advance for the next Calendar Year.

There is no case of delay in declaration of results, except in respect of two Limited Departmental Competitive Examination where in there is delay due to pending court cases.

Further, there is no delay in declaration of result by the Staff Selection Commission.

Besides UPSC and SSC, the Ministries and Departments also undertake recruitment for certain posts. The data regarding time taken in respect of these recruitments is not centrally maintained.

*Statement*

*Group-wise and Status-wise (G/NG) estimated number of central Government civilian regular employees as on 01.03.2016*

| S.No. | Ministry/Deptt. | Number of Sanctioned Posts | | | | | Number in Position | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A(G)* | B(G) | B(NG) | C(NG)s | Total | A(G)* | B(G) | B(NG) | C(NG)s | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 1. | Agricultural Reseach and Education** | 20 | 0 | 19 | 7 | 46 | 20 | 0 | 19 | 7 | 46 |
| 2. | Agriculture and Cooperation | 652 | 545 | 614 | 4274 | 6065 | 432 | 362 | 405 | 2837 | 4036 |
| 3. | Animal Husbandry and Dairying | 327 | 169 | 187 | 3269 | 3952 | 194 | 86 | 102 | 2072 | 2454 |
| 4. | Atomic Energy | 11439 | 561 | 9770 | 15040 | 36810 | 11006 | 532 | 9174 | 11337 | 32049 |
| 5. | Ayush | 73 | 38 | 37 | 89 | 237 | 60 | 26 | 25 | 68 | 179 |
| 6. | Bio-Technology | 78 | 29 | 69 | 78 | 254 | 61 | 19 | 42 | 49 | 171 |
| 7. | Cabinet Secretariat** | 96 | 0 | 80 | 122 | 298 | 96 | 0 | 80 | 122 | 298 |
| 8. | Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Pharmaceuticals | 70 | 45 | 65 | 209 | 389 | 60 | 39 | 62 | 165 | 326 |
| 9. | Civil Aviation | 807 | 70 | 464 | 883 | 2224 | 452 | 48 | 169 | 444 | 1113 |
| 10. | Coal | 58 | 51 | 94 | 221 | 424 | 42 | 29 | 83 | 146 | 300 |
| 11. | Commerce** | 639 | 886 | 1229 | 4354 | 6915 | 669 | 886 | 1306 | 4354 | 6513 |
| 12. | Consumer Affairs | 229 | 140 | 255 | 564 | 1187 | 176 | 97 | 147 | 393 | 813 |
| 13. | Corporate Affairs | 495 | 172 | 696 | 1110 | 2473 | 318 | 97 | 359 | 602 | 1376 |
| 14. | Culture** | 206 | 269 | 259 | 7128 | 7862 | 206 | 269 | 259 | 7128 | 7862 |
| 15. | Defence (Civilian)** | 17405 | 38807 | 46132 | 483132 | 585476 | 17160 | 30576 | 28839 | 321847 | 398422 |
| 16. | Development of NE Region | 68 | 58 | 50 | 174 | 348 | 58 | 37 | 37 | 105 | 237 |
| 17. | Drinking Water and Sanitation | 37 | 33 | 43 | 51 | 164 | 36 | 15 | 33 | 28 | 112 |
| 18. | Earth Sciences | 747 | 1625 | 2252 | 2861 | 7485 | 382 | 1355 | 1342 | 1784 | 4863 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | Economic Affairs** | 256 | 132 | 198 | 499 | 1085 | 256 | 132 | 198 | 499 | 1085 |
| 20. | Environment and Forests | 855 | 1104 | 278 | 2730 | 4967 | 638 | 637 | 145 | 1509 | 2929 |
| 21. | Expenditure | 218 | 336 | 252 | 602 | 1408 | 176 | 284 | 151 | 332 | 943 |
| 22. | External Affairs | 2376 | 1029 | 2571 | 2737 | 8702 | 2125 | 901 | 1820 | 2347 | 7183 |
| 23. | Fertilizers | 47 | 51 | 13 | 88 | 199 | 39 | 34 | 8 | 55 | 136 |
| 24. | Financial Services | 299 | 51 | 495 | 855 | 1700 | 242 | 36 | 307 | 576 | 1161 |
| 25. | Food and Public Distribution | 228 | 82 | 299 | 503 | 1112 | 206 | 78 | 258 | 385 | 927 |
| 26. | Food Processing Industries | 47 | 27 | 45 | 70 | 189 | 53 | 14 | 30 | 47 | 144 |
| 27. | Health and Family Welfare** | 2357 | 658 | 1035 | 17264 | 21314 | 2357 | 658 | 1035 | 17264 | 21314 |
| 28. | Heavy Industry | 55 | 44 | 57 | 132 | 288 | 47 | 26 | 43 | 82 | 198 |
| 29. | Higher Education | 283 | 132 | 341 | 651 | 1407 | 175 | 93 | 234 | 441 | 943 |
| 30. | Home Affairs | 24780 | 17005 | 34600 | 944246 | 1020631 | 20540 | 13041 | 27766 | 886919 | 948266 |
| 31. | Indian Audit and Accounts | 696 | 18022 | 288 | 49189 | 68195 | 553 | 14590 | 242 | 30494 | 45879 |
| 32. | Industrial Policy and Promiton** | 227 | 133 | 198 | 1451 | 2009 | 227 | 133 | 198 | 1451 | 2009 |
| 33. | Information and Broadcasting | 516 | 644 | 784 | 4314 | 6258 | 347 | 411 | 630 | 2624 | 4012 |
| 34. | Information Technology | 3852 | 605 | 511 | 1599 | 6567 | 3649 | 539 | 437 | 897 | 5522 |
| 35. | Investment and Public Asset Management | 21 | 8 | 16 | 14 | 59 | 20 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 53 |
| 36. | Labour and Employment | 1373 | 511 | 1237 | 4914 | 8035 | 941 | 346 | 883 | 3100 | 5270 |
| 37. | Land Resources | 35 | 24 | 30 | 42 | 131 | 26 | 11 | 17 | 22 | 76 |
| 38. | Law and Justice** | 282 | 157 | 257 | 663 | 1359 | 197 | 115 | 204 | 530 | 1046 |
| 39. | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises | 222 | 370 | 96 | 2090 | 2778 | 173 | 289 | 73 | 1576 | 2111 |
| 40. | Mines | 3039 | 741 | 2104 | 3841 | 9725 | 2791 | 564 | 1791 | 3248 | 8394 |
| 41. | Minority Affairs | 69 | 59 | 36 | 97 | 261 | 42 | 43 | 22 | 62 | 169 |
| 42. | New and Renewable Energy | 115 | 34 | 52 | 88 | 289 | 81 | 18 | 41 | 70 | 210 |
| 43. | Panchayati Raj | 31 | 21 | 29 | 51 | 132 | 29 | 16 | 20 | 36 | 101 |
| 44. | Parliamentary Affairs | 23 | 21 | 45 | 59 | 148 | 23 | 12 | 35 | 52 | 122 |
| 45. | Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions | 1549 | 620 | 2598 | 6331 | 11098 | 1159 | 436 | 1816 | 5271 | 8682 |
| 46. | Petroleum and Natural Gas | 56 | 77 | 66 | 113 | 312 | 50 | 65 | 64 | 65 | 244 |
| 47. | Planning | 225 | 124 | 121 | 176 | 646 | 171 | 96 | 99 | 165 | 531 |
| 48. | Posts** | 614 | 3070 | 5588 | 184539 | 193811 | 614 | 3070 | 5588 | 184539 | 193811 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 49. | Power | 545 | 240 | 441 | 631 | 1857 | 415 | 124 | 235 | 432 | 1206 |
| 50. | President's Secretariat | 29 | 36 | 68 | 190 | 323 | 48 | 16 | 69 | 134 | 267 |
| 51. | Prime Minister's Office | 57 | 62 | 115 | 271 | 505 | 59 | 63 | 102 | 179 | 403 |
| 52. | Public Enterprises | 31 | 10 | 25 | 56 | 122 | 24 | 7 | 16 | 24 | 71 |
| 53. | Railways** | 9557 | 7103 | 0 | 1314773 | 1331433 | 9557 | 7103 | 0 | 1314773 | 1331433 |
| 54. | Revenue | 12456 | 32395 | 34590 | 99492 | 178933 | 7848 | 25239 | 18022 | 49171 | 100280 |
| 55. | Road Transport and Highways | 347 | 69 | 289 | 371 | 1076 | 321 | 66 | 237 | 296 | 920 |
| 56. | Rural Development | 106 | 110 | 127 | 244 | 587 | 94 | 91 | 98 | 178 | 461 |
| 57. | School Education and Literacy | 82 | 74 | 131 | 172 | 459 | 60 | 47 | 102 | 109 | 318 |
| 58. | Science and Technology | 592 | 789 | 291 | 10505 | 12177 | 267 | 660 | 777 | 3693 | 5397 |
| 59. | Shipping | 371 | 156 | 620 | 1739 | 2886 | 203 | 164 | 378 | 1089 | 1834 |
| 60. | Social Justice and Empowerment | 127 | 122 | 192 | 309 | 750 | 106 | 89 | 159 | 241 | 595 |
| 61. | Space** | 7251 | 496 | 2699 | 4936 | 15382 | 7034 | 399 | 2377 | 2537 | 12347 |
| 62. | Statistics and Programme Implementation | 518 | 1801 | 2751 | 1285 | 6355 | 375 | 1492 | 1776 | 968 | 4611 |
| 63. | Steel | 53 | 40 | 77 | 107 | 277 | 45 | 44 | 71 | 82 | 242 |
| 64. | Telecommunication** | 1048 | 391 | 94 | 1230 | 2763 | 1048 | 391 | 94 | 1230 | 2763 |
| 65. | Textiles | 319 | 206 | 725 | 3489 | 4739 | 262 | 180 | 665 | 3131 | 4238 |
| 66. | Tourism | 73 | 102 | 1 | 402 | 578 | 64 | 91 | 1 | 334 | 490 |
| 67. | Tribal Affairs | 76 | 42 | 47 | 145 | 310 | 60 | 31 | 41 | 109 | 241 |
| 68. | Union Public Service Commission | 172 | 282 | 433 | 1046 | 1933 | 155 | 191 | 384 | 678 | 1408 |
| 69. | Urban Development*** | 3281 | 891 | 5620 | 10586 | 20378 | 3078 | 1186 | 5207 | 8922 | 18393 |
| 70. | Vice President's Secretariat | 6 | 5 | 2 | 47 | 60 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 39 | 49 |
| 71. | Water Resources and River Development | 1724 | 1155 | 2565 | 6000 | 11444 | 1271 | 834 | 1428 | 3760 | 7293 |
| 72. | Women and Child Development | 93 | 79 | 151 | 391 | 714 | 78 | 59 | 82 | 249 | 468 |
| 73. | Youth Affairs and Sports | 50 | 36 | 95 | 269 | 450 | 49 | 30 | 68 | 255 | 402 |
| | Total | 117185 | 136079 | 168481 | 3212190 | 3633935 | 101901 | 109769 | 118741 | 2890772 | 3221183 |

\* Includes some non-gazetted posts also.

\*\* Sanctioned strength/In position are provisional/repeated.

\*\*\* Including HUPA.

$ Estwhile Group D posts have been categorised as Group C after implementation of 6th CPC

*[English]*

**Mentoring Women Entrepreneurship**

1851. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI:
      SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY:
      SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is planning to set up a centre aimed at mentoring women entrepreneurship and provide financial support to women to stand up in the business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the task has been entrusted to NITI Aayog to work out the modalities and policies for establishment of the said unit and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the facilities proposed to be provided through this entity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) (a) to (d) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog provides suport for the setting up of Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) and scaling up of Established Incubation Centres (EICs). So far 19 incubators have been selected for AICs and EICs. One of the AICs that has been set up at Banasthali Vidyapeeth that is a woman only University and the AIC-Banasthali focuses only on mentoring and suporting women entrepreneurs while another EIC (NS Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learing, IIM Bangalore) runs a special program for women entrepreneurship. However, all incubation Centres are expected to suport women entrepreneurs as well for mentoring and help them in setting up and scaling up their businesses.

**Terrorist Attack on Army Camp**

1852. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
      SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
      SHRI R.P. MARUTHARAJAA:
      SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
      SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terrorist attacks reported on defence stations/Army Camps particularly in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) the number of soldiers, civilians and terrorists killed and injured in each attack;

(c) whether the Government received report of the inquiry conducted on such attacks and if so, the details thereofand the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government has found any role of Pakistan in these terrorist attacks including that on Sunjwan and if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether terrorist activities are frequently being carried out in Jammu region and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to enhance the security of defence stations/ Army Camps and also retaliatory action against Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMARAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The details of Army casualties, terrorists and civilians killed during the last three years and the current year are as under:

| Sl. No. | Year | No. of incidents | Army Casualties | | Terrorists Killed | Civilian Casualties | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Fatal | Non fatal | | Fatal | Non Fatal |
| 1. | 2015 | 02 | - | 03 | 05 | 01 | - |
| 2. | 2016 | 05 | 26 | 25 | 10 | - | - |
| 3. | 2017 | 01 | 03 | 07 | 02 | - | - |
| 4. | 2018 | 01 | 06 | 06 | 03 | 01 | 06 |

(c) to (f) All terrorist attacks on Army Camp are investigated in detail. Prima facie it was found that these attacks were carried out by terrorist out fits. Government had issued broad guidelines for Security of Defence Installations and in compliance to the said Guidelines, the Defence Services have taken a number of actions including risk categorisation of military bases; apraisal and upgradation of intelligence gathering capabilities; strengthening and streamlining of the response mechanism; Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs); periodic security audit of all military installations etc. The Army also carries out indepth analysis of the terrorist incidents and security breaches that are identified with various incidents. Perimeter security projects of all the three Armed Forces have been sanctioned by the Government.

### Upgradation of Coast Guard

1853. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures to upgrade the functioning of coast guard to reach out during emergency situations like cyclone in deep sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to increase the manpower and ensure to provide modern equipment to coastguard;

(d) whether the Government is ready to constitute separate coast guard unit in highly populated coastal districts like Alappuzha in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMARAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The Government has established a robust maritime search and rescue framework to address and respond various contingencies in deep sea and in coastal areas of India, which includes distress onboard fishing boats and merchant vessels, safety of life during marine incidents and SAR response during Cyclones etc. Director General Indian Coast Guard has been designated as the Chairman of National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB), which constitutes members from national/coastal state administration/

agencies. The sanctioned strength of Coast Guard has increased from 7,096 in 2008 to 14,500 (as on February, 2018). At present, the average intake of manpower in ICG is 130 officers and 720 Enrolled Personnel per year, which is almost a 100% increase from manpower recruited in 2008.

(d) and (e) A Coast Guard station at a particular location is set up taking into consideration the threat perception, vulnerability gap analysis and presence of other maritime organization/security set up in the vicinity.

Alapuzha is located in close proximity of Coast Guard Station Kochi and Coast Guard Station Vizhinjam and regular air surveillance is also undertaken by the Coast Guard Air Enclave at Kochi. These Coast Guard stations are equiped to quickly respond to any urgent emerging situation at sea.

### Misuse of Aadhaar Data

1854.   SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY:
        SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Aadhaar data is being misused and following the complaints Aadhaar servers have stopped their services across the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has investigated the matter and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government to resolve the problem once and for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS  KANNANTHANAM): (a) to (d) No, Madam. The data collected during enrolment gets encrypted as soon as the enrolment takes place thereby diminishing the possibility of any misuse of the data. Ensuring security of data is a continuous exercise and UIDAI has deployed state of art security measures and is continuously upgrading it as per requirement.

**UIDAI**

1855. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
PROF. RICHARD HAY:
SHRI GEORGE BAKER:

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

(a) the details of the number of citizens enrolled on the database of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) across the country, State/UT- wise including Kerala and Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government is planning to create Virtual ID's to stop the misuse ofAadhaar data and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether virtual ID's will give the users the option of not sharing their Aadhaar number at the time of authentication, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government is also planning to introduce the limit KYC system and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) State/UT wise Aadhaar generation including that of Gujarat and Kerala, as on 15th Feb, 2018 is attached as Statement.

(b) to (d) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) vide its circular dated 10th January, 2018 has decided to implement Virtual ID. Virtual ID is temporary, revocable 16 digit random number maped with the Aadhaar number, which can be used at the time of authentication. UIDAI has also decided to implement limited KYC. The details are given in UIDAI circular dated 10th January, 2018 which is available on UIDAI website.

***Statement***

*State/UT wise Aadhaar Saturation*
*15th February, 2018*

| Sl.No | State Name | Total Population (Projected 2017) | Numbers of Aadhaar assigned (LIVE) | Saturation % 2017 (LIVE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Delhi | 18,110,349 | 21260964 | 117.4% |
| 2. | Goa | 1,521,000 | 1559819 | 102.6% |
| 3. | Chandigarh | 1,110,820 | 1133723 | 102.1% |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 7,246,418 | 7377467 | 101.8% |
| 5. | Haryana | 27,443,256 | 27885649 | 101.6% |
| 6. | Punjab | 29,344,896 | 29683047 | 101.2% |
| 7. | Kerala | 35,043,531 | 35412010 | 101.1% |
| 8. | Telangana | 38,042,884 | 38386723 | 100.9% |
| 9. | Uttarakhand | 10,956,753 | 10805777 | 98.6% |
| 10. | Lakshadweep | 70,214 | 68956 | 98.2% |
| 11. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 373,636 | 361779 | 96.8% |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | Daman and Diu | 216,981 | 208984 | 96.3% |
| 13. | Gujarat | 63,000,000 | 59966937 | 95.2% |
| 14. | Andamand and Nicobar Islands | 414,057 | 392888 | 94.9% |
| 15. | Puducherry | 13,56,199 | 1278086 | 94.2% |
| 16. | Chhattisgarh | 28,125,421 | 26425471 | 94.0% |
| 17. | West Bengal | 96,775,592 | 90756521 | 93.8% |
| 18. | Jharkhand | 36,672,687 | 34248728 | 93.4% |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 75,844,451 | 70706500 | 93.2% |
| 20. | Odisha | 44,912,901 | 41780628 | 93.0% |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 119,581,739 | 111177671 | 93.0% |
| 22. | Karnataka | 65,426,566 | 60679296 | 92.7% |
| 23. | Andhra Pradesh | 52,375,124 | 48423128 | 92.5% |
| 24. | Madhya Pradesh | 80,894,777 | 72790907 | 90.0% |
| 25. | Tripura | 4,000,638 | 3596127 | 89.9% |
| 26. | Sikkim | 662,250 | 582598 | 88.0% |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 224,558,257 | 194552765 | 86.6% |
| 28. | Rajasthan | 76,802,294 | 66212256 | 86.2% |
| 29. | Bihar | 117,153,097 | 97975172 | 83.6% |
| 30. | Mizoram | 1,188,971 | 956476 | 80.4% |
| 31. | Manipur | 2,966,130 | 2375749 | 80.1% |
| 32. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1,506,749 | 1149799 | 76.3% |
| 33. | Jammu Kashmir | 13,477,325 | 9799731 | 72.7% |
| 34. | Nagaland | 2,158,431 | 1219621 | 56.5% |
| 35. | Meghalaya | 3,230,132 | 660016 | 20.4% |
| 36. | Assam | 34,068,394 | 2611469 | 7.7% |
|  | Total | 1,316,632,920 | 1174463440 | 89.2% |

### Standardizing Trains

1856. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to standardize trains in terms of number of coaches so that all trains can run on all routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this will lead to any excess financial burden to Railways and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways has selected any routes or trains for the purpose on a pilot basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Rationalization of rakes is an on-going process over Indian Railways and, *inter-alia*, is aimed at improving utilization of coaching stock, ensuring punctual running of trains, releasing maintenance slots and improving turn-around time.

Besides operational feasibility, the rationalization of rakes in terms of composition is done keeping in view traffic pattern and nature of services.

In some cases, investment may be needed for up-gradation of infrastructural facilities like lengthening of platform/pit line etc.

### Radiation Technologies for the Prevention of Food Loss

1857. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:
SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is conducting any research to develop technologies that prevent food loss in post harvest stage and if so, the details and the outcomes thereof;

(b) whether use of radiation techniques has helped in increasing the food production in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to extend this facility across the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam. Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in particular is engaged in extensive research on use of radiation processing for extending shelf life of food products.

Irradiation is very effective in treating agricultural produce to enhance its shelf life. Shelf life extension of agriculture produces is very much dependent on the produce, variety and storage conditions. Irradiation and proper storage substantially increases shelf life of fresh agricultural produce. Unique advantages of radiation processing of products (including fruits, vegetables, cereals, pulses, spices, sea foods and meat products) are:

- Cold (no temperature increase) and clean process (no chemical residue)

- Effective elimination of harmful bacteria and insects/pests

- Treatment after final packaging to avoid recontamination

- Significant increase in shelf life.

Research work on radiation technology at BARC has resulted in shelf life extension of potato, onion and phytosanitary treatments of fruits (like Mango, Pomegranate,etc). In case of potato and onion, sprouting during storage results in loss of quality and nutritional values. Mango irradiation was started in 2007.

Around 1150 tons of mangos were radiation treated in 2017 for export to USA. Recently the harmonisation of food irradiation rules with the international regulation has taken place in India. This has provided class wise clearance of irradiated food items which will enable the large scale deployment of this technology.

(b) Yes, Madam. Aplication of nuclear techniques has helped in increasing productivity and production in agriculture. Experience gained by BARC has shown that using radiation for crop improvement is an efficient plant breeding method complementing the conventional methods.

DAE has developed 42 new varieties of crops using radiation induced mutation (and conventional) breeding. These include 15 varieties in groundnut, 3 in mustard, 2 in soybean, 1 in sunflower (total 21 in oilseeds), 8 in mungbean, 5 in uradbean, 5 in pigeonpea, 1 in cowpea (total 19 in pulse crops), 1 each in rice and jute. The major desirable traits in these crops include higher yield, seed size, improved agronomic and quality traits, early maturity and resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. Several of these varieties enjoy high patronage among the farming community. Several of these varieties are extensively cultivated in the country & contribute substantially to the total agricultural production in the

country. BARC is also involved in breeder seed multiplication of its released varieties in the case of crops such as groundnuts & pulses.

Nuclear techniques have benefited the farmers, traders and end-users and will continue to play a significant role in addressing food and nutritional security of our country.

(c) Two technology demonstration plants were set up based on R&D carried out at BARC:

i. First is KRUSHAK at Lasalgaon, Nashik, Maharashtra for low dose radiation treatment to take care of sprout inhibition and quarantine treatment of fresh produce (such as mango).

ii. Second is at Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra (Radiation Processing Plant, RPP) for high dose irradiation with the purpose of microbial decontamination of products (such as spices, herbal products and pet food).

Success of these plants led to the subsequent establishment of one plant each by the Government of Gujarat (Gujarat Agro at Bavala) & Maharashtra (MSAMB at Vashi, Navi Mumbai) and eleven irradiation plants in the private sector. Fifteen plants established in country to cater to the demands of the internal market as well as for exports (refer Statement). These plants are set up under the guidance of Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology (BRIT) under the Department of Atomic Energy.

### *Statement*

*Fifteen Plants established in Country*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Plant | Purpose | Commissioning Year |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Radiation Processing Plant, BRIT, Vashi, Navi Mumbai | Food and allied products | 2000 |
| 2. | *KRUSHAK Irradiator, Lasalgaon, Nashik, Maharashtra | Food Products | 2002 |
| 3. | M/S Organic Green Foods Ltd., Dankuni, Kolkata, West Bengal | Food, Packaging & Medical Products | 2004 |
| 4. | M/S A.V. Processors Pvt. Ltd., Ambernath (E), Thane, Maharashtra | Food & Medical Products | 2005 |
| 5. | M/S Universal Medicap Ltd., Vadodara, Gujarat | Food & Medical Products | 2005 |
| 6. | M/S. Microtrol, Bangalore, Karnataka | Food & Medical Products | 2006 |
| 7. | *M/S Agrosurg Irradiators, Vasai, Thane, Maharashtra | Food, Packaging & Medical Products | 2008 |
| 8. | M/S Gamma Agro Medical Processing, Hyderabad, Telangana | Food & Medical Products | 2008 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | *M/S Jhunsons Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan | Agro, Medical & Packaging Products | 2010 |
| 10. | M/S InnovaAgri Bio Park Ltd., Malur, Dist. Kolar, Karnataka | Food & Medical Products | 2011 |
| 11. | *M/S Hindustan Agro CoOperative Ltd., Rahuri, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra | Onion & Other Agricultural Produces | 2012 |
| 12. | M/S Impartial Agro Tech (P) Ltd., Unnao, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh | Food & Medical Products | 2014 |
| 13. | *M/S Gujarat Agro Industries Corpn. Ltd, Bavla, Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Food Products | 2014 |
| 14. | M/s Aligned Industries, Dharuhera, Rewari, Haryana | Food Products | 2015 |
| 15. | *Maharashtra State Agricultural Mktg. Board, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Food Products | 2015 |

*Facility for low dose irradiation (for mango, Onion, Potato etc.)

**CBI Cases from Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry**

1858. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of cases received by CBI from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers during the last one year for investigation; and

(b) the expected time to complete investigation, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizer has fowarded three complaints to CBI which are as under:-

(i) complaint dated 15.09.2017 received from Global Wellness Foundation, New Delhi relating to IFFCO referred to CBI on 21.11.2017,

(ii) complaint dated 15.11.2017 received from Sh. Upendrasing V. Rathva, Gujarat relating to KRIBHCO referred to CBI on 1202.2018 and

(iii) complaint dated NIL received from Sh. B.K. Patel, Gujarat, relating to KRIBHCO referred to CBI on 12.02.2018.

In addition CBI has registered two more cases during the year 2017 and 2018 (upto 31.01.2018) as follows:-

(i) RC. 16(A)/2017 16.12.2017 U/s. 120-B, 420 IPC and Sec, 13(2) r/w, 13(1)(d) of P.C. Act, 1988 in the matter of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Pune.

(ii) RC 2(A)/2017 CBI/ACB/ Cochin, Dt.17.02.2017, U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(e) of PC Act, 1988 in the matter of FACT Limited, Udyogamandal, Ernakulam.

(b) The investigation of cases referred to involves scrutiny of voluminous documents, obtaining opinion of forensic experts, questioning of witnesses/suspects and legal scrutiny by experts etc. As such, no definite time frame can be indicated for completion of investigation.

### Coal Reserves

1859. SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of coal reserves in the country at present, State-wise along with the annual consumption of coal during the last three years;

(b) whether coal resources of the country are being developed in an optimal manner and if so, the details thereof including the steps taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a Coal Regulatory Authority in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the salient features thereof;

(e) whether the view of the various stakeholders have been obtained before setting up of Coal Regulatory Authority and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the authority is likely to be set up; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to find out the alternative source of energy so as to reduce dependency of coal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The total estimated coal resources in the country is 315.149 billion tonnes as per "The inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal" (as on 01.04.2017), prepared by the Geological Survey of India. The total coal extracted from the coalfields of India during 2016-17 is 655.31 million tonnes and since 1950 upto 2016-17 is around 14438.22 million tonne. (As per Coal Controller, MoC, Govt. of India). Every year about 3 to 5 billion tonnes of resources are being added through fresh exploration to the Coal Inventory of India.

### Statewise Geological Resources of Coal in India as on 01.04.2017

(As per GSI Inventory)

| State | Category-wise Coal Resources (in Million Tonnes) | | | |
| | Measured (Proved) | Indicated | Inferred | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| West Bengal | 13723 | 12954 | 4990 | 31667 |
| Bihar | 0 | 0 | 1354 | 1354 |
| Jharkhand | 44341 | 31876 | 6223 | 82440 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 11269 | 12760 | 3645 | 27673 |
| Chhattisgarh | 19997 | 34462 | 2202 | 56661 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 884 | 178 | 0 | 1062 |
| Maharashtra | 7038 | 3158 | 2063 | 12259 |
| Odisha | 34810 | 34060 | 8415 | 77285 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 1149 | 432 | 1581 |
| Telangana | 10402 | 8542 | 2520 | 21464 |
| Sikkim | 0 | 58 | 43 | 101 |
| Assam | 465 | 57 | 3 | 525 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 31 | 40 | 19 | 90 |
| Meghalya | 89 | 17 | 471 | 576 |
| Nagaland | 9 | 0 | 402 | 410 |
| Grand Total | 143058 | 139311 | 32780 | 315149 |

Year wise annual coal offtake/suply for the last three years is as follows:

| Year | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Offtake (Mt.)* | 603.772 | 632.442 | 650.319 (Prov.) |

(*Source-Coal Statistics of CCO).

(b) Based on the coal demand projected by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Coal, project reports (PRs)/Mining Plans are prepared for optimal development of the coal block with the available mining technology suitable for the block. The list of project reports prepared by CMPDI for the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited during last 3 years is enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (e) The issue of Coal Regulatory Authority has to be examined keeping in view the legislative developments that took place after the cancellation of the coal blocks allocated through the Screening Committee route since 1993 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2014. The decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

(f) As an alternative energy source, the Government has up-scaled the target of Renewable Energy capacity to 175 GW by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from Bio-power and 5 GW from Small Hydro power. So far a total of 64.31 GW capacity has been installed through the implementation of various renewable energy schemes/ programmes upto 31st January 2018 which includes 32.88 GW from Wind, 18.45 GW from Solar, 8.53 GW from Bio-power and 4.45 GW from Small Hydro Power.

To promote the production of renewable energy through various schemes/programmes, the Government has taken various steps which inter alia includes:-

i. Announced a cumulative target of 175 GW renewable energy based electric installed capacity by 2022;

ii. Issued guidelines for procurement of solar and wind power through tariff based competitive bidding process;

iii. Declared Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) up to the year 2018-19;

iv. Declare Renewable Generation Obligation on new coal/lignite based thermal plants;

v. Notified National Offshore Wind Energy Policy;

vi. Notified policy for Repowering of Wind Power Projects;

vii. Notified standards for deployment of solar photovoltaic systems/devices;

viii. Issued order for waiving the Inter State Transmission System charges and losses for interstate sale of solar and wind power for projects to be commissioned by March 2019.

***Statement***

*PRs prepared by CMPDI for CIL subsidiaries during 2015-16 to 2017-18 (up to 28 Feb 2018)*

| Sl. No. | Name of PR | Subsidiary | OC/ UG | Capacity (Mty) | PR Submsn Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Belbaid Parasea | ECL | UG | 1.83 | Nov-15 |
| 2. | Chaudhar Gariapani Kayada OC | ECL | OC | 4.00 | Mar-16 |
| 3. | Ghusick UG/OC (OC-0.7,UG-1.5) | ECL | UG | 1.55 | Jun-16 |
| 4. | Jhanjra Combined | ECL | UG | 3.50 | May-15 |
| 5. | Kottadih OC Expn PR | ECL | OC | 1.60 | Sep-16 |
| 6. | Mohanpur Expn. Ph-II | ECL | OC | 2.50 | Jan-16 |
| 7. | Naba Kajora Madhabpur UG | ECL | UG | 1.44 | Oct-16 |
| 8. | Nakrakonda Kumardih B OC | ECL | OC | 3.00 | Apr-15 |
| 9. | Narainkuri OC | ECL | OC | 2.50 | Mar-17 |
| 10. | North Searsole OC | ECL | OC | 2.00 | Jun-16 |
| 11. | Sarpi UG (Expn. PR) | ECL | UG | 1.41 | Mar-17 |
| 12. | Siduli OC+UG | ECL | UG | 1.55 | Dec-16 |
| 13. | Siduli UG | ECL | UG | 1.63 | Oct-17 |
| 14. | Tilaboni UG | ECL | UG | 1.86 | Aug-15 |
| 15. | Block-VIII OC | BCCL | OC | 2.00 | Mar-17 |
| 16. | Chandrapura Block | BCCL | OC | 1.50 | Jul-16 |
| 17. | Amrapali Expn OC | CCL | OC | 25.00 | Dec-15 |
| 18. | Ashok OC Expn | CCL | OC | 22.00 | Mar-17 |
| 19. | Asnapani (East) UG | CCL | UG | 0.72 | Mar-16 |
| 20. | Bhurkunda OC | CCL | OC | 3.50 | Mar-16 |
| 21. | Chandragupta OCP | CCL | OC | 15.00 | Mar-17 |
| 22. | Hindegir OC | CCL | OC | 4.00 | Mar-17 |
| 23. | Jaridih OC | CCL | OC | 1.00 | Feb-16 |
| 24. | Kabribad OC | CCL | OC | 0.60 | Mar-17 |
| 25. | Konar Expn | CCL | OC | 8.00 | Aug-15 |
| 26. | Konar Expn | CCL | OC | 8.00 | Aug-17 |
| 27. | Piparwar UG Ph-1 | CCL | UG | 0.87 | Jun-17 |
| 28. | Religara OC | CCL | OC | 2.00 | Feb-16 |
| 29. | Urimari OC | CCL | OC | 4.00 | Mar-17 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30. | Bhanegaon OC | WCL | OC | 1.00 | Nov-16 |
| 31. | Chinchala-Pisgaon OC | WCL | OC | 2.50 | Mar-17 |
| 32. | Durgapur OC RPR | WCL | OC | 3.00 | Aug-16 |
| 33. | Gandhigram UG | WCL | UG | 1.20 | Oct-15 |
| 34. | Gokul OC RPR | WCL | OC | 1.50 | Nov-16 |
| 35. | Gouri Central OC | WCL | OC | 5.00 | May-16 |
| 36. | Konda-Hardola OC | WCL | OC | 7.00 | Aug-17 |
| 37. | Kumbharkhani UG to OC | WCL | OC | 1.50 | Mar-16 |
| 38. | Pauni II & III Combined | WCL | OC | 3.25 | Jun-15 |
| 39. | Sangam UG | WCL | UG | 4.00 | Jan-18 |
| 40. | Saoner II UG to OC | WCL | OC | 2.50 | Mar-16 |
| 41. | Saoner-I UG to OC | WCL | OC | 1.30 | Mar-16 |
| 42. | Sharda UG | WCL | UG | 0.42 | Jul-15 |
| 43. | Silewara Deep UG | WCL | UG | 3.20 | Jan-18 |
| 44. | Thesgora UG to OC | WCL | OC | 2.50 | Mar-17 |
| 45. | Vishnupuri UG to OC | WCL | OC | 2.00 | Feb-18 |
| 46. | Batura West OC | SECL | OC | 1.50 | Feb-18 |
| 47. | Bodri UG | SECL | UG | 1.52 | Feb-18 |
| 48. | Chimtapani-Porda Combined OC | SECL | OC | 15.00 | Nov-17 |
| 49. | Chirimiri Expn OC | SECL | OC | 2.00 | Aug-15 |
| 50. | Damini UG to OC | SECL | OC | 1.50 | Mar-17 |
| 51. | Gevra Expn (35 to 70 Mty) | SECL | OC | 70.00 | Jun-15 |
| 52. | Mahamaya | SECL | OC | 1.50 | Mar-17 |
| 53. | Rampur Batura OC | SECL | OC | 4.00 | Oct-17 |
| 54. | Sayang OC | SECL | OC | 17.00 | Oct-17 |
| 55. | West Jhiria OC | SECL | OC | 1.50 | Mar-16 |
| 56. | Block-B Expn | NCL | OC | 8.00 | Dec-15 |
| 57. | Dudhichua Expn OC | NCL | OC | 20.00 | May-16 |
| 58. | RCE for Nigahi OC | NCL | OC | 15.00 | Aug-15 |
| 59. | Bharatpur Reorganisation | MCL | OC | 20.00 | Oct-15 |
| 60. | Lajkura OC Expn (incl. lower seams) | MCL | OC | 15.00 | Mar-17 |
| 61. | Samaleshwari Expn (20 Mty) | MCL | OC | 20.00 | Apr-15 |
| 62. | Jagun OC | NEC | OC | 0.50 | Oct-17 |
| 63. | Lekhapani OC RCE | NEC | OC | 0.25 | Jun-16 |
| 64. | PQ OC | NEC | OC | 0.15 | Aug-17 |

[Translation]

### Indians in Foreign Jails

1860. DR. KRISHAN PRATAP:
     SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:
     SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
     SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI
      VASAVA:
     SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian nationals (convicts and under-trials) lodged in foreign countries prisons, domicile, sex, offence and category-wise;

(b) the number of Indians who have completed their jail terms and the details of steps taken to bring them back to the country;

(c) the total number of applications for repatriation received and the total number of Indian nationals repatriated from foreign prisons since the enactment of the Repatriation of Prisoners Act in 2003;

(d) the number of countries with which India has bilateral agreements in regard to repatriation of prisoners;

(e) the details of the inter-ministerial process of interaction between different Ministries and Departments; and

(f) the details of the average time taken to process such repatriation requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners in foreign jails is 7850 and the number of Indians who have completed their jail terms is 360 as of 28.02.2018. Detailed country-wise list is given in the enclosed Statement. Due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, the local authorities do not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such information. Even countries, which share information, do not generally provide the detailed information about the persons who have been imprisoned.

(c) After the enactment of the Repatriation of Prisoners Act in 2003, 170 aplications for repatriation have been received and 63 Indian prisoners have been repatriated from foreign prisons.

(d) So far, India has signed bilateral agreements with 30 countries. Besides this, India has acceded to the Inter American Convention, by virtue of which, India can receive and send requests to the member countries as well as those countries who have signed/ratified the Inter American Convention.

(e) and (f) In the process of repatriation, mainly two Ministries of the Government of India are involved *i.e.* Ministry of External Affairs (Consular, Passport & Visa Division) through its Missions and Posts abroad and the Ministry of Home Affairs (Centre-State Division).

The processing of cases of transfer of prisoners involves steps like nationality verification, security clearance, views of Narcotic Control Bureau (if drug trafficking is involved), identification of prison by the State/Union Territory Government, completion of documents process by the India/foreign Mission concerned and consent of the transferring/receiving Governments. Time taken to process an aplication for transfer depends on the completion of necessary formalities and documents by the concerned agencies and State/Union Territory Governments.

### *Statement*

*The number of Indian prisoners in foreign jails*

| Sl. No. | Name of Country | Number of Prisoners | Details of Indian nationals lodged in foreign prisons (As per information received from our Missions/Posts abroad) | | | Number of Indians who have completed their jail terms |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | | Domicile-wise | Sex-wise | Offence-wise | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Armenia | 1 | Details not provided | 1 - Male | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 2. | Austria | 5 | 5 - Punjab | 5 - Male | Murder | Details not provided |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Australia | 70 | Details not provided | 70 - Male | Sexual assault, murder, unlawful wounding, attempt to murder, road accident offence | Nil |
| 4. | Azerbaijan | 5 | 2 - Gujarat<br>2 - Punjab<br>1 - Others | 5 - Male | Illegally crossing the border | Nil |
| 5. | Bahrain | 77 | Details not provided | 74 - Male<br>3 - Female | Theft, accepting bribes, financial fraud, consumption of alcoholic drinks | Details not provided |
| 6. | Belarus | 8 | 7 - Punjab<br>1 - Tamil Nadu | 7 - Male<br>1 - Female | Illegally crossing the border | Nil |
| 7. | Bangladesh | 19 | 11-West Bengal<br>2- Tripura<br>2- Manipur<br>2 -Meghalaya<br>1 - Assam<br>1 - Delhi | 17 - Male<br>2 - Female | Narcotic act, arms act, murder case, explosive act and control of entry | Details not provided |
| 8. | Belgium | 19 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 9. | Bhutan | 50 | 36-West Bengal<br>12 - Assam<br>1 - Tamil Nadu<br>1 - Bihar | 49 - Male<br>1 - Female | Drugs, burglary, robbery, counterfeiting and auto striping | |
| 10. | Brunei | 1 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Nil |
| 11. | Cambodia | 6 | 1 - J&K<br>1-Punjab<br>1-Kerala<br>2- Gujarat<br>1- Tamil Nadu | 6 - Male | Drug trafficking | Details not provided |
| 12. | Canada | 70 | 23 - Male<br>2 - Female<br>45 - Others | Details not provided | First degree Murder, Second degree murder, Assault with weapon, Man Slaughter, Traffic in schedule I/II substance, sexual interference and laundering precedes of crime | Details not provided |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | China | 32 | 6 - Punjab<br>4 - Manipur<br>2-Uttar Pradesh<br>7 - West Bengal<br>1 - Kerala<br>1 - Karnataka<br>4 - Delhi<br>2 - Maharashtra<br>1 - Gujarat<br>4 - Others | 28 - Male<br>4 - Female | Drugs smuggling, intentional injury causing death, smuggling import and export of goods, illegal cross border, embezzlement, rape, fake documentation and theft | Details not provided |
| 14. | Colombia | 5 | 1 - Assam<br>3 - Punjab,<br>1 - Gujarat | 5 - Male | Possession of fake documents and drug trafficking | Details not provided |
| 15. | Cote D' Ivoire | 2 | Details not provided | 2 - Male | Submission of fake documents to the bank for loan to their company | Details not provided |
| 16. | Cuba | 1 | Details not provided | 1 - Male | Corruption of minors and drug trafficking | Details not provided |
| 17. | Cyprus | 6 | Details not provided | 5 - Male<br>1 - Female | Premeditated murder, circulation of false document and illegal employment | Details not provided |
| 18. | Denmark | 6 | Details not provided | 5 - Male<br>1- Female | Murder and Illegal stay | 17 |
| 19. | Egypt | 3 | 1 - Gujarat<br>2 - Andhra Pradesh | 3 - Male | Drug Trafficking | Details not provided |
| 20. | Ethiopia | 5 | 2 - Rajasthan<br>- Tamil Nadu<br>1 - Kerala | 5 - Female | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 21. | Djibouti | 1 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 22. | Fiji | 1 | 1 - Female | 1 - Punjab | Drug related offence | 2 |
| 23. | Finland | 1 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 24. | France | 36 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 25. | Georgia | 9 | Details not provided | 9 - Male | Details not provided | Details not provided |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26. | Germany | 51 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 27. | Ghana | 3 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 28. | Greece | 17 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 29. | Guatemala | 3 | Details not provided | 3 - Male | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 30. | Indonesia | 26 | 3 - Manipur<br>8 - Tamil Nadu<br>3 - Maharashtra<br>1-Uttar Pradesh<br>1 - Karnataka<br>2 - Delhi<br>3 - Haryana<br>2 - Punjab<br>1- Goa<br>2 - Others | 24 - Male<br>2 - Female | Immigration violation, misuse of stay permit, drug trafficking and fake documents | Details not provided |
| 31. | Iran | 17 | 4 - Gujarat<br>1 – J&K<br>1 - Bihar<br>1 - Jharkhand<br>1-Uttar Pradesh<br>9 - Others | 17 - Male | Diesel smuggling, illegal entry into Iranian waters | Details not provided |
| 32. | Iraq | 11 | 8 - Telangana, Bihar and Chhattisgarh<br>3 - Kolkata | 11 - Male | Forged travel documents | 17 |
| 33. | Ireland | 3 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 34. | Israel | 7 | 5 - Kerala<br>1-Maharashtra<br>1 - Karnataka | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 35. | Italy | 79 | 78 - Male<br>1 - Female | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 36. | Japan | 7 | 2 - Kerala<br>1 - Punjab<br>1 - Uttarakhand<br>1-Uttar Pradesh<br>1 - Maharashtra<br>1 - Others | Details not provided | Drug control violation, Murder, Violation of the gun sword law and extortion | Details not provided |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37. | Jordan | 16 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Theft and Murder | Details not provided |
| 38. | Korea (Republic of) | 2 | 1 - West Bengal<br>1 - Kerala | 2 - Male | Violation of drug law and unfair competition prevention and trade secret protection act of ROK | 2 |
| 39. | Kuwait | 506 | Details not provided | 490 - Male<br>16 - Female | Murder and drug charges | Details not provided |
| 40. | Kyrgyzstan | 1 | 1 – J&K | 1 - Male | Details not provided | Nil |
| 41. | Lao PDR | 2 | 2 - Kerala | 2 - Male | Monetary cheating | Details not provided |
| 42. | Libya | 3 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Fake currency case | Details not provided |
| 43. | Malaysia | 341 | Details not provided | 321 - Male<br>20 - Female | Visa violation, drug related, human trafficking | Details not provided |
| 44. | Maldives | 14 | 8 - Kerala<br>6- Tamil Nadu | 14 - Male | Details not provided | Nil |
| 45. | Mauritius | 6 | 3 - Maharashtra<br>1 - Andhra Pradesh<br>1 - Punjab<br>1 - Others | 6 - Male | Drug Trafficking | 1 |
| 46. | Mexico | 2 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Murder and human trafficking | Details not provided |
| 47. | Mozambique | 2 | 2 - Kerala | 2 - Male | Convicted for kidnaping | NA |
| 48. | Myanmar | 40 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Myanmar Immigration Act offence | Details not provided |
| 49. | Nepal | 859 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 50. | Netherlands | 1 | 1 - Haryana | Murder | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 51. | New Zealand | 14 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 52. | Oman | 60 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Murder, theft, bribery, drug dealing and alcohol trading | Details not provided |
| 53. | Pakistan | 311 | 156 - Gujarat<br>12 - Daman & Diu<br>21 - Uttar Pradesh | 306 - Male<br>5 - Female | Details not provided | 99 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 4 - Bihar<br>2 - Andhra Pradesh<br>3 - Maharashtra<br>2 - Punjab<br>7 - J&K<br>2 - Rajasthan<br>4 - Madhya Pradesh<br>4 - Delhi<br>7 - West Bengal<br>1 - Odisha<br>93 - Others | | | |
| 54. | Panama | 3 | Details not provided | 3 - Male | Drug trafficking, Money laundering, Human trafficking, Offence of organized crime | Details not provided |
| 55. | Peru | 1 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 56. | Philipines | 17 | Details not provided | 17 - Male | Kidnaping for ransom, anti trafficking, drug related offence, attempted murder, acquisition of explosive fire arms, robbery | Details not provided |
| 57. | Portugal | 6 | Details not provided | 6 - Male | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 58. | Qatar | 196 | Details not provided | 192 - Male<br>4 - Female | Drug cases, cheque bounce, murder case, sex related crimes, theft cases, forgery and fraud, driving traffic violations | Details not provided |
| 59. | Russian Federation | 11 | Details not provided | 11 - Male | Fraud, murder, sexual offence | Nil |
| 60. | Saudi Arabia | 2181 | Details not provided | 2140 - Male<br>41 - Female | Details not provided | 201 |
| 61. | Senegal | 1 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 62. | Singapore | 115 | Details not provided | 111 - Male<br>4 - Female | Causing death, sexual offences, commercial crimes, customs offence, drug related offence, immigration offences | Details not provided |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 63. | Slovak Republic | 1 | 1 - Punjab | 1 - Male | Human trafficking | Details not provided |
| 64. | South Africa | 5 | 1 - Kerala<br>4 - Gujarat | 5 - Male | Details not provided | Nil |
| 65. | Spain | 36 | Details not provided | 36 - Male | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 66. | Sri Lanka | 30 | 1 - Tamil Nadu<br>1 - Maharashtra<br>27 - Others | 2 - Male<br>28 - NA | Drug smuggling charges, Sex offense and Visa violation charges | NA |
| 67. | Sudan | 1 | 1 - Kerala | 1 - Male | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 68. | Tanzania | 1 | 1 - Tamil Nadu | 1 - Male | Murder charge | Nil |
| 69. | Thailand | 47 | 2-Andhra Pradesh<br>45-Others | 44 - Male<br>3 - Female | Stealing | Details not provided |
| 70. | Trinidad & Tobago | 1 | 1 - Kerala | 1 - Male | Travelling on forged documents | Details not provided |
| 71. | Turkey | 3 | 1 - Tamil Nadu<br>2 - Punjab | 3 - Male | Terrorism charges, Kidnaping and forgery | Nil |
| 72. | Uganda | 1 | 1 - Maharashtra | 1 - Male | Embezzlement of corporate funds | Details not provided |
| 73. | United Arab Emirates | 1628 | Details not provided | 322 - Male<br>6 - Female<br>1300 - NA | Details not provided | 21 |
| 74. | United Kingdom | 376 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 75. | Ukraine | 1 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided | Details not provided |
| 76. | United States of America | 343 | Details not provided | Details not provided | Criminal records, fraud case, | Details not provided |
| 77. | Uzbekistan | 1 | Details not provided | 1 - Male | Financial fraud | Details not provided |
| 78. | Vietnam | 1 | 1 - Haryana | 1 - Male | Financial fraud | Details not provided |
|  | Total | 7850 |  |  |  | 360 |

*[English]*

### Sabari Rail Project

1861. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any information regarding the present status ofthe Sabari Rail project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any record regarding the amount earmarked in the last three budgets and the money spent for the works under the Sabari Project during the same period;

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

(e) whether it is a fact that the paltry budgetary outlays has adversely affected the implementation ofthe said project; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (f) Work on Angamali-Kaladi section (7 Km) has been taken up. However, work on this section is stuck for want of land acquisition of small patch of 0.6 Ha land for Railways.

Details of year-wise funds allocated for Angamali-Sabarimala new line project during the last three years & current year and expenditure incurred upto March, 2017 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

| Outlay 2014-15 | Outlay 2015-16 | Outlay 2016-17 | Expenditure incurred upto March, 2017 | Outlay 2017-18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 5 | 40 | 218.45 | 213.59 |

Completion of projects depends on a number of factors such as acquisition of land, forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of various utility services, construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges by road maintenance departments, apart from availability of adequate funds.

Due to abnormal increase in land cost and delay in finalization of alignment due to protest by local people, the project cost has increased to 2815 crore and therefore, Government of Kerala has been requested to convey their consent to share atleast 50% cost of the project.

**Audit of FOBs**

1862. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has decided to conduct audit of Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the Railways has decided to replace FOBs by escalators wherever this option suits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Safety department of Indian Railways conducts safety audits to ensure adherence of safe working system through an InterDepartmental Team. This entails intra-zonal audits once in two months and inter-zonal safety audits/ inspections once every six months. This is a regular exercise being conducted every year, the results of which are shared with the concerned departments for improvement. Recently, a multidisciplinary audit team has also audited the existing infrastructure of the stations of Mumbai Suburban.

(c) and (d) In order to facilitate easy movement of passengers and for smooth access to platforms at major railway stations, escalators have been planned at all 'A-1', 'A' & 'C' category stations with footfall of 25,000 and above and stations of tourist importance.

**Global Passport Rank**

1863. SHRI OM BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Indian Passport has been ranked 75th out of 94 in the world's

most powerful passports according to the 'Global Passport Power Rank 2017' and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has initiated any mechanism for improving the status of the Indian passport in the Global ranking in the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) As per the information available on www.passportindex.org, the Arton Capital Passport Index (ACPI) gives global ranking to various passports based on the "visa free" status accorded to the passport holders of a specific country. The current passport ranking is based on the number of countries a passport holder can visit Visa Free or gets Visa on Arrival. To determine the individual rank of each passport, a Visa Free Score (VFS) is prepared which is the sum of Visa Free (VF) and Visa on Arrival (VoA) facility accorded to the passport holder of a country.

According to the latest Index of 2018, India is ranked 73rd out of 96 with a VFS of 57 with 25 countries according Visa Free entry and 32 countries granting Visa on Arrival facility to Indian passport holders.

(b) The Government has recently liberalized the visa policy with the objective of promoting investments and tourism into India from other countries. The e-Visa scheme has been liberalized to allow business visits and medical treatment in India. The number of entries and validity of e-Visas has been increased and the scheme has been expanded to include 163 countries and territories till date. These initiatives are expected to encourage other countries to reciprocate and facilitate travel of Indian passport holders to their countries. As more countries permit Indian passport holders to visit Visa Free or grant them Visa on Arrival facility, the rank of the Indian passport on the Global Passport Index is expected to improve.

(c) Does not arise.

### Promotion in the Armed Forces

1864. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether promotion policy for the officers of three wings of armed forces is uniform and if so, the details thererof;

(b) if not, the parameters for promotion in each service; and

(c) whether the policy is approved by the Government, if so, the extent to which the Government is satisfied with its fairness;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE   (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Promotion policies of Army, Navy and Air Force are structured to meet the operational and administrative requirements of the respective Services, thus some variations exist in the same.

(b) Promotion policies for select ranks for Indian Army officers are vacancy based and follow the principle of seniority and merit.

The parameters for substantive promotion in Indian Air Force (IAF) for officers other than Medical/Dental branches are stipulated in Air Force Instructions (AFI).

Promotions in Indian Navy are made based on the following broad parameters:

(i) Length of service.

(ii) Qualification in professional examination.

(iii) Mandatory Sea Time (Sea-going Branches/ Cadres)

(iv) Medical standard and Vigilance clearance.

(v) Performance reflected in the Confidential Reports.

(c)      Promotion policies are promulgated after due aproval by the Government.

### Improvement in Surveillance

1865. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of arrests made by the Railway Police Force (RPF) in the last three years, State-wise, including Delhi;

(b) whether there has been a rise in the number of arrests;

(c) if so, whether it is on account of improvement in RPF's surveillance and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the nature of crimes for which arrests were made, percentage-wise;

(e) the benefits and facilities being accrued to RPF personnel, particularly women officers, including their safety; and

(f) the further measures being taken to strengthen the RPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Statistics of arrests made by Railway Protection Force (RPF) is maintained Zonal Railway wise. Zone-wise number of persons arrested by the RPF in the last three years (2015, 2016 & 2017) is given in the enclosed Statement. The statistics of Northern Railway includes arrests made in Delhi.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Yes, Madam. Close surveillance on anti-social elements, regular and intensive drives conducted by RPF have resulted in 18.84 % more arrests in the year 2017 as compared to the year 2015.

(d) Railway Protection Force (RPF) has been empowered under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act to arrest and prosecute offenders related to Railway Property. RPF personnel have also been empowered under the Railways Act to arrest and prosecute offenders involved in offences specified under

29 sections of the Railways Act which are related to alarm chain pulling, unauthorised hawking and vending, touting, trespassing, travelling on roof and foot-board of train, travelling of male persons in coaches reserved for female passengers etc. 0.59% of total arrests are related to offences under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act and 99.41% are related to the Railways Act.

(e) Under Section 10 of the RPF Act-1957 and Section 2(34) of the Railways Act, RPF personnel are Railway servants. Benefits/ facilities, as admissible to other Railway servants such as medical facilities, residential accommodation, Pass/Privilege Ticket Order etc., are also admissible to RPF personnel including women RPF personnel. In addition, barrack accommodation, uniform allowance, 15 days Casual — 2/- -2- Leave, payment in lieu of duties performed on holidays (30 days) are also available to RPF personnel. RPF women personnel are being provided with separate barracks, rest rooms facilities etc. Adequate safety measures have been taken to ensure safety of women RPF personnel.

(f) Special emphasis is being given to improve living conditions of RPF/RPSF personnel by providing barracks at important locations and upgrading basic amenities in the existing barracks at par with running rooms. During the year 2018-19, works to the tune of ' 59 Cr. have been sanctioned for construction of barracks. All the Divisional Railway Managers have been advised to conduct inspection of all the RPF barracks and submit status report. Measures initiated to strengthen RPF also include installation of CCTV cameras at Railway stations/ trains, upgradation of security helpline No. 182, development of security Ap., soft skill training to RPF personnel, etc.

### *Statement*

*Details of the zone-wise statistics of arrests made by the RPF in the last three years (2015, 2016 & 2017) over Indian Railways*

| Zonal Railway | Number of persons arrested by RPF | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Central | 113191 | 131083 | 132970 |
| Eastern | 66289 | 94893 | 92387 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| East Central | 37340 | 40303 | 37913 |
| East Coast | 33433 | 36636 | 41812 |
| Northern | 144343 | 137403 | 134115 |
| North Central | 42297 | 52127 | 63681 |
| North Eastern | 36873 | 43929 | 45857 |
| Northeast Frontier | 10546 | 12786 | 14739 |
| North Western | 30063 | 37529 | 41516 |
| Southern | 108513 | 110948 | 115160 |
| South Central | 72093 | 96587 | 113106 |
| South Eastern | 45216 | 51507 | 53480 |
| South East Central | 24208 | 30701 | 33050 |
| South Western | 32530 | 34512 | 35247 |
| Western | 168502 | 185981 | 192509 |
| West Central | 68549 | 83223 | 81228 |
| Total | 1033986 | 1180148 | 1228770 |

*[Translation]*

### Investigation of Coal Blocks

1866. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Coal does not have the information regarding investigation of the cases related to coal block owing companies being carried out by CBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not having such information;

(c) whether the Government is working towards protecting the companies which are being investigated by the CBI; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) As per information provided by CBI, 55 FIRs have been filed by CBI against various companies in connection with investigation into alleged irregularities in allocation of coal blocks. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 08.05.2013 in WP (Crl) 120/2012 had stated that "CBI shall henceforth ensure that secrecy of the inquiries and investigations into allocation of coal blocks is maintained and no access of any nature whatsoever in this regard is provided to any person or authority, including any Minister of the Central Cabinet, Laws Officers, Advocate(s) of CBI, Director of Prosecution and officials/officers of the Central Government". In view of the above orders, the information regarding status of investigation of cases related to coal blocks allocation being carried out by CBI is not provided to Ministry of Coal. The investigation of these cases by CBI is monitored by Hon'ble Supreme Court and there is no question of protecting these companies by the Government.

*[English]*

## Usage of AI

1867. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to give impetus to IT sector with increasing usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to perform several tasks currently performed by humans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government plans to lobby for slow adoption of such technology to ensure that proper skill training is in place for the workforce;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals for the same; and

(e) if not, the way in which the Government plans to cope up with the challenges it is facing in the form of huge unemployable workforce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) The technology relating to Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as machine learning, big data analytics, image/speech recognition etc. is evolving at fast pace and finding increasing aplications. It is natural that AI can be put to great use to improve the functioning of services delivery by the Government. Therefore, in order to work towards strategic interventions to promote AI aplications, the Government has constituted four committees of experts from Academia, Industry and Government to look into the following areas:

  I. Platforms and Data for AI

  II. Leveraging AI for identifying National Missions in Key sectors

  III. Skilling and re-skilling

  IV. Cyber Security, safety, legal and ethical issues.

(c) and (d) It is a fact that AI could be disruptive in certain sectors, but the efforts of the Government is to go for aplication of AI that seeks to augment welfare of the citizens. The Government is also suporting the future skills missions proposed by the Industry and NASSCOM in order to ensure that the Industry gets to find employment in the emerging sectors.

(e) Does not arise .

*[Translation]*

## New Rail Line between Patan to Bhildi

1868. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the unnecessary delay being caused in the work of new rail line from Patan to Bhild *via* Rani-ki-vah;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the work and to complete the said project on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Patan–Bhildi, new line project includes renovation of old railway line from Patan to Khalipur (10 km) and 41.03 km new construction from Khalipur to Bhildi. The work on this project was objected by Archeological Survey of India (ASI) near 'Rani ki Vav'. Indian Railways had aproached National Monument Authority (NMA) for grant of No Objection Certificate (NOC) in this regard, which was, however, denied. Consequently, Indian Railways suggested an alternative alignment for which "No Objection Certificate (NOC)" was issued by Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi on 06.05.2015. Indian Railways accordingly planned and had started execution of project including the process of land acquisition on the alternative alignment. Documents of land acquisition after joint measurement for the diverted alignment near 'Rani ki Vav' for issuing Notification under section 19 has been submitted to SDM/Patan on 11.11.2017. Notification under section-19 is awaited from Collector/Patan.

*[English]*

### Princess Park Officers Hostel

1869. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to demolish Princess Park Officers Hostel, New Delhi to construct National War Memorial there;

(b) if so, whether a Defence Unit Run Canteen (URC) functioning in the said premises was also permanently closed by virtue of the said decision;

(c) if so, whether the regular services of all civilian employees ofthis URC were dismissed without their rehabilitation in the form of providing them regular employment in other identical URCs;

(d) if so, whether some of these categories of employees were randomly selected and adjusted in some URCs leaving others to face the brunt;

(e) if so, whether the Government has received any representations from these affected employees for providing them suitable and regular employment in other similar URCs; and

(f) if so, the details of directives issued by the Government to the concerned authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Princess Park area near India gate, New Delhi has been aproved as the site for construction of National War Museum. Accordingly, one Unit Run Canteen (URC) has been closed.

(c) As URCs are private entities in accordance with judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in RR Pillai case in 2009, the employees of URCs are not employees of Government. Accordingly after the closure of the URC, the services of all employees of this URC have been terminated.

(d) to (f) Some ex-employees of this URC have forwarded the representations seeking suitable employment/rehabilitation. As the employees of URCs are not employees of Government, no directives has

been issued by the Government. However, such terminated employees can aproach other URCs for apointment on humanitarian ground.

### Multipurpose Coal Distribution and Licensing System

1870.    SHRI HARI OM PANDEY:
         SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:
         DR. RATNA DE (NAG):

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up "Multipurpose Coal Distribution and Licensing System" in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the details of the plan outlay and financial implication of the aforesaid proposal, if any?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) (a) to (d): There is no proposal to set up Multipurpose Coal Distribution and Licensing System. However, an enabling provisions have been made in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 for allocation of coal mines by way of auction and allotment for the sale of coal. The methodology for allotment of coal mines under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 to Central/State Public Sector Undertakings for sale of coal has been aproved by the Government. In addition, the methodology for auction for coal mines/blocks for sale of coal under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has also been aproved by the Government.

### Official History of Indian Armed Forces

1871. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released the official history of the Indian Armed Forces participation in wars and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government acknowledges that there is a wide gap in knowledge base of contemporary military history and war studies in India compared to advances made at global level;

(c) if so, whether the Government recognises the need to re-examine the capture and recording of historical events related to military operations and war records to ensure a higher order of professionalism in the services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the action taken by the Government to institutionalise the study and research of contemporary military history?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam. A list of publications is enclosed herewith as Statement-I and II.

(b) The histories of operations conducted by the Indian Armed Forces are compiled on the basis of official records. Hence, there is hardly any gap in knowledge base of contemporary military history and war studies in India compared to advances made at global level.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The History Division, Ministry of Defence, is entrusted with the responsibility of undertaking the research and compilation of various military operations conducted by the Indian Armed Forces from time to time. Further, to promote the study of military history in the Indian Universities, the Ministry of Defence also provides two research fellowships to the researchers working on the subject related to military history. Occasionally, the History Cells of the three Services also write/sponsor the projects relating to their service.

### Statement-I

*Publications of Official History of Indian Armed Forces in World War-II:*

1. The Retreat from Burma 1941-42.

2. The Reconquest of Burma 1942; Vol.I.

3. The Reconquest of Burma 1944-45; Vol.II

4. The Arakan Operations 1942-45.

5. Campaigns in South East Asia 1941-42.

6. Campaign in Western Asia.

7. The North African Campaigns 1940-43.

8. East African Campaign 1940-41.

9. The Campaign in Italy 1943-45.

10. India and the War.

11. Expansion of the Armed Forces and Defence Organisation 1939-45.

12. Defence of India-Policy & Plans.

13. Post-War Occupation Forces: Japan & South East Asia.

14. Technical Services: Ordnance & IEME (Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers).

15. The Corps of Engineers 1939-47.

16. Indian War Economy.

17. The Royal Indian Navy 1939-45.

18. History of the Indian Air Force 1933-45.

19. Administration (Medical Services).

20. Medical Surgery and Pathology (Medical Services).

21. The Campaigns in the Western Theatre (Medical Services).

22. Campaigns in the Eastern Theatre (Medical Services).

23. Preventive Medicine (Medical Services).

24. Statistics (Medical Services).

25. Medical Stores and Equipment (Medical Services).

### Statement-II

*Publications of Official History of Indian Armed Forces During the Post Independence Period*

1. Operation Polo – The Police Action Against Hyderabad, 1948.

2. Operation Vijay – The Liberation of Goa and other Portuguese Colonies in India, 1961.

3. The Congo Operation, 1960-63.

4. History of the Custodian Force (India) in Korea, 1953-54.

5. History of Operations in Jammu & Kashmir, 1947-48.

6. Operation Shanti – Indian Army on Peace Mission.

7. Military Costumes of India.

8. Bharatiya Sainik Vesha – Bhusha (Hindi).

9. Stories of Heroism (Param Vir Chakra and Ashoka Chakra Winners).

10. Stories of Heroism (Param Vir Chakra and Mahavir Chakra Winners).

11. Veerta Ki Kahaniyan (Param Vir Chakra Aur Mahavir Chakra Vijeta).

12. Terrific Responsibility – The Battle for Peace in Indo-China (1954-75).

13. Dushkar Dayitva – Hind-Chin Mein Shanti ke Liye Sangharsh (1954-75).

14. Stories of Heroism (Ashoka Chakra and Kirti Chakra Winners).

15. Veerta ki Kahaniyan (Ashok Chakra Aur Kirti Chakra Vijeta).

16. The India-Pakistan War of 1965: A History.

17. The India-Pakistan War of 1971: A History.

18. Saga of Valour (Param Vir Chakra and Ashoka Chakra Winners).

**Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**

1872. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated to States for implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) are returned unspent by some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Scheme-wise during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken for bringing in flexibility in getting the schemes implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Allocation under different schemes is provided on the basis of fund requirement estimated by the respective Ministry/Department where the scheme rests, guidelines of individual scheme/programme, utilization of previous release and availability of gross budgetary suport etc.

The total allocation and expenditure of all states for 28 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) during the years 2015-16 (Actuals), 2016-17 (Actuals) 2017-18 (RE) and 2018-19 (BE) are given in the enclosed Statement.

The CSSs are reviewed periodically on the basis of guidelines of the individual Schemes by the implementing Departments/Ministries. Such reviews by Central Ministries ordinarily have the provision of assessing performance under the Schemes for key indicators and measures to remedy any shortfall, including taking the benefit of the scheme to targeted population, subject to overall availability of the budget under the concerned scheme.

*Statement*

*Total allocation and expenditure for the years 2015-16 (Actuals), 2016-17 (Actuals) 2017-18 (RE) and 2018-19 (BE)*

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) | Actuals 2015-16 | Actuals 2016-17 | Revised 2017-18 | Budget 2018-19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| **(A) Core of the Core Schemes** | | | | | |
| 1. | National Social Assistance Programme | 8616.40 | 8854.07 | 8744.57 | 9975.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme | 37340.71 | 48214.95 | 55000.00 | 55000.00 |
| 3. | Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes | 4201.21 | 4863.28 | 5113.91 | 5182.58 |
| 4. | Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Tribes | 2934.39 | 3318.87 | 3512.35 | 3806.02 |
| 5. | Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities | 3809.92 | 2790.43 | 4075.38 | 1440.00 |
| 6. | Umbrella Scheme for Development of Backward Classes, Differently Abled and other Vulnerable Groups | 1240.40 | 1507.29 | 1630.25 | 2287.15 |
| **(B) Core Schemes** | | | | | |
| 7. | Green Revolution (Krishi Unnati Schemes and Rashtriya KrishiVikas Yojana) | 9776.52 | 10105.06 | 11184.66 | 13908.92 |
| 8. | White Revolution (Animal Husbandry and Dairying) | 937.14 | 1309.16 | 1632.97 | 2219.89 |
| 9. | Blue Revolution (Integrated Development of Fisheries) | 199.96 | 387.81 | 301.73 | 642.61 |
| 10. | Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana | 7781.04 | 5133.99 | 7392.14 | 9429.05 |
| a | Har Khet ko Pani | | | | |
| b | Per Drop More Crop | | | | |
| c | Integrated Watershed Development Programme | | | | |
| d | Accelerated Irrigation Benefit and Flood Management Programme | | | | |
| 11. | Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) | 18289.87 | 17922.87 | 16900.00 | 19000.00 |
| 12. | Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) | 11603.45 | 20951.69 | 29042.51 | 27505.00 |
| a | PMAY-Rural | | | | |
| b | PMAY-Urban | | | | |
| 13. | National Rural Drinking Water Mission | 4369.55 | 5980.02 | 7050.00 | 7000.00 |

| 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | | Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) | 7469.24 | 12619.34 | 19248.27 | 17843.10 |
| | a | SBM-Rural | | | | |
| | b | SBM-Urban | | | | |
| 15. | | National Health Mission (NHM) | 20213.20 | 22869.73 | 31292.06 | 30634.04 |
| | a | National Rural Health Mission | | | | |
| | b | National Urban Health Mission | | | | |
| | c | Tertiary Care Programmes | | | | |
| | d | Human Resources in Health and Medical Education | | | | |
| | e | National Mission on AYUSH | | | | |
| 16. | | Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (erstwhile RSBY) | - | 1379.99 | 470.52 | 2000.00 |
| 17. | | National Education Mission (NEM) | 27066.40 | 27616.36 | 29555.67 | 32612.51 |
| | a | Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan | | | | |
| | b | Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan | | | | |
| | c | Teachers Training and Adult Education | | | | |
| | d | Rashtriya Uchch Shiksha Abhiyan | | | | |
| 18. | | Mid Day Meal Programme | 9144.89 | 9475.43 | 10000.00 | 10500.00 |
| 19. | | Integrated Child Development Services | 16834.55 | 15893.32 | 19962.75 | 23088.28 |
| | a | Anganwadi Services | | | | |
| | b | National Nutrition Mission | | | | |
| | c | Maternity Benefits Programme | | | | |
| | d | Scheme for Adolescent Girls | | | | |
| | e | Integrated Child Protection Scheme | | | | |
| | f | National Creche Scheme | | | | |
| 20. | | Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women (beti bachao-beti padao, onestop centre, women helpline, hostels, swadhar greh, gender budgeting etc.) | 238.66 | 793.24 | 987.50 | 1365.58 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | National Livelihood Mission (NLM) | 2783.14 | 3486.40 | 4699.00 | 6060.00 |
| a | National Rural Livelihood Mission | | | | |
| b | National Urban Livelihood Mission | | | | |
| 22. | Jobs and Skill Development | 1176.82 | 1816.85 | 2905.38 | 5071.13 |
| a | Employment Generation Programmes | | | | |
| b | Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna | | | | |
| 23. | Environment, Forestry and Wildlife (EFWL) | 566.38 | 794.86 | 975.05 | 1019.00 |
| a | National Mission for a Green India | | | | |
| b | Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats | | | | |
| c | Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems | | | | |
| d | National River Conservation Programme | | | | |
| 24. | Urban Rejuvenation Mission (AMRUT and Smart Cities Mission) | 4185.56 | 9276.70 | 8998.61 | 12169.00 |
| 25. | Modernization of Police Forces (including Security Related Expenditure) | 1581.35 | 2229.85 | 2576.95 | 3157.29 |
| 26. | Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary (including Gram Nyayalayas & e-Courts | 566.09 | 541.81 | 629.21 | 630.00 |
| **(C)** | **Optional Schemes** | | | | |
| 27. | Border Area Development Programme* | 990.00 | 1015.00 | 1100.00 | 770.97 |
| 28. | Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission | 32.05 | 599.44 | 600.00 | 1200.00 |
| | Total | 203740.42# | 241747.81 | 285581.44 | 305517.12 |

* Shifted under the Category of Core schemes vide Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance O.M No 66(01)/PF.II/2015 dated 12th September, 2016.

Source: Union Budget 2017-18 & 2018-19

# Total excludes an amount of Rs. 208.47 crore from Core Schemes as actual recovery.

### High Speed Corridors

1873. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways is planning to construct 10,000 km. of new high speed corridors to run

trains at the speed of 200-250 kmph to make inter-city travel faster;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has identified the corridors for high speed trains and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is working on to cut construction cost by less than half;

(d) if so, the mechanism adopted or proposed to be adopted in this regard; and

(e) the initiatives taken by the Union Government in the last couple of years to make passengers train journey faster and smoother and the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Government has identified six corridors on Diamond Quadrilateral connecting metropolitan cities and growth centres of the country (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata) for high speed rail connectivity viz: (i) Delhi-Mumbai, (ii) Mumbai-Chennai, (iii) Chennai-Kolkata, (iv) Kolkata-Delhi and both diagonals *i.e.* (v) Delhi-Chennai and (vi) Mumbai-Kolkata routes. However, High Speed Projects are highly capital and technology intensive, therefore, the sanction of High Speed Projects is subject to its technical feasibility, financial viability and availability of resources.

At present, Mumbai-Ahmedabad Rail corridor is the only High Speed Rail Project sanctioned in the Country. Reduction in the construction cost depends on the improvement in technology and experience gained during execution of the current sanctioned project.

(e) Speeding-up of trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways which is dependent on the constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches (LHB, air brake, CBC), improved signaling system and better tracks.

During the year 2017-18, 51 train services have been speeded up by more than one hour.

### Digital India

1874. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress recorded under the Digital India campaign initiated by the Government;

(b) the number of companies which have entered into an agreement under the Digital India; and

(c) the amount of investment and the number of employment opportunities generated through these initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India has initiated the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/ Departments & States/UTs and is being coordinated by MeitY. Each project has its own budgetary requirement and accordingly project-plan has been charted out by the implementing departments.

The present status of some of the key initiatives undertaken under 9 pillars of Digital India programme is as follows:

**Pillar 1: Broadband Highways**

- Under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/ BharatNet project, 2.65 lakh KMs of· optical fibre laid for 1,12,677 GPs and 1,03,289 GPs have been connected so far till 25.02.2018

**Pillar 2: Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity**

- Rural Tele-density is 56.54% (as on 30th November, 2017).

**Pillar 3: Public Internet Access Programme**

- **Common Services Centres** are taking digital services to every corner of India. Till· January, 2018, there are 2,92,406 Common Services Centres (CSCs) functioning across the country; among which, 1,83,005 CSCs are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.

**Pillar 4: E-Governance: Reforming government through Technology** (as on 28th February, 2018)

- **Aadhaar:** Aadhaar provides 12 digit biometric and demographic based identity that is· unique, lifelong, online and authenticable. Further to give statutory backing to Aadhaar 'The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016' was notified. Over 120+ crore residents have been enrolled.

- **Direct Benefit Transfer(DBT):** 412 schemes of 56 Ministries/ Departments are there on DBT platform. An amount of more than Rs. 2.88 Lakh Crore has been transferred through DBT and the Ministries/Departments have reported savings of Rs. 57,029 crores in last three years due to implementation of schemes in DBT mode.

- **E-Office**: It is a Digital Workplace Solution which aims to usher in efficient, effective and transparent inter-government and intra-government transactions and processes. NIC has implemented e-Office Portal in 149 Central Government (Ministries/Departments) and 122 State Governments (Secretariats/District Administrations).

**Pillar 5: eKranti- Electronic delivery of services**

- 3541 e-services are being provided through 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under eKranti. More than 3081 crore e-transactions with an average of 252 crore transaction per· month were done during the year 2017.

**Pillar 6: Information for All** (as on 28th February, 2018)

- **MyGov Platform**: 45 Ministries are engaged actively on MyGov platform, reaching out· to the citizens through the fundamental concepts of Do, Discuss and Disseminate. Presently, 53.26 lakh users are registered with MyGov, participating in various activities hosted on MyGov platform. MyGov activities are structured under 63 groups consisting of 718 tasks, 762 discussions, 243 Polls/Surveys and 166 talks.

- **Open Government Data platform:** The portal is intended to be used by Government of· India Ministries/Departments their organizations to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and aplications collected by them for public use. As on 28th February, 2018, over 160,223 dataset resources under 4,239 catalogs contributed by 110 Ministry/Departments (85 Central and 25 states). 1,344 Visualizations created, 3617- Aplication Programming Interfaces (APIs) created, 115 Chief Data Officers. OGD India has 15.13 million times viewed and 5.53 million datasets have been downloaded.

**Pillar 7: Electronics Manufacturing - Target NET ZERO Imports** (as on 28th February, 2018)

- 242 Investment proposals under Modified Specific Incentive Programmes (MSIPs)· having a proposed investment of Rs. 91,642 crore have been so far received. 107 proposals with proposed investments of Rs. 21,494 crore have been aproved.

- 21 Electronics Manufacturing Clusters [18 Greenfield EMCs and 3 Common Facility· Centre (CFC) in Brownfield EMC] have been granted final aproval and are under implementation.

- Electronic Development Fund has been launched and 22 daughter funds have been· aproved with a commitment of Rs. 1,227 crore involving a total targeted corpus of Rs. 10,900 crore.

**Pillar 8: IT for Jobs** (as on 28th February, 2018)

- 48,300 seats have been aproved under India BPO scheme and over 31,732 seats have· been allocated across 20 States and 2 UTs.

- 5000 seats have been aproved for BPOs in North East and 1,610 seats have been· allocated across 5 States in NER.

- Under National Digital Literacy Mission/Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (NDLM/DISHA),· 53.67 lakh have been trained. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharata Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) has been launched in October, 2017.

- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan(PMGDISHA): The Scheme is aimed· at empowering the citizens by providing them access to information, knowledge and skills for

operating computers/ digital access devices. Under the Scheme, a total of more than 1.05 crore candidates have been registered. A total of more than 1.04 crore candidates have been trained out of which more than 50 lakh candidates have been duly certified.

**Pillar 9: Early Harvest Programme** (as on 28th February, 2018)

- Over 107 lakh Digital Lockers have been opened. About 139 lakh documents have been· self-uploaded. 42 Issuers and 18 Requester Organizations have been on-boarded. Digital Locker Authority has been constituted and Digital Locker rules have been notified.

- e-Hospital/Online Registration System (ORS) has been made operational in 142 hospitals· and more than 13 lakh apointments have been taken online.

- **Public Wi-Fi hotspots:** Wi-Fi services have been provided at 90 tourist sites across the· country.

- **The National Scholarships Portal(NSP)** has been developed as a one-stop solution to· implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries. The process includes student registration, aplication, aproval and disbursement. It has enabled nearly 1.66 Crore students to submit aplication on a single portal for 52 different scholarships schemes.

- **National Centre for Geo-Informatics (NCoG)** provides Geographical Information· System (GIS) based services to Government Ministries/ Departments for sharing, collaboration, location based analytics and decision suport system (DSS) for various organizations. So far, 23 aplications across various domains are operational.

- Rapid Assessment System has been integrated with 947 e-Services of 178 departments in· 28 States/UTs.

- **Jeevan Pramaan** is an Aadhaar enabled biometric Digital Life Certificate for· pensioners. More than 159 lakh pensioners have registered themselves to avail of this facility for their life certificates.

- **eSign-Online Electronic Signature Service:** eSign is an initiative for easy, efficient,· and secure signing of electronic documents by an Aadhaar holder. Five agencies namely eMudhra Ltd., C-DAC, (n)Code Solutions, NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd. and Capricorn have been empanelled to offer e-Sign Services. Over 4.50+ crore eSigns have been issued.

(b) As Digital India is an umbrella programme that covers multiple projects of various Central Ministries/ Departments & States/UTs and is being implemented by concern Ministry/Department. Each Ministry/Department has its own agreement with company/agency. However, National e-Governance Division(NeGD), MeitY has signed agreement to carry out various activities under Digital India as follows:

- Under Digital Locker-18
- Consulting Companies-6
- Advertising agencies-10
- Audio visual agencies-2
- Translation agencies-4
- Digital Media Services Agencies-17
- Website/Microsite and Ap Development Agencies-17
- Gamification-8
- Game Development-3
- Outreach Agencies-4

(c) Amount of investments generated under some of the schemes under Digital India are as follows:

- **Under Modified Specific Incentive Programmes (MSIPs):** A proposed investment· of Rs. 91,642 crore for 242 proposals.

- **Electronic Development Fund(EDF):** 22 daughter funds have been aproved with· a commitment of Rs. 1,227 crore involving a total targeted corpus of Rs. 10,900 crore.

- **Electronics Manufacturing Clusters(EMC):** 21 EMCs with project cost of Rs.· 3645 crore including Government of India Grant-in-aid of Rs. 1477 crore.

The Job oportunities generated under some of the initiatives as follows:

- BPO Promotion schemes: More than 1.50 Lakh

- Common Services Centre (CSC): More than 10 Lakh

- Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC): More than 10 Lakh

- Cellular Mobile Handset & components manufacturing: 4.50 Lakh

*[Translation]*

### Widening of Bridge

1875. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in connection with widening of Bridge No. 4 under the Western Central Railway zone, Jabalpur;

(b) whether difficulties are being faced in this connection;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken to expedite the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) to (d): An additional opening is being created under the track to cater for increased road traffic. The work is in advance stage of completion. One side of aproach road has been completed. Aproach road towards other side is in progress and efforts being made to complete it at the earliest.

*[English]*

### Wi-Fi at Stations

1876. SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Railways has decided to tap into the Universal Service Obligation Fund to bankroll Wi-Fi connectivity in 200 small railway stations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that the said move is part of Indian railways plans to get all its 7500 stations hooked to a countrywide free Wi-Fi ecosystems in a phased manner and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the RailTel had partnered with Google to set up free high speed Wi-Fi at 400 of the busiest stations in the country, which has been struck for want of a workable revenue model for stakeholders at the smaller stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) RailTel has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)/DoT for providing Wi-Fi services at 200 rural railway stations.

As per the MoU, USOF/DoT shall fund both, the CAPEX & OPEX (for 1 year) incurred by RailTel for providing the Wi-Fi Hotspots at 200 rural railway stations.

(b) The work of provision of Wi-Fi is proposed to be taken up at balance stations.

(c) and (d) The project is being executed jointly by M/s. RailTel Corporation of India Limited with a group company of Google International for providing high speed Wi-Fi services at 438 stations of Indian Railways, with option open to extend further on mutual agreement.

The work since has been completed at 301 out of 438 Railway Stations and is in progress at balance stations.

*[Translation]*

### G2C Services

1877.  SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU:
        SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:
        SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to make the standard of services and governance of India the best in the world during the next fifteen years, to run all Government services (G2C services) online for the citizens

(from beginning to end), to end the requirement of going to any Government office again and again or meeting any Government officer for any need as license approval, certificate registration, social benefit, etc.;

(b) the total number of applications and web portals launched in this regard; and

(c) the year-wise details of the number of complaints registered and sorted out on these web portals during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The pillar 5: e-Kranti-Electronic delivery of services envisages provisioning of various e-Governance services in the country. The focus of the e-Kranti is to transform the e-Governance services by expanding the portfolio of Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) in e-Governance under various Government Departments, undertaking Government Process Reengineering (GPR), work flow automation, introducing latest technologies such as Cloud and mobile platform and focus on integration of services. At present, there are 44 Mission Mode Projects (17 Central MMPs, 11 Integrated MMPs and 16 State MMPs), out of which 29 MMPs are providing more than 1800 eGovernance services. These MMPs delivered more than 304.64 crore e-transactions with an average of 25.38 crore transaction per month during Year 2017.

Besides these 44 MMPs, States and Central Departments are delivering multiple services related to Urban Governance, Geo-Informatics, Data Analytics, Procurement (Government eMarketplace) that cover G2C, G2B as well as G2G services.

(c) The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances does not centrally maintain any information on the number of complaints registered and sorted out on these web portals during the last three years.

**Increase in Crimes**

1878. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in theft, loot and other crimes against passengers of various long distance trains;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported zone-wise including South zone during the last one year; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to prevent such cases and ensure fearless journey to railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Incidents of dacoity, robbery and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways have decreased during the year 2017 as compared to the year 2016. However, there has been some increase in the cases of theft of passengers' belongings. Policing, including registration of First Information Report (FIR) and its investigation being State subject, Railways does not maintain any data on Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes.

(b) The number of cases of theft of passengers' belongings, dacoity, robbery and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways including South zone during the last year (2017) is enclosed as Statement. The figures apended are based only on the data received from Government Railway Police Stations.

(c) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/ District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) suplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area & passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Besides, the following steps are also being taken by the Railways to prevent such incidents and to ensure fearless journey of passengers in trains:-

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by

Railway Protection Force daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.

2. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 394 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.

3. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.

4. An Integrated Security System (ISS) consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.

5. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.

6. Through various social media platforms *viz.* Twitter, Facebook etc., Railways are in regular touch with passengers including women passengers to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concern.

7. Drives are conducted from time to time against the entry of unauthorized persons in trains and railway premises.

8. Regular coordination is made with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels for prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.

### *Statement*

*The number of cases of theft of passengers' belongings, dacoity, robbery and drugging reported in long distance trains over Indian Railways including South zone during the last year (2017)*

| Zonal Railway | Theft of Passengers' Belongings | Dacoity | Robbery | Drugging |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central | 3907 | 6 | 54 | 18 |
| Eastern | 193 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| East Central | 675 | 1 | 10 | 14 |
| East Coast | 466 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| Northern | 2480 | 4 | 81 | 20 |
| North Central | 1076 | 0 | 37 | 18 |
| North Eastern | 367 | 0 | 16 | 13 |
| Northeast Frontier | 185 | 1 | 2 | 12 |
| North Western | 410 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Southern | 277 | 0 | 26 | 1 |
| South Central | 2093 | 1 | 35 | 5 |
| South Eastern | 358 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| South East Central | 516 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| South Western | 363 | 0 | 13 | 3 |
| Western | 1706 | 5 | 20 | 14 |
| West Central | 2844 | 5 | 68 | 8 |

*[English]*

### Replacement of Trains

1879. SHRI GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is planning to introduce train-18 to replace Shatabdi trains and train-20 to replace Rajdhani trains with world class amenities in a bid to cut travel time by 20%;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these trains are likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS ( SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, there is no decision to replace the existing Shatabdi/Rajdhani services with the train sets (Train-18/Train 20).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Privatization of Railway Lines

1880. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Railways is considering to privatize railway lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that many countries had tried to privatize their railways but failed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No Madam. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There are international examples of privatization of Railways in several countries for example Canada, United Kingdom and Japan. As per information available in public domain, results of these efforts have been mixed. However, international examples may be useful, these needs to be studied/analyzed with reference to their specific contexts and circumstances and policy actions.

*[Translation]*

### Sainik Schools

1881.  DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISIIANK':
        SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of the Sainik Schools in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of the scheme to establish Sainik Schools and Rashtriya Military Schools in the country including the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to establish Sainik Schools in all the States and provide certain percentage of defence budget for this purpose, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of proposals for establishment of Sainik School from various States/UTs pending at present, State/UT- wise including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(e) whether the Government has assessed the performance/utility of these schools and if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the shortcomings noticed and the steps taken to address these shortcomings;

(f) the percentage of students passing out of these Sainik Schools selected in the Army; and

(g) whether the formation of Army Units is still in the name of castes and races and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to address regional imbalances in the officer cadre of defence services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) At present, 26 Sainik Schools are functioning in the country. State wise list of the Sainik Schools is given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) Sainik Schools were introduced in 1961 with the primary aim of preparing boys academically, physically and mentally for entry into the National Defence

Academy. The objectives behind opening of Sainik Schools are:-

  (i) To remove regional imbalance in the officer cadre of the defence services.

 (ii) To develop qualities of body, mind and character which will enable the young boys of today to become good and useful citizens of tomorrow.

(iii) To bring public school education within reach of the common man.

The first Rashtriya Military School was set up in 1925. There are presently 5 Rashtriya Military Schools. The aim of the Rashtriya Military Schools is to impart quality education and to prepare the cadets to join the Defence Services.

(c) There are 26 Sainik Schools covering 22 States. As per procedure, Sainik Schools are opened on the specific request of the State Government. Out of the remaining 7 States, five States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana, U.P., Tripura and Sikkim have requested for establishing Sainik Schools in their States. Allocation made for Sainik Schools from the defence budget is as follows:-

| Year | Budget Allocated (Rs. in crores) |
| --- | --- |
| 2015-16 | 74.84 |
| 2016-17 | 81.38 |
| 2017-18 | 80.00 |

(d) At present there are 21 proposals for establishing Sainik Schools from various States/UTs including Sainik School at Warangal in Telangana. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Yes, Madam. Sainik Schools and Rashtriya Military Schools have proved their utility by providing adequate number of officers to NDA. Review of performance of these Schools is an ongoing process which is done by Director General Military Training in case of Rashtriya Military Schools and by two Inspecting Officers, Sainik Schools Society in case of Sainik Schools by way of inspections. The performance of these schools are monitored on different parameters like Class X and XII results, number of cadets selected in NDA and training of faculty members. Towards improving performance and addressing shortcomings, there are in-service training programmes for teachers, workshops/

conferences for Principals and other administrative staff, special coaching for NDA entrance examination, etc.

Year wise number of cadets joining NDA from Sainik Schools & Rashtriya Military Schools for the last three years is as follows:-

| Year | Sainik Schools | Rashtriya Military Schools |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2015 | 144 | 23 |
| 2016 | 159 | 31 |
| 2017 | 173 | 29 |

In addition number of Sainik School Students have joined Defence Services through Officers Training Academy, Indian Military Academy and Indian Naval Academy.

(f) Year wise percentage of cadets in NDA from Sainik Schools for last three years is as follows:-

| | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2015 | - | 23.92% |
| 2016 | - | 29.33% |
| 2017 | - | 26.15% |

(g) There have been no new Regiments raised since Independence. However, the Sub unit/units which are raised as part of existing Regiments are as per the existing nomenclature and numerical seniority of the units in that Regiment. As per Government policy on the subject, all citizens irrespective of their class, creed, region or religion are eligible for enrolment in the Indian Army. After Independence, it has been the policy of the Government of India not to raise any new Regiment for a particular class/community/religion or region. Presently, adequate and equitable oportunities are being provided to all citizens for recruitment into the Army.

### *Statement-I*

*State-Wise List of Sainik Schools in the Country*

| S.No. | Name of School | State |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Sainik School Korukonda | Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. | Sainik School Kalikiri | Andhra Pradesh |
| 3. | Sainik School Goalpara | Assam |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Sainik School Nalanda | Bihar |
| 5. | Sainik School Gopalganj | Bihar |
| 6. | Sainik School Ambikapur | Chhattisgarh |
| 7. | Sainik School Balachadi | Gujarat |
| 8. | Sainik School Kunjpura | Haryana |
| 9. | Sainik School Rewari | Haryana |
| 10. | Sainik School Sujanpur Tira | Himachal Pradesh |
| 11. | Sainik School Nagrota | Jammu and Kashmir |
| 12. | Sainik School Tilaiya | Jharkhand |
| 13. | Sainik School Bijapur | Karnataka |
| 14. | Sainik School Kodagu | Karnataka |
| 15. | Sainik School Kazhakootam | Kerala |
| 16. | Sainik School Rewa | Madhya Pradesh |
| 17. | Sainik Shool Satara | Maharashtra |
| 18. | Sainik School Imphal | Manipur |
| 19. | Sainik School Chhingchhip | Mizoram |
| 20. | Sainik Shool Punglwa | Nagaland |
| 21. | Sainik School Bhubaneswar | Odisha |
| 22. | Sainik School Kapurthala | Punjab |
| 23. | Sainik School Chittorgarh | Rajasthan |
| 24. | Sainik School Amaravathi Nagar | Tamil Nadu |
| 25. | Sainik School Ghorakhal | Uttarakhand |
| 26. | Sainik School Purulia | West Bengal |

### Statement-II

*Proposals for Opening of New Sainik Schools*

| S. No. | State/UT | District |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | Diglipur, North Andaman |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | Niglok Village District East Siang |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 3. | Assam | Golaghat |
| 4. | Haryana | Jhajjar |
| 5. | Jharkhand | Godda |
| 6. | Madhya Pradesh | Muraina |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | Sagar |
| 8. | Maharashtra | Chandrapur |
| 9. | Odisha | Sambalpur |
| 10. | Punjab | Gurdaspur |
| 11. | Rajasthan | Alwar |
| 12. | Rajasthan | Jhunjhunu |
| 13. | Sikkim | West Sikkim |
| 14. | Telangana | Warangal |
| 15. | Tripura | West Tripura |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | Jhansi |
| 17. | Uttar Pradesh | Mainpuri |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | Amethi |
| 19. | Uttar Pradesh | Bagpat |
| 20. | Uttarakhand | Rudraprayag |
| 21. | West Bengal | Darjeeling |

*[English]*

### Shimoga Railway Line

1882. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE**:**
SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Shimoga-Shikaripur-Ranebennur andBelur-Chikmagalur-Sringeri-Shimoga railway lines are pending for years due to local problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has any plan to complete these rail lines in a fixed time frame and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No projects for construction of Shimoga-ShikaripurRanebennur and Belur-Chikmagalur-Sringeri-Shimoga new lines are sanctioned. In this regard, survey for these two lines has been taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

### Simultaneous Election

1883. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the President has talked about simultaneous polls in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with the Election Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering to have simultaneous polls in the next General Election; and

(f) if so, the modalities finalised in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble President in his addresses to joint session of the Parliament on 29th Jan, 2018 has stated that frequent elections not only impose a huge burden on human resources but also impede the development process due to the promulgation of the model code of conduct. Therefore, a sustained debate is required on the subject of Simultaneous elections and all political parties need to arrive at a consensus on this issue.

(c) to (f) The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had examined the issue of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies in consultation with various stake-holders including Election Commission of India. The Committee has given certain recommendations in this regard in its 79th Report which are presently under consideration.

### Indians Missing in Iraq

1884. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated and completed the DNA testing of the families of Indian workers that are missing since June 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the timeline of completion of the testing;

(c) whether the Government has shared the details in this regard with the Iraqi authorities and if so, the details thereof and the response received from them in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the plan of action and steps taken by the Government to trace the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (d) Yes. The Government has initiated and completed the process of collecting DNA samples from the families of 39 Indian workers missing from Mosul, Iraq since June 2014, for onward transmission to Iraqi authorities.

Following liberation of Mosul and Badush during July and August, 2017 by the Iraqi armed forces from the control of the terrorist organisation ISIS, Iraqi authorities informed Government of India about the mass graves found in and around these areas. The Iraqi Martyrs' Foundation asked for DNA samples of the close relatives of the missing Indians for matching with the mortal remains being discovered in the graves.

Urgent steps were taken to arrange for DNA samples of the family members of the missing Indians to assist the Iraqi authorities in their investigations. DNA samples, as received from our respective State governments, have been forwarded to the Iraqi authorities for inclusion in their database for matching with the DNA from the human remains being retrieved by them from mass graves.

The Report of the Test is awaited.

*[Translation]*

**Agreements with Middle East Countries**

1885. SHRI SHRIRANGAPPA BARNE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI BALKA SUMAN:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister (PM) has visited three Middle East countries recently;

(b) if so, the details of agreements signed during the said visits, country-wise, and the benefit accrued from above agreements;

(c) the role of New Delhi in peace process of Middle East Asia and the extent of success likely to be achieved in establishing peace in Middle East;

(d) whether the Prime Minister has raised the issue of Pakistan sponsored terrorism in India especially in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the extent of success India has achieved in isolating Pakistan on the issue of terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Yes. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made State visits to Palestine, UAE and Oman from 9-12 February 2018. On his way to Palestine, he transited through Jordan.

(b) The details of various MoUs signed with these three countries during this visit are as follows:

PALESTINE

| Sl.No. | Agreement/MoU | Benefit accrued |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | MoU between India and Palestine for construction of Super-Specialty Hospital at Beit Sahour in Bethelhem Governorate at a cost of US$ 30 million | As part of India's commitment to the Palestinian cause, execution of these projects in Palestine will help in capacity building, human resource development and infrastructure development. |
| 2. | MOU between India and Palestine for construction of India Palestine Centre for Empowering women, "Turathi" at a cost of US$ 5 million | -do- |
| 3. | MOU between India and Palestine for setting up of new National Printing Press at Ramallah at a cost of US$ 5 million | -do- |
| 4. | MOU between India and Palestine Construction of school in Muthalth Al Shuhada Village at a cost of US$ 1 million | -do- |
| 5. | MOU between India and Palestine Construction of school in Tamoon village in Tubas Governorate in Palestine at a cost of US$ 1.1 million | -do- |
| 6. | MOU between India and Palestine Assistance of US$ 0.25 million for construction of additional floor to Jawahar Lal Nehru for Boys at Abu Dees | -do- |

**UAE:**

| Sl. No. | MoUs | Benefits accrued |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | MOU between Indian Consortium (OVL, BPRL & IOCL) and ADNOC | It will provide for acquisition of 10% participating interest in the offshore Lower Zakum Concession |
| 2. | MoU between Government of India and Government of UAE on Manpower Matters | It will institutionalise the collaborative administration of contractual employment of Indian workers in UAE |
| 3. | MoU between Ministry of Railways, India and Federal Transport Authority-Land & Maritime of UAE | It will provide Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector |
| 4. | MoU between Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) | It will enhance cooperation between both the countries in financial services industry |
| 5. | MoU between Government of Jammu and Kashmir and DP World | It will establish multi-modal logistics park and hub in Jammu comprising warehouses and specialized storage solutions |

**OMAN:**

| Sl. No. | MoUs | Benefits Accrued |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial matter | This Agreement provides a basis for reciprocal legal and judicial assistance in civil and commercial matters, like service of judicial orders, summons and other legal and judicial documents or processes. |
| 2. | Agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, Special, service and official passports | This MOU allows permit citizens of both countries holding Diplomatic or Official Passports to enter into, exit from and transit through the territories of each party without requirement of visas |
| 3. | MoU on Cooperation in the field of health | This MoU provides for cooperation in areas of health, including in occupational and environmental health, pharmaceuticals, medical education, exchange of the best practices in the field of primary healthcare, research in the field of healthcare, technology, health care system and exchange of medical experts and scientists |
| 4. | MoU on Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space | This MoU aims at bilateral cooperation for exploration and use of outer space, including aplication of space technology for peaceful purposes. It covers wide areas of cooperation in the fields of satellite, navigation, communication and other technologies related to space |
| 5. | MoU on Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, India and Oman Diplomatic Institute | The MOU shall promote contacts and exchange of diplomats and faculty members of the institute. It will enhance cooperation between the two institutes |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | in areas of activities which, inter alia, may include exchange of information on structure and content of the training programmes for diplomats and identification of experts in mutually agreed areas |
| 6. | MoU on Academic and Scholarly cooperation sectors between National Defence College Sultanate of Oman and the Institute for Defence Studies and the Analyses | This MOU covers several joint cooperation sectors which include exchange of ideas through the conduct of conferences, seminars and dialogues; consultations on academic and scholarly issues; joint research projects; exchange of research work, publications, etc |
| 7. | MoU in the field of Tourism cooperation between India and Oman | The MOU provides for enhancing bilateral cooperation between India and Oman to promote tourism. The MOU will also facilitate tourism investments, accommodation and hotel management by exchange of information statistics and training in the field of Tourism |
| 8. | Annexure to the MoU on Military Cooperation | The MoU allows use of certain facilities at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sea Port, Dry Dock and Air Port) by Indian armed forces |

(c) India has been unwavering in its suport for the Palestinian cause. India has been suportive of various international initiatives on Middle East Peace Process and have been participating in such meetings including the Second Conference on Middle East Peace Process held in Paris in January 2017. India hopes for early resumption of peace talks between Palestinian and Israeli sides to move towards finding a comprehensive resolution.

(d) and (e) During the visits to these countries, a range of bilateral, regional, international issues including terrorism were discussed.

*[English]*

### Creation of Jobs

1886. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an expert task force to create jobs in the country;

(b) if so, the proposal of the Government to set up sector-wise PPP model therein;

(c) whether the Government has received recommendation of the said committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) An Expert Taskforce on Employment and Exports was constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to provide a major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force were as under:

(1) To propose a comprehensive action plan to alleviate under-employment and low wages by boosting India's exports in key labour-intensive sectors.

(2) To recommend sector-specific policy interventions in key employment-intensive sectors like apparel, leather and footwear and electronics.

(3) To recommend measures to enhance trade in services which have high potential like tourism, education and health.

(4) To identify key macroeconomic factors constraining exports and suggest ways in which to address these constraints.

(5) To assess the effectiveness of existing schemes to promote exports.

(6) To assess issues related to logistics, export credits and trade facilitation.

(7) To suggest ways to enhance the availability of data on trade such that it is reliable, globally comparable and timely, particularly with respect to trade in services.

(8) To make recommendations on any other matters referred to the Task Force by the Government of India.

The Taskforce has since submitted its report.

[Translation]

### Stoppage at Hisla Bada Station

1887. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given instructions to provide two minutes stoppage of trains at Hisla Bada railway station located between Ranchi and Muri;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There is no Railway Station named as Hisla Bada between Ranchi and Muri railway stations over South Eastern Railway.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

### Call Drops

1888.   SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:
        DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:
        SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA:
        SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:
        SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the instances of call drops reported in the country;

(b) if so, the details regarding call drops reported during each of the last three years State/UT-wise and telecom company-wise along with the steps taken by the Government to check the call drop problem and to facilitate improvement and expansion of telecommunication services;

(c) whether the Government has devised a mechanism so that any call which drops prior to disconnection by the dialler or the receiver should be deemed as calls not made and no tariff should be charged or paid for it;

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

(e) whether the Government has observed any improvement in the compliance to benchmarks notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for call drop rate, 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) (b) and (e) As a result of the continuous efforts put-in by the Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), consistent improvements have been noted in compliance to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) Quality of service benchmarks for both 2G and 3G services.

As per TRAI's latest Performance Indicator Report for the quarter, July to September 2017, all TSPs providing 2G and 3G services comply to TRAI's Call drop benchmark of $\leq$ 2% for Licensed Service Area (LSA) as a whole.

Further, compliance to another benchmark, Worst affected cells having Traffic Channel (TCH) drop rate with benchmark $\leq$ 3% has also improved consistently. For 2G services, noncompliance in this regard has significantly decreased from 54 in quarter ending September 2015 to 20 in quarter ending September 2017. For 3G services, non-compliance in this regard has significantly decreased from 20 to 09 in the corresponding period.

Since TRAI Quality of services benchmarks are aplicable to License Service Area (LSA) as whole, the details regarding call drops reported in each LSA during the last three years are mentioned in the enclosed Statement-I for 2G services and Statement-II for 3G services.

In order to facilitate improvement and expansion of telecommunication services, the Government has initiated a series of measures which includes:

(i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz in 2016,

(ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilisation,

(iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilisation efficiency,

(iv) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers),

(v) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)- leading to addition of around 6.6535 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations on aggregate basis for 2G/3G/4G services during the period- July 2015 to February 2018,

(vi) launching of Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS) on call drop to get direct feedback from mobile subscribers and sharing the feedback with TSPs – since its launch TSPs have resolved 58,700 individual cases by taking remedial actions until 31st January 2018 and the call drops reported by individual subscribers have shown a drop of over 8% in the last 12 months.

(vii) facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiplesharing basis,

(viii) launching of Tarang Sanchar, a public web portal for information sharing on mobile towers and their EMF compliances, in May 2017.

(c) and (d) In the case of call drop, the customer is charged for the actual duration of the call till the call is droped. However, to compensate the consumers for such droped call, TRAI, through Telecom Consumers Protection (9th Amendment), 2015 dated 16.10.2015 had mandated the originating service provider to credit the account of the calling consumer by one rupee for each droped call within its network, subject to a maximum of Rs. 3 per day. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has set aside the regulation vide order dated 11.05.2016.

### *Statement-I*

*Details of call drops for 2G Services*

| Quarter | July to September 2015 | | July to September 2016 | | July to September 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Performance Benchmarks for call drop rate | Call Drop Rate | Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop | Call Drop Rate | Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop | Call Drop Rate | Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop |
| Benchmarks | ≤ 2% | ≤ 3% | ≤ 2% | ≤ 3% | ≤ 2% | ≤ 3% |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| **License Service Area** | **Non-complying TSPs for 2G services** | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | Aircel, Tata | | Vodafone | | | |
| Assam | | Aircel | Aircel | | Aircel | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bihar | BSNL | Aircel, BSNL, Tata, | | Aircel, Telenor | | Aircel, Telenor, Tata, |
| Delhi | | Aircel | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Gujarat | | Tata, | | Telenor | | |
| Haryana | Aircel | Aircel, Tata, | | | | |
| Himachal Pradesh | BSNL | Aircel, BSNL, Tata | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | Aircel | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Karnataka | | Aircel, Tata | | | | |
| Kerala | | Tata | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Kolkata | | Aircel, Tata | | TTSL | | |
| Madhya Pradesh | | Tata, Vodafone | | Vodafone | | Vodafone |
| Maharashtra | | Aircel, Tata | | Telenor | | Telenor |
| Mumbai | | Aircel, Tata | | Aircel, Vodafone | | Aircel |
| North East | BSNL | Aircel, BSNL | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Odisha | | Aircel, Tata | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Punjab | | Aircel, BSNL, Tata | | | | Tata |
| Rajasthan | | Aircel, Tata | | Aircel | | Aircel, Tata |
| Tamil Nadu | | Aircel, Tata | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Uttar Pradesh (East) | | Tata, Vodafone | | Telenor, Vodafone | | Telenor |
| Uttar Pradesh (West) | | Tata | | Telenor | | |
| West Bengal | | Aircel, BSNL, Tata | | Aircel, BSNL | | Aircel, BSNL |

### Statement-II

*Details of call drops for 3G Services*

| Quarter | July to September 2015 | | July to September 2016 | | July to September 2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Performance Benchmarks for call drop rate | Call Drop Rate | Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop | Call Drop Rate | Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop | Call Drop Rate | Worst affected cells having more than 3% TCH drop |
| Benchmarks | ≤ 2% | ≤ 3% | ≤ 2% | ≤ 3% | ≤ 2% | ≤ 3% |
| **License Service Area** | **Non-complying TSPs for 3G services** | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | | Aircel | | | | |
| Assam | | Aircel | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Bihar | BSNL | Aircel, BSNL | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Delhi | | | | | | R-Com |
| Gujarat | | Tata | | | | |
| Haryana | | Vodafone | | | | |
| Himachal Pradesh | | | | | | |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | Aircel | | Aircel, Airtel | | Aircel |
| Karnataka | | Aircel | | Aircel | | |
| Kerala | | Tata | | | | |
| Kolkata | | | | | | |
| Madhya Pradesh | | Tata | | | | |
| Maharashtra | | Tata | | | | |
| Mumbai | | | | | | |
| North East | BSNL | Aircel, BSNL | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Odisha | | Aircel | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Punjab | | Aircel | | Aircel | | |
| Rajasthan | | | | | | |
| Tamil Nadu | | Aircel | | Aircel | | Aircel |
| Uttar Pradesh | | Aircel, Vodafone | | Aircel, Vodafone | | |
| Uttar Pradesh (West) | | Tata | | Tata | | |
| West Bengal | | BSNL | | BSNL | | Aircel, BSNL |

**Reduction in the Charges for Mobile
Number Portability**

1889.   SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
        SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR:
        SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
        SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:
        KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
        SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
        SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
        SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:
        SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
        SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has reduced the charges for Mobile Number Portability (MNP) by approximately seventy nine per cent and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has been receiving complaints pertaining to the violation of MNP norms by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon, TSP-wise;

(c) whether the public sector TSPs are rampantly losing customers due to MNP and if so, the details thereof including the number of customers of these TSPs ported out of the said network during each of the last three years and losses suffered therefrom during the said period, TSP-wise along with the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the number of porting requests has increased substantially during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(e) whether the MNP has helped increase the mobile density in the country 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) has issued "The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Diping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (03 of 2018)" on 31st January, 2018. 2 As per Regulations, Per Port Transaction charge has been reduced from Rs. 19/- to Rs. 4/-.

(b) After implementation of the Mobile Number Portability (MNP) in January 2011, TRAI had received a number of complaints wherein the subscribers had reported that their porting requests were rejected by the donor operators on various grounds.

The Telecom Service Provider (TSP)-wise details of MNP complaints received for the last three years and current year (till January 2018) are given at the enclosed Statement-I.

On examination, it was noticed that in many cases rejection of porting requests of the subscribers was not in accordance with the provisions of the regulations. Accordingly, directions were issued to concerned TSPs to ensure compliance with MNP regulations, so that MNP process is smooth and convenient to the subscribers.

In addition, show cause notices were also issued against those service providers who had contravened the MNP regulations. Further, TRAI had also issued Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2012 dated 19th September, 2012 providing financial disincentives for unjustified rejection of porting request and for violation of timelines specified in the regulations. So far, financial disincentive of Rs. 9,89,11,000/- has been levied on the service providers under these regulations. The TSP-wise details of financial disincentive imposed are given at enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The details of Port-outs and Port-Ins of public sector telecom companies *viz.*, BSNL and MTNL, are given at enclosed Statement-III.

The public sector telecom companies have taken number of measures to improve the situation like improving quality of Network by augmentation of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) in areas where congestion is being observed, optimizing of network, monitoring of Uptime of BTSs, and wide publicity through media highlighting the advantage of availing services from these telecom companies, etc.

(d) The details of cumulative porting requests of all TSPs for the last three years are given as enclosed Statement–IV.

(e) The facility of MNP allows the mobile subscriber to change its TSP within one Licensed Service Area (LSA) and/or from one LSA to another LSA within the Country while retaining the mobile number. MNP does not have any direct impact on mobile density in the Country.

### Statement-I

*MNP complaints received during the last three years and current year, TSPs-wise*

| Telecom Service Provider | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 to till Jan-18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aircel Ltd. | 156 | 165 | 97 | 114 |
| Bharti Airtel Ltd. | 976 | 981 | 809 | 755 |
| BSNL | 105 | 65 | 43 | 39 |
| Idea Cellular Ltd. | 609 | 562 | 582 | 558 |
| Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. (RJIL) | 0 | 0 | 15 | 43 |
| Loop Mobile (India) Ltd. | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MTNL | 16 | 8 | 16 | 11 |
| SSTL-MTS Ltd. | 8 | 6 | 1 | 23 |
| Reliance Communication Ltd./ Reliance Telecom Ltd. | 449 | 319 | 363 | 848 |
| Tata Teleservices Ltd. | 133 | 90 | 48 | 41 |
| Telewing (Uninor)/Telenor Communication Ltd. | 24 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| Videocon Telecommunication Ltd. | 3 | 10 | 13 | 1 |
| Vodafone (India) Ltd. | 1330 | 1006 | 914 | 1216 |
| Grand Total | 3899 | 3222 | 2912 | 3659 |

### Statement-II

*Financial disincentive levied on various TSPs till December, 2017*

| Sr. No. | Telecom Service Provider | Total financial disincentive imposed (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Aircel Ltd. | 1,58,75,000 |
| 2. | Bharti Airtel Ltd. | 4,69,76,000 |
| 3. | BSNL | 1,12,49,000 |
| 4 | Idea Cellular Ltd. | 70,72,000 |
| 5. | Loop Mobile (India) Ltd. | 2,41,500 |
| 6. | MTNL | 28,000 |
| 7. | Quadrant Televentures Ltd. | 25,000 |
| 8. | Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. (RJIL) | 18,20,000 |
| 9. | Reliance Communication Ltd. | 64,500 |
| 10. | Reliance Telecom Ltd. | 89,000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | SSTL-MTS Ltd. | 5,09,000 | 14. | Videocon Telecommunication Ltd. | 4,000 |
| 12. | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | 23,95,500 | 15. | Vodafone (India) Ltd. | 1,25,50,000 |
| 13. | Telewing (Uninor)/Telenor Communication Ltd. | 12,500 | | Grand Total | Rs. 9,89,11,000 |

### *Statement-III*

*Details of Cumulative Port-Outs and Port-Ins of Telecom PSUs viz., BSNL/MTNL*

| Period | BSNL (GSM) | | BSNL (CDMA) | | MTNL (GSM) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Port-out | Port-in | Port-out | Port-in | Port-out | Port-in |
| As on December, 2015 | 7282670 | 4749726 | 2804 | 1814 | 407583 | 109377 |
| As on December, 2016 | 9153368 | 7688308 | 3695 | 2026 | 495602 | 132402 |
| As on December, 2017 | 12519819 | 11001938 | 4553 | 2102 | 654823 | 140981 |

### *Statement-IV*

*Details of cumulative porting requests of all TSPs*

| Period | Porting requests | |
|---|---|---|
| | No. of Port-outs | No of Port-ins |
| As on December, 2015 | 191,859,548 | 194,006,348 |
| As on December, 2016 | 252,216,948 | 254,820,682 |
| As on December, 2017 | 335,207,079 | 338,408,391 |

### New Railway Zone

1890. SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN:
SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of establishment of new Railway Zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam as assured in the AP ReorganisationAct, 2014;

(b) whether any time-line has been fixed to implement this assurance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, Ministry of Railways was required to examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh. To, *inter-alia*, examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway Zone, a Committee of senior Railway officers had been constituted. The Committee was asked to consult various stake holders, including the Members of Parliament, State Governments, etc. before a final decision is taken. The Committee has already submitted its report. In view of the complexities involved in the exercise, the matter is under further detailed examination in the Ministry of Railways.

### Telecom Facilities in the State of Odisha

1891.   SHRI KALIKESHN. SINGH DEO:
            SHRIMATI RITA TARAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and Mobile Number) focusing on direct benefit transfer of subsidies can be made operational without telecommunication and broadband connectivity in remote areas of the country specially in the State of Odisha;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the utilisation of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for creation of Telecommunication and Mobile Infrastructure in remote and inaccessible rural areas of the country, including in the State of Odisha;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a national TaskForce to ensure mobile and broadband connectivity to deficit areas in the State ofOdisha and other similarly placed States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and Mobile Number) focussing on direct benefit transfer of subsidies cannot be made operational without telecommunication and broadband connectivity.

(b) Government is undertaking various projects under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for creation of Telecom Infrastructure in remote and inaccessible areas of the country *viz.*, BharatNet (initially National Optical Fibre Network) and Setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks.

2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country are to be connected through BharatNet project, including 6235 GPs of Odisha. As on 22.02.2018, a total of 1,03,279 GPs have been made service ready including 2402 GPs of Odisha (in Phase I of BharatNet project).

USOF has provided viability gap funding for provision of mobile services at Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) identified sites in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. USOF has planned for mobile services at 2355 MHA identified sites including 261 sites of Odisha in LWE affected areas under Phase I. As on date 2329 sites including 256 sites of Odisha are radiating.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for constitution of National Task Force under consideration of the Government to ensure mobile and broadband connectivity to deficit areas in the State of Odisha and other similarly placed States as the issues are being addressed by the various initiatives of the Government through different projects under USOF.

### RMCOMP

1892. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Raksha Mantris Advisory Committee on Ministry of Defence Capital Projects (RMCOMP) recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee will monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for modernization of armed forces and bolster armed forces preparedness;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the committee will suggest measures to improve the capital acquisition process; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The formal constitution of a high-level committee to inter alia review the capital projects is under active consideration.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

### Non Availability of Toilets in Local Trains

1893. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the local trains operated between Vijayawada and Machilipatnam are run with compartments having no toilet facilities causing severe inconvenience to the travelling public;

(b) if so, whether these compartments will be replaced with compartments having toilet facilities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Distance between Vijayawada and Machilipatnam is 77 Kms. Railways, as a Policy permit toilet less trains to run up to 160 Kms. or maximum 4 hours journey.

As such there is no plan to replace these coaches with those having toilet facilities.

[Translation]

### Payment of Arrears to MTNL Ex-employees

1894. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
        SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment of arrears to the ex-employees of MTNL has not been made despite the sanction of seventh pay commissions recommendation fortheDoT prorata pension;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees who have received their due arrears of the above mentioned prorata pension of seventh pay commission till date and the number of employees deprived of the same so far;

(d) whether the prorata pension amount has been released by way of post offices but the post offices in Delhi have not released a single penny of this prorata amount to several employees till date; 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) Madam, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued sanction for payment of arrears to the ex-employees of MTNL as per the sanction of seventh pay commission's recommendations for the prorata pension. Out of total of 8771 MTNL prorata pensioners, sanctions have been issued to Post offices and Banks (Central Pension Processing Centres) for payment of prorata pension to 8073 pensioners of MTNL Delhi and 698 pensioners of MTNL Mumbai by Principal Controllers of Communication Accounts Delhi and Maharashtra respectively. 119 prorata MTNL pensioners of Delhi draw their pension from different post offices in Delhi of which payment of pension is confirmed for 82 pensioners and 35 pensioners will be paid by 09-03-2018. 2 pensioners have not been paid arrears by post offices in Delhi due to non-submission of life certificate by the pensioners.

[English]

### Legal Aid Services

1895.  SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
        SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:

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

(a) the details ofthe types of legal aid services being provided to people of poorer and weaker sections ofthe society;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up Legal Aid Clinics in various villages in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which such clinics are likely to be set up in each village;

(d) the funds allocated and spent for legal aid services in the last three years; and

(e) the number of beneficiaries who received such help from the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P.

CHAUDHARY): (a) The Government and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provide legal aid services to poor and weaker sections of society under various schemes. The Government in partnership with UNDP has implemented Access to Justice Project in eight States namely, UP, Bihar, M.P, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Odisha and Maharashtra from 2009 to 2017. Under the project legal aid clinics were set up in Odisha and Maharashtra where panel lawyers provided free legal advice and drafted aplications on behalf of marginalized.

The Government has also been implementing one Access to Justice Project since 2012 in 8 States of the North East and the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Under the project 46 legal aid clinics were set up in 2016-17 in Tuensang and Mon districts of Nagaland where panel lawyers similarly provided free legal advice and drafted aplications on behalf of marginalized.

In April, 2017, the Government has launched new legal aid schemes for the poor namely, Tele Law and Pro Bono Legal Services. Tele Law scheme has been launched in 1800 gram panchayats in 10 States of the country. Till 05.03.2018, legal advice has been provided in 10,807 cases. Under the Pro Bono legal service scheme, 220 advocates have volunteered their services for the marginalized.

The NALSA and legal services authorities (LSAs) from Supreme Court to taluka level courts provide free panel lawyers to people of poorer and weaker sections of society for legal advice, drafting of aplications and filling up of various forms, making personal apearance in the court and providing certified copies of judgements. The LSAs also pay court fee on behalf of marginalized litigants who cannot afford to make payment. In special cases where court apoints commissions for marginalized persons, the LSAs make payment to the commissioners and incur expenditure for summoning of witnesses.

(b) to (e) The NALSA Legal Aid Clinics Regulations, 2011 provide for establishment of legal services clinics at all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending on the size of such villages. Details of legal aid clinics established in villages/rural areas all over the country and persons provided legal assistance during the period from April, 2017 to December, 2017 are enclosed as Statement-I.

Funds are allocated to NALSA for implementation of various schemes/programmes framed under the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. There is no separate allocation of funds for any specific legal aid scheme or programme. The details of the grants in aid released and funds utilized during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

## *Statement-I*

*State-wise number of Legal Services Clinics established in villages/rural areas in the country and persons provided legal assistance during the current financial year 2017-18 on the basis of information furnished by State Legal Services Authorities*

| Sl. No. | Name of the SLSAs | Number of Village Legal Services Clinics established as on 31.12.2017 | Number of persons provided Legal Assistance |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 457 | 8012 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 146 | 1377 |
| 4. | Bihar | 112 | 614 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 279 | 26511 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Goa | 61 | 1318 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 487 | 4284 |
| 8. | Haryana | 321 | 112365 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 893 | 11924 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 131 | 7252 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 382 | 20950 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 147 | 6019 |
| 13. | Kerala | 173 | 6907 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 555 | 7754 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 387 | 2706 |
| 16. | Manipur | 54 | 2676 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 104 | 1805 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 57 | 2763 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 89 | 1398 |
| 20. | Odisha | 262 | 3427 |
| 21. | Punjab | 274 | 12028 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 6243 | 91943 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 12 | 109 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 551 | 1019 |
| 25. | Telangana | 260 | 2499 |
| 26. | Tripura | 317 | 14161 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 44 | 651 |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | 120 | 1383 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 593 | 24820 |
| 30. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | U.T. Chandigarh | 9 | 4401 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 12 | 0 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 6 | 0 |
| 34. | Delhi | 0 | 0 |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 |
| 36. | Puducherry | 55 | 7 |
| | Total | 13593 | 383083 |

Note: *Being a small Island all are directly contacting the State Legal Services Authority for the legal assistance, so the legal aid clinics is not functioning properly.

### Statement-II

*Details of grant-in-aid released and funds utilized by NALSA during the last three years i.e. 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17*

| Year | Grant released | Grant utilized by NALSA |
|------|------|------|
| 2014-15 | 82.65 | 56.02 |
| 2015-16 | 67.97 | 60.66 |
| 2016-17 | 63.67 | 43.07 |

### Revamp Plan

1896. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has chalked out a revamp plan worth Rs. 96,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and areas identified by railways which needs immediate attention including bridges, signalling and tracks;

(c) whether any foreign investment is likely to be sought in this plan to implement the projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which the plan so chalked out is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) with a corpus of Rs. 1,00,000 Crore over a period of five years for financing safety related works has been included in budget of 2017-18. The areas identified include track renewal, bridge rehabilitation, safety works at level crossing such as elimination of Level Crossing, provision of Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge/Subway, signalling works such as replacement of overaged signalling gears, upgradation of standard of interlocking etc.

(c) and (d) The annual outlay of Rs. 20,000 cr under 'RRSK' consists of Rs. 5,000 cr from additional Budgetary Suport from General Exchequer, Rs. 10,000 cr transferred from Railway Safety fund received as Railways' share of Central Road Fund and Rs. 5,000 cr contribution by Railways from Internal Resources. The sources of financing 'RRSK' on the above lines have been defined in Ministry of Finance's Office Memorandum on the subject dated 5.7.2017, and it does not comprise of provision of any foreign investment to the fund for financing of works.

### Relations with Middle East Countries

1897. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:
DR. RATNA DE (NAG):
SHRI HARI OM PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to rejuvenate its relations with Middle- East countries in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) India has historically maintained a close and friendly relations with the countries in the Middle-East Region, which has been further strengthened with several high level exchanges including recent visit of our Prime Minister to Jordan, Palestine, UAE and Oman from February 9-12, 2018.

Beginning with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the UAE in August, 2015, a visit that came 34 years after the last visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the UAE in 1981, a new thrust was provided for rejuvenating our relations with the Middle-East countries. Prime Minister visited Saudi Arabia in April, 2016. During the visit, Saudi King conferred on him the highest civilian award- "Sash of King Abdulaziz" on him. As a testimony of our growing relationship, India has been invited and accorded the status of 'Guest of Honour' country in the Janadriya festival, the National Heritage and Cultural Festival of Saudi Arabia. The festival was attended by Minister of External Affairs in February 2018.

Prime Minister visited Qatar during June, 2016. Recently, on the invitation of the President of the UAE,

Prime Minister revisited the UAE in February, 2018. He also delivered keynote address at the 6th World Government Summit in Dubai where India was accorded the status of Guest of Honour country. Prime Minister also visited Sultanate of Oman, another important country for us in the Region which hosts a large Indian community. In October 2015, Rashtrapatiji visited Palestine and Jordan. PM also undertook a historic first ever visit to Palestine on 10th February, 2018. During this visit, the PM was awarded the highest civilian award the 'Grand Collar of State of Palestine' in apreciation of his efforts to promote the historic relations between India and Palestine. PM also visited Jordan, the first ever visit in 30 Years.

There have also been several visits at the highest-level from the Middle East countries. Emir of Qatar visited India during March, 2015 and Prime Minister of Qatar visited India during December, 2016. The President of Egypt visited India in September, 2016 and the President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas visited India in May, 2017. Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi visited India during February, 2016 and again during January, 2017 as Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations.

With the regular exchange of these high level visits, the new thrust in our relationship with the countries of the Middle East, which host a large Indian community and also our traditional partners in our energy and food security strategy witnessed a major upswing particularly in political, economic, defence and security cooperation in the last four years.

**Promotion of Scientific and Technological Research**

1898.    SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
         SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
         SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
         KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
         SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
         SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
         SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
         SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:
         SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR:
         SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS:

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

(a) the details of bodies/institutions involved in promotion of science and technology among the youth;

(b) whether the curriculum in schools facilitate creation of a research mindset at an early age and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to equip schools with adequate laboratories and equipment to facilitate research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

**Deployment of Indian Peacekeepers to UN**

1899. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to deploy personnel to support United Nations Peacekeeping Missions to South Sudan (UNMISS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the deployment is under Chapter VII and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the country is the largest cumulative troop contributor to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) India has been contributing troops to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions to South Sudan (UNMISS) since 2011.

(b) Currently, 2389 (2016 Troop Contingent & 317 Staff personnel) Indian Army Peacekeepers are deployed in UNMISS.

(c) Yes, Madam. The mandate of the mission is as per Chapter-VII of the charter of UN. As per this chapter, the mandate of UNMISS shall be (i) Protection of civilians;

(ii) Monitoring and investigating human rights; (iii) Creating the conditions for delivery of humanitarian assistance; (iv) Suporting the implementation of the cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. India is one of the largest troop contributor to UN Missions and has deployed aproximately 2,34,000 troops (cumulative) till date for various UN Missions.

### Pre and Post Matric Scholarship

1900. SHRI G. HARI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new circular issued by the Government for pre and post matric scholarships for minority girl students is drawing flak and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the new circular complicates the process of filling the applications and also makes income declaration more complicated; and

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering to reviewthe matter in light of the protests?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The procedure for making aplication for any scholarship scheme requires the students to furnish self-declaration in respect of 'Community' status and 'Income Certificate', issued by the competent authority in the State/UT. In fact, this has made the aplication process more transparent and accessible to weaker sections among the Minority Communities. The number of aplications, received by the Government, have increased in the current year. There is 300% increase in the number of aplications for Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls, implemented by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF). There is also an increase in the number of aplications for Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Schemes for both boys & girls, implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

*[Translation]*

### Dialogue with Nepal on Infrastructure Development

1901. SHRI KIRTI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated dialogues with Nepal in order to provide support and cooperation in infrastructure development and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the objectives of the said project(s) have been identified so that facilities related to Mirror Border are developed simultaneously;

(c) if so, the details of the action initiated to rectify the errors and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any meeting has been held since 2013 to analyse the development of construction of Integrated Check Post (ICP) on Nepal border;

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

(f) the details of estimated loss likely to be borne by India since 2014 due to delay in functioning of ICP on India-Nepal border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) The Government of India has ongoing dialogue with the Government of Nepal to pursue development cooperation, including implementation of infrastructure and connectivity projects in Nepal based on the latter's priorities. Currently, major projects being suported by the Government of India include the development of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at four places along the India-Nepal border, cross-border rail links at five locations, strengthening of road infrastructure in the Terai area of Nepal, river embankment works, a Dharmashala at Pashupati area in Kathmandu, Mechi Bridge, and a Polytechnic at Hetauda in Makwanpur district of Nepal. Further, under the concessional Lines-of-Credit of over US$ 1.65 billion extended to the Government of Nepal, a number of infrastructure projects are under implementation in Nepal.

(b) and (c) The projects being implemented in Nepal with technicaleconomic suport of the Government of India facilitate construction of physical infrastructure, enhance connectivity and strengthen trade, economic cooperation, and people to people linkages between the two countries. The objectives of the projects have been identified and the facilities are being developed on both sides of the India-Nepal border, wherever necessary. In

the case of ICPs, India is developing apropriate facilities in Nepal at four places along the India-Nepal border. Regular bilateral meetings have been held to facilitate dialogue among concerned authorities in the Governments of India and Nepal for smooth coordination in implementing the GoI-assisted projects in Nepal.

(d) and (e) The Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the development of ICPs along the India-Nepal border is co-chaired by Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Nepal. Since 2013, three meetings of the PSC for the development of ICPs have been held to review progress in implementation of the projects. Further, implementation-related issues relating to ICPs and other economic and development projects are discussed at the India-Nepal Oversight Mechanism (OSM) meetings co-chaired by the Ambassador of India to Nepal and the Foreign Secretary of Nepal. Five meetings of the OSM have been held during 2016-2017.

(f) The border trade between India and Nepal has been continuing through the existing designated routes.

[English]

### Heritage Preservation in Railways

1902.    SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SMNDE:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to take certain reformative measures to promote heritage preservation in Indian Railways and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railway board is now preparing to launch a special drive to identify various heritage items or artefacts that are currently lying unnoticed or overlooked at different locations and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal for the revival of Steam Locomotives and run regular time-tabled trains on Steam Traction and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal for maintenance of railways in hilly areas and bringing them to world standard to promote tourism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Ministry of Railways have initiated several reformative measures to promote heritage preservation in Indian Railways. These include launching of a special drive to identify various heritage items/artefacts that are currently lying unnoticed at different locations; open a logbook of all major events, both at Zonal Railways and National Rail Museum to record the timelines of Railways history, revival of Steam Locomotives; upkeeping Hill Railways, strengthening Railway museums, conservation of built heritage etc.

(b) Ministry of Railways have directed all Zonal Railways/Production Units to launch a special drive between 1-15 March, 2018 for identification and preservation of Railway heritage assets like buildings, bridges, rolling stocks, documents, photographs, artefacts, equipments, clocks, benches etc.

(c) Ministry of Railways has made a specific provision in the budget outlay for 2018-19 for revival of steam locomotives including restoration and procurement of spares. There is no proposal at present to run regular time-tabled trains on Steam Traction.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Railways have launched a month long drive to bring the five hill railways of India [Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR), Kalka Shimla Railway [KSR], Matheran Light Railway (MLR) and Kangra Valley Railway (KVR)] in immaculate state for promoting tourism.

### Defence Expenditure

1903. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP has been consistently declining over the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the past three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the spending on defence to meet the latest demands and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) There has been a consistent increase in Defence Expenditure every year over previous year, as is brought out in the table below, providing the details for the last three years as well as the current year. Defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP is also given in the table:

(Rs. in crore)

| Year | Defence Expenditure excluding Defence Pension | Defence Expenditure excluding Defence Pension | GDP | Defence Expenditure excluding Defence Pension as % of GDP | Defence Expenditure excluding Defence Pension as % of GDP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2014-15 | 2,24,654 | 2,85,104 | 1,05,36,984 | 2.1 | 2.7 |
| 2015-16 | 2,33,682 | 2,93,920 | 1,13,81,002 | 2.05 | 2.58 |
| 2016-17 (Actual) | 2,66,795 | 3,54,621 | 1,21,89,854 (PE) | 2.18 | 2.9 |
| 2017-18# (RE) | 2,79,004 | 3,74,004 | 1,67,84,679 (RE) | 1.66 | 2.2 |

This Ministry projects all the requirements posed by the Services to Ministry of Finance for favourable consideration. Ministry of Finance, being the Nodal Ministry for allocating funds to the Ministries, State Governments, etc. provides budget for Ministry of Defence taking into account resource envelope of the Government of India. The allocated funds are optimally and fully utilized towards operational requirements. However depending on the Budget allocation the schemes are reprioritized to ensure that urgent and critical capabilities are acquired without any compromise to operational preparedness of the Defence Services.

### Loco Manufacturing Facility

1904. SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a plan to support high speed rail coach and loco manufacturing facility by way of policy intervention for setting up the facility in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) to (c) The agreement with Government of Japan for construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail entails a "Make in India" component for manufacture of rolling stocks for high speed trains. However, it is premature to take any decision in this regard at this stage.

### Passenger Services

1905. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced several measures for passenger services in the Budget like redevelopment of 600 railway stations, escalators, public Wi-Fi, CCTV cameras etc. and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has also decided to set up a Railway University at Vadodara and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has planned to strengthen Mumbai and Bengaluru sub-urban railways services, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether several announcements of previous budgets are still pending for implementation and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the passenger service in the railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. In the Union Budget 2018-19 it has been announced that redevelopment of 600 major railway stations is being taken up by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited. All stations with more than 25000 footfalls will have escalators. All railway stations and trains will be progressively provided with wi-fi. CCTVs will be provided at all stations and on trains to enhance security of passengers.

(b) Yes, Madam. It has been decided to open the first ever National Rail and Transport Institute at Vadodara. The University will be set up in the campus of Ministry of Railways' National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR) in Vadodara, Gujarat. The campus infrastructure will be built in phases to cater to aproximately 3,000 students over 10 years. Detailed Project Report has been submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development which has forwarded it to UGC for examination and advice on conferment of Deemed to be University status under the denovo category. Renovation and upgradation work at National Academy of Indian Railways shall start shortly.

(c) With a view to provide additional services in Mumbai Suburban sector, Indian Railways have introduced 104 new services. Besides, 12 number of 12-car services have been augmented to 15- car services. 150 kilometers of additional suburban network is being planned at a cost of over 40000 crores. A suburban network of aproximately 160 kilometers at an estimated cost of 17,000 crore is being planned to cater to the growth of Bengaluru.

(d) Budget announcements including those pertaining to previous budgets include various types of activities planned for implementation, which is a continuous process. While some announcements get implemented soon as no lengthy execution plan and time is required, some others requiring detailed studies, planning, aprovals and clearances etc. take time before actually put to implementation. Status of implementation of previous year's budget announcements is incorporated in budget documents also.

(e) Details of major initiatives taken by Government to improve the facilities for Rail Passengers are as under:-

(i) Online ticket booking facility through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website thereby obviating the need to stand in queues at reservation counters.

(ii) Reserved and unreserved ticket booking facility through mobile phones.

(iii) Provision of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) at railway stations for dispensation of tickets.

(iv) Provision of various cashless modes of payment like net banking, e-wallets, credit/debit cards through Point of Sale (POS)s machines, through Unified Payment Interface (UPI), etc.

(v) Earmarking of separate counters at various Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centres for dealing with the reservation requisitions received from persons with disability, senior citizens, ladies, former Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, accredited press correspondents and freedom fighters.

(vi) Automatic preparation of first reservation charts at least 4 hours before scheduled departure of train and thereafter booking of available accommodation through internet as well as through PRS counters till preparation of second reservation charts.

(vii) Intimation to passengers through SMS in case of change in passengers' reservation status from

waiting list/RAC to confirmed, cancellation of trains, late running of train in identified trains, etc.

(viii) Cancellation of computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter tickets through IRCTC website or through 139.

(ix) Automatic refund to e-ticket holders in case of cancellation of trains.

(x) Introduction of Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme 'VIKALP' to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers in alternate train to ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation.

(xi) Increase in number of berths earmarked as RAC to accommodate more passengers.

(xii) Earmarking of combined quota of 6 lower berths per coach in Sleeper, 3 lower berths per coach in 3AC and 3 lower berths per coach in 2AC class for Senior Citizens, pregnant women and female passengers 45 years of age and above. Further, in Rajdhani, Duronto and fully Air Conditioned/Express trains, 4 lower berths per coach are earmarked under this quota.

(xiii) Earmarking of a reservation Quota of 6 berths in 3AC class by Garib Rath Express trains for exclusive use of female passengers irrespective of their age while travelling alone or in group of female passengers.

(xiv) Earmarking of reservation quota of two berths in 3AC class and four berths in Sleeper class for persons with disability.

(xv) Introduction of Sarathi Seva to help old and disabled passengers requiring assistance at the station and strengthen the existing services for enabling passengers to book Battery Operated Car (BOC), porter services etc. on a paid basis in addition to the existing pick up and drop and wheelchair services.

(xvi) Provision of Yatri Mitra Sewa at major stations for enabling passengers to book wheelchair services cum porter services.

(xvii) Electronic display boards are provided at 'A-1' and 'A' category stations and public address systems are provided at 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category of stations and can be provided upto "D" category of stations.

(xviii) Taking various steps with a view to encouraging booking of rail ticket through internet e.g. withdrawing of service charge imposed by IRCTC, enhancing the capacity of the server, increasing the options available for making payment while booking ticket through internet etc. Due to these efforts, internet ticketing now constitute aproximately 65% of total reserved tickets issued on Indian Railways.

*[Translation]*

### Mobile Towers and the Radiations Therefrom

1906. SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers in the country at present, State/UT-wise and the standard norms for mobile phone tower radiations;

(b) whether the cases of violation of the said standard norms by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof and the penalty imposed thereon, TSP-wise;

(c) whether the Government has doubled the penalty for violation of such standards and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to control the defaulting service providers/TSPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Madam, as on 31-12-2017, there are 4,63,159 mobile towers in the country installed by different Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). The Licensed Service Area (LSA) wise details about number of mobile towers is enclosed as Statement.

The present Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation limits as laid down for Base Transceiver Station (BTSs) installed at various mobile towers in India are as follows:

| Frequency Range | E-Field Strength (Volt/Meter) | H-Field Strength (Amp/Meter) | Power Density (Watt/Sq. Meter) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 400 MHz to 2000 MHz | $0.434\ f^{1/2}$ | $0.0011\ f^{1/2}$ | $f/2000$ |
| 2 GHz to 300 GHz | 19.29 | 0.05 | 1 |

(f is frequency in MHz)

(b) Updated information regarding Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) wise details of number of BTSs found exceeding prescribed EMF radiation limits on actual testing and penalty imposed are being collected and will be provided.

(c) The Government has doubled the penalty for violation of the prescribed EMF norms from Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs per BTS per incidence with effect from 20.11.2013.

(d) In order to ensure that all Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) should be compliant to prescribed EMF reference limits/levels, DoT has issued instructions directing all Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Services (UAS) licensees that all BTSs should be compliant to prescribed EMF reference limits/ levels and all BTSs should be self-certified as meeting the radiation norm. Self-certification is submitted to respective field units of DoT. All new BTS sites start radiating commercially, only after self-certificate has been submitted to relevant TERM Cells. In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed norms of EMF radiation from mobile tower, extensive audit of compliance of self-certificates being submitted by telecom service providers and Base Transceiver Station (BTS) sites is carried out by field units of DoT regularly. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken to levy a penalty of Rs.10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site, if violation persists. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by field units of DoT.

***Statement***

*Licensed Service Area (LSA) wise details of mobile towers installed as on 31.12.2017*

| S.No. | Name of LSA | Number of mobile tower installed (as on 31.12.2017) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 36,213 |
| 2. | Assam | 10,386 |
| 3. | Bihar | 32,242 |
| 4. | Chennai | 11,157 |
| 5. | Delhi | 21,375 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 26,717 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 4,982 |
| 8. | Haryana | 10,270 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 8,080 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 28,147 |
| 11. | Kolkata | 10,145 |
| 12. | Kerala | 16,015 |
| 13. | Mumbai | 14,883 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 36,139 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 30,937 |
| 16. | North East | 6,634 |
| 17. | Odisha | 15,682 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 18. | Punjab | 18,305 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 24,725 |
| 20. | Tamilnadu | 27,707 |
| 21. | UP(E) | 29,654 |
| 22. | UP(W) | 24,386 |
| 23. | West Bengal | 18,378 |
| | Grand Total | 4,63,159 |

*[English]*

### India's Ranking in Travel Advisory

1907. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States Government has placed India at Level 2 in its travel advisory for countries citing crime and terrorism as reason;

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

(c) the details of diplomatic or other alternative channels utilized/proposed to be utilized to take up this issue with authorities concerned in the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) On 10 January 2018, the Government of United States launched a new system of four-level travel advisory to "provide U.S. citizens with clear, timely, and reliable safety and security information worldwide". Under the new system, every country will have a Travel Advisory, providing levels of advice ranging from 1 to 4 as follows:

Level 1 - Exercise Normal Precautions;

Level 2 - Exercise Increased Caution;

Level 3 - Reconsider Travel; and

Level 4 - Do Not Travel.

Countries have been assigned levels on the basis of 7 risk indicators - Crime, Terrorism, Civil Unrest, Health, Natural Disaster, Time-limited Event and Other.

India has been placed at Level 2 – 'Exercise increased caution' due to "crime and terrorism". 51 other countries have been assigned Level 2.

Government of India remains closely engaged with the Government of United States on all matters of mutual interest, including the issue of travel advisories. We have conveyed that there should be no concerns about the safety of US citizens in India, and that U.S. travel advisories should not create undue alarm about the security situation in India. The US officials have stated that under the US legal system, it is obligatory for the Administration to advise their citizens on issues relating to travel abroad.

### Spectrum Auction

1908. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has kick started the process for the next round of spectrum auction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the TRAI has issued a consultation paper on key issues for the sale of airwaves including those of 5G; and

(d) whether in the last auction, 2355 megahertz of spectrum worth Rs. 5.6 lakh crore across seven bands was put up for auction and fetched the Government revenues of Rs. 65,789 crore only and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sent a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 19.04.2017 seeking recommendations on the Reserve Price for auction of right to use spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz bands. TRAI has issued

a Consultation Paper on 28.08.2017 on "Auction of Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz bands". TRAI is presently in the process of consultation and the recommendations would be finalized on completion of the same.

(d) In the last auction held in October-2016, a total of 2354.76 MHz spectrum across seven bands *i.e.* 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands, with a total reserve price of Rs. 5.67 lakh crore was put-up for auction. The Government received revenue for a total bid value of Rs. 65,789 Crore against a total of 964.8 MHz of spectrum sold. Expensive ecosystem in 700 MHz band, industry perception of high reserve price and high debt levels of many major telecom companies may be the reasons for less revenue realisation in the auction.

*[Translation]*

### Damage of Railway Tracks

1909. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents regarding damage of rail tracks by naxals and terrorist organisations which have

come to the notice of the Railways during the last three years and till date, location-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS ( SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN ): (a) The number of incidents regarding damage of rail tracks by naxals and terrorist organisations reported over Indian Railways during the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto January) is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains and security of railway tracks, tunnels and bridges are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) suplements the efforts of GRP by providing better protection and security of passengers & passenger area and for matters connected therewith. Proper coordination at all levels is being maintained by the Railways with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), State Governments, Central/State Intelligence Agencies and State Police/GRP authorities for security of railway infrastructure including Railway track and stations over Indian Railways.

### *Statement*

*The number of incidents regarding damage of rail tracks by naxals and terrorist organisations reported over Indian Railways during the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (upto January), zone-wise*

| Zonal Railway | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 (upto January) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Central | 3 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| East Coast | 13 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Northern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northeast Frontier | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Western | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Southern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South East Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Western | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Western | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 7 | 7 | 1 |

*[English]*

### Shortage of Armament

1910. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of armament in the Armed Forces especially in respect of small arms;

(b) if so, whether it is due to inability ofPSUs and other domestic arms producers to meet the requirements of the armed Forces;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to import from other countries keeping in view the hostile scenario of certain neighbouring countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) The authorisation and holding of armament is as per operational requirement of the Armed Forces. There is adequate stock of armament with the Armed Forces and they are well equiped for meeting any operational requirements.

Requirements of armament are primarily met indigenously through Ordnance Factory Board (OFB),

PSUs, etc. Only in case of deficiencies which cannot be met indigenously, ex-import procurements are resorted to.

### Military Cooperation between Afghanistan and China

1911. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is in talks with Afghanistan to develop a military base in the panhandle landscape of Wakhan corridor and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the newfound military cooperation between the two countries in the most volatile region of South Asia is likely to impact the existing state of balance of power and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this diplomatic gambit on the part of China is to wean away Afghanistan from the Indian sphere of influence and to peddle the idea of one belt and one road initiative to Afghanistan and to sideline the strategic importance of India and the US in South Asia; 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) Government has seen reports in this

regard. Government has also noted that the Spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of National Defense stated on 25 January 2018 that the report on China's building of its own military base in Afghanistan was "ungrounded".

Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours, including Afghanistan. India and Afghanistan share timetested, friendly and strategic relations based on historical and cultural ties. The two countries entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement in October 2011, which *inter alia* provides for close and regular consultation of the leadership of the two countries on all bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual concern. The Agreement also provides for regular strategic dialogue and security cooperation in the fight against international terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in narcotics, money laundering and so on. Under the Agreement, India has agreed to assist Afghanistan, as is mutually determined, in training, equiping and capacity building programmes for Afghan National Security Forces.

India's relations with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries.

Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

### Security of Classified Defence Information

1912. DR. K. GOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States of Americas military firms wishes for security of classified defence information in India for joint ventures and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether US desires a Government- to-Government pact to facilitate the transfer of defence information to the Indian firms and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether US companies are willing to ensure transfer of critical technology to India if the Indian Government ensures the protection of critical and classified technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. India and the United States have held discussion on Industrial Security Annex to the existing Agreement Concerning Security Measures for Protection of Classified Military Information (GSOMIA) signed in January 2002 to facilitate greater technology sharing and industrial partnerships between US and Indian companies. It is anticipated that such arrangements for protection of high end technologies would encourage greater participation of US companies in defence industrial activities in India.

### National Litigation Policy

1913.   SHRI D.K. SURESH:
        SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to bring a National Litigation Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the draft National Litigation Policy;

(c) whether the Government has set any timeframe for implementation of the National Litigation Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SH. P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Formulation of the National Litigation Policy is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) No timeframe has been for implementation of the National Litigation Policy.

*[Translation]*

### Frequency of Train No. 12996

1914. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to run train number 12996 running from Udaipur City to Bandra Terminus on daily basis;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made operational; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) to (c) No, Madam. Increase in frequency of 12995/12996 Udaipur CityBandra (T) Express from tri-weekly to daily is not feasible at present due to operational constraints, including terminal constraints in Mumbai area and line capacity constraints on Udaipur-Chittaurgarh section.

*[English]*

### Promotion of Vernacular Language on the Internet

1915. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:
SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that there is a need to encourage the use of vernacular languages in the Internet extensively;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to make such languages available for more internet users and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has issued any instructions to the Government departments and internet service providers in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, through Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) programme and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), Government is encouraging use of vernacular languages in the Internet.

(c) Yes, Madam.

Technical solutions for use of Internet in 22 constitutionally recognized local languages have been made available in public domain *i.e.* http://www.ildc.in for Internet users who desires to use internet in local languages.

(d) Advisories have been issued from time to time about the technical solutions available for use of internet in local languages.

### Shortage of Atomic Fuel

1916. SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:
SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of fuel for Atomic/ Nuclear power plants in the country;

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

(c) the time by which the country is likely to become self-dependent in the field of atomic fuel;

(d) whether the Government has signed any MoU with foreign countries for the import of Uranium and Nuclear Fuel in any form; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the quantity of Uranium imported from various countries and expenditure incurred thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The Government has provided fuel from both indigenous and imported sources in required quantities for operation of nuclear power reactors at their rated power.

(c) As per the vision plan prepared, in order to fulfil the requirement of Uranium to fuel nuclear power plants, Department of Atomic Energy will achieve nearly ten-

fold rise in uranium production in next 15 years (by 2031- 2032). The uranium mining projects have been planned in three phases. On 2 completion of the projects in first phase, it is expected to produce 3.5 times of existing uranium production by the 12th year. On completion of the projects in second phase, uranium production is expected to achieve seven times of existing production. With the completion of phase three projects uranium production of the country is expected to record ten-fold increase by 2031-32.

(d) Yes Madam.

(e) Consequent upon the Civil Nuclear cooperation, DAE has been importing Uranium to meet the fuel requirements of IAEA Safeguarded Nuclear Power Plants. The quantity of uranium imported from various countries and expenditures incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, country-wise and year-wise are mentioned below:

| Year | M/s JSC NAC Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan (Uranium Ore Concentrate) | | M/s Cameco Canada (Uranium Ore Concentrate) | | M/s JSC TVEL Corporation, Russia (Natural Uranium Oxide Pellets) | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Quantity (MT) | Cost (Rs.in crores) | Quantity (MT) | Cost (Rs.in crores) | Quantity (MT) | Cost (Rs.in crores) |
| 2014-15 | 283.419 | 216.93 | Nil | Nil | 296.548 | 541.55 |
| 2015-16 | Nil | Nil | 250.743 | 158.28 | 303.787 42.150* | 565.17 303.64 |
| 2016-17 | 999.807 | 590.01 | 1233.681 | 543.51 | 187.334 | 395.29 |
| 2017-18 (up to 28-12-17) | 923.856 | 332.52 | 989.452 | 373.82 | Nil | Nil |

*One-time import of Enriched Uranium Oxide Pellets.

## Complaints against Private Company

1917. SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints received against a private company which had been nominated for supplying smart cards/software to Ex- Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A complaint against Score Information Technologies Limited (SITL), nominated for suplying smart card/software, was received from the Director (Ops & Coord) of Central Organisation Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) in the year 2011 regarding an attempt to bribe him for obtaining a favourable feedback on the performance of the Company.

A show cause notice was issued to SITL to which SITL denied all the allegations. An enquiry was conducted by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also regarding various complaints, including allegations against SITL. As per the CBI report, no irregularity could be attributed to the ECHS officials. The contract with SITL came to end in May, 2015. It is further informed that presently Source Dot Com Ltd., Company is suplying Smart Cards/software to ECHS.

## Uranium Production

1918. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to increase the indigenous production of Uranium and its import to keep up the operation of nuclear reactors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has faced any restrictions from countries which are exporting Uranium to India and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has planned to achieve a ten-fold increase in indigenous Uranium production by 2031- 2032 to tackle international restrictions and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has made a detailed plan in line with DAE's vision to achieve self sufficiency in uranium production, with nearly ten-fold rise in next 15 years (by 2031-32). UCIL has outlined a plan for massive expansion, which includes plan to maintain sustained suply from existing facilities, capacity expansion of some existing units and construction of new production centres (mines and plants) in different parts of the country. Considering the resources already identified in different geological basins by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of DAE, UCIL's major production centres are planned in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Rajasthan and Meghalaya. Consequent upon the Civil Nuclear Cooperation, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has been importing Uranium Ore to meet the Fuel requirements of Safeguarded Nuclear Power Plants. The agreement presently in operation for import of Uranium envisages import upto 2020.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Yes, Madam. As per the vision plan prepared by UCIL in line with DAE's requirement of uranium to fuel nuclear power plants, UCIL's production achievement can get nearly ten-fold rise in next 15 years (by 2031-32). The uranium mining projects have been planned in three phases. On completion of the projects in first phase, it is expected to increase 3.5 times of existing uranium production by the 12th year. On completion of the projects in second phase, uranium production is expected to achieve seven times of existing production. With the completion of phase three projects uranium production of the country is expected to record ten-fold increase by 2031-32.

### Renaming of Nariman House Building

1919. SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMA JRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Indian ambassador in Israel that the Nariman House building be registered in the name of Moshe, the child who lost his parents in the Mumbai terror attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of India has responded to it; 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) No such request has been received by the Indian Ambassador in Israel.

### Incidents of Radiation Exposure

1920.  SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:
        SHRI B.V. NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of nuclear radiation exposure to local population and to scientists/employees working in different nuclear plants across the country have been reported;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether wide use of nuclear energy is proving to be a boon in the fields like medical treatment and agriculture and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the completion of nuclear power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Madam. The doses received by the local populations living near different Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) across the country are extremely small percentages (less than 10%) of the limit prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). These are periodically assessed and estimated by Environmental Survey Laboratories (ESLs) of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) established at all NPPs by carrying out survey of radioactivity levels in various environmental matrices. As regards the doses received by occupational workers/scientists and employees working with radiation in the nuclear facilities, by following stringent work practices, it is ensured that the dose does not exceed the prescribed dose limits set by AERB.

(b) and (c) Not aplicable in view of answer to (a) above.

(d) Yes, Madam. Nuclear energy is widely used in the fields of medical treatment (both diagnostic and therapeutic) and agriculture. To name a few, following are the uses of radioisotopes/nuclear energy:-

 (i) These radiopharmaceuticals are most commonly injected into the bloodstream to diagnose and determine the severity of or treat a variety of diseases, including many types of cancers, heart disease, gastrointestinal, endocrine, neurological disorders and other abnormalities within the body.

(ii) Radiation and radioisotopes are used in agricultural research to induce genetic variability in crop plants to develop improved varieties of seeds. For food conservation, BARC has developed food irradiation technology; currently 15 plants are working in the country.

(e) Close monitoring by senior level committee, frequent follow-up with vendors, resolution of likely constraints in advance, providing financial assistance to vendors facing financial problem and re-sequencing of construction activities are some of the steps taken by the Department to expedite completion of nuclear power projects.

**Infiltration along Gujarat Coast**

1921. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of security measures taken to prevent infiltration along the Gujarat Coast;

(b) the details of the number of alien boats captured on the Gujarat coast during the last three years and the current year so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such intrusions in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Coastal security is a multi-stakeholder activity and necessary measures are implemented by various agencies. To ensure coordination, regular meetings of the National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS), at the Apex Level are held with all stakeholders participation. Under the Coastal Security Scheme of MHA, coastal police stations, check-posts and outposts have been established and in addition suported with jetties, interceptor boats have been provided for patrolling and surveillance of coastal areas particularly in the shallow areas. The Water Wing of Border Security Force has been deployed in Sir Creek area for preventing infiltration through the creeks. Floating Border outposts have been provided to them for effective patrolling in the creek areas.

Further, ships and aircraft of Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy are deployed on 24x7 basis for surveillance in the maritime zones of India to protect

national interests including for preventing infiltration and poaching by foreign fishing boats. Indian Coast Guard conducts community interaction programmes with the fishermen to sensitize them on prevailing security situations. Static radars have been installed along the Indian Coast line for electronic surveillance of vessel traffic. Coast Guard has been conducting regular exercises biannually on coastal security in coordination with other Central and State Government agencies *i.e.* Marine Police, Customs, CISF, Fisheries Department, Port Authorities, State Police and Indian Navy.

(b) As per the records held with ICG, the details of fishing boats aprehended in Gujarat in the last three years and the current year is as follows:

| Year | No. of boats aprehended |
| --- | --- |
| 2015 | Nil |
| 2016 | 07 |
| 2017 | 03 |
| 2018 | 01 |

(c) As mentioned at reply to part (a) above.

### Mysore-Thalassery Railway Line

1922. MOHAMMED FAIZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of proposed Mysore-Thalassery railway line; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilized for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No project for Thalassery-Mysore new line is included in the Budget. In this regard, Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited, a Joint Venture Company of Government of Kerala and Ministry of Railways has submitted feasibility report for a new line from Thalassery to Piriyapatna for consideration and requisite aprovals. As per this report, total cost for construction of 180 Km long new line has been assessed as Rs. 5000 crore.

(b) Does not arise.

### Back Series Data

1923. KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised back-series data for GDP during financial years 2004-14 and if so, the details of back-series data for the GDP for the financial years 2004-05 to 2017-18;

(b) if not, the time by which the Government plan to release the figures;

(c) whether the Government plans to publish GDP numbers from the year 2004 to till date, under both the old and new methodologies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) No time frame has been fixed.

(c) and (d) The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) numbers with base year 2004-05 were published till the year 2013-14. The new GDP series with base year 2011-12 was released in January 2015 giving estimates from the year 2011-12 onwards. As per internationally accepted practice, followed by India, after the base year is revised the estimates of GDP are released only as per the new base year.

### Special Category Status

1924.  SHRI ANOOP MISHRA:
        SHRI RAJU SHETTY:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any criteria for providing special status to the States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States which have been given the status of special State so far by the Government along with the details thereof;

(d) the State-wise details of the proposals under consideration of the Government for providing the said status to other States; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Special Category Status for plan assistance has been 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 include: (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 has been granted based on an integrated consideration of these criteria.

(c) The 11 States granted Special Category Status are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

(d) and (e) No proposal for grant of special category status is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

### Coastal Security

1925. SHRIMATIJAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received from States for coastal security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the strength of coast guard has been increased keeping in view of coastal security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a)

and (b) Coastal security being an ongoing process, feedback from all stakeholders is obtained from time to time for improving the coastal security mechanism. The Coastal Security Scheme, Phase-I (2005-2011) and Phase-II (2011-2020) were formulated based on the suggestions/recommendations of coastal States/UTs. Under the scheme coastal police stations, check-posts, barracks and outposts, suported with jetties, interceptor boats have been provided to coastal States/UTs.

(c) and (d) In an expanding organization like the Indian Coast Guard, the increase in strength is a continuous process. The sanctioned strength of Coast Guard has increased from 7,096 in 2008 to 14,500 (as on February, 2018).

[English]

### Coal Mining Affecting Environment

1926. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal mining adversely affects the environment in the coal mining areas and causes other negative externalities;

(b) whether any State Government has requested the Central Government to share the "Clean Environment Cess" with the State in which the cess has been collected;

(c) if so, the decision taken on such requests; and

(d) the quantum of amount that has been collected in different States as "Clean Environment Cess" and the name of States for which this amount has been sanctioned/ utilized with State-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Coal mining, like any other developmental activity, does have impact on Environment. However, such impact in case of coal mining is generally contained within the project area itself. The impact of coal mining on the environment is assessed during EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) process, on a project to project basis. Apropriate mitigation measures are planned in the EMP (Environment Management Plan) document to take care of the impact of coal mining on the surrounding environment and implemented. Due to various mitigation measures undertaken, the coal mining projects do not cause other negative externalities. For all the coal mining

projects, composite EIA/EMP are prepared and environmental monitoring mechanism, for assessing the efficacy of mitigation measures undertaken is also proposed in the EIA/EMP Report. All the pollutants are kept within the prescribed limit and the compliance report is submitted to regulatory agencies on a regular basis.

As informed by Department of Revenue, the State-wise data on collection of clean Environment Cess is not maintained. However all India net collection figures of Clean Environment Cess under indirect taxes during the financial years 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 upto January, 2018 are as under:

(Rs. In Crore)

| Financial Years | Clean Environment Cess | |
|---|---|---|
| | Customs | C. Excise |
| 2013-14 | 135.41 | 3081.72 |
| 2014-15 | 451.09 | 5393.46 |
| 2015-16 | 1172.27 | 12675.60 |
| 2016-17 | 1212.59 | 26117.25 |
| 2017-18 (April-January) | 313.82 | 11442.49 |

As informed by Department of expenditure, the State wise detail is not maintained. Ministry wise Fund allocation in different years by Department of Expenditure are given as under:

(Rupees in crores)

| Years/Ministry | MNRE | Ministry of Water Resources River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation | Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation | Ministry of Environment & Forests | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2011-12 | 160.80 | 0 | 0 | 59.95 | 220.75 |
| 2012-13 | 125.78 | 0 | 110.65 | 10.00 | 246.43 |
| 2013-14 | 1218.78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1218.78 |
| 2014-15 | 1977.35 | 0 | 110.64 | 0 | 2087.99 |
| 2015-16 | 3989.83 | 1000.00 | - | 244.97 | 5234.80 |
| 2016-17 (RE) | 4272.00 | 1675.00 | - | 955.74 | 6902.74 |
| 2017-18 (BE) | 5341.70 | 2250 | - | 1111.30 | 6902.74 |
| Total | 17,086.24 | 4,925.00 | 221.290 | 2381.96 | 24614.49 |

**New Rail Lines in Kerala**

1927. SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has carried out any survey in Kerala for laying of new railway lines, gauge conversion of old lines and electrification, ifso, the details thereof; and

(b) the Governments plan for the current year for laying of new lines, gauge conversion and electrification in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In Kerala, gauge conversion of the remaining meter gauge line is in advanced stage of completion and thus, there is no survey for gauge conversion in the State.

Details of surveys completed for new line in Kerala during the last years *i.e.* 2014-15 to 2016-17 and current year are as under:

| Sl. No. | Name of project | Length (In Km) | Cost (Rs. in crore) | Rate of return (In %) | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Idapalli Guruvayur | 79 | 1363 | (-) 10 | Proposal not found feasible. |
| 2. | Kannur Mattanur | 23 | 313 | (-) 8 | Proposal not found feasible. |

Ministry of Railways has prepared an Action Plan to electrify all Broad Gauge (BG) railway lines of Indian Railways including those in the State of Kerala by the year 2021-22.

(b) Current financial year is coming to an end and thus, no new line and gauge conversion projects are planned for inclusion in the Budget during 2017-18.

No routes have been planned for electrification during the current year 2017-18.

**Indo-Bangladesh Rail Route**

1928. SHRI PARTHA PRATIM RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to start train operation on Indo- Bangladesh rail route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to restart railways link in between Bamanhat (Cooch Behar, West Bengal) to Kolkata (West Bengal) through Lalmanirhat (Bangladesh); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present four BG rail connectivities are operational on IndoBangladesh Rail Route *viz.*, Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh), Petrapol (India)-Benapol (Bangladesh), Singhabad (India)-Rohanpur (Bangladesh) and Radhikapur (India)-Birol (Bangladesh). Freight trains run via all these routes. Two passenger trains *viz.*, Kolkata-Dhaka, Maitree Express runs via Gede (India)–Darsana (Bangladesh) and KolkataKhulna, Bandhan Express runs via Petrapole (India)–Benapole (Bangladesh).

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

**EIA of Proposed Nuclear Power Projects**

1929. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed nuclear power projects has been made by the Government;

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

(c) whether the environmental clearance has been obtained for these power projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) All nuclear power projects are set up only after obtaining prior environmental clearance, obtained through due process of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Public Hearing and apraisal by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

(c) and (d) The projects presently under construction have environmental clearance. In respect of projects proposed to be set up, Environmental Clearance has been obtained for the following projects:

| Project | Location | Capacity (MW) |
|---|---|---|
| KKNPP 5&6 | Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu | X1000 |
| GHAVP 1 to 4 | Gorakhpur, Haryana | 4X700 |
| JNPP 1 to 6 | Jaitapur, Maharashtra | 6X1650 |

The process of obtaining Environmental Clearance is in progress at various stages in respect of the following:

| Project | Location | Capacity (MW) |
|---|---|---|
| Chutka 1&2 | Chutka, Madhya Pradesh | 2X700 |
| Mahi Banswara 1 to 4 | Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan | 4X700 |
| Kaiga 5&6 | Kaiga, Karnataka | 2X700 |
| Kovvada 1 to 6 | Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh | 6X1208 |
| Chhaya Mithi Virdi 1 to 6 | Chhaya Mithi Virdi, Gujarat | 6X1000* |

*Nominal Capacity

## AIJS

1930. SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL:
        SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for creation of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) with reservation for minorities;

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

(c) whether 6000 judges will be recruited in the coming years;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(e) the details of vacancies which are left unfilled in the various courts of the country; and

(f) whether deficiency of judges is affecting the justice delivery system in the country and if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was recommended by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The

proposal was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 wherein it was decided that the issue needed further deliberation and consideration. Views on the proposal were also sought from the State Governments and High Courts. All India Judicial Service besides attracting some of the best talent in the country may also facilitate inclusion in judiciary of competent persons belonging to underprivileged, marginalised communities and women and also bring the State officers from other parts of the country having different cultural background and speaking other language from that of the State of allotment. Keeping in view the divergence of opinion among the stakeholders on constitution of All India Judicial Service, the Government has undertaken the consultative process to arrive at a common ground.

(c) to (e) As per the Constitutional framework, the selection and apointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. In so far as recruitment of judicial officers in the States is concerned, respective High Courts do it in certain States, whereas the High Courts do it in consultation with the State Public Service Commissions in other States. As per information made available by the High Courts and respective State Governments, as on 31.12.2017 the sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts is 22,474. The number of Judges in position and vacant posts are 16,728 and 5,746 respectively.

(f) The Supreme Court, through a judicial order in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary. This order of January 2007 by the Supreme Court stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments/High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions. Issues relating to increasing judicial strength and timely filling up of vacancies have also been discussed in the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held in August, 2009 and in April, 2013 and during meetings of the Advisory Council of the National Mission for Justice

Delivery and Legal Reforms. Communications have been sent as follow up from the Union Government to the State Governments and High Courts. This issue was also raised in the 7th Advisory Council Meeting of the National Mission of Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms where it was discussed that there may be a need for adding some flexibility in the recruitment rules for subordinate court judges to allow multiple sources for direct recruitment of eligible candidates. During the video conference held recently with Registrars General of all High Courts and Law Secretaries of all State Governments/UTs, the need to filling up of vacant posts of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts in timely manner was again emphasised.

### Transfer of Amount

1931. SHRIMATI RITA TARAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangement has been made for transfer of Rs. 560.00 crore payable by M/s HINDALCO on account of Talabira-1 to the State and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether a suitable advisory be issued to the Ministry of Coal for release of the claims of the State Government at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND  MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The amount of Rs. 566 crores payable by M/s Hindalco Industries Limited on account of coal block Talabira-I is the additional levy amount @ Rs. 295 per tonne for coal produced from Talabira-I coal block, as per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. The issue as to whether this additional levy would accrue to the Central Government or to the State Government concerned is under examination in consultation with Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law & Justice.

### Artificial Intelligence

1932. SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is promoting research and development in the area of robotics and artificial intelligence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is providing any fellowship/grants to entrepreneurs in the areas of robotics and artificial intelligence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) is a new initiative launched by Deptt of Science & Technology in 2016 to promote and foster the upcoming and futuristic technologies. Artificial Intelligence is one of the major components of CPS. The Government has initiated R&D in the area of artificial intelligence and Robotics by way of expert driven research projects across the country, technology/aplication development, setting up of Centre of Excellences, Human Resource Development and Skill Enhancement, Entrepreneur Start-ups, Eco-system Development and International Collaborative Research.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) DST has two schemes – (i) NIDHI PRAYAS & (ii) NIDHI Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR), under which suport is given to innovators in general and also covers Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. Under NIDHI PRAYAS scheme, a grant upto Rs.10 lakh is provided to convert a commercially viable idea into a prototype and under NIDHI Entrepreneur in Residence EIR, a fellowship upto Rs.30,000/- per month is provided to the selected entrepreneurs for a period of 1 year.

*[Translation]*

### Booking of Railway Tickets without Paying Money in Advance

1933. SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working out on any action plan regarding booking of railway tickets 15 days before without payment through IRCTC;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines/ policies formulated in this regard;

(c) whether service charge is likely to be levied after issuing the tickets and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken any fresh steps to make the person aware about e-ticket system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A scheme of booking e-ticket online and making payment after 15 days through 'ePaylater' powered by M/s Arthashastra Fintech Pvt. Ltd., as pilot project, has been introduced by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC). Under this scheme, a customer has the option to pay after 15 days of booking an e-ticket through IRCTC website.

(c) The service charge levied on using 'ePaylater' scheme is 3.50% of transaction amount and aplicable taxes.

(d) and (e) Online ticketing through IRCTC website is gaining popularity and its share vis-à-vis counter tickets is increasing. Further, online ticket booking is also being promoted as a cashless mode of transaction.

ePaylater as a payment option is displayed at the payment page of IRCTC website to make people aware about the availability of this payment method. Details about its service charge and 'Terms & Conditions' of the scheme are also provided at the payment option page.

*[English]*

### Schemes for Welfare of Minorities

1934. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
       SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
       SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes under implementation for the welfare of minorities by the Government;

(b) the funds allocated/released/spent for implementation of these schemes during each of the last

three years and the current year, scheme-wise, State/UT-wise;

(c) the scheme-wise and State-wise details of the achievements made under the said schemes during the said period;

(d) the scheme-wise and State-wise details of the actual, financial and other benefits received by minorities during the said period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for speedy implementation and to achieve the targets under the said scheme and to create awareness about such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (d) This Ministry is implementing the following Schemes/Programmes in the country for the welfare of six Centrally notified minorities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains.

(1) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

(2) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

(3) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme

(4) Maulana Azad National Fellowship

(5) Free coaching and Allied Scheme

(6) "Padho Pardes" – Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies.

(7) Suport for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc. (Nai Udaan)

(8) Jiyo Parsi

(9) Nai Roshni – Women Leadership Scheme

(10) Seekho Aur Kamao

(11) Nai Manzil – A scheme for formal school education & skilling of school dropouts.

(12) USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)

(13) Hamari Dharohar - A scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority Communities under the overall concept of Indian Culture.

(14) Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) -implemented in Identified Minority Concentration Blocks, Minority Concentration Towns & Clusters of Contiguous Villages for creation of assets.

(15) Grants-in-Aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) for implementation of education and skill related schemes:-

(a)   Grants-in-Aid to NGOs/Trust/Society

(b)   Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to the Minorities

(c)   Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for providing short-term job oriented skill development courses to youths belonging to minority communities.

(16) Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for providing concessional loans to minorities for self-Employment and income generating ventures.

The details of the schemes including funds allocated/released/spent and the achievements during each of the last three years and the current year in respect of serial No. (1) to (14) are available on the website of this Ministry (www.minorityaffairs.gov.in), the one at serial No.(15) are available on the website of MAEF (www.maef.nic.in) and at serial No. 16 are available on the website of NMDFC (www.nmdfc.org).

(e) The Government has undertaken multi-media campaign to spread awareness of welfare schemes meant for minorities through print and electronic media, namely, Doordarshan Network, All India Radio Network including FM Channels, private FM channels, private TV channels and websites all over the country, including rural areas. Pocket booklets and pamphlets on various schemes/programmes of the Ministry have been published in Hindi, English, Urdu and other regional languages. In order to directly reach to the public and spread awareness, 'Progress Panchayats' were organized in various places. Regional Coordination & Review Conferences are also held with State Governments from time to time where, *inter-alia*, information about the Ministry's schemes is provided and the schemes implemented by the Government are reviewed/monitored. In addition, outdoor publicity has also been done by

organizing 'Hunar Haat' at various places in New Delhi and other cities of India during 2016, 2017 and 2018 till date to promote traditional crafts/arts and strengthen their markets linkages.

### Jobs Created due to Digitisation of Economy

1935. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Indias burgeoning digital economy is expected to provide job opportunities to about 50-70 lakh youth in the country by 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the Government aims to have affordable and inclusive technology to ensure growth and prosperity for the masses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) India's Digital Economy has received a tremendous boost through various Government Initiatives such as Digital India covering e-Government Services, Common Service Centres, BPO Promotion Schemes, Digital Payments, Electronic Manufacturing, and Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan; e-Commerce, GST Network, Make in India, Start-up India, eHealth, and Smart Cities, etc. These initiatives coupled with new and emerging technologies are creating IT and Electronics led new job oportunities in both traditional as well as new sectors of the economy such as Transport, Health, Power, Agriculture, and Tourism.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Various technology led programmes such as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Aadhaar and Aadhaar based aplications, Digital Payments, increasing internet access in both urban and rural areas, electronic/mobile delivery of Government services to citizens through CSCs and UMANG Platform, Government eMarket Place (GeM),

e-Agriculture Market Place/Digital Mandis, Digital Lockers, and eJeevan Pramaan, Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan, and online skilling courses are some of the steps taken by the Government towards using affordable and inclusive technology to ensure growth and prosperity for the masses.

### Staff in Indian Missions/High Commissions

1936. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is severe shortage of manpower in Indian Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the number of staff in High Commissions presently posted in all the countries; and

(c) the action taken to fill up the shortage of mission staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) There are 667 officers and 1251 suport staff in our Missions and Posts. In addition, there are more than 2800 locally recruited staff currently deployed in Missions and Posts abroad. Ministry of External Affairs regularly reviews the requirement of manpower at various levels in Missions and Posts abroad as well as at the Headquarters, and takes apropriate action, including recruitment of additional officers and staff, through placement of requisite indents with the Union Public Service Commission and the Staff Selection Commission respectively, in case of shortfall.

### Development Plan

1937. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is undertaking massive development works costing around 5,384 crore in Varanasi and nearby areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of other nearby areas to be covered under this development plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The ongoing development works at Varanasi, Varanasi City

and Manduadih stations in Municipal jurisdiction of Varanasi are enclosed as Statement-I. In addition, the list of other sanctioned works which caters to the need of nearby areas including Varanasi is enclosed as Statement-II.

## *Statement-I*

*List of various ongoing works in the Municipal Limit of Varanasi*

| Sl.No. | Name of Work | Cost (Rs. In Crore) | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Manduadih – Yard remodeling and connection between Maduadih & Varanasi. | 5.07 | Work in progress. |
| 2. | Manduadih – Two additional island platforms. | 9.69 | Work in progress. |
| 3. | Manduadih – Augmentation and upgradation of passenger amenities, construction of booking office, waiting hall, aproach road, development of circulating area and extenson of foot over bridge (Phase II). | 7.12 | Work in progress. |
| 4. | Manduadih – Balance works of station building, circulating area and aproachroad on 2nd entry side, 12 bay shelters and washable aprons with carriage water filling (platform No. 8). | 15.80 | Work in progress. |
| 5. | Varanasi City – Home PF, track etc. and shunting neck for coaching facilities in connection with development of satellite station. | 9.99 | Work in progress. |
| 6. | Varanasi City – Upgradation and augmentation of passenger amenities. | 10.41 | Work in progress. |
| 7. | Varanasi – Yard remodeling | 292.70 | Work in progress. |
| 8. | Varanasi – Yard remodeling (Ph. 2) | 209.13 | Work in progress. |
| 9. | Amritsar, Haridwar, Raebareli, Varanasi, Kurukshetra and Delhi Safdarjung – Joint development of stations in association with Ministry of Tourism. | 57.00 (for all six stations) | Work in progress. |
|  | Sub Total Cost | 616.91 |  |

## *Statement-II*

*The details of the various on-going projects works that caters nearby areas and Varanasi which have been included in Budget*

| Sl. No. | Name of Project | Cost (Rs. in Crore) | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Lohata – Bhadoi (39 Km.) | 183.72 | Earthwork, bridge works, etc. have been taken up. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Bhadoi-Janghai (31 Km.) | 159.96 | Bhadoi-Mondh-Suriawan (15 Km) section has been commissioned. In balance section of Suriawan – Janghai (16 Km) works is in advance state of completion. |
| 3. | Aunihar-Manduadih (38.8 Km.) | 199.75 | Aunrihar-Sarnath section (24.60 Km) has been commissioned. Works in remaining section have been taken up. |
| 4. | Varanasi–Madhosingh–Allahabad (122 Km.) | 750.56 | Earth bridge work, ballast suply etc. have been taken up. |
| 5. | 3rd Line between Varanasi-Moghalsarai with sub-structure of two lines on Maliya Bridge (16.72 Km.) | 2005.15 | This is a New Work included in the Budget 2017-2018 subject to requisite aprovals from the Government. |
| 6. | Varanasi Division–Minimum essential amenities deficiency elimination by one bay platform shelter (3 stations) and raising of platforms at "D" category stations from rail to medium level (6 stations). | 8.73 | Work In progress. |
| 7. | Varanasi Division–First Foot over Bridge at various stations (17 Nos.) | 14.00 | Work In progress. |
| | Sub Total Cost | 3321.87 | |
| | Total Cost | 3938.78 | |

*[Translation]*

### Women Personnels in Army

1938. SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of women personnels have registered an increase in all the three wings of the armed forces for the past sometime;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, wing-wise;

(c) the wing-wise number of commissioned and non-commissioned women officers in various branches including medical and nursing branches;

(d) whether the Government has received complaints from the women officers about trouble and discrimination being caused to them and even some of the cases of turning down of job proposals by the selected candidates on account of this; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE   (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Held strength of women officers (excluding Medical, Dental and Nursing) in the Indian Army for the last three years are as under:

| Year | Number of officers |
|---|---|
| 2015 (as on 1st July) | 1466 |
| 2016 (as on 1st July) | 1512 |
| 2017 (as on 1st July) | 1548 |

The borne strength of women officers (excluding Medical and Dental) in the Indian Navy as on 1st January from 2015 onwards is as follows

| Year | Borne strength of women officers |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 2015 | 382 |
| 2016 | 409 |
| 2017 | 469 |

The strength of women officers (except Medical and Dental branch) in Indian Air Force in the last three years is as follows:

| Year | Strength of women officers |
|------|----------------------------|
| 2015 | 1428 |
| 2016 | 1584 |
| 2017 | 1598 |

(c) Details of women officers (excluding Medical, Dental and Nursing) in different Arms and Service of Indian Army as on 1st January, 2018 are as under:

| Arm/Service | Women officers |
|-------------|----------------|
| AAD | 63 |
| Engrs | 195 |
| Sigs | 220 |
| ASC | 265 |
| AOC | 292 |
| EME | 263 |
| Int | 73 |
| Army Avn | 20 |
| AEC | 85 |
| RVC | 0 |
| JAG | 85 |
| Total | 1561 |

Current held strength of women officers in Armed Forces Medical Services as on 1st January, 2018 is as under:

| Services | Number of Officers |
|----------|--------------------|
| AMC (Medical Officers) | 975 |
| AD Corps (Dental Officers) | 127 |
| MNS (Military Nursing Service) | 3730 |

There are no non-commissioned women officers in the Army

As on 27th February, 2018, the total strength of women officers in the Indian Navy (including Medical and Dental) is 639

The branch wise breakdown is as follows:

| Branch/Cadre/Specialisation | | Strength |
|------|------|----------|
| (i) | Education | 132 |
| (ii) | Logistics | 144 |
| (iii) | Law | 04 |
| (iv) | ATC | 67 |
| (v) | Naval Constructor | 64 |
| (vi) | Observer | 70 |
| (vii) | Pilot | 02 |
| (viii) | Naval Armament | 10 |
| (ix) | Medical | 144 |
| (x) | Dental | 02 |
| | Total | 639 |

Branch wise details of women officers (except Medical and Dental branch) in the Indian Air Force (IAF) as on 1st February, 2018 is as follows:

| Branch | No. of women officers |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| F(P) | 104 |
| F(N) | 16 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| AE(M) | 48 |
| AE(L) | 569 |
| ADM | 430 |
| LGS | 162 |
| ACCTS | 116 |
| EDN | 83 |
| MET | 70 |
| Total | 1598 |

There are no non-commissioned women officers in the IAF.

(d) and (e) The complaints of discrimination received from women officers at work place in the armed forces are investigated and necessary action taken against defaulting officers, in accordance with the prevailing Acts and rules in force.

*[English]*

### Utilization of Nuclear Materials

1939. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of nuclear material utilized in power production and other sectors during each of the last three years, nuclear power plant-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the action plan and the target for the supply and usage of nuclear energy sources in the next three years;

(c) the names and quantum of sources of indigenous atomic energy including thorium; and

(d) the status of the technology developed in the country to utilize the aforesaid sources?

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

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The aproximate requirements of atomic fuel/uranium for Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) are as follows:

| Unit Capacity (MW) | Annual requirement at 85% Capacity Factor (tons $UO^2$) |
|---|---|
| 220 | 45 |
| 540 | 100 |
| 700 | 125 |

The aproximate requirements of atomic fuel/uranium for Light Water Reactors (LWRs) currently in operation are as given below:

| Unit Capacity (MW) | Annual Fuel Requirement (tons, low enriched uranium) |
|---|---|
| 160 | 6 (at 85% CF) |
| 1000 | 25 (at 90% CF) |

(b) To augment indigenous resources of uranium and thorium, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has taken measures to augment domestic uranium and thorium resources by state-of-the-art, integrated, multi-disciplinary exploration utilising remote sensing, heliborne/ground geophysical survey, geological, radiometric and geochemical surveys and drilling with high-tech hydrostatic rigs and 'sonic' drill rigs in several productive, prospective and potential areas of the country. Laboratories have been upgraded with modern, high-tech instruments and equipment to provide rapid and accurate analytical suport to field investigations.

Thorium resources are contained in the mineral monazite, which occurs in association with other Beach Sand Minerals (BSM) like ilmenite, leucoxene, rutile (titanium minerals), zircon (zirconium mineral), garnet and sillimanite (industrial minerals).

(c) The status of uranium and thorium (monazite) resources as on January, 2018 is given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II.

(d) Research & Development on Thorium utilisation continues to be a high priority R&D area of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Thorium ($^{232}$Th) is a fertile material, which is required to be converted into a fissile material ($^{233}$U) through irradiation in a nuclear reactor. Spent fuel thus produced, is required to be reprocessed to recover 233U, thereafter fuel in the desired properties is produced using this $^{233}$U. In this regard, necessary R&D is being carried out. Some important highlights of these achievements and activities are the following:

i) Thorium Oxide (Thoria) pellets contained in bundles have been used in the initial cores of our operating Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and valuable experience has been generated in operation and re-use of this irradiated thorium fuel.

ii) The irradiated Thoria pins from research reactors have been reprocessed to obtain Uranium 233. The recovered Uranium 233 has been fabricated as fuel for the 30 kW (thermal) KAMINI reactor. This is the only reactor in the world operating with Uranium 233 fuel.

iii) The technologies for fabrication of Thoria based fuel pellets, carrying Uranium 233, have been established.

iv) Studies have been also carried out to use Thorium in different types of reactors with regard to fuel management, reactor control and fuel utilisation.

v) Indigenous efforts towards development and demonstration of Thorium-based reactor technology are well underway with BARC-designed Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR, 300 MWe). This 300 MWe reactor using thorium based fuel will serve as a technology demonstrator not only for the thorium fuel cycle technologies, but also for several advanced passive safety features.

vi) A Critical Facility for Advanced Heavy Water Reactor was commissioned in 2008 at Trombay and is being used since then for carrying out experiments to further validate the physics design features of AHWR.

In addition, the Department has an active programme for utilisation of Thorium in High Temperature Reactors, Molten Salt Breeder Reactor and Accelerator Driven Sub-critical System. Various technologies, fuels, and materials are also being developed for these innovative reactors and advanced energy systems.

The Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology to utilise the domestic uranium reserves has been developed indigenously and it has attained maturity.

### Statement-I

*Status of Uranium Resources*

| State | Uranium Reserves | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | $U_3O_8$ (tonne) | U (tonne) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1,44,541 | 1,22,570 |
| Telangana | 18,550 | 15,731 |
| Jharkhand | 67,712 | 57,420 |
| Meghalaya | 23,040 | 19,538 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Rajasthan | 9,421 | 7,989 |
| Karnataka | 4,682 | 3,970 |
| Chattisgarh | 3,986 | 3,380 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 785 | 666 |
| Uttarakhand | 100 | 85 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 784 | 665 |
| Maharashtra | 355 | 301 |
| Total | 2,73,956 | 2,32,315 |

### Statement-II

*Status of monazite resources*

| State | No. of deposits | Resource (million tonne) |
|---|---|---|
| Odisha | 10 | 3.06 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 26 | 3.69 |
| Tamil Nadu | 51 | 2.46 |
| Kerala | 35 | 1.84 |
| West Bengal | 1 | 1.20 |
| Jharkhand | 1 | 0.21 |
| Maharashtra | 3 | 0.004 |
| Gujarat | 1 | 0.003 |
| Total | 128 | 12.467 |

Monazite in the beach placer sands contains about 9-10% thorium oxide ($ThO_2$). The monazite resource (12.47 million tonne) contains approximately 0.98 million tonne thorium metal (Th) or approximately 1.12 million tonne $ThO_2$.

### Hunar Haat

1940. SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hunar Haat 2018 has seen the participation of artisans from across India, if so, the States that have been most active in participating;

(b) the manner in which the Hunar Haat facilitate promotion of regional handicraft and establish a national platform; and

(c) whether Hunar Haat 2018 has influenced livelihoods of minority communities in regions across India and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Yes, Madam. During 2018, the Ministry has organized Hunar Haat at Mumbai from 4th to 10th January and at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi from 10th to 18th February, during which artisans and craft persons from 24 States/UTs participated. Apart from this, three other Hunar Haats were held during 2017 at Puducherry; Baba Kharak Singh Marg and Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

(b) Hunar Haat is an effective platform, wherein oportunity is given to the artisans and craft persons from across the country to showcase and market their finest handicraft and handmade swadeshi products. The Hunar Haat have immensely contributed in preserving and promoting the unique and rich heritage of traditional art and craft.

(c) Hunar Haat enables the artisans to sell their products directly during the exhibition and at the same time develop forward marketing linkages with the domestic as well as foreign buyers visiting Hunar Haat. The sales registered and booking orders done during these Hunar Haat have impacted positively the livelihood of large number of artisans and people belonging to Minority Communities. To encourage participation of talented artisans/craftsmen from all over the country including the remote areas, the Ministry covered all the costs including providing of free stalls and travelling and other expenses to the participants so that they are not financially burdened.

Further, in order to give platform to the traditional cuisines practiced by culinary experts from the minority communities, "Ustadoon Ka Bawarchi Khana" component has been added to Hunar Haat. Sales across the counter have benefitted such culinary experts & associated people from every part of the country.

*[Translation]*

### Demands for Salary Hike by MTNL Employees

1941. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for increasing dearness allowance in the salary of MTNL employees since 2007;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to meet the said demand of officers and staff of MTNL; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Forum of Unions and Associations of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have demanded benefit of merger of 50% DA (Dearness Allowance) effectively amounting to 78.2% as on 01.01.2007.

The guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), vide O.M. No. 2(70)/08-DPE (WC) dated 26.11.2008 provided for Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) @ 68.8% of the basic pay as on 01.01.2007. Subsequently, DPE issued O.M. dated 02.04.2009 which provided for IDA @ 78.2% of the basic pay as on 01.01.2007. However, in both the O.Ms., there was a pre-condition that the concerned Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) shall bear the additional financial burden on account of pay revision from its own resources without any assistance from government.

Accordingly, MTNL has been advised that the proposal to extend benefit of merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% as on 01.01.2007 to its employees may be processed by MTNL in light of DPE O.M. No. 2(70)/08-DPE (WC) dated 26.11.2008 and dated 02.04.2009. MTNL has to bear the additional financial implication on account of pay revision from its own resources and no budgetary support shall be provided by the Government.

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### Mobile Teledensity

1942. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the mobile teledensity in the country, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the details of increase in mobile users during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise including Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Service Area wise Mobile teledensity in the country as on 31-12-2017 and the number of mobile connections during the last three years and the current year is as per enclosed Statement.

*Statement*

*Service areawise Mobile Teledensity and the number of mobile connections*

| Sr. No. | Service area | Mobile teledensity (in %) as on 31.12.2017 | Mobile telephone connections (in million) as on | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 31.03.2015 | 31.03.2016 | 31.03.2017 | 31.12.207 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 94.12 | 71.95 | 74.65 | 84.94 | 84.32 |
| 2. | Assam | 68.60 | 17.15 | 18.56 | 21.84 | 22.71 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Bihar | 60.10 | 69.31 | 74.51 | 84.61 | 84.40 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 108.76 | 58.56 | 62.27 | 71.84 | 70.60 |
| 5. | Haryana | 90.34 | 22.01 | 23.26 | 25.05 | 25.47 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 147.38 | 7.86 | 8.89 | 10.43 | 10.61 |
| 7. | Jammu and Kashmir | 103.78 | 9.31 | 9.82 | 11.91 | 13.12 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 106.09 | 58.05 | 61.34 | 69.14 | 67.20 |
| 9. | Kerala | 113.56 | 31.35 | 34.31 | 39.16 | 41.01 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh* | 69.55 | 60.60 | 65.67 | 69.58 | 73.93 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 92.80 | 76.94 | 84.10 | 93.90 | 93.39 |
| 12. | North East | 90.59 | 10.50 | 11.07 | 12.57 | 12.88 |
| 13. | Odisha | 79.13 | 27.87 | 29.06 | 34.29 | 34.09 |
| 14. | Punjab | 120.81 | 30.63 | 31.75 | 35.97 | 38.07 |
| 15. | Rajasthan | 88.12 | 55.21 | 60.09 | 67.36 | 65.85 |
| 16. | Tamil Nadu | 121.25 | 80.32 | 81.35 | 89.26 | 87.03 |
| 17. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 69.37 | 83.40 | 92.24 | 104.56 | 100.79 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 69.37 | 52.02 | 57.60 | 66.68 | 62.32 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 72.50 | 47.07 | 49.50 | 58.25 | 58.05 |
| 20. | Kolkata | 180.89 | 22.56 | 25.03 | 29.32 | 29.20 |
| 21. | Delhi | 247.77 | 46.19 | 47.24 | 53.35 | 55.55 |
| 22. | Mumbai | 158.92 | 30.67 | 31.80 | 36.58 | 38.33 |
| | All-India | 90.22 | 969.54 | 1034.11 | 1170.59 | 1168.90 |

*Madhya Pradesh service area includes the State of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

[English]

### New Passports

1943. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to issue new passports containing fewer information; and

(b) if so, the information likely to be incorporated in new passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) No, No new Passports are being issued. However, Passport Rules have been simplified. Therefore unnecessary and irrelevant information is not required now.

(b) The list of Simplification of Passport Rules is enclosed as Statement

### *Statement*

#### *Simplification of Passport Rules*

In order to streamline, liberalize and ease the process of issue of passport, the Ministry of External Affairs has taken a number of steps in the realm of passport policy to ease the process of issue of passports. The details of these steps are given below:-

**A. Documents in support of proof of Date of Birth**

As per the extant statutory provisions of the Passport Rules, 1980, all the applicants born on or after 26/01/1989, in order to get a passport, had to, hitherto, mandatorily submit the Birth Certificate as the proof of Date of Birth (DOB). It has now been decided that all applicants of passports can submit any one of the following documents as the proof of DOB while submitting the passport application:

(i) Birth Certificate (BC) issued by the Registrar of Births & Deaths or the Municipal Corporation or any other prescribed authority whosoever has been empowered under the Registration of Birth & Deaths Act, 1969 to register the birth of a child born in India;

(ii) Transfer/School leaving/Matriculation Certificate issued by the school last attended/recognized educational board containing the DOB of the applicant;

(iii) PAN Card issued by the Income Tax Department with the DOB of applicant;

(iv) Aadhaar Card/E-Aadhaar having the DOB of applicant;

(v) Copy of the extract of the service record of the applicant (only in respect of Government servants) or the Pay Pension Order (in respect of retired Government Servants), duly attested/certified by the officer/in-charge of the Administration of the concerned Ministry/Department of the applicant, having his DOB;

(vi) Driving license issued by the Transport Department of concerned State Government, having the DOB of applicant;

(vii) Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) issued by the Election Commission of India having the DOB of applicant;

(viii) Policy Bond issued by the Public Life Insurance Corporations/Companies having the DOB of the holder of the insurance policy.

**B. Other Changes:**

(i) The online passport application form now requires the applicant to provide the name of father or mother or legal guardian, *i.e.*, only one parent and not both. This would enable single parents to apply for passports for their children and to also issue passports where the name of either the father or the mother is not required to be printed at the request of the applicant.

(ii) The total number of Annexes prescribed in the Passport Rule, 1980, has been reduced to 9 from the present 15. Annexes A, C, D, E, J, and K have been removed and certain Annexes have been merged.

(iii) All the annexes that are required to be given by the applicants would be in the form of a self declaration on a plain paper. No attestation/swearing by/before any Notary/ Executive Magistrate/ First Class Judicial Magistrate would be henceforth necessary.

(iv) Married applicants would not be required to provide the erstwhile Annexure K or any marriage certificate.

(v) The passport application form does not require the applicant to provide the name of her/his spouse in case of separated or divorced persons. Such applicants for passports would not be required to provide even the Divorce Decree.

(vi) In case of children not born out of wedlock, the applicant for the passport of such children should submit only extant Annexure C while submitting the passport application.

(vii) In case of issue of passport to in-country domestically adopted children, submission of the registered adoption deed would no longer be required. In the absence of any deed to this effect, the passport applicant may give a

declaration on a plain paper confirming the adoption.

(vii) Government servants, who are not able to obtain the Identity Certificate (extant Annexure-A)/ No-Objection Certificate (extant Annexure-G) from their concerned employer and intend to get the passport on urgent basis can now get the passport by submitting a self-declaration in extant Annexure-'H' that he/she has given prior Intimation Letter to his/her employer informing that he/she was applying for an ordinary passport to a Passport Issuing Authority.

(viii) Sadhus/ Sanyasis can apply for a passport with the name of their spiritual Guru mentioned in the passport application in lieu of their biological parent(s) name(s) subject to their providing of at least one public document such as Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) issued by the Election Commission of India, PAN card, Aadhaar Card, etc wherein the name of the Guru has been recorded against the column(s) for parent(s) name(s).

(ix) Orphaned children who do not have any proof of DOB such as Birth Certificate or the Matriculation Certificate or the declaratory Court order, may now submit a declaration given by the Head of the Orphanage/Child Care Home on their official letter head of the organization confirming the DOB of the applicant.

(x) An applicant for a passport has to submit any one of the documents as mentioned in (A) above as proof of Date of Birth (DOB) while submitting the passport application. The DOB mentioned in the document would be recorded in the passport. In case there is a discrepancy between the DOB previously recorded in the passport and the new proof of DOB submitted by the applicant, the Passport Issuing Authorities (PIA) have been authorized to consider the explanation of each applicant seeking change in the DOB (irrespective of the period that would have lapsed after the issue of the passport) to find the genuineness of the claim and if the PIA is satisfied with the claim and with the document(s) submitted by the applicant in support of the claim, the PIA shall accept all such requests

made by the applicant to issue the passport with revised DOB.

(xi) Passports can be now obtained under the 'Tatkaal' Scheme without providing the Verification Certificate from a Gazetted Officer, which was required earlier. The documents to be submitted for getting a passport under this Scheme have been notified vide G.S.R. 39(E) dated 11 January, 2018.

(xii) Passports can now also be obtained under the Normal scheme on out-of-turn post-Police Verification basis without paying any additional fees on the submission of certain documents as notified vide G.S.R. 39(E) dated 11 January, 2018.

**Recommendations made by Shekatkar Committee**

1944. SHRI HARISH MEENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of recommendations made by the Shekatkar Committee to the armed forces for implementation;

(b) whether recommendations made by the committee has not been adopted by the Government *in toto;* and

(c) if so, the details of recommendations adopted and those not adopted by the Government along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (c) A Committee of Experts (CoE) was constituted by Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of Lt. Gen. (Retd) DB Shekatkar to recommend measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces. The Committee submitted its report in December 2016. The Report was taken up by the Ministry of Defence to frame key action points and roadmap for implementation. Some Recommendations taken up for implementation include:

(i) Optimization of Signals Establishments to include Radio Monitoring Companies, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and

merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments

(ii) Restructuring of repair echelons in the Army to include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Static/Station Workshops in the field Army.

(iii) Redeployment of Ordnance echelons to include Vehicle Depots, Ordnance Depots and Central Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.

(iv) Better utilization of Supply and Transportation echelons and Animal Transport Units.

(v) Closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations.

(vi) Enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army.

(vii) Improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps.

Full details of the Report and its recommendations are not being placed in the public domain as operational aspects of the armed forces have also been covered, disclosure of which is not in the interest of national security.

*[Translation]*

**Per-Capita SDP of Bihar**

1945. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita net State Domestic Product of Bihar is less as compared to the national average;

(b) if so, the present details thereof;

(c) the details of per capita net State Domestic Product of Bihar and national average during the last three years; and

(d) the assistance provided by the Union Government to the Government of Bihar to bring per capita net State Domestic Product of Bihar at par with national average and the extent to which success has been achieved with the said assistance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of Bihar during 2016-17 at current prices was estimated at '35,590 as compared to All India Per Capita Net National Income (NNI) estimate of Rs. 1,03,870 at current prices.

(c) The details are given below:

|  | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Per Capita NSDP of Bihar (Rs.) | 28,671 | 31,454 | 35,590 |
| All-India Per Capita NNI (Rs.) | 86,647 | 94,731 | 1,03,870 |

(d) On recommendation of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance has provided special assistance to the Government of Bihar as per details given below:

(Rs. in Crore)

| Year | Amount |
|---|---|
| 2015-16 | 1910.36 |
| 2016-17 | 1329.40 |
| 2017-18 (as on 28.2.2018) | 2064.00 |

There was gradual increase in annual per capita NSDP of Bihar over the years 2014-15 to 2016-17, as indicated in response to part (c) above.

*[English]*

## Redevelopment of Stations

1946.   SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:
          SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced several measures for passenger services in the budget like redevelopment of 600 railway stations, escalators, public wi-fi, CCTV cameras, etc. and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has also decided to set up a Railway University in Vadodara and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several announcements of previous budgets are still pending for implementation and if so, the details thereof along with steps taken by the Government in this regard with special reference to Karnataka; and

(d) the major railway stations and expansion of railway lines planned in Uttar Pradesh in the Union Budget of 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. In the Union Budget 2018-19 it has been announced that redevelopment of 600 major railway stations is being taken up by Indian Railway Station Development Co. Limited. All stations with more than 25000 footfalls will have escalators. All railway stations and trains will be progressively provided with wi-fi. CCTVs will be provided at all stations and on trains to enhance security of passengers.

(b) Yes, Madam. It has been decided to open the first ever National Rail and Transport Institute at Vadodara.

(c) Budget announcements including those pertaining to previous budgets include various types of activities planned for implementation, which is a continuous process. While some announcements get implemented soon as no lengthy execution plan and time is required, some others requiring detailed studies, planning, approvals and clearances etc. Take time before actually put to implementation. Status of implementation of previous year's budget announcements is incorporated in budget documents also.

In the Budget Speeches of 2014-15 to 2017-18 the following announcements related to Karnataka have been made:

| Year | Speech Para No. | Announcement | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2014-15 | X(3) | One Tourist Train from Gadag to Pandharpur via Bagalkot, Bijapur and Solapur covering the pilgrim and tourist places of Karnataka and Maharashtra. Another train from Rameshwaram covering pilgrim and tourism places like Bengaluru, Chennai, Ayodhya, Varanasi and Haridwar. A special Train featuring life and work of Swami Vivekananda. | Special pilgrim train "SukhmangalamYatra" has been operated on 25.10.2014 from Bangaluru covering places like Gadag, Bijapur, Solapur, Pandharpur, Aurangaba, Shirdi, Badami and Hampi. Similar trains have been operated from Madurai/Chennai/Mysore as Rameswaram does not have originating traffic for tourist trains. However, Rameshwaram has been covered as tourist destination in these itineraries. A Vivekanand special train covering the life and work of Swami Vivekananda has been operated from Kolkata on 12.01.2015 covering places |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | like Hyderabad, Mysore, Bangaluru, Trivandrum, Kanyakumari, Rameshwaram and Madurai on its 12 days itinerary. |
| | XXIV(3) | Study to enhance existing Indian Railway network of Bengaluru for above need. | The work of feasibility study has been given to M/s RITES on 28.12.2017 |
| | XXIV(3) | Developing Baiyappanahalli as a coaching terminal. | The work for developing Baiyappanahalli as a coaching terminal has been sanctioned in 2015-16. |
| | XXVII (3) | Requisite approvals, cost-sharing arrangement with State Government on Mysore-Khushalnagar portion of MysoreKushalnagarMedekere (110 km) New line. Completion of remaining survey uptoMedekere. | Survey has been taken up. |
| 2016-17 | 92 | Bangalore– work with State Government to build a comprehensive suburban system. | A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways and Govt. of Karnataka on 16.01.2017 for development of Suburban rail system in Bengaluru. Work for technical feasibility study for providing dedicated suburban services in and around Bengaluru has been sanctioned by Ministry of Railways. |

(d) As announced in the Union Budget 2018-19, major railway stations in Uttar Pradesh are being taken up by for redevelopment by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited. Regarding expansion of Railway network in Uttar Pradesh, the following projects falling fully/partly in the State have been proposed in Budget 2018-19 subject to obtaining requisite Government clearances:-

| Sl.No. | Project | Zonal/Railway | Length | Latest cost (in Cr.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | 4th line between DholpurJhansi and Beena | North Central | 321.8 Km | 4870 |
| 2. | 4th line between MathuraDholpur Junction | North Central | 107 Km | 2945.75 |
| 3. | Agra Fort–Barabanki Doubling | North Central | 150.8 Km | 1388.81 |
| 4. | Doubling between New Coaching Complex and Kanpur | North Central | 2.5 Km | 34.28 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | 3rd line between Aligarh JnDaudkhan parallel to UP line and construction of Fly over at Daudkhan connecting DN Loop line Daudkhan to common loop of New Daudkhan (DFC) | North Central | 6.9 Km | 448 |
| 6. | 3rd line between RumaChakeri– Chandari in connection with DFC | North Central | 12.5 Km | 176.68 |
| 7. | 4th line between Chipiyana– Buzurg to Dadri connecting Down loop of Maripat and holding line of Dadri in connection with DFC | North Central | 12 Km | 128.68 |
| 8. | 4th line between Allahabad to Bumrauli flying over at Subedarganj and connecting to UP loop of Bumrauli | North Central | 10 Km | 493.11 |
| 9. | Chord line between Dailwara– Berari | North Central | 5.2 Km | 50.24 |
| 10. | Flyover at Bhandai for Etawah bound down trains. | North Central | 10 Km | 186.21 |
| 11. | Doubling between Phaphamau to Unnao via Kunda | Northern | 200 Km | 1600 |

## Supply of Sub-standard Material

1947. DR. UDIT RAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sub-standard material at inflated costs running into crores of rupees is reported to have been supplied to the Ordnance Factory, Chanda, Maharashtra allegedly through some touts in league with some registered suppliers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many complaints to the higher authorities to the Ordnance Factory HQ, Kolkata have gone unchecked;

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

(e) the action taken on the report number 15 of 2010-2011 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A complaint of anomaly in inspection and acceptance of Ammunition Container 39 A/L regarding Supply Orders dated 19.12.2011 was investigated by Director/Vig (W/C), Ordnance Factory Ambajhari, Nagpur based on Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) order dated 22.01.2015 and Chief Vigilance Officer's (CVO's) letter dated 17.02.2015.

The investigation conducted revealed irregularities on non-adherence to quality inspection procedures, but not receipt of sub-standard material by Ordnance Factory Chanda. Advice of CVC was obtained in this matter. CVC vide O.M. dated 19.07.2017 advised for 'Counselling' to 3 officials and issuing "Recordable Warning" to 22 officials. CVC also advised for no action against 5 officials being retired. Vigilance Department, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) vide their letter dated

15.11.2017 has intimated that as advised by CVC, the "Counselling Memo" and "Warning Memo" have been served to the concerned officials.

(e) Action Taken Note on C&AG Report No.15 of 2010-2011 was vetted by Audit and furnished to Department of Expenditure, Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Finance on 02.08.2017, after issuing necessary instructions as per Audit remarks to OFB.

### K-FON Project

1948. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State of Kerala seeking central assistance for the project Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government;

(c) whether the Government will consider providing financial assistance to the State for the implementation of this project; 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) Yes, Madam. A proposal has been received from the State of Kerala seeking central assistance for the project Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON). The State Government's proposal is to set up K-FON, an overhead fibre optic network to extend fibre connectivity to every home and interconnect all the Government institutions.

BharatNet is to provide broadband connectivity to every Gram Panchayat (GP). All the GPs of Kerala have been connected by Broadband. The Union Cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementation of BharatNet project on 19.07.2017. Under the approved strategy, the States and the concerned Departments are to provide the funds for connecting institutions by broadband at GP level.

(c) and (d) In view of the modified strategy for implementation of BharatNet Project, K-FON proposal in not under consideration for providing financial assistance.

### Postal Training Centre

1949. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Postal Training Centres in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government has set up postal training centre in the State of Kerala during the last three years and if so, the details thereof and the progress made thereon;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Kottayam Divisional Office to construct a training centre in the town; and

(d) if so, the response 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) There is one training Academy and six Postal Training Centres of the Department of Posts. The apex training institute of Department of Posts, the Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy (RAKNPA), is located at Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh). This training institute caters to the training requirements of Group 'A' and 'B' Officers. The Postal Training Centres (PTCs) are located at Darbhanga (Bihar), Guwahati (Assam), Mysuru (Karnataka), Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Vadodara (Gujarat). One Regional Training Centre (RTC) is located at Nashik (Maharashtra).

Besides, there are 5 Zonal Training Centres (ZTCs) located at Delhi (Delhi), Kolkata (West Bengal), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) for training of Accounts personnel working in Postal Accounts Offices.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

*[Translation]*

### Railway Projects Pending for Approval

1950. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has some projects pending for approval;

(b) if so, the project-wise and State- wise details thereof as on date;

(c) the date from which these projects are pending/ under consideration;

(d) the project-wise estimated cost thereof;

(e) the time by which these projects will be approved; and

(f) the reasons for delay of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a): Yes, Madam.

(b) to (f) A list of such projects (New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) included in the last 3 years (2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18) in Budget is enclosed as Statement. These projects are included in Budget, subject to requisite approval including clearance from NITI Aayog, Expanded Board for Railways (EBR) and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). Getting requisite approvals is a continuous process, which include conducting Final Location Survey, preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), Appraisal of NITI Aayog and further approval by CCEA depending on the project cost. Time cannot be specified as each project has different dimensions including cost-sharing by State Governments which has an impact on pace of project implementation.

However, during the last three years 109 number of projects costing Rs. 106485 Crore have been finally sanctioned after necessary approvals.

*Statement*

*List of Projects Pending for Approval*

| Sl. No | State | Name of Project | Year of inclusion in Budget | Railway | Plan Head | Length (Km) | Approx. Cost (Rs. in cr) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada Guntur via Amravati | 2017-18 | SCR | NL | 106 | 2679.59 |
| 2. | ASS & NE | Sibsagar-Jorhat | 2017-18 | NFR | NL | 62 | 1296 |
| 3. | ASS & NE | Tezpur Silghat | 2017-18 | NFR | NL | 25 | 2025 |
| 4. | ASS & NE | Salona-Khumtai | 2017-18 | NFR | NL | 99 | 5958 |
| 5. | ASS & NE | Saraighat Bridge DL | 2017-18 | NFR | DL | 7 | 888.32 |
| 6. | ASS & NE | Kamakhya-New Guwahati Quadruppling | 2017-18 | NFR | DL | 10.3 | 3062 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | Bihar | Vikramshila-Katareah | 2016-17 | ECR | NL | 32.13 | 4379.1 |
| 8. | Bihar | Wazerganj-Natesar via Gehlaur | 2017-18 | ECR | NL | 20 | 300 |
| 9. | Gujarat | Bhimnath-Dholera | 2016-17 | WR | NL | 28 | 280 |
| 10. | Gujarat | Taranga Hill-Abu Road *via* Ambaji (89.38 Km) | 2017-18 | NWR | NL | 89.38 | 1695.72 |
| 11. | Gujarat | Chanasma-Ranuj | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 12.84 | 96.3 |
| 12. | Gujarat | Prachi Rd-Kodinar | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 26 | 193.2 |
| 13. | Gujarat | Petlad-Bhadran | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 22.5 | 202.5 |
| 14. | Gujarat | Samni-Jambusar | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 24.08 | 216.72 |
| 15. | Gujarat | Junagarh-Visavadar | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 42.28 | 253.68 |
| 16. | Gujarat | Kalol-Kadi-Katosan Rd | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 37.23 | 279.23 |
| 17. | Gujarat | Adraj Moti-Vijapur | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 39.75 | 296.54 |
| 18. | Gujarat | Vijapur-Ambliyasan | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 41.53 | 309.81 |
| 19. | Gujarat | Nadiad-Petlad | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 37.26 | 335.34 |
| 20. | Gujarat | Himmatnagar Khedbrahma | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 54.83 | 354.89 |
| 21. | Gujarat | Katosan Rd-Chanasma | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 51.72 | 387.9 |
| 22. | Gujarat | Samlaya-Timba Rd | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 53.53 | 401.48 |
| 23. | Gujarat | Jambusar-Vishvamitri | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 48.2 | 433.8 |
| 24. | Gujarat | Veraval-Talala Visavadar | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 71.95 | 460.23 |
| 25. | Gujarat | Talala-Delwada | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 70 | 525.3 |
| 26. | Gujarat | Khijadiya-Visavadar | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 91.27 | 547.62 |
| 27. | Gujarat | Dabhoi-Chandod GC with extension upto Kevadiya | 2017-18 | WR | GC | 49.75 | 691.84 |
| 28. | Gujarat | Anand-Godhara | 2017-18 | WR | DL | 79 | 683 |
| 29. | Haryana, Uttar Pradesh | Meerut-Panipat | 2016-17 | NR | NL | 104 | 2200 |
| 30. | Himachal Pradesh | Una-Hamirpur | 2017-18 | NR | NL | 50 | 2850 |
| 31. | Jharkhand | Chitra-Basukinath | 2016-17 | ER | NL | 37 | 859 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32. | Jharkhand | Godda-Pakur | 2016-17 | ER | NL | 80 | 1723 |
| 33. | Karnataka | Gadag-Yalvigi | 2017-18 | SWR | NL | 58 | 640 |
| 34. | Karnataka | Birur-Shimoga | 2016-17 | SWR | DL | 62.9 | 382.66 |
| 35. | Kerala | Turavur-Ambalapuza doubling (45.86 Km) | 2015-16 | SR | DL | 45.86 | 828.5 |
| 36. | Madhya Pradesh | Indore-Jabalpur | 2016-17 | WCR | NL | 342 | 4320 |
| 37. | Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan | Nimach-Badi sadri | 2017-18 | WR | NL | 48 | 474.76 |
| 38. | Maharashtra | Karad-Chiplun new line | 2015-16 | CR | NL | 112 | |
| 39. | Maharashtra | Pune-Nashik | 2016-17 | CR | NL | 265 | 2425 |
| 40. | Maharashtra | Vaibhavwadi-Kolhapur | 2016-17 | CR | NL | 107 | 2750 |
| 41. | Maharashtra | Hatkanangale-Ichalkarangi | 2017-18 | CR | NL | 8 | 160 |
| 42. | Maharashtra | Phaltan to Pandharpur | 2017-18 | CR | NL | 105 | 1149 |
| 43. | Maharashtra | Jeur-Ashti | 2017-18 | CR | NL | 78 | 1560 |
| 44. | Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh | Indore-Manmad via Malegaon | 2016-17 | CR | NL | 368 | 8857.97 |
| 45. | Punjab | Rajpura-Mohali | 2016-17 | NR | NL | 17.37 | 312.53 |
| 46. | Punjab | Ludhiana-Mullanpur | 2017-18 | NR | DL | 21 | 82.99 |
| 47. | Punjab | Ludhiana-Kila Raipur (19 Kms) with freight line at Gill station on LDH-JHL section | 2017-18 | NR | DL | 19 | 230.22 |
| 48. | Rajasthan | Marwar-Mavli | 2017-18 | NWR | GC | 152 | 1597.12 |
| 49. | Tamil Nadu | Morappur and Dharmapuri new line | 2016-17 | SR | NL | 36 | 358.96 |
| 50. | Uttar Pradesh | New lines between Sahjanwa. Dohrighat | 2016-17 | NER | NL | 70 | 1831 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51. | Uttar Pradesh | Bahraich-Khalilabad via BhingaSravasti-Balrampur-Utraula-Dumriaganj Bansi Mehdawal | 2016-17 | NER | NL | 240.26 | 4939.78 |
| 52. | Uttar Pradesh | Bahraich-Mailanai cincluding | 2016-17 | NER | GC | 230 | 1900 |
| 53. | Uttar Pradesh | Delhi-Shamli Tapri including Saharanpur Byepass | 2016-17 | NR | DL | 155.25 | 1214 |
| 54. | Uttar Pradesh | Jhansi-Khairar Manickpur & Khirar-Bhimsen | 2016-17 | NCR | DL | 425 | 4329.54 |
| 55. | Uttar Pradesh | Etah-Kasganj | 2017-18 | NER | NL | 29 | 276.9 |
| 56. | Uttar Pradesh | Robertsganj to Mughalsarai via Madhupur, Sukrit, Ahrora | 2017-18 | NCR | NL | 70 | 1260 |
| 57. | Uttar Pradesh | Padrauna-Kushinagar via Gorakhpur | 2017-18 | NER | NL | 64 | 1345 |
| 58. | Uttar Pradesh | Mathura-Vrindavan | 2017-18 | NCR | GC | 11 | 97.96 |
| 59. | Uttar Pradesh | Chord line between Jaunpur Jn. & Jaunpur city. | 2017-18 | NR | DL | 2.2 | 86.32 |
| 60. | Uttar Pradesh | 3rd & 4th Line between Barabanki-Malhaur (16.4 2 km) | 2017-18 | NR | DL | 32.84 | 323.86 |
| 61. | Uttar Pradesh | Janghai-Phaphamau doubling with electrification | 2017-18 | NR | DL | 46.79 | 357.48 |
| 62. | Uttar Pradesh | Allahabad Division. Construction of Kanpur fly-over. | 2017-18 | NCR | DL | 30 | 1789.73 |
| 63. | Uttar Pradesh | Third line between Varanasi-Mughalsarai | 2017-18 | NR | DI | 16.72 | 2005.15 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (16.72 km) with substructure of two lines on Malviya Bridge. | | | | | |
| 64. | West Bengal, Odisha | Narayangarh-Bhadrak 3rd line | 2016-17 | SER | DL | 155 | 2380.58 |
| | | Total | | | | 5026.72 | 87132.12 |

NL-New Line

DL-Doubling

CR-Central Railway

ER-Eastern Railway

ECR-East Central Railway

EcoR-East Coast Railway

NR-Northern Railway

NER-North Eastern Railway

NCR-North Central Railway

NFR-Northeast Frontier Railway

GC-Gauge Conversion

ASS & NE- Assam & Northeast Region

NWR-North Western Railway

SR-Southern Railway

SCR-South Central Railway

SER-South Eastern Railway

SECR-Southeast Central Railway

SWR-South Western Railway

WR-Western Railway

WCR-West Central Railway

*[English]*

### Disruption of Internet Connectivity

1951. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequent disruption of Internet connectivity in the village Songaon- Satral, Tehsil Rahuri, District-Ahmednagar of Maharashtra adversely affects the functioning of Banks and ATM centres and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government is aware that Banks as well as ATM Centres remain non-functional for most of the time and as a result, people are badly affected; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure regular and uninterrupted internet services to all banks and ATM centres in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No such complaint has been received by the Ministry of Communications or any of the organisations working under it.

(b) No such complaint has been received by the Ministry of Communications or any of the organisations working under it.

(c) Not applicable

*[Translation]*

### Theft in Trains

1952. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints of theft received by the Western Railway during the last three years;

(b) the number of passengers in Damoh, Katni and Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) who have lodged complaints of theft;

(c) the measures suggested by the Railways to the general public to check theft and other incidents; and

(d) whether the Railways propose to install CCTV camera and raise boundary walls at railway stations and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Policing, including registration of First Information Report (FIR)

and its investigation being State subject, Railways does not maintain any data on Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes. Based on the data received from Government Railway Police Stations, total 7876 complaints of theft have been received over Western Railway and 1922 passengers lodged complaints of theft at Damoh, Katni & Saugor Railway Stations (Madhya Pradesh) during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

(c) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/ District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area & passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Besides, the following steps are also being taken by the Railways to aware general public and to check theft and other incidents over Railways:

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.

2. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at about 394 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers.

3. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.

4. An Integrated Security System (ISS) consisting of surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, Access Control etc. has been sanctioned to improve surveillance mechanism over 202 railway stations.

5. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.

6. Through various social media platforms *viz.* Twitter, Facebook etc., Railways are in regular touch with passengers including women passengers to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concern.

7. Drives are conducted from time to time against the entry of unauthorized persons in trains and railway premises.

8. Regular coordination is made with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels for prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains.

(d) Ministry of Railways has proposed to provide CCTV based surveillance system at all Railway Stations using Nirbhaya Fund. Railway is constructing boundary wall to prevent the encroachment at vulnerable locations particularly at Stations and its approaches. Boundary wall constructed during 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17 is 128, 102, 193 and 129 Km respectively. In the current year 2017-18 (upto January-2018), 114 Km of boundary wall has been constructed.

### Absence of Railway Crossing

1953. DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers and the local residents of Chaibe, Hirodih, Chaidhribandh, Chichaki and Parsabad stations under Dhanbad division of the East Central railway are facing difficulties in the absence of a railway crossing;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to construct railway crossing at all the said stations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Level crossings exist on either side of Chaube, Hirodih, Chaudharibandh, Chichaki and Parsabad stations through which local residents usually cross the railway lines. Foot Over Bridge exists at stations having high level platforms and for other stations, passengers path ways are made at the end of platforms.

No new level crossing is being permitted on existing lines as level crossings are a potential safety hazard for both road and rail users, more so for road users. Further, Railways has taken a policy decision to eliminate as many level crossings as possible by providing alternate means for crossing the track.

*[English]*

### Unique Identification Number Project

1954. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of Unique Identification Number (Aadhaar) Project, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has allocated additional funds for execution of this project and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many of the States are lagging behind in the implementation ofthe project and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the above project is likely to be fully implemented, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (c) As on 15th Feb, 2018 more than 89.2% of estimated population has been issued Aadhaar all over the country. In the states of Assam and Meghalaya, the enrolment has started recently. Hence, Aadhaar coverage in these states is low. The State-wise status is attached as Statement.

(b) UIDAI was approved as a Central Sector Scheme in 11th Five Year Plan (FYP) continued in 12th FYP with approval to operate in project mode till March, 2017.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is now an independent statutory authority established and operating under the Aadhaar Act 2016 and as per Section 24 of the Act, "The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, make to the Authority, grants of such sums of money as the Central Government may think fit for being utilised for the purposes of this Act".

The approved budget at Revised Estimate Stage for Financial Year 2017-18 in the form of Grants in Aid is Rs. 1150 Crore.

(d) Enrolment, Updation and Authentication for Aadhaar is an on-going process.

### *Statement*

*State/UT wise Aadhaar Saturation 15th February, 2018*

| Sl.No | State Name | Total Population (Projected 2017) | Numbers of Aadhaar assigned (LIVE) | Saturation % 2017 (LIVE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Delhi | 18,110,349 | 21260964 | 117.4% |
| 2. | Goa | 1,521,000 | 1559819 | 102.6% |
| 3. | Chandigarh | 1,110,820 | 1133723 | 102.1% |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 7,246,418 | 7377467 | 101.8% |
| 5. | Haryana | 27,443,256 | 27885649 | 101.6% |
| 6. | Punjab | 29,344,896 | 29683047 | 101.2% |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | Kerala | 35,043,531 | 35412010 | 101.1% |
| 8. | Telangana | 38,042,884 | 38386723 | 100.9% |
| 9. | Uttarakhand | 10,956,753 | 10805777 | 98.6% |
| 10. | Lakshadweep | 70,214 | 68956 | 98.2% |
| 11. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 373,636 | 361779 | 96.8% |
| 12. | Daman and Diu | 216,981 | 208984 | 96.3% |
| 13. | Gujarat | 63,000,000 | 59966937 | 95.2% |
| 14. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 414,057 | 392888 | 94.9% |
| 15. | Puducherry | 1,356,199 | 1278086 | 94.2% |
| 16. | Chhattisgarh | 28,125,421 | 26425471 | 94.0% |
| 17. | West Bengal | 96,775,592 | 90756521 | 93.8% |
| 18. | Jharkhand | 36,672,687 | 34248728 | 93.4% |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 75,844,451 | 70706500 | 93.2% |
| 20. | Odisha | 44,912,901 | 41780628 | 93.0% |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 119,581,739 | 111177671 | 93.0% |
| 22. | Karnataka | 65,426,566 | 60679296 | 92.7% |
| 23. | Andhra Pradesh | 52,375,124 | 48423128 | 92.5% |
| 24. | Madhya Pradesh | 80,894,777 | 72790907 | 90.0% |
| 25. | Tripura | 4,000,638 | 3596127 | 89.9% |
| 26. | Sikkim | 662,250 | 582598 | 88.0% |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 224,558,257 | 194552765 | 86.6% |
| 28. | Rajasthan | 76,802,294 | 66212256 | 86.2% |
| 29. | Bihar | 117,153,097 | 97975172 | 83.6% |
| 30. | Mizoram | 1,188,971 | 956476 | 80.4% |
| 31. | Manipur | 2,966,130 | 2375749 | 80.1% |
| 32. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1,506,749 | 1149799 | 76.3% |
| 33. | Jammu and Kashmir | 13,477,325 | 9799731 | 72.7% |
| 34. | Nagaland | 2,158,431 | 1219621 | 56.5% |
| 35. | Meghalaya | 3,230,132 | 660016 | 20.4% |
| 36. | Assam | 34,068,394 | 2611469 | 7.7% |
|  | Total | 1,316,632,920 | 1174463440 | 89.2% |

### Extension of Gautami Express

1955. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation or any proposal from the Government of Telangana requesting for extension of Gautami Express upto Lingampalli in Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Railways has taken any decision on the said matter and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) to (c): Ministry of Railways has decided to extend 12737/12738 Kakinada

Port- Secunderabad Goutami Express up to Lingampalli *w.e.f.* 08.04.2018.

### Postmen/Postwomen and Khadi Uniform

1956. DR. C. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of postmen and postwomen working across the country, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the time by which the new khadi uniform for postmen and postwomen will be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Number of Postmen and Postwomen State/Union Territory- wise, are as under:

| S.No. | Name of State/ Union Territory | Total No. of Postmen | Total No. of Postwomen | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1664 | 180 | 1844 |
| 2. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 18 | 0 | 18 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 45 | 04 | 49 |
| 4. | Assam | 591 | 70 | 661 |
| 5. | Bihar | 1095 | 26 | 1121 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 162 | 11 | 173 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 390 | 8 | 398 |
| 8. | Dadar and Nagar Haveli | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 15 | 3 | 18 |
| 10. | National Capital Territory of Delhi | 1000 | 60 | 1060 |
| 11. | Goa | 125 | 4 | 129 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 3219 | 166 | 3385 |
| 13. | Haryana | 666 | 19 | 685 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 313 | 16 | 329 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 118 | 10 | 128 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Jharkhand | 471 | 07 | 478 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 2659 | 343 | 3002 |
| 18. | Kerala | 1395 | 529 | 1924 |
| 19. | Lakshwadeep | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 1105 | 13 | 1118 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 4804 | 357 | 5161 |
| 22. | Manipur | 78 | 06 | 84 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 51 | 25 | 76 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 36 | 14 | 50 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 35 | 11 | 46 |
| 26. | Odisha | 1177 | 52 | 1229 |
| 27. | Puducherry | 93 | 18 | 111 |
| 28. | Punjab | 984 | 71 | 1055 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 1048 | 14 | 1062 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 19 | 2 | 21 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 3691 | 727 | 4418 |
| 32. | Telangana | 1132 | 80 | 1212 |
| 33. | Tripura | 86 | 16 | 102 |
| 34. | Uttar Pradesh | 2602 | 173 | 2775 |
| 35. | Uttarakhand | 313 | 8 | 321 |
| 36. | West Bengal | 3256 | 301 | 3557 |
| | Total | 34461 | 3346 | 37807 |

(b) The redesigned new khaki coloured khadi uniform for Postmen, Postwomen and Multi Tasking Staff was launched on 29.01.2018.

**Working of NCC**

1957. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:
DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK':
SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students associated with National Cadet Corps (NCC) in the country and the steps taken to make NCC an excellent organisation;

(b) whether the NCC units in various colleges and schools are working satisfactorily in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of functioning of NCC units and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to release additional funds to NCC units and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for supply of vehicles and other equipment to NCC units and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) whether the Government proposes to establish the units of NCC in higher secondary schools in States including in Maharashtra and 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) There are approximately 13.5 lakh cadets in NCC in the country. Constant efforts are made to make NCC a robust organization. Regular review of the syllabus and training methodology is carried out. Besides regular training activities, a number of social activities have been incorporated in the syllabus like Swachhta Abhiyan, Yoga, Environment protection Awareness drive, etc.

(b) Yes, Madam. NCC Units are working satisfactorily in the country to meet their given mandate. There are a total of 814 NCC units across the country providing NCC training in 16,597 schools and colleges (details are enclosed in Annexure).

(c) Yes, Madam. The functioning of NCC as an organization is assessed through regular audits and field inspections. Besides this the overall functioning efficiency is also scrutinized by the Central Advisory Committee.

(d) Ministry of Defence allots consolidated budget to HQ DGNCC. HQ DG NCC allots funds to respective NCC Directorates spread across the country.

(e) As on date, no proposal has been received from the State Government for supply of vehicles and other equipments to NCC Units.

(f) NCC already exists in higher secondary schools and colleges in states including Maharashtra. There are a total 832 schools and 531 colleges having NCC Units in Maharashtra.

*Statement*

*Details of schools under coverage of NCC in Rural & Urban areas as on 30 September 2017*

| SL | Dte | STATE/UT | Schools | | | | | | | Colleges | | | | | | | S. TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Govt | | | Pvt | | | | Govt | | | Pvt | | | | |
| | | | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban | Total | G. Total | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban | Total | G. Total | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 1. | AP&T | AP | 234 | 224 | 458 | 37 | 77 | 114 | 572 | 45 | 160 | 205 | 31 | 46 | 77 | 282 | 854 |
| | | TELANGANA | 137 | 121 | 258 | 29 | 95 | 124 | 382 | 31 | 91 | 122 | 16 | 57 | 73 | 195 | 577 |
| 2. | B&J | BIHAR | 130 | 149 | 279 | 19 | 38 | 57 | 336 | 38 | 120 | 158 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 174 | 510 |
| | | JHARKHAND | 56 | 71 | 127 | 15 | 50 | 65 | 192 | 17 | 46 | 63 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 70 | 262 |
| 3. | DELHI | DELHI | 21 | 247 | 268 | 8 | 71 | 79 | 347 | 0 | 74 | 74 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 75 | 422 |
| 4. | GUJ,DD&DNH | GUJ | 190 | 245 | 435 | 30 | 68 | 98 | 533 | 83 | 180 | 263 | 3 | 17 | 20 | 283 | 816 |
| | | DIU DAMAN | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | DN &H | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | J&K | J&K | 124 | 146 | 270 | 9 | 22 | 31 | 301 | 12 | 53 | 65 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 71 | 372 |
| 6. | K&G | KARNATAKA | 153 | 204 | 357 | 50 | 141 | 191 | 548 | 97 | 211 | 308 | 18 | 59 | 77 | 385 | 933 |
| | | GOA | 21 | 15 | 36 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 37 | 3 | 20 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 60 |
| 7. | K&L | KERALA | 463 | 117 | 580 | 19 | 4 | 23 | 603 | 103 | 110 | 213 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 219 | 822 |
| | | Lakshadweep | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| 8. | MP&CG | MP | 212 | 243 | 455 | 43 | 99 | 142 | 597 | 73 | 181 | 254 | 17 | 43 | 60 | 314 | 911 |
| | | CHHATISGARH | 92 | 87 | 179 | 5 | 40 | 45 | 224 | 20 | 60 | 80 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 94 | 318 |
| 9. | MAH | MAH | 274 | 352 | 626 | 114 | 92 | 206 | 832 | 131 | 277 | 408 | 80 | 43 | 123 | 531 | 1363 |
| 10. | NER | ARUNACHAL | 34 | 15 | 49 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 53 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 62 |
| | | ASSAM | 182 | 79 | 261 | 20 | 69 | 89 | 350 | 84 | 97 | 181 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 182 | 532 |
| | | MANIPUR | 25 | 41 | 66 | 10 | 12 | 22 | 88 | 9 | 10 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 108 |
| | | MEGHALAYA | 27 | 34 | 61 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 67 | 14 | 19 | 33 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 34 | 101 |
| | | MIZORAM | 22 | 23 | 45 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 49 | 1 | 11 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 61 |
| | | NAGALAND | 61 | 55 | 116 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 124 | 8 | 22 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 154 |
| | | TRIPURA | 16 | 24 | 40 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 50 | 9 | 7 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 66 |
| 11. | ODISHA | ODISHA | 336 | 208 | 544 | 32 | 123 | 155 | 699 | 54 | 143 | 197 | 5 | 20 | 25 | 222 | 921 |
| 12. | P,H,HP&C | PUNJAB | 129 | 125 | 254 | 81 | 154 | 235 | 489 | 46 | 128 | 174 | 28 | 52 | 80 | 254 | 743 |
| | | HARYANA | 95 | 119 | 214 | 27 | 84 | 111 | 325 | 34 | 146 | 180 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 195 | 520 |
| | | HP | 210 | 51 | 261 | 17 | 32 | 49 | 310 | 15 | 37 | 52 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 55 | 365 |
| | | CHANDIGARH | 0 | 21 | 21 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 29 | 0 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 48 |
| 13. | RAJ | RAJ | 151 | 138 | 289 | 70 | 117 | 187 | 476 | 44 | 92 | 136 | 20 | 45 | 65 | 201 | 677 |
| 14. | TN,P&AN | TN | 260 | 369 | 629 | 34 | 177 | 211 | 840 | 47 | 206 | 253 | 50 | 71 | 121 | 374 | 1214 |
| | | PONDICHERRY | 5 | 21 | 26 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 38 | 4 | 14 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 58 |
| | | ANDAMANNICO | 6 | 14 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 26 |
| 15. | UP | UP | 248 | 222 | 470 | 57 | 117 | 174 | 644 | 253 | 365 | 618 | 40 | 59 | 99 | 717 | 1361 |
| 16. | UK | UK | 54 | 37 | 91 | 2 | 37 | 39 | 130 | 104 | 119 | 223 | 0 | 17 | 17 | 240 | 370 |
| 17. | WB&S | WB | 369 | 236 | 605 | 3 | 30 | 33 | 638 | 96 | 131 | 227 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 233 | 871 |
| | | SIKKIM | 44 | 31 | 75 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 79 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 101 |
| | Total | | 4388 | 4093 | 8481 | 761 | 1780 | 2541 | 11022 | 1484 | 3170 | 4654 | 339 | 582 | 921 | 5575 | 16597 |
| | Total | Schools Covered (Rural) | | | | | 5149 | | | Total Colleges Covered (Rural) | | | | 1823 | | | |
| | Total | Schools Covered (Urban) | | | | | 5873 | | | Total Colleges Covered (Urban) | | | | 3752 | | | |
| | Total | | | | | | 11022 | | | Total | | | | 5575 | | | |

## Commercial Coal Mining

1958. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open commercial coal mining to domestic and foreign private entities;

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

(c) whether the best practices followed by countries like China have been studied with respect to coal strategy and are expected to be followed in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) The methodology for auction for coal mines/blocks for sale of coal under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 including enabling provisions for Foreign Direct Investment has been approved by the Government. A copy of the methodology is attached as Statement with the answer.

### *Statement*

*Copy of the Methodology*
No.CBA2-13011/1/2017-CBA2-Part(1)
Government of India
Ministry of Coal

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated the 27th February, 2018

### ORDER

Subject: **Methodology for Auction of Coal Mines/Blocks for sale of coal under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.**

The undersigned is directed to refer to Rule 8 (3) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014 read with Section 8 (5) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Rule 3(1) (d) of the Coal Blocks Allocation Rules, 2017 read with Section 11A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and to say that the Central Government has approved the methodology for auction of coal mines/blocks identified under the relevant Act for sale of coal as mentioned in para 2 below:

**2.1 Methodology for auction of coal mines for sale of coal on Rs. per tonne basis:**

**2.1.1 Bid Parameter:** The auction will be an ascending forward auction whereby the bid parameter will be the price offer in Rs. /tonne which will be paid to the State Government on the actual production of coal.

The floor price shall be unit ratio in terms of Rs. per tonne basis, determined in accordance with methodology as mentioned at Sl. No. 1 of Ministry of Coal's order no. 13016/9/2014/CA-III dated December 26, 2014 at Annexure-I.

The bidder who submits the highest price offer (Final Price Offer) shall be the Successful Bidder.

**2.1.2 Sale and/or Utilisation of Coal:** There shall be no restriction on the sale and/or utilization of coal from the coal mine. The Successful Bidder shall be free to sell coal in any manner as may be decided by the Successful Bidder including sale to affiliates and related parties, utilize coal for captive consumption and export of coal.

**2.1.3 Coal Production Schedule:** Successful Bidder shall have certain degree of flexibility to manage its production depending on the market scenario and will be allowed to reduce its production below Peak Rated Capacity of the coal mine. Successful Bidder shall also be allowed to increase its production subject to a revision in Mining Plan and statutory approvals. While the Successful Bidder shall be allowed to manage his production quantity (subject to the cap as per the Mining Plan) in the event of any economic downturn or other such event, a drop in the actual production is allowed, not below 50% of the production as per the Mining Plan. However, in any five year block, the Successful Bidder will have to mine out at least 70% of the production as per the Mining Plan.

**2.1.4 Annual Adjustment of the Final Price Offer (including windfall gains, if any):** Windfall gain can be defined as a very significant increase in revenue in

comparison to increase in costs. During the mining lease period, as a natural course, it is expected that the selling price of coal as well as cost of production will increase due to inflation. Windfall gains may arise in some situations, resulting in significant increase in the profit of Successful Bidder.

In order to capture the potential revenue upside, including windfall gains (if any), the Final Price Offer (Rs./tonne) shall be considered as base for the year of bidding with yearly adjustment linked to the Wholesale Price Index - coal (of relevant grade) as published by GOT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (website: www.eaindustrv.nic.in) subject to the condition that such figure shall not at any time be less than the Final Price Offer. It shall be the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to carry out the above calculation for determining adjusted Final Price Offer and collecting the same from the Successful Bidder.

**2.2** For sale of coal, Foreign Direct Investment to the extent of 100% may be allowed in coal mining activities including associated processing infrastructure to attract international players to create efficient and competitive coal market. The nodal Ministry/Department *i.e.* Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion shall be approached for the same.

**2.3** Washing of coal by the Successful Bidder should be as per extant guidelines of M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

**2.4** The mines to be auctioned for sale of coal and their time schedule shall be decided by the Ministry of Coal.

**2.5** Terms and Conditions/modalities including eligibility criteria shall be decided by Ministry of Coal as the same are part of Tender Conditions.

**2.6** The above methodology for auction of coal mines shall also be applied for the coal mines to be auctioned for sale of coal under the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

(Rishan Ryntathiang)
Under Secretary to the Government of India

To

(1) The Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal

(2) JS (NKS), Ministry of Coal: For appropriate necessary action in respect of auction of coal mines under the relevant provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder.

(3) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion: For necessary action with respect to para 2.2 above.

Copy to:

(1) TD (NIC) - with the request to upload on the website of Ministry of Coal

Most Immediate

No. 13016/9/2014-CA-III
Government of India
Ministry of Coal

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated the 26th December, 2014

**ORDER**

Subject: **Methodology for fixing Floor/Reserve Price for Auction and Allotment of Coal Mines/Blocks.**

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 8(3) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions), Rules, 2014 and Section 8(5) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions), Ordinance, 2014 the Government is pleased to approve the Methodology for fixing Floor/ReserVe Price for Auction and Allotment of Coal Mines/Blocks as mentioned below:

**METHODOLOGY FOR FIXING FLOOR/RESERVE PRICE**

**1. For fixing floor price for Auction for sectors like Steel, Sponge iron, Cement, Captive Power etc.:**

The Intrinsic Value of the coal block will be calculated by computing its Net Present Value (NPV), based on Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method. The 10% of this intrinsic value will be payable upfront in 3 installments of 5%, 2.5% and 2.5% as prescribed in the bidding document. The final NPV (after subtracting the upfront payment received from the bidder) will then be annuitized to become equal to a unit ratio in terms of Rs/tonne (*viz.* floor price). In this case for calculation of

intrinsic value, it is proposed that, the extant notified price of CIL (price of domestic coal) for the non-regulated sectors for the corresponding GCV bands will be taken into account for computing NPV. However, floor price shall not be less than Rs. 150/- per tonne. The resultant bid price (Rs/tonne) shall be considered as base for the year of bidding with yearly escalation linked to the WPI. The statutory royalty payable on coal will continue to be governed as per extant rules.

**2. For fixing Reserve Price for coal mines /blocks to be allotted for power projects to be set up in future on tariff based bidding (Case-2) and**

**3. For fixing Reserve Price for coal mines/blocks to be allotted to the Government Companies for specified end-uses:**

A fixed Reserve Price of Rs.100/- per tonne of coal shall be payable, as per actual production by the successful allottee. The statutory royalty payable on doal, will continue to be governed as per extant rules. This would ensure that there is no adverse impact on power tariff. The successful allottee shall have to pay upfront payment, as may be prescribed in the tender/allotment document. There is no bidding on coal under these two categories. The 'Reserve Price' may be escalated using a pre-determined formula that is prescribed in now prevailing Standard Bidding Documents for Case-1 bidding as formulated by Ministry of Power for escalation of fuel cost from captive mines. However, for existing generation capacity contracted through tariff bid based PPAs (Case-2), arranging fuel is the responsibility of power procurer. Such Case-2 projects shall not be eligible to participate in the auction process for the coal blocks.

**4. For fixing the ceiling price for coal mines/blocks to be auctioned for generation capacity having cost plus PPAs or for generation.capacity having tariff bid based PPAs (Case-1)/generation capacity tct be contracted through cost plus PPAs or through tariff bid based PPAs (Case-1) in future:**

a. A Ceiling Price of CIL Notified price for each coal block will be fixed and the bidders will be mandated to quote lower than this Ceiling Price. The Ceiling price shall be fixed at Run-of-Mine (ROM) price of equivalent grade, as specified by CIL for the power sector. The bidder quoting the lowest will be the successful bidder. This will

be taken for transfer price to the plant from the coal block. The resultant bid price of coal will be escalable in line with a pre-specified escalation formula for the purpose of considering the energy chaige. This method will ensure that the benefit of lower bid price is passed through to the consumers.

b. The bid price of coal shall be considered as base for the year of bidding and it shall be escalable with pre-determined formula that is prescribed in now prevailing Standard Bidding Document for Case-1 bidding as formulated by MoP, for escalation of fuel cost from captive mines.

c. A fixed Reserve Price of Rs. 100/- per tonne of coal shall be payable, as per actual production by the successful allocattee. The statutory royalty payable on coal will continue to be governed as per extant rules *i.e.* at the CIL notified price. Similarly, the reserve price may also be escalable using the same formula as in 'b' above.

d. The successful allottee shall have to make upfront payment @10% of the intrinsic value of the coal block in 3 installments of 5%, 2.5% and 2.5%, as prescribed in the bidding document.

e. To ensure that, the benefit of coal is passed on to the consumers, the following conditions has been prescribed:

I. **For generation capacity having cost plus PPAs or generation capacity to be contracted through cost plus PPAs in future -** For the purpose of determining the fuel cost for cost plus PPAs, the Appropriate CommissiOn will allow bid price of coal along with subsequent escalation as provided in coal block bid document as being equivalent to the Run of Mine (ROM) cost of coal together with other allowable expenses and levies, provided that it shall not lead to higher energy charge throughout the tenure of PPA than that which would.have been obtained as per the terms and conditions of the existing PPA.

II. **For the generation capacity contracted through tariff bid based PPAs (Case-1) -**

The Appropriate Commission shall review the quoted energy charge keeping in view that the actual bid price of coal along with subsequent escalation as provided in coal block bid document as being equivalent to Run of WIC (ROM) cost of coal alongwith statutory levies and other permissible components of energy charge, provided that such revision shall not lead to higher energy charge throughout the tenure of PPA than that which would have been obtained as per the terms and conditions of the existing PPA. For this purpose, the allocation of coal block under the new provisions shall be treated as "Change in Law" to enable the Appropriate Commission to revise the tariff downwards in accordance with the provisions of PPA.

III. **For the generation capacity to be contracted through tariff bid based PPAs. (Case-1)** in future - The Appropriate Commission shall while adopting the tariff under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003, ensure that the energy charge is derived based on the actual bid price of coal along with subsequent escalation as provided in coal block bid document as being equivalent to Run of Mine (ROM) cost of coal alongwith statutory levies and other permissible components of energy charge.

IV. **For this purpose Ministry of Power will make suitable provisions in the Tariff policy and/or in the bidding guidelines issued under the Electricity Act, 2003.**

f. For power plant having uncontracted capacity, the bidder shall be mandated to cap its merchant capacity at 15 % of the generating capacity linked to the allotted coal block for sale of power outside medium and long terra PPAs contracted under Section 62 or Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003. Further the bidder shall have to pay an additional reserve price for the quantum of coal used for power sold in the merchant market. The additional reserve price for coal used for merchant sale of power shall be based on intrinsic value of the coal block annuitized over the yearly production in Rs/tonne terms. The intrinsic value can be arrived at with the existing approved methodology for steel/sponge iron/ cement sectors/captive power. The additional Reserve Price shall not be less than Rs. 150/- per tonne. Further the resultant additional reserve price (Rs/tonne) shall be considered as base for the year of bidding with yearly escalation linked to the WPI.

5. Any further revision of CIL price after the bid due date would not have any impact on the bid price of the blocks already bid as escalation on that price has already been provided for in para 4.(b) above. For future bidding of coal blocks, the then prevailing CIL price will be considered for determining ceiling price.

6. For auction/allotment of coal blocks for the purpose of sale of coal as provided in Section 4(2) of the Coal Mines (Special Provision) Ordinance, 2014, a separate methodology will be formulated.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

(S.K. SHAHI)
Director
Ph. 23382807

Nominated Authority,
Ministry of Coal

Copy to:
    TD (NIC) - with the request to upload on the website of Ministry of Coal.

### Corruption in Railways

1959.  SHRI ARKA KESHARI DEO:
       SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiative against corrupt officials during the last four years;

(b) if so, the number of corruption cases registered against the railway officials in different railway zones during the above said period;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to make Indian railway as an ideal department by taking zero tolerance on corruption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As a result of preventive checks, decoy checks and investigations of complaints involving cases of irregularities including suspected corruption, officials are taken up under the Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules 1968, and those found responsible are imposed punishment commensurate with the gravity of their misconduct(s). Zone-wise details of officials taken up owing to vigilance investigations during last 4 years are as given below:

| Zonal Railway | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central | 511 | 482 | 335 | 437 |
| Eastern | 210 | 161 | 229 | 196 |
| East Central | 482 | 410 | 416 | 392 |
| East Coast | 183 | 205 | 106 | 150 |
| Northern | 713 | 2248 | 2195 | 1678 |
| North Central | 176 | 251 | 260 | 204 |
| North Eastern | 492 | 551 | 402 | 449 |
| Northeast Frontier | 175 | 273 | 180 | 262 |
| North Western | 283 | 501 | 149 | 102 |
| Southern | 870 | 606 | 696 | 653 |
| South Central | 270 | 244 | 207 | 254 |
| South Eastern | 252 | 124 | 169 | 109 |
| South East Central | 104 | 113 | 132 | 139 |
| South Western | 72 | 9 | 122 | 227 |
| Western | 659 | 401 | 350 | 527 |
| West Central | 230 | 137 | 122 | 79 |
| Total | 5682 | 6716 | 6070 | 5858 |

(c) and (d) Railways have well established systems, rules and procedures which guide its various functions. The Railways also have a vigilance organization, spread over the entire railway system which conducts preventive, decoy and surprise checks. It also investigates complaints of corruption/irregularities received. If any irregularity is detected, suitable disciplinary action is taken, depending upon the gravity of the charges and in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission for cases involving Group 'A' officers.

Corrective measures for system improvement and increasing transparency are taken regularly. Some of the recent initiatives include e-tendering of Works contract, procurements through e-tendering, eauctions, changes in Tatkal reservation processes, registering of indents through Freight Operations Information System (FOIS), on line allotment of rakes etc. Regular training and seminars are also organized to educate the officials and enhance their knowledge and awareness.

### Transparent and Accountable Governance

1960.  SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:
       SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:
       SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU:
       SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group of secretaries on good governance has observed in its report that there is a need for capacity building for service delivery officers, streamlining of up-to-date knowledge process, proper monitoring and disciplinary changes with a view to ensuring more transparent and accountable governance of Government employees;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the said report; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the public services personless, paperless and cashless keeping in view the future of public services and grievance redressal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Group of Secretaries on Governance has recommended Single Online Platform to integrate all employees from "Hiring to Retiring", Massive Open Online Courses platform for capacity building of all Government functionaries, comprehensive Development Role manual to be brought up for District/Block functionaries etc.. as main recommendations for more transparent & accountable governance of government employees.

(c) Improvement in public services to make them personless, paperless & cashless is an ongoing continuous process. Direct Benefits Transfer, Digital Locker, National Scholarship Portal, e-Office, Jeevan Pramaan etc. are some of the initiatives in this direction.

### Laying New Lines in Uttar Pradesh

1961.  SHRI BHARAT SINGH:
       SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any representations from various organizations/rail users and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the laying of new rail lines, doubling and electrification of railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of surveys proposed to be conducted for the laying of new railway lines, doubling and electrification of railway tracks in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(d) the number of surveys conducted and completed during the above period; and

(e) the number of projects on which construction work has been started and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Requests/ proposal for new lines, gauge conversion, doubling and electrification, are received by Railways at various levels, Railway Board, Zonal Railways and Divisional Headquarters, etc. As receipt of such requests / suggestions/demands is a continuous process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained.

(c) (i) Railway projects are not sanctioned State-wise. However, total 40 Surveys (31 for new lines and 9 for doubling) were sanctioned during the last three years which are falling fully/partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) Ministry of Railways has prepared an Action Plan to electrify all Broad Gauge railway lines of Indian Railways by the year 2021-22 including those in the State of Uttar Pradesh. During the last three years, 22 nos of Railway Electrification projects falling fully/partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been sanctioned.

(d) Out of these 40 surveys, 10 surveys have been completed.

309 *Written Answers*         PHALGUNA 16, 1939 (*Saka*)         *to Questions*      310

(e) Based on the survey reports/demands / operational requirement, 7 nos of new line works, 37 nos of doubling works falling fully/partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been included in Pink Book in last 3 years, subject to obtaining requisite clearances/ approvals.

The details of the projects are as under:

| Sl. No. | Projects | Plan Head | Length (Km) | Cost (Rs. in cr) | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Muzaffarnagar - Tapri doubling (51.53 Km) | Doubling | 51.53 | 376.78 | Work taken up |
| 2. | Ballia-Ghazipur City Doubling (65.10 km) | Doubling | 65.10 | 447.56 | Work taken up |
| 3. | Rosa-Sitapur Cantt-Burwal (180.77 Km) | Doubling | 180.77 | 1295.42 | Work taken up |
| 4. | Varanasi-Madhosingh Allahabad (120.20 Km) | Doubling | 120.2 | 750.56 | Work taken up |
| 5. | Mau-Ghazipur-Tarighat NL(51 Km) | New Line | 51.00 | 1765.92 | Work taken up |
| 6. | Ramna-Singrauli doubling (160 Km) | Doubling | 160.00 | 2436.21 | Work taken up |
| 7. | Doubling of Renukut Chopan (32 Km) (Billi Chopan 7.89 Km) | Doubling | 7.89 | 93.29 | Work taken up |
| 8. | Jhansi-Bina 3rd line (152.57 km) | Doubling | 152.57 | 2001.63 | Work taken up |
| 9. | Mathura-Jhansi 3rd line (273.80 Km) | Doubling | 273.80 | 3677.76 | Included in Pink Book 2015-16 |
| 10. | Mathura-Palwal 4th line (80 Km) | Doubling | 80.00 | 668.70 | Work taken up |
| 11. | Alamnagar-Utretia doubling (18.09 Km) | Doubling | 18.09 | 132.70 | Work taken up |
| 12. | Karaila Road-Shaktinagar doubling (32.15 Km) | Doubling | 32.15 | 528.57 | Included in Pink Book 2015-16 |
| 13. | Lalitpur-Birari with flyover at Lalitpur | Doubling | 15.8 | 304.44 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 14. | Jhansi-Khairar-Manickpur & Khirar-Bhimsen | Doubling | 425 | 4329.54 | CCEA*appro val obtained in Feb.2018 |
| 15. | Yamuna Br-Agra Fort | Doubling | 2.11 | 121.58 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 16. | Flyover Mathura-Mureshi Rampur | Doubling | 11 | 210 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17. | Flyover  Irdatganj-Kuandih | Doubling | 20.1 | 2097.03 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 18. | Flyover  IradatganjKarchhana | Doubling | 13.4 | 1134.58 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 19. | Flyover  Irdatganj-Naini | Doubling | 12.89 | 742.17 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 20. | Flyover  Jeonathpur | Doubling | 10.33 | 866.12 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 21. | Flyover  Aligarh | Doubling | 22 | 1502.67 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 22. | Bahraich-Khalilabad via Bhinga-SravastiBalrampur-Utraula-Dumriaganj  Bansi Mehdawal | New  Line | 240.26 | 4939.78 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 23. | New lines between Sahjanwa-Dohrighat | New  Line | 70 | 1831 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 24. | Phephna-Indara, Mau Shahganj doubling  excluding  Indara-Mau | Doubling | 150.28 | 1028.95 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 25. | Bhatni-Auruhar doubling excluding Indara-Mau (116.95 Km) with electrification  (125  Kms) | Doubling | 116.95 | 1177.96 | CCEA*appro val obtained in Feb.2018 |
| 26. | Aunrihar-Jaunpur | Doubling | 68 | 366.72 | Work taken up |
| 27. | Domingarh-Gorakhpur-Gorakhpur Cantt.-Kusmhi 3rd line and Gorakhpur-Nakaha Jungle doubling (21.15 Km) | Doubling | 21.15 | 186.85 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 28. | Burhwal  Gonda  3rd  line | Doubling | 61.72 | 714.34 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 29. | Meerut-  Panipat | New  Line | 104 | 2200 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 30. | Jaunpur-Tanda  (Akbarpur) | Doubling | 77.25 | 676.36 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 31. | Amethi-Pratapgarh-Janghai | Doubling | 87 | 717.78 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 32. | Barabanki-Akbarpur  including Barabanki  byepass | Doubling | 161 | 1116.09 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |
| 33. | Delhi-Shamli-Tapri  including Saharanpur  Byepass | Doubling | 155.25 | 1214 | Included in Pink Book 2016-17 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34. | Padrauna-Kushinagar via Gorakhpur | New Line | 64 | 1345 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 35. | Etah-Kasganj | New Line | 29 | 276.9 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 36. | Robertsganj to Mughalsarai via Madhupur, Sukrit, Ahrora | New Line | 70 | 1260 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 37. | Chord line between Jaunpur Jn. & Jaunpur city. | Doubling | 2.2 | 86.32 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 38. | Janghai-Phaphamau doubling with electrification | Doubling | 46.79 | 357.48 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 39. | 3rd Down line between Naini and Chheoki with additional Platform. | Doubling | 2 | 25.19 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 40. | 4th line between BhaupurPanki connecting Dn Loop of Bhaupur to shunting neck of Panki. | Doubling | 11 | 97.33 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 41. | 3rd & 4th Line between Barabanki-Malhaur (16.42 km) | Doubling | 32.84 | 323.86 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 42. | Third line, Varanasi to Mughalsarai (16.72 km) with substructure of two lines on Malviya Bridge. | Doubling | 16.72 | 2005.15 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 43. | Malhaur-Daliganj doubling with electrification | Doubling | 12.62 | 113.42 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |
| 44. | Allahabad Division. Construction of Kanpur flyover. | Doubling | 30 | 1789.73 | Included in Pink Book 2017-18 |

*Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA)

Starting of Railway project requires a number of clearances from various Ministries and Departments of State/Central Governments. These, inter-alia, include clearances inherent to land acquisition, forestry clearance and permission for crossing from departments like National Highway Authority of India, Public Works Department, Irrigation canals etc. are some of the main factors that affect the pace of completion of the projects.

### Mobile Connectivity in Rural Areas of Maharashtra

1962. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages and some urban areas in Maharashtra are yet to be connected with mobile telephones and internet;

(b) if so, the details of such villages and urban areas;

(c) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges working in the States, circle-wise;

(d) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges likely to be installed in these States; and

(e) the action taken by Government to provide mobile/ telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) There are no urban areas in Maharashtra which are yet to be connected by mobile and internet connectivity however, there are 4,710 villages in Maharashtra State which are yet to be connected with mobile connectivity.

(c) The details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges working in the License Service Areas (LSAs) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The decision for installation of mobile towers and telephone exchanges by any Telecom Service Provider (TSP) is an ongoing process and is dependent on various factors like commercial viability, subscriber concentration, technology to be adopted etc.

(e) At present, the Department has the following programmes for provision of telecom services in left out villages/areas of the country:

(i) **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER):** On 10.09.2014, the Government approved a proposal to implement a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER) to provide mobile coverage to 8621 identified uncovered villages by installing 6673 mobile towers and 321 mobile towers along with National Highways.

(ii) **Mobile Communication Services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas**: Department has received a list of 4,072 mobile locations from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in LWE affected areas. Telecom Commission, in its meeting held on 21.12.2017, has recommended the proposal for installing 4072 mobile towers, for which Cabinet approval is being sought.

(iii) **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands**: Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan to provide mobile coverage in 172 uncovered villages and along National Highways and to augment the Satellite Bandwidth for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

(iv) **BharatNet:** BharatNet is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country.

### *Statement*

*Details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges working in the Licence service Area*

| S.No | Name of License Service Area (LSA) | No. of Towers of all Telecom Service Providers | No of BSNL/MTNL Telephone Exchanges |
|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 36213 | 3083 |
| 2. | Assam | 10386 | 564 |
| 3. | Bihar | 32242 | 1672 |
| 4. | Delhi | 21375 | 348 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 26717 | 2381 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 4982 | 941 |
| 7. | Haryana | 10270 | 1017 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | 8080 | 305 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 28147 | 2789 |
| 10. | Kerala | 16015 | 1308 |
| 11. | Maharashtra (including Mumbai LSA) | 51022 | 4699 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 30937 | 3014 |
| 13. | North-East | 6634 | 402 |
| 14. | Odisha | 15682 | 1083 |
| 15. | Punjab | 18305 | 1457 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 24725 | 2008 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 38864 | 2346 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 29654 | 2113 |
| 19. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 24386 | 1392 |
| 20. | West Bengal (including Kolkata LSA) | 28523 | 1872 |
|  | Total | 463159 | 34794 |

## Grievance Portal in Railways

1963. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:
SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is going to launch any such portal for the railway personnel through which they can make complaints regarding shortcomings in the railways without revealing their identity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number and details of the complaints received by the Government through such portal in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways have launched a web based 'Voluntary Safety Reporting System' in the month of February 2018 for reporting of potential unsafe practices noticed by the Railway employees.

(c) Indian Railways does not maintain State-wise details of the data reported on the portal; however the cases reported over Zonal Railways covering the States of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are as under:

| Zonal Railways | Number of cases (upto 28.02.2018) |
|---|---|
| North Central Railway | 2 |
| South Central Railway | 15 |
| South East Central Railway | 9 |
| West Central Railway | 13 |
| Central Railway | 18 |
| Western Railway | 22 |
| Eastern Railway | 7 |
| East Central Railway | 7 |
| Northeast Frontier Railway | 24 |

[English]

### Prices More Than MRP

1964. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway passengers had to pay extra cost for food served in Railways as compared to the price list available in IRCTC website;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the catering services and food quality in Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi/Superfast and other paid services in pantry are not upto the mark; and

(d) if so, the total number of complaints received by the Government in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As per the extant instructions, passengers have to pay the cost for food as notified by the Railway Board. Some complaints have been received from time to time with respect to alleged overcharging from authorised railway vendors. Such complaints are inquired and taken to their logical conclusions as per extant rules.

(c) and (d) All efforts are made to ensure that the catering services and food quality in Rajdhani/Duronto /Shatabdi/Superfast and other paid services in pantry car is upto the mark. Details of number of complaints related to catering services, quality of food and action taken thereon during the last Financial Year and Current Financial Year (*i.e.* 01.04.2016 to 31.01.2018) are enclosed Statement.

### *Statement*

*Details of number of complaints related to catering services, quality of food and action taken thereon during the last Financial Year and Current Financial Year (i.e. 01.04.2016 to 31.01.2018)*

| Head | Year-wise No. of Complaints related to catering services over Indian Railways | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2016-17 (01.04.2016 to 31.03.2017) | 2017-18 (01.04.2017 to 31.01.2018) |
| Over Charging | 4156 | 3552 |
| Quality | 2464 | 1290 |
| Quantity | 243 | 172 |
| Misbehaviour | 217 | 210 |
| Hygiene | 302 | 107 |
| Miscellaneous | 3055 | 1785 |
| Total | 10437 | 7116 |

| Head | Year-wise Action Taken on complaints related to catering services over Indian Railways | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | 2016-17 (01.04.2016 to 31.03.2017) | 2017-18 (01.04.2017 to 31.01.2018) |
| Fined | 4812 | 2724 |
| Warned | 2823 | 1655 |
| Termination | 3 | 16 |
| Suitably Advised | 893 | 828 |
| Not Substantiated | 704 | 557 |
| D & AR Action | 24 | 9 |
| Any Other | 1178 | 1327 |
| Total | 10437 | 7116 |

[Translation]

**Funds for Development of States**

1965. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have demanded funds from the Union Government including Rs. 38,000 crore by Uttar Pradesh for development of States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds of Central schemes have not been released due to not providing utilisation certificate to the Union Government by the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The requests for funds for development schemes of the various States are considered based on the need and availability of funds.

(c) to (e) The release of funds for different Central schemes is done by the concerned Ministry/Department based on the various scheme guidelines including the requirement of submission of utilization certificates for the funds already released.

[English]

**Hi-Tech Coastal Scan System**

1966. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Electronics Limited has developed hi-tech coastal scan system for the Coast Guard to monitor every square inch of the entire sea of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time schedule of installation of the said system at various coastal locations/stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Bharat Electronics Limited has developed Coastal Surveillance System for the Coast Guard.

The project comprising of Remote Sensor Stations, Remote Operating Stations (ROS), Regional Operating Centres (ROC) and Control Centre (CC) has been installed and commissioned.

(c) Phase-I of the Chain of Static Sensors is operational.

### Vacancies in South Central Railways

1967. SHRI Y. V. SUBBA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average time taken in recruitment process by various Zones, Zone-wise;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that there is no recruitment in South Central Railways (SCR) for the last three years and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of vacancies in the SCR, cadre-wise and the steps Ministry has taken/ proposed to take to fill them up in a time- bound manner by undertaking special drive; and

(d) the details of posts relating to safety and passenger amenities lying vacant, cadre-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Direct recruitment to non-gazetted posts on Railways is made through Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs). The process involves many stages including written examination, Physical Efficiency Test/Aptitude Test and document verification. Recruitment to Group 'A' posts is made through Union Public Service Commission. There is no recruitment in Group 'B' posts as they are filled entirely through promotions.

In conventional printed question paper and Optical Mark Reader (OMR) sheet based exams, the complete recruitment process takes about 1.5 to 2 years. 'Online Applications and Computer Based Tests' have now been introduced which will reduce the time taken in finalizing the recruitment.

(b) No, Madam. On South Central Railway (SCR), panels of around 8159 candidates were received from Railway recruiting agencies since 2014-15 till date.

(c) Details of vacancies in SCR category-wise are as under:

| Category | Vacancies |
|---|---|
| Group-A | 59 |
| Group-B | 58 |
| Non-Gazetted (Group- C & D) | 15689 |
| Total | 15806 |

Two Employment Notices for filling up of 89,409 non-gazetted vacancies have been issued in February 2018 by Ministry of Railways. Out of these, 9743 vacancies are of South Central Railway. The categories are Assistant Loco Pilot, Technician and Level-1 posts.

(d) There are 1087 vacancies in Commercial Department, most of which pertain to passenger amenities. As regards safety category vacancies, they are 39 in Group 'A' and 21 in Group 'B'. Details of Group 'C' safety category vacancies on South Central Railway are as under:

| Category | Vacancy |
|---|---|
| Station Masters | 329 |
| Controllers | 43 |
| Guards | 1036 |
| Pointsmen | 536 |
| Junior Engineer/Section | 217 |
| Engineer(Permanent Way) Gangmen/ Gangmate | 3983 |
| Junior Engineer/Section Engineer (Signal) | 30 |
| Electrical Signal Maintainer/Mechanical Signal Maintainer | 192 |
| Loco Pilots | 873 |
| Shunters | 262 |
| Junior Engineer/Section Engineer (Carriage and Wagon) | 69 |
| All other safety categories | 2801 |
| Total | 10371 |

## Systematic Employee VRS Policy

1968. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:
DR. RATNA DE (NAG):
SHRI HARI OM PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any "Systematic Employee VRS Policy" in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its social impact; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) There is no Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the Railways by the name "Systematic Employee VRS Policy". However, the following Voluntary Retirement Schemes are available:

(i) Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees who have put in 20 years' qualifying service or more.

(ii) Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme (SVRS) for nongazetted employees who have been declared surplus or medically decategorised, placed in a supernumerary post and have more than five years of residual service.

(iii) Liberalised Active Retirement Scheme for Guaranteed Employment for Safety Staff (LARSGESS) for employees belonging to specified safety categories, who fulfil the prescribed eligibility criteria. They can take voluntary retirement and their wards can be appointed in the lowest grade of same category. (kept in abeyance at present).

As regards social impact of the voluntary retirement schemes, it is stated that the decision to take VRS is a purely individual decision.

(c) Does not arise

## Evening Courts

1969. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start/operate evening courts to curb the piling pendency of cases in Courts across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enhance the stature of Lok Adalats to contribute more in reduction of pending cases; 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) Setting up of subordinate courts, which includes evening courts falls within the domain of the State Governments who, in consultation with the concerned High Courts, take decisions as per their need and resources.

After the completion of the 13th Finance Commission award period, morning and evening courts were discontinued in all the states, except three High Court jurisdictions (Delhi, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu). However, the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices Conferences held in April, 2015 and in April, 2016 resolved to utilize the existing judicial infrastructure for functioning of such courts whenever required.

In order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts, the National, State and District Legal Services Authorities organize Permanent Lok Adalats and Mega/National Lok Adalats under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 in accordance with an approved calendar throughout the year. In addition, a proposal for organizing the National Lok Adalats twice in a month for all types of cases for the year 2018 has also been approved. The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued directions by the National Legal Services Authority vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 for organization of Lok Adalats to reduce pendency of cases.

## Delay in Trains due to Foggy Weather

1970. SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to prevent unnecessary delays of trains especially during winter fog; and

(b) the number oftrains found running late in the last one year, zone-wise data thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The following actions have been taken by Indian Railways to prevent unnecessary delay and for smooth and safe movement of trains especially during winter fog:

(1) Railways ensure the following during winter:

(i) Adequate availability of detonators at stations.

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

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

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

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

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

(vii) Counseling of staff involved in train operation.

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

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

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

(2) In addition, the following technological advancements with respect to signaling are also being undertaken:

(i) Indian Railways have implemented Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system conforming to European Train Controlling System (ETCS) Level-I on 342 Route kilometers in which Movement Authority (Distance to travel) displayed in the Loco Cab is updated, whenever Loco passes over a balise fitted on track. This enables loco pilot to know the condition of signals ahead even when the visibility of signals is poor due to fog or any other reasons.

(ii) Indian Railways is now planning to implement an advanced version of Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system namely European Train Controlling System (ETCS) Level-II on its entire BG network of 60,000 Route Kilometers which will enable continuous updating of Movement Authority in Loco Cab through wireless network. The continuous updating of Movement Authority will ensure improved speed and line capacity as compared to ETCS Level-I.

(iii) A Global Positioning System (GPS) based 'Fog PASS device' has been developed which displays the name and distance of approaching signals and other critical landmarks like Un-manned level crossings etc. in advance during poor visibility conditions. It is expected to help reduce stress on Loco Pilots while running in foggy weather. About 6940 fog safe devices have been commissioned in 6 (Six) Zonal Railways (East Central, Northern, North Central, North Eastern, Northeast Frontier and North Western Railways) where the trains pass through fog affected region.

(b) Zone wise number of Mail/Express trains reaching destination late during last year for the period

from 01 March-2017 to 28 February-2018 is tabulated below:

*Zone wise average number of trains per day reaching destination late during last year*
*for the period from 01 March 2017 to 28 February 2018*

| Sr.No. | Zonal Railways | Average Number of Scheduled trains per day | Average number of trains per day reaching destination late |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Central | 144 | 23 |
| 2. | East Coast | 59 | 15 |
| 3. | East Central | 110 | 50 |
| 4. | Eastern | 103 | 32 |
| 5. | Konkan Rail Corporation Ltd | 8 | 1 |
| 6. | North Central | 45 | 15 |
| 7. | North eastern | 73 | 30 |
| 8. | Northeast Frontier | 70 | 13 |
| 9. | Northern | 307 | 120 |
| 10. | North Western | 80 | 19 |
| 11. | South Central | 115 | 11 |
| 12. | South East Central | 25 | 7 |
| 13. | South Eastern | 82 | 18 |
| 14. | Southern | 194 | 38 |
| 15. | South Western | 86 | 14 |
| 16. | West Central | 43 | 10 |
| 17. | Western | 124 | 21 |
|  | Grand Total | 1669 | 436 |

*[Translation]*

**Funds Provided for Rehabilitation of Affected People**

1971. PROF. CLUNTAMANI MALVIYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been provided for rehabilitation of the affected people living in the non-safe areas of coal mines during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) the year-wise and State-wise number of the families rehabilitated during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) (a): Yes Madam. Funds have been provided for rehabilitation of the affected people living in the non-safe areas of coal mines during last three years and current year.

(b) (i) The details of expenditure during the last three years and current year by i) Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA), the nodal agency on behalf of Government of West Bengal under Master Plan is as under:

| Sl. No. | Year | Expenditure by ADDA | Remarks |
|---------|------|---------------------|---------|
| 1. | 2014-15 | ------ | Due to non-acquisition of land by State Govt. in noncoal bearing areas or areas where coal is available at a depth of more than 600 metres or area where grade of coal is very poor/low, construction activity could not be proceeded. Resultant, fund could not be utilized in accordance with the provision of Master Plan. |
| 2. | 2015-16 | ------ | |
| 3. | 2016-17 | Rs. 0.9211 Crore for Demographic Survey & Valuation | |
| 4. | 2017-18 | Rs. (143 crore +270 crore) = Rs. 413 crore. | ADDA has transferred Rs. 143 crore from the received amount under the head of Land Acquisition and Rs. 270 crore received in connection with construction activity to Housing Department, Govt. of West Bengal for construction of flats at the resettlement sites. |

(ii) The details of expenditure by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) & Jharia Raniganj Development Authority(JRDA) the nodal agency under the Master plan are as under:

| Sl. No. | Year | Expenditure by by BCCL (Rs. in Crore) | Expenditure by by JRDA (Rs. in Crore) | Total (Rs. in Crore) |
|---------|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 2014-15 | 135.04 | 87.26 | 222.30 |
| 2. | 2015-16 | 150.08 | 33.85 | 183.93 |
| 3. | 2016-17 | 194.87 | 68.52 | 263.39 |
| 4. | 2017-18 (upto December 2017) | 53.98 | 32.0 | 85.98 |

(c) Year-wise and state wise number of families rehabilitated during the said period are as under:-

(i) The number of families rehabilitated by ADDA, West Bengal till date is NIL. In this connection it may be mentioned that construction of flats/houses has already been started by Housing Department, Govt. of WB w.e.f. 10.03.2017 and tenders for further construction of 12,816 flats has already been floated as communicated by ADDA/ Housing Department.

(ii) The year-wise and state wise number of families rehabilitated in BCCL is as under:

| Sl. No. | Year | State | No. of Family shifted |
|---------|------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 2014-15 | Jharkhand | 1156 |
| 2. | 2015-16 | Jharkhand | 303 |
| 3. | 2016-17 | Jharkhand | 1694 |
| 4. | 2017-18 (upto January 2018) | Jharkhand | 664 |

*[English]*

### Aadhaar Enrolment at Banks and Post Offices

1972. SHRI MOHAN BHAI KALYANJI BHAI
        KUNDARIYA:
     SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to start Aadhaar enrolment at Banks and Post Offices;

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

(c) whether the Government is upgrading the infrastructure to enable them to collect bio-metric data;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the modalities finalized in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) Department of Post, as Registrar of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has been mandated to set up Aadhaar enrolment and update facility in designated post offices throughout the country. In addition, banks have also been mandated under Regulation 12A of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, to set up Aadhaar enrolment and update facility in a minimum one out of every ten bank branches.

(b) As on date more than 8500 Aadhaar enrolment/ update centers have been set up at Banks branches/ Post offices across the country. The objective of this decision is to provide convenience and more secure Aadhaar enrolment and update facilities for residents of the country.

(c) to (e) The Post offices and Banks are setting up Aadhaar infrastructure to provide enrolment and update facilities to residents. UIDAI has provided required enrolment software and training for this purpose. The enrolment data including demographic and biometric information is sent to UIDAI in encrypted and secure manner. The bank and post offices do not retain these information with them.

*[Translation]*

### Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

1973. SHRI ALOK SANJAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with whom India has signed Nuclear Co-operation Agreement during the last three years along with the names of the countries with whom India is holding dialogue in this regard; and

(b) the likely benefit to the country in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) India has signed agreements in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy with Bangladesh, Vietnam, Japan, United Kingdom and Sri Lanka during the years 2015-2017 and the said Agreements are being followed up for their respective implementation.

(b) The scope of cooperation *inter-alia* covers transfer of technology, equipment, material and capacity building for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. These Agreements would enable India to benefit from the latest advancements in the civil nuclear domain and would contribute to India's civil nuclear programme.

*[English]*

### Cyber Security Products

1974. SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Government will soon announce a policy that accords preference in official procurement to Made in India antivirus and cyber security solutions, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has issued a draft notification which states preference shall be provided by all procuring entities to domestically manufactured/ produced cyber security products;

(c) whether it is also true that almost 70 categories of cyber security products will be covered under the said policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) Action has been initiated for issuing the notification by the Government, in accordance with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) order dated 15th June 2017 on Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), to encourage 'Make in India' and to promote manufacturing and production of goods and services for Cyber Security products.

(c) and (d) The notification is envisaged to identify products which are technically acceptable in promoting indigenous products of cyber security based on the capacity and capability in terms of security of the products; adequate support infrastructure in the country and meeting International Standards/best practices, wherever available.

*[Translation]*

**Railway Projects in Uttar Pradesh**

1975. SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise and project-wise number and details of ongoing railway projects in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) the number of projects out of the said projects running behind their schedule;

(c) whether the project-wise cost is likely to increase on account of delay in completion of the said projects;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for completion of the said projects on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Railway projects are not sanctioned State-wise. However, the details of New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh are as under:

| S. No | Project | Year of inclusion in Budget | Zonal Railway | Length of project | Latest Cost (Rs. in cr.) | Exp as on 31. 3.2017 (Rs. in cr.) | Total Outlay 2017-18 (Rs. in cr.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | NEW LINES | | | | |
| 1. | Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli & Mahoba-Khajuraho | 1997-98 | North Central | 541 km | 6093 | 1209.91 | 300.5 |
| 2. | Hathua-Bhatni. | 2005-06 | North Eastern | 79.64 km | 718.54 | 222.85 | 20 |
| 3. | Chhitauni-Tumkuhi Road | 2006-07 | North Eastern | 58.88 km | 269.78 | 67.28 | 30 |
| 4. | Deoband (Muzzafar Nagar)-Roorkee | 2007-08 | Northern | 27.45 km | 791 | 178.42 | 51 |
| 5. | Unchhar-Amethi | 2012-13 | Northern | 66.17 km | 1229 | 5.76 | 10 |
| 6. | Kapilvastu-Basti # | 2013-14 | North Eastern | 91 km | 644 | 0.75 | 10 |
| 7. | Anandnagar-Ghugli # | 2013-14 | North Eastern | 50 km | 308 | 0.68 | 10 |
| 8. | Faizabad-Lalganj via Raibareilly # | 2013-14 | Northern | 116 km | 664 | 0.0001 | 0.01 |
| 9. | Mau-GhazipurTarighat | 2015-16 | North Eastern | 51 km | 1765.92 | 150.5 | 150 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Sahjanwa-Dohrighat # | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 70.45 km | 743.54 | 0.02 | 10 |
| 11. | Bahraich-Shravasti- # Balrampur/Tulsipur | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 80 km | 5185.8 | 0.024 | 30 |
| 12. | Meerut-Panipat # | 2016-17 | Northern | 104 km | 2200 | 0.02 | 32 |
| 13. | Robertsganj-Mugalsarai via Madhupur, Sukrit, Ahrora | 2017-18 | North Central | 70 km | 1260 | 0 | 1 |
| 14. | Padrauna-Kushinagar Gorakhpur (Sardar Nagar) # | 2017-18 | North Eastern | 64 km | 1345 | 0 | 1 |
| 15. | Etah-Kasganj # | 2017-18 | North Eastern | 29 km | 276.9 | 0 | 1 |

### GAUGE CONVERSION

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Gonda-Baharaich | 1997-98 | North Eastern | 60 km | 318.42 | 233.26 | 40 |
| 17. | Bhojipura-Tanakpur via Pilibhit | 2007-08 | North Eastern | 101 km | 747.3 | 330.36 | 50 |
| 18. | Lucknow-Pilibhit via Sitapur, Lakhimpur | 2011-12 | North Eastern | 262.76 km | 977 | 678.48 | 150 |
| 19. | Indara-Dohrighat # | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 34 km | 165 | 0.01 | 15 |
| 20. | Bahraich-Mailani incl byepass at Mailani # | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 230 km | 1277 | 0.01 | 17 |
| 21. | Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj -Bareilly -Lalkuan incl. MM for extn. From Bareilly-Lalkuan & Mandhana-Brahmavart | 1997-98 | North Central | 553 km | 1689 | 669 | 10 |
| 22. | Mathura-Vrindavan # | 2017-18 | North Central | 11 km | 98 | 0 | 1 |
| 23. | Nanpara-Nepalganj Road # | 2017-18 | North Eastern | 20 | 150 | 0 | 1 |
| 24. | Philibhit-Shahjehanpur | 2017-18 | North Eastern | 83 | 427 | 0 | 1 |

### DOUBLING/ 3rd & 4th LINES

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. | Utretia-Zafrabad (Balance 148 km) and MM for Raibareilly Akbarpur (47 km) & Sultanpur-Amethi (29 km), Sultanpur-Kadipur | 2006-07 | Northern | 224 km | 1581.53 | 557.11 | 208.6 |
| 26. | Lahota-Bhadoi | 2009-10 | Northern | 39 km | 183.72 | 88.19 | 10 |
| 27. | Phapamau-Allahabad with new MM for bye pass line between Northern Rly and North Eastern Railway | 2009-10 | Northern | 12.9 km | 151.87 | 91.25 | 100 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28. | Bhadoi-Janghai | 2010-11 | Northern | 31 km | 159.96 | 123.62 | 20 |
| 29. | Aurnihar-Manduadih | 2011-12 | North Eastern | 38.8 km | 199.75 | 176.93 | 15 |
| 30. | Utretia-Raibareilly | 2011-12 | Northern | 65.6 km | 385 | 130.68 | 60 |
| 31. | Bhimsen-Jhansi | 2012-13 | North Central | 206 km | 1183.30 | 636 | 402.68F |
| 32. | Meerut-Muzaffarnagar | 2012-13 | Northern | 55.47 km | 415 | 166.16 | 125 |
| 33. | Chhapra-Ballia Patch Doubling | 2012-13 | North Eastern | 65 km | 477.31 | 160.33 | 110 |
| 34. | Raibareilly-Amethi | 2013-14 | Northern | 60 km | 400 | 44.52 | 42 |
| 35. | Ghazipur-Aurnihar | 2014-15 | North Eastern | 40 km | 40 | 70.5 | 98.89 |
| 36. | Ballia-Ghazipur | 2015-16 | North Eastern | 65 km | 447.56 | 164 | 75 |
| 37. | Rosa-Sitapur Cantt-Burhwal | 2015-16 | North Central | 180.77 km | 1306.42 | 0 | 200 |
| 38. | Alamnagar-Utretia | 2015-16 | Northern | 18 km | 132.66 | 30.54 | 50 |
| 39. | Muzaffarnagar-Tapri | 2015-16 | Northern | 52 km | 376.70 | 100 | 100 |
| 40. | Varanasi-Madhosingh Allahabad | 2015-16 | North Eastern | 122 km | 750.56 | 150.05 | 50 |
| 41. | Ramna-Singrauli doubling | 2015-16 | East Central | 160 km | 2436 | 150.04 | 25 |
| 42. | Karaila Road Shakti Nagar | 2015-16 | East Central | 32 km | 528.57 | 00.61 | 15 |
| 43. | Doubling of Billi Chopan (Renukut Chopan) | 2015-16 | North Central | 9 km | 93.29 | 24.41 | 20 |
| 44. | Jhansi-Bina 3rd line | 2015-16 | North Central | 152 km | 2002 | 55.84 | 430.23 |
| 45. | Mathura-Jhansi 3rd line | 2015-16 | North Central | 274 km | 3678 | 250 | 255.36 |
| 46. | Mathura-Palwal 4th line | 2015-16 | North Central | 80 km | 669 | 73.89 | 250 |
| 47. | 3rd line Mughalasari-Allahabad | 2015-16 | North Central | 152 km | 2380 | 0 | 260 |
| 48. | Byepass at Sainthia, Sitarmpur, Mughalsarai, Allahabad, Etawah | 2015-16 | East Central | 35 km | 830.73 | 0 | 50 |
| 49. | Jhansi-Khairar-Manikpur & Khairar-Bhimsen | 2016-17 | North Central | 411 km | 4187 | 0.0001 | 10 |
| 50. | Yamuna Br.-Agra Fort With major Br at Yamuna river # | 2016-17 | North Central | 2 km | 121.58 | 0.0001 | 10 |
| 51. | Iradatganj-Kunwadih - const of flyover # | 2016-17 | North Central | 20.1 km | 2967.91 | 0.0001 | 10 |
| 52. | Naini-Iradatganj - Const. of flyover # | 2016-17 | North Central | 12 km | 742.10 | 0.0001 | 10 |
| 53. | Jeonathpur - flyover # | 2016-17 | North Central | 13 km | 866.12 | 0.0001 | 10 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 54. | Mathura-Murhes Rampur - flyover # | 2016-17 | North Central | 08 km | 210 | 0.0001 | 7 |
| 55. | Flyover at Aligarh # | 2016-17 | North Central | 25 km | 1457.80 | 0.0001 | 7 |
| 56. | Lalitpur-Birari with flyover at Lalitpur # | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 16 km | 304.44 | 0.0001 | 7 |
| 57. | Domingarh-GKP-# GKP Cantt-Kusumhi | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 21.15 km | 186.85 | 0.01 | 20 |
| 58. | Burhwal-Gonda 3rd line | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 61.72 km | 714.34 | 0.01 | 20 |
| 59. | Shahganj-Bhatni-Phephna-Indara, Mau-Sahaganj excl Mau-Indara | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 150.28 km | 1028.95 | 0.01 | 30 |
| 60. | Bhatni-Aurnihar with RE excl Mau-Indara # | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 116.95 | 600 | 0.01 | 40 |
| 61. | Aurnihar-Jaunpur | 2016-17 | North Eastern | 68 km | 366.71 | 0.01 | 39 |
| 62. | Barabanki-Akbarpur | 2016-17 | Northern | 161 km | 1116.08 | 0.011 | 5 |
| 63. | Janghai-Pratapgarh-Amethi | 2016-17 | Northern | 87 km | 700 | 0.011 | 7 |
| 64. | Jaunpur-Tanda | 2016-17 | Northern | 94 km | 676.36 | 0.01 | 1 |
| 65. | Delhi-Shamli-Tapri including Saharanpur byepass # | 2016-17 | Northern | 175 km | 1500 | 0.01 | 11 |
| 66. | Naini-Chheoki 3rd line with additional platform # | 2017-18 | North Central | 2 km | 25.13 | 0 | 1 |
| 67. | Bhapur-Panki- 4th line connecting down loop of Baupur to shunting neck of Panki # | 2017-18 | North Central | 11 km | 82 | 0 | 1 |
| 68. | Construction of Kanpur Fly-over # | 2017-18 | North Central | 30 km | 1790 | 0 | 1 |
| 69. | Barabanki-Malhaur -3rd and 4th line # | 2017-18 | Northern | 32.84 km | 323.85 | 0 | 1 |
| 70. | Mallhaur-Daliganj with electrification # | 2017-18 | North Eastern | 12.62 | 110.94 | 0 | 1 |
| 71. | Varanasi-Mughalsarai - 3rd line # | 2017-18 | Northern | 16.72 km | 2005.15 | 0 | 1 |
| 72. | Jaunpur Jn.-Janpur City- Chord line-2.2 # | 2017-18 | Northern | 2.2 km | 86.32 | 0 | 1 |
| 73. | Janghai-Phaphamau - doubling with electrification | 2017-18 | Northern | 46.79 km | 357.48 | 0 | 1 |

In addition, following projects have been proposed in Budget 2018-19

| Sl.No | Project | Zone/Railway | Length | Latest cost (Rs. in cr) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 4th line between Dholpur-Jhansi and Beena# | North Central | 321.8 km | 4870 |
| 2. | 4th line between Mathura-Dholpur Junction # | North Central | 107 km | 2945.75 |
| 3. | Agra Fort– Barabanki # | North Central | 150.8 km | 1388.81 |
| 4. | New Coaching Complex and Kanpur # | North Central | 25 km | 34.28 |
| 5. | 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 loop of New Daudkhan (DFC) # | North Central | 6.9 km | 448 |
| 6. | 3rd line between Ruma Chakeri - Chandari in connection with DFC # | North Central | 12.5 km | 176.68 |
| 7. | 4th line between Chipiyana- Buzurg to Dadri connecting Down loop of Maripal and holding line of Dadri in connection with DFC # | North Central | 12 km | 128.68 |
| 8. | 4th line between Allahabad to Bumrauli flying over at Subedarganj and connecting to UP loop of Bumrauli # | North Central | 10 km | 493.11 |
| 9. | Chord line between Dailwara-Berari | North Central | 5.2 km | 50.24 |
| 10. | Flyover at Bhandai for Etawah bound down trains. # | North Central | 10 km | 186.21 |
| 11. | Phaphamau to Unnao via Kunda # | North Central | 200 km | 1600 |

#Projects included in budget, subject to obtaining requisite clearances. Execution of these projects will be taken up only after following due processes/mandatory approvals and sanctions.

(b) to (e) Every Railway project requires a number of clearances from various Ministries and Departments of State/Central Governments. These, inter-alia, include clearances inherent to land acquisition, forestry clearance and permission for crossing from departments like National Highway Authority of India, Public Works Department, Irrigation canals etc. which are part of project execution. Process of seeking the approvals/ clearances and land acquisition are some of the main factors that affect the pace of completion of the projects. In addition, as per the prevailing system, funds are allocated on yearly basis, based on the Gross Budgetary Support from Ministry of Finance and internal generation and progress of land acquisition. Therefore, magnitude of time overrun and cost overruns cannot be quantified.

To expedite completion of projects, Railways have arranged additional funds by way of loan from Life Insurance Corporation for assured funding of capacity enhancement projects. Other measures taken to expedite completion are 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 from Railways for improved co-ordination with the State Governments etc.

*[English]*

### Joint Doctrine

1976. SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Armed Forces have recently published a Joint Training Doctrine;

(b) if so, whether it has been approved by the Government;

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to support the measures in this Joint Doctrine; and

(d) the saving likely to be achieved by improving jointness in the military in various spheres such as training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) The Joint Doctrine was approved by the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee duly recommended by the Chiefs of Staff Committee as per Charter.

### ROBs on Bye-Pass Roads

1977. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken notice of the fact that many of Rail-Over Bridges (ROBs) on the bye-pass roads surrounding important cities of the country have become weak and are in dangerous conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has made any assessment of the strength of the ROBs especially on the bye-pass road around Madurai City;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for lack of maintenance of the said ROB; and

(d) the effective measures taken/bei ng taken by the Railways to repair/strengthen the said ROB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) All Road Over Bridges (ROBs), including of those constructed on bye-pass roads surrounding important cities are being inspected for which, there is a well established system of annual inspection of ROBs on Indian Railways. Based on these inspections, required repair/replacement works are planned and executed accordingly. Railway portion of Road Over Bridge (ROB) on the bye-pass road around Madurai City is in good condition.

*[Translation]*

### Audit System

1978. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and International Monetary Fund has pointed out anomalies in audit system of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Railways are contemplating to take remedial measures to resolve main issues in present system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the said audit system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) As per the Ministry's records no such report appears to have been received in the Ministry.

(d) and (e) Indian Railways already have an effective system of auditing comprising of internal audit as well as external audit to ensure transparency by Comptroller & Auditor General of India. Statutory audit of Indian Railways is conducted by Comptroller & Auditor General of India and audit report on performance of Railways is presented before the Parliament which is also examined by the Public Accounts Committee.

*[English]*

### Ethics in Legal Profession

1979. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is considering to set up an independent body to regulate ethics in the legal profession;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is true that a meeting of PMO and Ministerial heads has taken place recently which underlined the need for setting up of a regulatory framework for legal profession; 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) No Madam, at present no specific proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Madam

(d) Does not arise

### Complaints Regarding Aadhaar

1980. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from NRI/PIO/OCIs who are facing problems in Aadhaar enrolment and are getting barred from different facilities;

(b) if so, is it also true that NRI/PIO/ OCIs are not eligible for biometric identification enrolment as per Aadhaar Act, 2016; and

(c) if so, the steps which the Government proposes to take to resolve their issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) As per section 3 (1) read with section 2(v) of the Aadhaar

(Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 every resident is entitled to obtain Aadhaar. Hence, NRI/OCI/PIO, in case they are non-resident, are not eligible.

(c) NRIs/OCIs/PIOs who are not eligible to get Aadhaar, can access their services without submission of Aadhaar. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has issued circular dated 15/11/2017 advising all Central Ministries/ Departments, all State Governments and UT Administration, not to insist for Aadhaar from such category of individuals and devise suitable mechanism to ascertain their identities.

### New Railway Lines in Haryana

1981. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new railway lines announced in the Railway Budget/General Budget to be taken up for construction, in the last three financial years including the current FY 2018-19, in the State of Haryana;

(b) the current status of work on the Hisar-Agroha-Fatehabad, Delhi-Sohna-Nuh-Firozepur Jhirka-Alwar and Yamunanagar-Chandigarh new railway lines announced in the Railway Budget of 2013-14; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and utilized in the last four financial years including the current F Y 2017-18, towards work on each of these three new railway line projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Railway projects are not sanctioned State wise. However, the details of New Railway Line projects announced in Budget in the last 3 financial years including current financial year 2018-19, which are falling fully/partly in the State of Haryana are as under:-

(1) Panipat-Meerut New Line (104 Km)

(b) The current status of 3 new railway line project is as under:-

| Sl. No. | Section | Year of inclusion | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Yamuna Nagar Chandigarh via Sadhaura, Narayangarh (91 Km) | 2013-14 | The work was included in budget subject to obtaining requisite Govt. approvals. NITI Aayog has not granted "In Principle Approval" for the project on 50% cost sharing basis. In view of above Government of Haryana has been requested to provide land free of cost apart from sharing 50% of construction cost. The response from Government of Haryana is awaited. |
| 2. | Hissar-Sirsa via Agroha and Fatehabad) (93 Km) | 2013-14 | Hisar and Sirsa are already connected by Single line. The work was included in budget subject to obtaining requisite Govt. approvals. In view of negative rate of return , poor traffic projections and non availability of operational or financial justification, it could not be taken forward. |
| 3. | Delhi-Sohna Nuh Ferozpur-Jihirka-Alwar (104 Km) | 2013-14 | The work was included in budget subject to obtaining requisite Govt. approvals. NITI Aayog has not granted "In Principle Approval" for the project on 50% cost sharing basis. In view of above, Government of Haryana has been requested to provide land free of cost apart from sharing 50% of construction cost. The response from Government of Haryana is awaited. |

Ministry of Railways and Government of Haryana has incorporated a Joint Venture (JV) company namely Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HRIDC) to undertake survey, Project development, resource mobilization and monitoring of mutually identified Rail Infrastructure Projects in the State of Haryana. HRIDC has taken up Traffic Survey cum Feasibility study for the two of the projects *i.e* Yamunanagar-Chandigarh and Delhi-Sohan-Nuh-Ferozpur-Jhirka-Alwar.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

### Delay in Justice Delivery

1982. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of prisoners in the jails is increasing due to delay in the justice delivery system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per the information available in the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the total number of prisoners, including undertrial prisoners, lodged in various jails of the country as on 31.12.2015 was 4,19,623 and as on 31.12.2016 was 4,33,003. Disposal of cases pending in courts, including criminal cases pending in various courts of the country, is the responsibility of the judiciary. The Central Government is fully committed to assisting the judiciary to enable speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution. It has undertaken many steps towards achieving this objective. One important step is, strengthening of judicial infrastructure in districts through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary' wherein a total of Rs. 6,100 crore has been released since 1993-94, out of which Rs. 2,655 crore (43.52%) has been released since April, 2014. 17,981 Court Halls and 14,467 Residential Accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on date. Out of this 2,356 Court

Halls and 935 Residential Accommodations were constructed since 2014 to till date. In addition, 3,139 Court Halls and 1,785 Residential Accommodations are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary" beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 3,320 crore.

Under Phase-I (2010-15) of the eCourts Mission Mode Project (the Project) undertaken by the Central Government, against a total target of computerisation of 14,249 courts, the computerisation of 13,672 district and subordinate courts has been achieved. This includes the installation of hardware, the LAN and software. This has enabled the courts to upload the case status and orders online. Status of cases and copies of judgments have also been made available on the websites of the respective District and Subordinate Court Complexes which have been computerised. Rs. 935.00 crore were allocated for Phase– I out of which Rs. 639.41 crore were utilized.

A budget outlay of Rs.1670 crores was approved for Phase II of the Project (from July, 2015 upto 31 March 2019). The facilities of e-services such as cause lists, case status, daily orders, judgments etc. are being provided under the supervision of e-Committee of the Supreme Court and Computer Committees of respective High Courts. A total of 16,089 district and subordinate courts have been computerised under the Project till date. Video Conferencing facility has also been opertionalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding prisons during the period 2015-17. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) developed under this project provides updated information on civil and criminal cases, including pending cases, for the computerised district/subordinate courts in the country.

Another initiative with a focus to improve access to justice is the Tele Law Scheme launched on 20th April, 2017, which is an effort to provide legal advice pro-actively to the marginalised sections of society through Common Service Centres (CSCs). This initiative facilitates delivery of legal advice through an expert panel of lawyers stationed at the State Legal Service Authorities (SLSA). Under this Scheme, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) connect potential litigants with lawyers through video

conferencing facilities at CSCs which are, operated by Village Level Entrepreneurs. The Scheme has been launched in 1800 Gram Panchayats in 11 States (U.P., Bihar, J&K, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim). A total of 12,218 cases have been registered by PLVs under the scheme and legal advice has been provided in 9,094 cases. The Government has also launched a scheme for Pro Bono Legal Services in April, 2017 in which interested lawyers and litigants can register on the website (www.doj.gov.in) to provide and avail pro-bono legal services as may be required. So far, 224 lawyers have registered on the portal and more than 298 cases have been assigned for pro bono assistance. In order to reduce the cases pending in courts for over 10 years, the Government has recently introduced Nyaya Mitra Scheme covering 227 selected districts of 16 States. Under the Scheme, retired judicial officers are engaged and designated as 'Nyaya Mitra' to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years. In the first Phase, 15 Nyaya Mitra's have been engaged.

In pursuance of the resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, 24 High Courts have set up Arrears Committees to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years, except Sikkim High Court where there is no pendency of more than five year old cases. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee consisting of two Hon'ble Judges to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 05.02.2016 had inter alia passed following directions on release of undertrials:

1. The Under Trial Review Committee under every District Judge should meet every quarter and the first such meeting should take place on or before 31st March, 2016. The Secretary of the District Legal Services Committee should attend each meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee and follow up the discussions with appropriate steps for the release of undertrial prisoners and convicts who have undergone their sentence or are entitled to release because of remission granted to them.

2. The Under Trial Review Committee should specifically look into aspects pertaining to

effective implementation of Section 436 of the Cr.P.C. and Section 436A of the Cr.P.C. so that undertrial prisoners are released at the earliest and those who cannot furnish bail bonds due to their poverty are not subjected to incarceration only for that reason. The Under Trial Review Committee will also look into issue of implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 particularly with regard to first time offenders so that they have a chance of being restored and rehabilitated in society.

3. The Member Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority of every State will ensure, in coordination with the Secretary of the District Legal Services Committee in every district, that an adequate number of competent lawyers are empanelled to assist undertrial prisoners and convicts, particularly the poor and indigent, and that legal aid for the poor does not become poor legal aid.

4. The Secretary of the District Legal Services Committee will also look into the issue of the release of undertrial prisoners in compoundable offences, the effort being to effectively explore the possibility of compounding offences rather than requiring a trial to take place.

5. The Under Trial Review Committee will also look into the issues raised in the Model Prison Manual 2016 including regular jail visits as suggested in the said Manual.

The Minister of Law & Justice has written to the Chief Justices of High Courts on 3rd February 2017 requesting for periodic monitoring of release of Under Trials prisoners so that every accused person receives a fair trial and does not languish in jail longer than is absolutely necessary as per law. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 05.09.2014 in the Writ Petition No. 310/2005-Bhim Singh Vs Union of India & Other relating to the undertrial prisoner has directed for effective implementation of Section 436 A of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The DG (Prisons)/IG (Prisons) of all States/UTs have been requested on 22.09.2014 to take necessary action to comply with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter.

*[English]*

### Recruitment of Soldiers

1983. SHRI VINOD LAKHAMASHI CHAVDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any data about the recruitment of the soldiers in army during the last three years and the current year so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The details of youths who were recruited as soldiers in the Indian Army at various levels such as Commissioned Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers/ Other Ranks (JCOs/ORs) are given below:

(1) **Officers\*:**

| Year | Candidates Selected |
|---|---|
| 2015 | 1961 |
| 2016 | 1858 |
| 2017 | 1773 |

(2) **JCOs/ORs\*:**

| Year | Candidates Selected |
|---|---|
| 2014-15 | 66,992 |
| 2015-16 | 71,434 |
| 2016-17 | 52,086 |
| 2017-18 | 17,257 (Till 31st December 2017) |

\*Recruitment for Commissioned Officers is done calendar year wise, whereas the recruitment for JCO/ORs is done financial year wise.

*[Translation]*

### Assistance to NGOs

1984. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes under which the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are getting assistance;

(b) the details of the amount of funds provided to the NGOs during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is satisfied with the working of the NGOs; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government against them along with the names of such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Ministry of Science and Technology through its various constituents namely Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) are providing assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) under various schemes. DST is providing assistance to NGOs under its Central Sector schemes such as "Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment" (which has components including Socio-Economic Development; S&T Communication and Popularization; Innovation S&T Entrepreneurship Development; Science and Society Program; Waste Management Technology Program; Technology System Development Program; Biomedical Device and Technology Development Program; Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program; *National Spatial Data Infrastructure Program;* Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan), "S&T Institutional and Human Capacity Building" (which includes State S&T Program and Disha Programme for Women in Science), and "Research and Development" scheme (which includes Climate Change Program and Cognitive Science Research Initiative). In the same vein, DBT is implementing "R&D Biotechnology based Programme for Societal Development (Rural, SC&ST, Women program)" through NGOs, while DSIR provides financial support to NGOs under the scheme "Technology Development & Utilization programme for Women".

(b) During the last three years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, Rs.38.01 crore, Rs.78.26 crore and Rs.81.81 crore respectively had been provided to NGOs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Government is satisfied with the working of the NGOs receiving financial support from the Ministry. The progress of the projects supported is monitored at regular intervals by respective Committee of Experts constituted for the purpose by the Government. The recommendations made by the Committee of Experts are communicated to the NGOs for taking appropriate action and mid-course corrections, if any, during implementation of the projects. Thus no action is warranted against the NGOs getting support from the Ministry.

**Konch-Bhind and Urai-Mahoba Rail Lines**

1985. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWA be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had proposed Konch-Bhind and Urai-Mahoba rail lines on joint venture basis in the budget of the year 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any public sector undertaking/institution has shown interest in the construction of these railway routes and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has provided funds in this budget for construction of the said railway routes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The Cabinet has approved creation of Joint Ventures with State Governments for undertaking rail based projects. This decision will enable States to jointly decide their priorities for development of backward regions. In the year 2016-17, Railways have indicated some projects which may be undertaken through these means, in partnership with State Governments. These two projects are contained in the list of projects so identified. These projects fall in the States of Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP). The Government of MP has signed Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Ministry of Railways in May, 2017. However, Government of UP is yet to sign JVA with Ministry of Railways.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

*[English]*

### Procurement of MRH

1986. SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:
        KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy proposed to buy new Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH) aimed at replacing the Sea King 42/42A Helicopters and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether shortage of MRH has forced the Navy to ration its helicopter resources;

(c) whether the Navy also plans to buy Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH) to replace its outdated fleet of Chetak choppers and Naval Multi-Role Helicopters (NMRH) and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government plans to buy NUH and NMRH under Make in India Programme or "Strategic Partnership" Model, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether majority of Indias 140 Warships are operating without integral utility helicopters; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to accelerate Naval helicopter programmes and keep the force mission ready, in view of Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (f) The operational requirement of Indian Navy is being met with the existing fleet of helicopters. However, based on prevailing security scenario, the force levels including helicopters such a NUH, MRH and NMRH are being enhanced in accordance with the Maritime Capability Perspective Plan (MCPP) and Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP).

*[Translation]*

### Poor Telecom Services in Rural, Hilly and Tribal Areas

1987. SHRI BHOLA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that basic telephone, mobile and internet facilities reportedly remain out of order for a long period in rural, hilly and tribal areas;

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

(c) the extent to which the fixed quality norms have been achieved in this regard;

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to improve the services in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The Quality of Services benchmarks for telecommunication services are notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under TRAI Act, 1997 at the level of License Service Area (LSA) as a whole. These LSAs cover all States and Union Territories of India.

In order to maintain tele-connectivity, performance benchmarks have been prescribed for upkeep of telephone networks and services which includes:

(i) For Basic services: At least 75 % of the faults to be repaired by next working day and 100 % of the faults to be repaired within 7 days for rural andhilly areas.

As per the TRAI's Performance Monitoring Report for the quarter ending September 2017, all Telecom Service Providers have complied to these benchmarks.

(ii) For mobile services: The performance parameter, 'Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) Accumulated downtime' (not available for service) measures the downtime of the BTS including its transmission links/circuits during the period of a month but excludes all planned service downtime for any maintenance, (benchmark d" 2%). As per the TRAI's Performance Monitoring Report for the quarter ending September 2017, only M/s Aircel was not able to comply with the benchmark in North-East LSA.

(iii) For Broadband services: At least 90 % of faults to be repaired by next working day and at least 99 % of faults to be repaired within 3 working day. As per the TRAI's Performance Monitoring Report for the quarter ending September 2017, only M/s Tata Tele Services Limited could not fully comply with the benchmark.

(d) and (e) In order to ensure compliance with benchmarks, TRAI has taken the following steps:

 (i) Follow up action with service providers and action plan for improving quality of services,

(ii) Meeting with the service providers to evaluate the performance against the action plan

(iii) Audit and assessment of quality of services including customer perception surveys through independent  agencies.

In order to further extend tele-connectivity in rural, hilly and tribal areas of the country, the Government has been undertaking several initiatives including BharatNet Project, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plans for the North-Eastern Region (NER), Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands, and Provisioning of mobile services in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) areas.

### Right to Complain regarding Misuse of Data

1988. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:
        SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether Aadhaar Card-holders have the right to complain in case of leakage of Aadhaar information;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the authority responsible for redressal of such complaints;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the rationale behind delegation of exclusive power to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to make complaints in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Any resident has the right to complain to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in case of leakage of his Aadhaar information. UIDAI endeavors to address all apprehensions of the resident by conducting appropriate internal inquiries and it takes immediate and appropriate measures under Section 47 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) To ensure safeguards of the security and confidentiality of information and compliance of restrictions on sharing information, as per the Aadhaar Act 2016 and regulations framed thereunder.

*[English]*

### Installation of CCTV Cameras

1989. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to instal CCTV cameras in 11,000 trains and around 8500 railway stations across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure to be incurred for CCTVs installations;  and

(d) the source of income for the said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) All Railway Stations and passenger carrying trains are planned to be provided with CCTV based surveillance system.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Railways has proposed to provide CCTV based surveillance system in passenger carrying trains and balance stations using Nirbhaya Fund at a total cost of around Rs. 3770 Crore. Based on the availability of the funds, this work will be taken up.

**Train between Sealdah and Malda**

1990. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several train services between Sealdah and Malda are cancelled or their schedule shortened arbitrarily; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Losses in Mumbai Local Railway Services**

1991.	SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:
	SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the last several years, huge losses are being incurred on local train services in metropolitan areas of Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of income and expenditure for the last three years;

(c) the measures being taken to check losses in these services and make them profitable to some extent;

(d) whether the Railways have considered to commercially develop the local railway stations of Mumbai in order to increase its income; and

(e) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railway is incurring losses by running local train services in metropolitan areas of Mumbai. The income and expenditure for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

| Year | Earnings | Expenditure | Profit/Loss (-) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2014-15 | 1640.63 | 3066.82 | (-) 1426.19 |
| 2015-16 | 1708.22 | 3185.77 | (-) 1477.55 |
| 2016-17 | 1857.31 | 3234.07 | (-) 1376.76 |
| Total | 5206.16 | 9486.66 | (-) 4280.50 |

(c) Measures being taken to make these services break even or make some profits as well are as follows:

(i) Full advertisement rights on outside of Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) rakes.

(ii) Sponsored commercial announcements and Light Emitting Diode (LED) displays inside the coaches.

(iii) Introduction of Paperless Mobile ticketing apps.

(iv) Currency/Coin cum card operated Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs).

(v) Introduction of Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) & Jansadharan Ticket Booking Seva (JTBS) to sell Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) tickets.

(vi) Introduction of SMART Cards facilitating ticketing.

(vii) Re-enforcing constant and strict barrier checking to catch and penalise commuters travelling without valid travel authorities.

(viii) Continuous review of Overtime claims by Running staff, Commercial staff and other technical staff.

(d) and (e) Mumbai local stations fall in the category of suburban stations and categorized as 'C' category stations. The present scheme for redevelopment of stations covers 'A-1' & 'A' category stations. Accordingly, Mumbai Central, Bandra Terminus, Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus & Mumbai CST stations which fall under 'A-1' category are planned to be offered for redevelopment by leveraging commercial potential of vacant sparable land/airspace.

*[English]*

### Fund Allocated for Welfare of Minority Community

1992. SHRI P. SRIMVASA REDDY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds allocated for the welfare of minority community were unspent and lying idle and the implementation of various welfare schemes has been very tardy;

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

(c) the present status of various schemes for welfare of minorities that are being implemented in Telangana along with the funds allocated during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) No Madam, the funds allotted to the Ministry were spent to a large extent on various welfare schemes for the minority community.

(c) Scheme-wise funds released to the State Government of Telangana, Implementing Agencies/ Programme Implementing Agencies located in Telangana in the last three years is as below:-

(Rs in crore)

| Sl.No. | Name of the Scheme | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Multi-Sectoral Development Programme | 2.72 | 10.79 | 37.8 |
| 2. | Pre–Matric Scholarship Scheme | | | |
| | i. Amount released | 48.03 | 40.63 | 30.24 |
| | ii. Scholarship awarded (in lakh) | 1.76 | 2.15 | 1.04 |
| 3. | Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme | | | |
| | i. Amount released | 6.98 | 11.94 | 10.38 |
| | ii. Scholarship awarded (lakh) | 0.12 | 0.15 | 0.13 |
| 4. | Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme | | | |
| | i. Amount released | 3.39 | 5.24 | 4.43 |
| | ii. Scholarship awarded | 1238 | 1917 | 1722 |
| 5. | Leadership Development of Minority Women | | | |
| | i. Amount released | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.04 |
| | ii. Women covered | 225 | - | 250 |
| 6. | Free Coaching and Allied Scheme | | | |
| | i. Amount released | 1.80 | 7.65 | 5.97 |
| | ii. Scholarship awarded | 1150 | 1140 | 940 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | Maulana Azad National Fellowships awarded (number) | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| 8. | Skill Development Initiatives | | | |
| | i. Amount released | 0.71 | 5.64 | 2.36 |
| | ii. Persons Trained | 500 | 4000 | 2230 |
| 9. | Maulana Azad Education Foundation | | | |
| | i. Amount released | 0 | 1.07 | 2.86 |
| | ii. Girls awarded scholarship | 0 | 891 | 2385 |
| 10. | Computerization of Records of State Waqf Boards Number of properties digitized | - | 26301 | 26301 |
| 11. | Scheme for interest subsidy on Educational loan for overseas (Padho Pardesh) | | | |
| | i. Amount released | | 0.71 | 0.58 |
| | ii. Number of claims | | 275 | 203 |
| 12. | Nai Udaan - support for students clearing UPSC/SSC etc. Prelims (number of students) | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| 13. | Nai Manzil-coaching to school dropouts & skill development | | | |
| | i. Amount released | - | - | 6.57 |
| | ii. Number of children | - | - | 3880 |

### Inspire Award Scheme

1993. SHRI R.P. MARUTHARAJAA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of S&T Institutional and Human Capacity Scheme currently running in the country;

(b) the details of new and ongoing institutions working for promotion in the fields of research and scientific excellence along with the benefits under these schemes;

(c) the total number of school students from VI to X to be enrolled for Inspire Award scheme; and

(d) the total number of student scholarships for higher education to be provided for pursuing bachelor and master level education and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) S&T Institutional and Human Capacity Building Scheme is an umbrella scheme covering host of other subschemes, implemented by the Department of Science & Technology, designed with a view to create rightful S&T Institutions and trained manpower in order to strengthen and expand Research & Development base in the country. The details of programs/sub-schemes under this umbrella scheme are as follows:-

**1. INSPIRE Program:** The Department of Science & Technology (DST) is implementing a national program Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) for attracting talented young students to study Science and pursue career in Research. INSPIRE

Program covers students in the age group 10-32 years. It has five components spread over in three major schemes. These are:

   i. **Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS)–** INSPIRE Award and INSPIRE Internship,

   ii. **Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)–** INSPIRE Scholarship, and

   iii. **Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)–** INSPIRE Fellowship and INSPIRE Faculty Awards.

The first component *i.e.* INSPIRE Award MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) scheme, previously known as INSPIRE Award Scheme, is being implemented through State and UT governments with an objective (i) to attract young students to study science and pursue research career (ii) to promote creative thinking and foster a culture of innovation among them. Under INSPIRE Award MANAK scheme, in a financial year, ten (10.0) lakh ideas are being targeted from more than five (05) lakh middle and high schools across the country, out of which one (1.0) lakh ideas are to be shortlisted for an initial award of Rs. 10000/- each, for preparation of project/model/showcasing of idea and participation in the District Level Exhibition & Project Competition (DLEPC).

**INSPIRE Internship** arranges Science Camps for about 50,000 youths ( 16-17 years) to provide opportunities for Class XI science students who are within top 1% of Class X board examinations to interact with leading researchers and scientists including Nobel Laureates for experiencing the joy of innovations on annual basis.

**Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)** provides 12,000 scholarships every year @ Rs. 0.80 lakh per year for undertaking Bachelor and Masters level education in natural and basic sciences for the talented youth in the age group 17-22 years.

**Opportunity for Research Careers** aims to attract, retain and nourish talented students for strengthening the R&D base. It has two sub-components. **INSPIRE Fellowship** (age group of 22-27 years) offers 1000 INSPIRE Fellowships every year, for carrying out doctoral degree in both basic and applied sciences including engineering, agriculture, veterinary & medicine. **INSPIRE Faculty Scheme**, the second component of Opportunity for Research Careers offers assured opportunity every year for 200 in the age group of 27-32 years,

2. **Scheme for Young Scientists and Technologists (SYST):** Under the Scheme for Young Scientists and Technologists (SYST), Department of Science and Technology (DST) nurtures young scientists and technologists to take up Science & Technology (S&T) based projects of societal relevance with lab-to-land approach. The beneficiaries are given budgetary support up to Rs.40 lakhs in project mode for up to 3 years. The scheme also supports young researchers employed in R&D institutions/Universities/Colleges with a budgetary support not exceeding Rs.30 lakhs.

3. **Swarna Jayanti Fellowships Scheme:** Under this scheme a selected number of young scientists under 40 years of age with excellent track record, are provided special assistance and support to enable them to pursue research in frontier areas of science and technology. The fellowship is scientist specific and not institution specific, very selective and has close academic monitoring.

The support covers all the requirements for performing the research and includes a fellowship of Rs. 25,000/- per month for five years.

4. **Schemes under SCIENCE ENGINEERING RESEARCH BOARD (SERB):** The Science and Engineering Research Board, a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology has running some significant schemes and programmes to build human capacity and thereby accelerating the pace of progress in the field of scientific research and development in the country. Substantial funding has been provided to potential scientists through Extra Mural Research Funding Schemes like Core Research Grant (CRG) and Start-Up Grant for Young Scientists in the form of Early Career Research Award and National Postdoctoral Fellowship. A number research fellowships (JC Bose & Ramanujan) have been awarded to practicing scientists to enhance the research capability of the country. Empowerment and Equity Opportunities for Excellence in Science Scheme of the Board is a

special scheme to ensure enhanced participation of weaker sections of the society in research and development.

5. **DST FIST Program:** FIST is a complimentary support for the R&D project received by an individual researcher. The Programme is operated at three levels *i.e.* Level -0, Level-I & Level-II for six (06) Subject Areas *i.e.* Life, Physical, Chemical, Engineering, Earth & Atmospheric, Mathematical Sciences and Post Graduate Colleges. The Programme covers all sectors of Science & Technology Departments including Agriculture, Veterinary, Pharmacy and Medical having Post-graduate teaching & research program of 3 years in existence.

**DST PURSE Program:** PURSE program aims to promote value added proactive measures through introduction of R&D Incentive Grant. It provides substantive research grant to universities based on scientific publications in Science Citation Indexed Journals through SCOPUS Database. PURSE Scheme has provided a triggering mechanism for promoting publication oriented research in the University sector deploying evidence based approaches. There has been significant increase in R & D outputs in PURSE supported Universities.

**DST SAIF Program:** The Department of Science & Technology has set up Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIFs) in different parts of the country to provide the facilities of sophisticated analytical instruments to the researchers in general, and specially from the institutions that do not have such high end instrumentation facilities, to enable them to pursue R&D activities and keep pace with developments taking place globally. The instrument facilities at the SAIFs are accessible to all the users irrespective of whether they belong to the host institutes or are from outside the host institutes and are being used extensively by the researchers from all parts of the country.

(b) The details of new and ongoing institutions supported under various S&T Institutional and Human Capacity Building programs and schemes of the Department of Science & Technology and working for promotion in the fields of research and scientific excellence are as under:-

During the last 04 years, more than 980 Departments (including more than 200 PG Colleges) have received FIST support. Under PURSE Program 50 Universities at different locations of the country are being supported. At present there are 18 Nos. Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIFs) being supported by DST.

(c) Under INSPIRE Award MANAK scheme, in a financial year, 10.0 (ten) lakh students, studying in class VI to X, from more than five lakh middle and high schools in the country are being targeted, out of which 1.0 (One) lakh students are to shortlisted for an INSPIRE Award of Rs. 10,000/- each. The award money is being transferred directly into the bank account of the students through Direct Benefit Transfer mode.

(d) Scholarship for higher education for pursuing bachelor and master level education is being provided under SHE scheme of INSPIRE Program. The scheme aims to enhance rates of Attachment of talented youth to undertake higher education in science intensive programmes by providing scholarships and mentoring through summer attachment to performing researchers. The scheme would offer 12,000 scholarships every year @ Rs. 0.80 lakh per year for undertaking Bachelor and Masters level education in natural and basic sciences for the talented youth in the age group 17-22 years.

### Four-Stage Warning System

1994. DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to improve the Indian Meteorological Departments four-stage warning system, particularly on the West Coast, to ensure that the commencement of cyclonic disturbance is known to those affected atleast 24 hours in advance and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a comprehensive review of existing advance warning infrastructure has been initiated to analyse and remedy under-utilisation and wasteful use of resource, such as that of the recently installed Doppler Radar in Thiruvananthapuram and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a comparative study of advanced warning systems across the world, such as the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre of the U.S., has been conducted to identify and incorporate best practices into our own; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Madam, IMD has one of the best forecasting systems for predicting tropical cyclones using high resolution advanced mathematical models and a suite of quality observations from Satellites and Radars. IMD utilises an array of high resolution advanced mathematical models (including global, regional and cyclone specific models) and a suite of quality observations from Satellites, Radars and conventional &automatic weather stations for monitoring & predicting tropical cyclones crossing both west and east coast of India. IMD has a very effective Decision Support System for generating track of cyclones and analysing various observations at a single platform. IMD has defined Standard Operating System for monitoring & forecasting the cyclones and issue of warnings.

Once a cyclone is noticed, as per Standard Operating Procedure four stage forecasting system like Pre cyclone Watch is issued 72 hours in advance of commencement of adverse weather, Cyclone Alert is issued 48 hours in advance of commencement of adverse weather, Cyclone Warning is issued 24 hours in advance of commencement of adverse weather and Post landfall outlook is issued 12 hours before the expected landfall time.

(b) IMD and Ministry of Earth Sciences have a review mechanism to constantly review and upgrade the forecasting systems and standard operating procedures. IMD also conducts a Cyclone Review Meeting annually in the month of January/February to review the existing infrastructure and their utilisation as well as plan for the future. The existing advisory/warning infrastructure is being utilised to monitor, analyse and predict cyclonic disturbances. The Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Thiruvananthapuram is being utilised fully for weather monitoring after it's installation in 2017. The radar was used effectively during the period of cyclone Ockhi.

(c) and (d) Yes. A comparative study of advance warning systems across the world is carried out internationally in International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones every 4 years. Last such meeting was held in December, 2014 and the next meeting is proposed to be held in December, 2018.

IMD also functions as Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide tropical cyclones warning for the cyclonic disturbances developing over north Indian Ocean. These advisories are issued to the WMO/ESCAP panel member countries including Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Yemen. The outcomes are shared among various agencies in the world. Further, a comparative analysis of forecasting skills of various centres is carried out in these workshops.

There has been comparative study of cyclone forecasting skill of India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the cyclones over the north Indian Ocean with other leading centres of the world like (i) national Hurricane centre (NHC), USA for the cyclones over the North Atlantic Ocean and (ii) Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) for the cyclones developing over Northwest Pacific Ocean. The study showed that the tropical cyclone track and intensity forecast skill of IMD is at par with other leading centres.

**Land for Dedicated Freight Corridors**

1995. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total land required for the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) has been acquired and if not, by when would the land acquisition be complete;

(b) whether all civil engineering and systems contracts for the Eastern corridor have been awarded and if not, when would the awarding of contracts be completed; and

(c) the reasons for the delay, if any, in the corridor and the steps being taken to ameliorate the causes of delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) As on 01.03.2018, total of 98.1% of land required for Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors (except for the Sonanagar-

Dankuni section) has been acquired. For acquisition of remaining land, all necessary process has been completed by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) and the matter has been taken up with concerned State authorities to expedite land acquisition.

(b) All Civil Engineering Contracts of Eastern Corridor have been awarded. All system contracts on Eastern Corridor have been awarded except for Khurja-Dadri, Khurja-Ludhiana, Durgawati-Karvandia sections. For these sections, tenders for system contracts have been invited.

(c) Some of the reasons for delay in execution of project are issues of land acquisition including Court Cases/arbitration, environment clearances, Law and order problems in few location etc.

Steps taken to expedite progress include:

• Regular meeting held by DFCCIL, officials with land owners and Local State Authorities to resolve the pending issues.

• Matter taken up with apex level of State Authorities by Ministry of Railways.

• Pending issues taken up in the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) meetings.

### Railway Security System

1996. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways safety system is not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the number of train accidents that have happened only due to failure of signal and technical faults;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to shortage of manpower, Railways channels are not working properly and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any plans to generate the new security system in Railways and if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety because of which during the last three years, the number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings mainly caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) have decreased from 135 in 2014-15, to 107 in 2015-16 and further to 104 in 2016-17. In the current year (upto 28th February, 2018) the number of consequential train accidents have further reduced to 70 as compared to 99 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) No, Madam. Sanctioned posts in safety category are more than operational requirement as it contains element of leave reserve and rest givers also.

(d) and (e) Prevention and detection of crime related to passengers, registration of such cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments. For this purpose, a separate wing of State Police in the name of 'Government Railway Police' (GRP) functions in respective States. Ministry of Railways are supplementing efforts of States in providing security over railways through the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by Railways for strengthening and upgradation. Measures initiated in recent past to strengthen security over Indian Railways include installation of CCTV cameras at railway stations/trains, operationalisation of security helpline 182, and development of security App etc.

Operational measures to strengthen security of passengers include escorting of about 4500 important mail/Express trains daily by RPF/GRP, access control at important railway stations, prosecution of offenders for unauthorized vending/hawking, entry into ladies and reserved compartments, touting of tickets, trespassing, roof travelling, alarm chain pulling etc. under relevant provisions of the Railways Act., detection of passenger related crime, arrest of criminals and handing over to GRP for further legal action.

Close coordination and liaison is maintained by the RPF with GRPs to strengthen security over railways.

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

*[Translation]*

### Allocation of Mines

1997. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to allot mines of State Government so as to make available fuel for small scale industries and domestic sector industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the format of model contract agreement has been formulated to make State Governments capable of starting the said work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to allot mines of State Government so as to make available fuel for small scale industries and domestic sector industries. However, among other purposes, mines/blocks may also be allotted for sale of coal under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 as well as under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. Eight coal mines/ blocks have so far been allotted to State government companies for sale of coal under the provisions of these Acts. The coal from these mines may be sold to make available fuel for small scale industries and domestic sector industries.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Coal had prepared a suggestive draft Model Contract Agreement (MCA) in the year 2015 for coal mining by States/Union Territories. The draft MCA is a model contract between the mine owner and a mine development operator containing the terms and conditions, inter-alia, for the following purposes:

(a) development of mines as per the approved mining plan,

(b) operation and maintenance of mines,

(c) excavation and delivery of coal

(d) performance and fulfilment of all other obligations of the mine.

*[English]*

### Strength of Employees in Railways

1998. SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees, officers and other cadres, in the Railways at present in executive, technical and other sectors;

(b) the number of vacancies in administrative and technical sectors at present;

(c) whether the total number of employees working in the Railways has increased or decreased during the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether vacancies are affecting efficiency and quality of services in Railways and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As on 01.11.2017, Zonal Railways employed 13,747 (Provisional) Gazetted officers and 12,07,266 (Provisional) non-gazetted staff.

(b) As on 01.11.2017, over Zonal Railways, total number of vacancies of Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' staffs in Administration and Technical Departments is 1,59,534 (Provisional).

(c) No specific trend of increase/decline in the total number of employees working in Railways during the last three years is seen. Over Zonal Railways, total number of employed non-gazetted staffs during last three years is as under:

| Year | Total employed staffs |
|------|----------------------|
| 01.04.2015 | 12,47,255 |
| 01.04.2016 | 12,53,954 |
| 01.04.2017 | 12,32,760 |
| 01.11.2017 | 12,07,266 (Provisional) |

(d) No, Madam.

**Science and Technology Parks**

1999.  DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
         SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
         SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
             SHANKARRAO:
         SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
         SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
         SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:

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

(a) whether the Government has promoted/supported Science and Technology parks to nurture Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship in the country and if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the Science and Technology parks set up State-wise and the benefits accrued to students/common man from them;

(c) whether the Government has provided adequate funds for setting up of the said parks across the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government has received proposals from the State Governments for setting up of Science Parks/Sub-Regional Science Centres during the said period and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the present status of such proposals and the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has promoted/supported the Biotechnology Parks/Incubators in the following states:

| Sl.No. | BT Parks/Incubators |
|---|---|
| 1. | Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh |
| 2. | Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh |
| 3. | Bangalore, Karnataka |
| 4. | Kochin, Kerala |
| 5. | Guwahati, Assam |
| 6. | Chennai, Tamil Nadu |

With the above support 62 start ups have been incubated, 37 start ups graduated and 273 jobs were created.

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), functioning under Ministry of Culture, supports Science Museums, Science Centres and Science Cities throughout the country where an outdoor Science Park is an integral component.

(c) Yes, the details are given below:

| S.No. | State | Grant released by DBT (in Crores) Biotechnology Parks | Grant released by Ministry of Culture (in Crores) Science Cities/Centres under NCSM projects consisting of Science Parks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | - | 1.00 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 16.22 | 1.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 24.38 | 1.46 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Bihar | - | 0.50 |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | - | 2.50 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 11.13 | 1.00 |
| 7. | Kerala | 11.00 | 1.00 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | - | 1.00 |
| 9. | Orissa | - | 0.50 |
| 10. | Rajasthan | - | 1.00 |
| 11. | Tamil Nadu | 8.63 | - |
| 12. | Tripura | - | 3.05 |
| 13. | Uttar Pradesh | 23.93 | - |
| 14. | Uttarakhand | - | 2.96 |

(d) Yes Madam. The following three proposals for setting up of Biotechnology Parks are under financial appraisal :

(i)     Industrial Biotechnology Park, Jammu

(ii)    Industrial Biotechnology Park, Kashmir

(iii)   Biotechnology Park, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Proposals of Science Centres/Science City received from Ministry of Culture by National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) during 2014-15 to 2017-18 are at different stages of examination, technical supportand financial appraisal. Number of proposals of Science Centres/Science City for consideration by NCSM statewise is given below:

| State/UT | Number of proposals |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 1 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1 |
| Chhattisgarh | 1 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| Haryana | 3 |
| Manipur | 1 |
| Mizoram | 1 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 2 |
| Nagaland | 1 |
| Odisha | 3 |
| Puducherry | 1 |
| Rajasthan | 3 |
| Tamilnadu | 1 |
| Tripura | 1 |

*[Translation]*

**Phone Facility in Backward and Remote Areas**

2000. SHRI HARI MANJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of urban and rural families which do not have phone facility till date in the country;

(b) whether the pace of expansion of telecommunication facilities in rural, backward, tribal and mountainous areas is slow as compared to pace of expansion of such facilities in urban areas;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide telephone facility to each family particularly in the rural and remote areas;

(e) if so, the measures taken/being taken to expand the telecommunication facilities in the aforementioned areas; and

(f) the funds allocated for the said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The penetration of telephone connections is currently measured in terms of tele-density, i.e the number of telephone connections as a percentage of the population. Service area wise number of telephone connections in rural and urban areas, teledensity (number of telephones per 100 inhabitants) and the growth of telephone in both rural and urban areas are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II. Data on families not having telephone connection is not available with the Department.

(d) to (f) The Government has made specific efforts to extend the reach of telecom network to remote and rural villages and for that purpose created the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF).The Government is implementing the flagship BharatNet project to link each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) of India through optical fibre network to facilitate delivery of various e-Services and applications including e-health, eeducation, e-governance and e-commerce in the future. As on 25th February 2018, 1,03,279 GPs are service ready. A comprehensive telecommunication development plan for the North East Region for installing telecom towers to provide mobile connectivity in villages and enhancement of the Optical Fibre connectivity in the region has been taken up. The Government is augmenting connectivity to Islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep to the mainland through undersea Optical Fibre Cable. The Government has also commissioned over 2,000 mobile towers in 10 states affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE). Statement-III showing disbursement under USOF is enclosed.

*Statement-I*

| Sr. No. | Service area | Telephone connections (landline + mobile) as on 31.12.2017 (in million) | | Teledensity (in %) as on 31.12.2017 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Rural | Urban | Rural | Urban |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 38.39 | 47.45 | 59.52 | 189.16 |
| 2. | Assam | 14.35 | 8.51 | 51.90 | 155.60 |
| 3. | Bihar | 49.32 | 35.35 | 40.78 | 181.60 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 27.26 | 44.63 | 72.98 | 161.93 |
| 5. | Haryana | 11.25 | 14.52 | 63.41 | 139.02 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 7.42 | 3.32 | 117.06 | 385.39 |
| 7. | Jammu and Kashmir | 6.41 | 6.83 | 70.67 | 191.09 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 22.75 | 46.71 | 59.32 | 186.90 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | Kerala | 19.74 | 23.27 | 73.11 | 255.17 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 33.82 | 41.09 | 44.02 | 139.41 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 43.82 | 51.33 | 69.07 | 138.04 |
| 12. | North East | 6.54 | 6.45 | 61.78 | 177.59 |
| 13. | Odisha | 20.53 | 13.83 | 58.19 | 177.58 |
| 14. | Punjab | 14.06 | 24.90 | 80.91 | 176.18 |
| 15. | Rajasthan | 33.04 | 33.42 | 58.39 | 184.30 |
| 16. | Tamil Nadu | 26.01 | 63.40 | 94.35 | 143.40 |
| 17. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 53.70 | 47.58 | | |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 27.50 | 35.18 | 44.91 | 152.26 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 39.45 | 18.88 | 57.62 | 162.85 |
| 20. | Kolkata | 2.91 | 27.11 | # | # |
| 21. | Delhi | 2.71 | 56.06 | # | # |
| 22. | Mumbai | 1.72 | 39.63 | # | # |
| | All-India | 502.71 | 689.43 | 56.75 | 168.26 |

Source: DoT

Note: #Rural-urban break up of population for Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai service areas is not available.

### *Statement-II*

| Sl. No. | Service area | Telephone connections (landline + mobile) as on 31.03.2014 | | | Telephone connections (landline + mobile) as on 31.12.2017 | | | CAGR (in %) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 28.58 | 40.61 | 69.19 | 38.39 | 47.45 | 85.84 | 8.18% | 4.24% |
| 2. | Assam | 9.20 | 6.27 | 15.46 | 14.35 | 8.51 | 22.85 | 12.59% | 8.49% |
| 3. | Bihar | 34.10 | 27.86 | 61.97 | 49.32 | 35.35 | 84.67 | 10.34% | 6.55% |
| 4. | Gujarat | 20.95 | 35.28 | 56.23 | 27.26 | 44.63 | 71.89 | 7.27% | 6.47% |
| 5. | Haryana | 10.35 | 11.40 | 21.75 | 11.25 | 14.52 | 25.77 | 2.24% | 6.67% |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 4.77 | 2.61 | 7.37 | 7.42 | 3.32 | 10.73 | 12.52% | 6.63% |
| 7. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3.76 | 4.37 | 8.13 | 6.41 | 6.83 | 13.24 | 15.30% | 12.67% |
| 8. | Karnataka | 17.51 | 39.13 | 56.64 | 22.75 | 46.71 | 69.46 | 7.24% | 4.83% |
| 9. | Kerala | 16.97 | 17.04 | 34.01 | 19.74 | 23.27 | 43.00 | 4.12% | 8.66% |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 24.79 | 31.79 | 56.58 | 33.82 | 41.09 | 74.91 | 8.63% | 7.08% |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 34.84 | 40.07 | 74.90 | 43.82 | 51.33 | 95.15 | 6.31% | 6.83% |
| 12. | North East | 4.39 | 5.17 | 9.55 | 6.54 | 6.45 | 12.99 | 11.23% | 6.12% |
| 13. | Odisha | 13.78 | 11.69 | 25.47 | 20.53 | 13.83 | 34.36 | 11.22% | 4.58% |
| 14. | Punjab | 12.45 | 19.98 | 32.43 | 14.06 | 24.90 | 38.96 | 3.30% | 6.04% |
| 15. | Rajasthan | 26.21 | 27.36 | 53.57 | 33.04 | 33.42 | 66.46 | 6.38% | 5.48% |
| 16. | Tamil Nadu | 21.91 | 56.18 | 78.09 | 26.01 | 63.40 | 89.41 | 4.68% | 3.28% |
| 17. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 38.32 | 39.46 | 77.78 | 53.70 | 47.58 | 101.27 | 9.41% | 5.11% |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 22.70 | 26.60 | 49.30 | 27.50 | 35.18 | 62.68 | 5.25% | 7.74% |
| 19. | West Bengal | 27.74 | 15.06 | 42.80 | 39.45 | 18.88 | 58.34 | 9.85% | 6.23% |
| 20. | Kolkata | 1.77 | 20.38 | 22.15 | 2.91 | 27.11 | 30.02 | 14.22% | 7.90% |
| 21. | Delhi | 2.37 | 43.32 | 45.69 | 2.71 | 56.06 | 58.77 | 3.71% | 7.11% |
| 22. | Mumbai | 0.35 | 33.61 | 33.95 | 1.72 | 39.63 | 41.35 | 53.37% | 4.49% |
| | All-India | 377.78 | 555.23 | 933.02 | 502.71 | 689.43 | 1192.14 | 7.92% | 5.94% |

Source: DoT

### Statement-III

*CCA-wise Disbursement Across Different Financial Years Position as on 31-12-2017*

| Figures in crores | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CCA | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islads | 0.04 | 8.11 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Amarnath Yatra | | | | 6.91 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 19.03 | 1.33 | 0.66 | 0.31 |
| Assam | 32.35 | 0.55 | 0.71 | 0.17 |
| Bihar | 4.05 | 2.58 | 0.88 | 42.43 |
| Chattisgarh | 2.56 | 0.37 | 0.00 | 60.00 |
| Dot HQ | | | 1290.35 | 241.80 |
| Dot-LWE | 596.51 | 617.05 | 280.68 | 50.60 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dot-NOFN | 1351.86 | 2415.10 | 5600.00 | 3100.00 |
| Gujrat | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Haryana | 1.17 | 1.82 | 2.56 | 0.00 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0.70 | 0.30 | 0.16 | 0.02 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 0.27 | 0.52 | 1.97 | 0.05 |
| Jharkhand | 0.52 | 0.16 | 0.64 | 140.75 |
| Karnataka | 8.34 | 4.17 | 0.67 | 7.98 |
| Kerala | 3.75 | 1.32 | 6.22 | |
| Maharashtra | 20.39 | 14.10 | | |
| MP | 13.49 | 12.58 | 1.88 | 0.36 |
| NE-I | 2.30 | 6.74 | 15.00 | 0.02 |
| NE-II | 1.23 | 2.04 | 14.26 | 0.01 |
| Odisha | 7.70 | 1.58 | 4.03 | 31.33 |
| Punjab | 8.48 | 6.56 | 2.44 | 0.32 |
| Rajasthan | 0.00 | | 1.65 | 0.45 |
| Tamil Nadu | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| UP(E) | 4.25 | 0.77 | 1.09 | 19.85 |
| UP(W) | 0.95 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.13 |
| Uttaranchal | 1.48 | 0.19 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| West Bengal | 5.52 | 1.76 | 0.92 | 18.38 |
| Grand Total | 2086.98 | 3100.00 | 7227.03 | 3721.89 |

Source: USOF, DoT. http://www.usof.gov.in/usof-cms/subsidy_tabular.jsp

### Digital Expansion in Remote Areas

2001. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the effective steps taken for better expansion of digital facilities under Digital India in remote and border areas/villages of the country;

(b) whether the Government is considering to cooperate with the private sector for better expansion of digital facilities in remote and border areas/villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to promote information technology infrastructure for providing digital connection in village panchayats; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) to (c) 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. The steps taken by the Government for better expansion of digital facilities under Digital India in remote areas/villages of the country are as follows:

- **Bharat Net**: Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of· Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. DoT is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet. It has been envisaged to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.50 lakhs) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. Under the BharatNet project, 2.65 lakh KMs of optical fibre laid for 1,12,677 GPs and 1,03,289 GPs have been connected so far till 25.02.2018.

- Various measures undertaken to expand and improve telecommunications services in rural and remote areas are as follows:

    o **Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region**: Telecom Commission has approved installation of 1694 mobile towers to cover 2128 uncovered villages of North Eastern States.

    o **Mobile Communication Services in LWE affected areas:** 2336 mobile towers out of 2355 are operation.

    o **Provision of 2G+4G mobile services in uncovered villages and seamless mobile coverage along NH223 in Andaman & Nicobar Islands**: Telecom Commission in its meeting held on 09.01.2018 has approved the proposal to cover 172 uncovered villages in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

- **National Information Infrastructure (NII):** A pilot project on National Information· Infrastructure (NII) for a period of one year of operation was initiated by MeitY in July, 2015 for one district each in the States of Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala,

Gujarat, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry to integrate various ICT infrastructure namely State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) including National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet created in these States. The objective is to provide connectivity to government offices upto Gram Panchayat (GP) level (1059 GPs).

- **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. CSCs deliver various Government-to-Citizen (G2C), Business-to-Citizen (B2C) services, Aadhaar services, financial inclusion services, Educational services including Digital Literacy, Financial Literacy, Legal Literacy, Skill development services etc. to citizens. For this, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India has initiated a project namely "Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0" in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme for a period of four years, which envisages setting up of at least one CSC at Gram Panchayat (GP) to cover all the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country.

    Till January, 2018, there are 2,92,406 Common Services Centres (CSCs) functioning across the country; among which, 1,83,005 CSCs are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level.

(d) and (e) The steps taken by the Government for providing digital connection in village Panchayats are 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 National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet. It has been envisaged to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.50 lakhs) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground

fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. The project is planned to be implemented in three phases: Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) which is under implementation and expected to be completed by November 2017. Under Phase-II, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, and provision of last mile access to the network and broadband service provisioning through Wi-Fi or any other broadband access technologies in all 2,50,000 GPs in the country, which is targeted to be completed by March, 2019. Under third phase, a state-of-the-art network with ring architecture, is planned to be completed by 2023.

Under the BharatNet project, 2.65 lakh KMs of optical fibre pulled for 1,12,677 GPs and 1,03,289 GPs have been connected so far till 25.02.2018.

- **National Information Infrastructure (NII):** A pilot project on National Information· Infrastructure (NII) for a period of one year of operation was initiated by MeitY in July, 2015 for one district each in the States of Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry to integrate various ICT infrastructure namely State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) including National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet created in these States. The objective is to provide connectivity to government offices upto Gram Panchayat (GP) level (1059 GPs).

### Facilities for Disabled Persons

2002. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARI A: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways provides wheel chair/battery operated vehicles, escalators and coaches having the brail facilities for the disable and Divyangs in trains and platforms;

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

(c) the number of such railway stations where facility of escalators/elevators is available to cross foot over bridge to reach on one platform to the other for senior citizens/disabled and Divyangs;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take any new steps for providing facility to disabled/Divyangs and senior citizens; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: (a) and (b) No, Madam. At present, the Braille facility on wheelchairs/ battery operated vehicles & escalators are not available in Indian Railways. However, for the assistance of visually impaired travellers, Integrated Braille signages, *i.e.* signages superimposed with Braille scripts are being provided in the newly manufactured coaches of Indian Railways (IR). In addition, retro-fitment of the same in existing coaches has also been taken up in a phased manner.

(c) Railways has provided 467 escalators at 171 railway stations and 318 elevators at 134 railway stations for senior citizens/disabled/ Divyangs.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. Provision/augmentation of amenities at stations, including those for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and elderly passengers is a continuous process. In order to provide better accessibility to Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and elderly passengers, short term facilities as detailed below have been planned at all the stations:

- Standard ramp for barrier free entry.

- Earmarking at least two parking lots.

- Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building.

- Signages of appropriate visibility.

- At least one toilet (on the ground floor).

- At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by Persons with· Disabilities (Divyangjan).

- 'May I help you' Booth.

In addition, long term facilities as detailed below have been planned at 'A-1', 'A' & 'B' category stations:

- Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer.

- Engraving on edges of platform.

Details of railway stations provided with facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) are as under:

| Sl. No. | Facilities for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) | Approx. Number of stations |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Standard ramp for barrier free entry | 2350 |
| 2. | Earmarking at least two parking lots | 1350 |
| 3. | Non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building | 1410 |
| 4. | Signages of appropriate visibility | 1430 |
| 5. | At least one toilet (on the ground floor) | 1850 |
| 6. | At least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently-abled persons | 1790 |
| 7. | 'May I help you' Booth | 1080 |
| 8. | Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer | 1240 |
| 9. | Engraving on edges of platform | 1780 |

Railways has decided to provide escalators at all the A1, A & C category stations (footfall 25000 or above). Additionally railways has also planned to provide elevators at 500 more stations. About 3800 disabled friendly Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches are available in the fleet of Indian Railways (IR). These coaches have a suitably designed compartment & toilet adapted to the needs of the disabled/Divyangs. More disabled friendly coaches shall be added to the fleet of IR in the coming years. It is endeavoured to have at least one such ICR design coach in each Mail/Express train running with ICF coaches. Further, the fully air conditioned (WRRMDAC) Garib Rath trains have been provided with an Air conditioned disabled friendly compartment in the power cars.

*[English]*

### Artificial Intelligence

2003. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a task force to study Artificial Intelligence (AI) application in the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the future progress of artificial intelligence has a potential to have transformative impact on National Security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE  IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (d) The Government has constituted a task force to study the Strategic implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) application on National Security and defence needs, to make appropriate recommendations. AI has the potential to contribute in national security in various applications like Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs), Robotics, Decision Support Systems and Operational Logistics.

### Railway Facilities to Passengers

2004. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tickets are made available on priority basis to the patients and their attendants going from one State to the other and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether concession is given/ proposed to be given in rail fare to such passengers belonging to the economically weaker family, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether special concession in fare and reservation on priority basis is given/ proposed to be given to the candidate belonging to the economically weaker family for attending examination and interview for government services for travelling in train from one State to the other; 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) Indian Railways extend travel concessions in passenger fare to 11 categories of patients irrespective of their income status and the element of concession ranges from 25% to 100%. The details are as under:-

| S. No. | Category of Persons | Percentage of Concession* |
|---|---|---|
| | **Patients** | |
| 1. | Cancer patients travelling alone or with an escort for treatment/periodic checkup. (reserved/unreserved) | • 75% in 2nd class, 1st class (FC) & AC chair car (CC)<br>• 100% in Second Sleeper (SL) & AC- 3 tier (3AC)<br>• 50% in 1st AC (1AC) & AC-2 tier (2AC)<br>• one escort eligible for same element of concession (except in Second Sleeper (SL) & AC- 3tier (3AC) where escort gets 75% |
| 2. | Thalassemia patients travelling alone or with escort for treatment/periodic checkup | • 75% in 2nd class, Second Sleeper (SL), 1st Class (FC), AC-3 tier (3AC), AC chair Car (CC) |
| 3. | Heart patients travelling alone or with an escort for heart surgery | • 50% in 1st AC (1AC) and AC-2 tier (2AC)<br>• One escort is also eligible for same element of concession |
| 4. | Kidney patients travelling alone or with an escort for kidney transplant Operation/Dialysis | |
| 5. | Haemophilia Patients– severe & moderate form of disease - travelling alone or with an escort for treatment/periodical check up. | • 75% in 2nd class, Second Sleeper(SL), 1st Class (FC), AC-3 tier (3AC), AC chair car(CC)<br>• One escort is also eligible for same element of concession |
| 6. | T.B./Lupas Valgaris patients travelling alone or with an escort for treatment/periodical check-up | • 75% in 2nd class, Second Sleeper (SL) and 1st Class(FC)<br>• One escort is also eligible for same element of concession |
| 7. | Non-infectious Leprosy patients - for treatment/periodical check-up. | • 75% in 2nd class, Second Sleeper (SL) and 1st Class(FC)<br>• One escort is also eligible for same element of concession |
| 8. | AIDS patients - for treatment/check-up at nominated ART Centres. | • 50% in 2nd Class |
| 9. | Ostomy patients - travelling for any purpose. | • 50% in Monthly Season Ticket & Quarterly Season Ticket<br>• One escort is also eligible for same element of concession. |
| 10. | Sickle cell Anaemia - for treatment/periodical check-up | • 50% in Second Sleeper(SL), AC Chair Car (CC), AC 3-tier (3AC) and AC 2-tier (2AC) classes |
| 11. | Aplastic Anaemia - for treatment/periodical check-up. | • 50% in Second Sleeper (SL), AC Chair Car (CC), AC 3-tier (3AC) and AC 2-tier (2AC) classes. |

*Concession is applicable only on basic fare

Further, *w.e.f.* 15.05.2017, Patients who are already eligible to travel in second class and AC Chair car of Mail/Express trains, shall be eligible to travel in Jan Shatabdi trains.

As regards priority in allotment of berths/seats, in the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) there is a provision to permit cancer Patients and their attendants travelling on concessional tickets issued in exchange of concession certificate, to directly access Emergency Quota at the time of booking itself. Maximum number of berths/seats out of the Emergency Quota in a train, which can be accessed by Cancer patients and their attendants in Sleeper class is 4 and 2 each in Air conditioned (AC) Chair Car, AC 3 tier, AC 2 tier and First Classes. In addition, separate Cancer Patient Quota has also been defined in some identified trains.

(c) and (d) Indian Railways extend travel concessions in passenger fare to Unemployed youths irrespective of their income status to attend competitive examination and interview for government services. The details are as under:-

| Sl.No | Category | PERCENTAGE OF CONCESSION* |
|-------|----------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Unemployed youths :– <br>(i) to attend interview for job Statutory Bodies, Municipal Corporation, Govt. Undertaking, University or Public Sector Body. <br>(ii) to attend interviews for jobs in Central & State Govt. | 50% in 2nd Class and Second Sleeper (SL) class <br>• 100% in 2nd class <br>• 50% in SecondSleeper (SL) class |
| 2. | Entrance exam -Girls of Govt. schools in rural areas– for national level for medical, engineering, etc. entrance exam. | 75% in 2nd class. |
| 3. | Concession to students appearing in main written examination conducted by UPSC & Central Staff Selection Commissions. | 50% in 2nd class. |

*Concession is applicable only on basic fare

As regards priority in allotment of berths/seats out of Emergency Quota, a limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as Emergency Quota (EQ) in different trains and in different classes. At the time of allotment of berths in this Quota, preference is given for travel of high dignitaries. The other requisitions received from various quarters are considered for release of berths out of the remaining Emergency Quota (after providing confirmed accommodation for self travel of high dignitaries) taking into account factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government Duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, job interview etc.

### Collaboration for EVMs

2005. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturing and technical knowhow of EVMs are indigenous or have technical collaboration with foreign establishments;

(b) if so, the details of the said company and the total expenditure incurred so far on the project; and

(c) the terms of reference for transfer oftechnology?

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 Election Commission has stated that the EVMs are indigenous and are manufactured in India by two Government Public Sector Undertakings namely M/s Bharat Electronic Limited, Bangalore and M/s Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad.

### Coastal Transportation of Coal

2006. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CRISIL has undertaken a research on coastal transportation of coal;

(b) if so, the salient findings of the research; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the coastal transportation of coal?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) An Inter- Ministerial Committee on augmenting coastal shipping of Coal and other commodities/products have been constituted. Ministry of Shipping is the nodal Ministry for the Committee. The terms of reference of the committee are as follows:-

- Review and approve the strategy for coastal shipping of coal including annual· targets for volumes of coal, which can be transported by rail-sea-rail route;

- Periodically review and approve the implementation roadmap and associated· projects for achieving the agreed targets;

- Approve actions for addressing issues related to inter Ministry or Inter agency Coordination;

- Periodically collect feedback from all relevant stakeholders (power utilities,· coal producers, railways, Shipping companies/logistics service providers, ports, etc.) to fine-tune the strategy and road map for coastal shipping of coal as well as other commodities.

*[Translation]*

### FDI Inflow

2007. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of FDI inflow in the Ministry under make in India, during the last three years and the details of the industry established through that FDI in the country including in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the progress made till date;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to revive sick ordnance factories through privatisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of amount US $ 0.18 million has been received in defence industry sector from April 2014 to December 2017.

State wise FDI/JV proposals approved including state of Uttar Pradesh during the period (April 2014 to December 2017) is given below:

(i) M/s Samtel Thales Avionics Limited, Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) M/s Maini Precision Products Private Limited, Karnataka.

(iii) M/s Bharti Shipyard Ltd., Maharashtra.

(iv) M/s Solar Industries India Limited, Maharashtra.

(v) M/s Verdant Telemetry & Antenna Systems Pvt. Ltd., Kerala.

(vi) M/s Quest Global Manufacturing Private Limited, Karnataka.

(vii) M/s Ideaforge Technology Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra.

(viii) M/s Punj Lloyd Limited, Haryana.

(ix) M/s Sasmos Het Technologies Ltd., Karnataka.

(x) M/s Dynamatic Technologies Ltd., Karnataka.

(xi) M/s Mahindra Telephonic Integrated Systems Limited, Maharashtra.

(xii) M/s Indian Rotorcraft Limited, Maharashtra.

(xiii) M/s BF Elbit Advanced Systems Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra.

(xiv) M/s Safran Engineering Services India Pvt. Ltd., Karnataka.

(xv) M/s Tata Sikorsky Aerospace Limited, Telangana.

(xvi) M/s Quantum Simulators Pvt. Ltd., Gujarat.

(xvii) M/s Ideaforge Technology Pvt. Ltd., Maharashtra.

(xviii) M/s Alpha-Elsec Defence and Aerospace Systems Pvt. Ltd., Karnataka.

(c) and (d) No such decision has been taken by Government with respect to Ordnance factories.

*[English]*

### Special Benches of High Courts

2008. SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Special Benches of High Courts proposed to be set up in each State during the next three years;

(b) the criteria fixed for setting up of Special Benches of High Courts in the States;

(c) the total number of Special Benches proposed to be set up in West Bengal along with the places where they are likely to be set up;

(d) the total amount earmarked for the scheme; and

(e) the time by which these Special Benches will be set up in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) The setting up or constitution of Special Benches for hearing of specific cases in the High Court lies within the administrative jurisdiction of the High Court. As such, no information is being maintained in the Department of Justice in this regard.

However, establishment of a High Court Bench at a location outside the principal seat is considered by the Union Government in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and the judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000, on receipt of complete proposal from the State Government in concurrence with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. At present, no proposal complete in all aspects, is pending for consideration by the Central Government including that from the High Court of Calcutta

### Cost Overrun

2009. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60% railway projects out of the total 353 central sector projects are facing huge cost- over run due to various reasons and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether likely conflicts between resource use of eco-tourism and the livelihood of local inhabitants have been identified and if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for the delay in their execution, zone-wise;

(c) the details of funds spent so far on the said project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite execution of these projects to check any further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Execution of Railway project faces impediments like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of power lines & utilities, cutting of trees, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, etc. 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.

Many of the Railway projects pass through forest areas including reserve forest areas for which the diversion of forest land is obtained from Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. As a part of forestry clearance, No Objection Certificate (NOC) is invariably obtained from the concerned District Collector under Forest Rights Act, 2006. Obtaining forestry clearance is a regular exercise wherever the Railway alignment passes through the forest land. As most of the projects involve forestry or wildlife clearance, the exact quantum of projects affected due to NOC under Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the fund spent thereon cannot be estimated.

To reduce delays on account of forestry clearances etc, the cases are pursued by concerned Zonal Railway Officials through regular correspondences and meetings with State Government officials and Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change at various levels.

*[Translation]*

**Digital Payment in Post Offices**

2010.   SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
         SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target of enabling post offices for digital payments by April, 2018 through India Post Payments Bank (IPPB);

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

(c) the number of active account holders of post office savings bank at present and the number of account holders likely to be added to this scheme through IPPB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Madam, India Post Payments Bank aims to have a pan-India reach (650 branches co-located at District Headquarter Post Offices) by April 2018. These 650 branches will serve as controlling offices to service/monitor all the 1.55 lakh post offices (approximately) which will act as last mile access points.

(b) Branch readiness in identified 650 branches is underway in terms of civil/electrical works, furniture/fixtures & technology setup. Apart from that recruitment of personnel is also being undertaken and so far 528 Managers (approximately) have been onboarded.

(c) The number of active account holders of post office savings bank as on date 31.01.2018 is enclosed as Statement. It is anticipated that India Post Payments Bank is likely to acquire approximately 8 crore customers in a span of five years from its launch. This figure is subject to market forces in the area of Digital Payments in the country over the next few years.

*Statement-I*

No of Live Accounts as on 31.01.2018

| Circle | Total no. of live accounts (all types) as on month under report (Excluding NREGA) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 31139943 |
| Telengana | 17123551 |
| A.P.S | 569919 |
| Assam | 8699186 |
| Bihar | 26167603 |
| Chhattisgarh | 4396057 |
| Delhi | 2782295 |
| Gujarat | 16871282 |
| Haryana | 6147419 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 5417346 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 1824225 |
| Jharkhand | 12359067 |
| Karnataka | 16759941 |
| Kerala | 13125926 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 24381810 |
| Maharashtra | 29140927 |
| North East | 2352345 |
| Odisha | 13778989 |
| Punjab | 6210152 |
| Rajasthan | 18076237 |
| Tamil Nadu | 25980365 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 38140991 |
| Uttarakhand | 6161882 |
| West Bengal | 27688708 |
| Total | 355296166 |

### Survey of Railway Lines

2011. SHRI RAJKUMAR SAINI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has conducted survey of Kurukshetra, Ladwa and Radaur (Yamunanagar) new railway line;

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

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time-frame to complete this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Survey for new line from Yamunanagar to Jyotisar via Kurukshetra, Ladwa and Radaur (68 km) was sanctioned in budget 2016- 17 and completed in January, 2018. In survey report, the cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 1478.29 cr. with Rate of Return (ROR) of (–) 4.46%. The Survey Report is under examination in Ministry of Railways. Project is not yet sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### Mobile Towers Installed by BSNL and MTNL

2012. SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of mobile towers of MTNL and BSNL is inadequate to meet the demand of their total customers;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government to increase the network capacity of the said companies;

(c) whether a number of towers installed by BSNL particularly in rural and hilly areas are not functioning;

(d) if so, the details of the non-functioning and removed towers State/UT- wise including the State of Maharashtra; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard along with the funds allocated for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Setting up of mobile towers is an ongoing process and is carried out to provide coverage and capacity, based upon factors such as traffic volume, number of customers, development of new localities etc. At present Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has 1,26,334 BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) working in its Licenses Service Areas(LSAs). However, to further improve its network, BSNL has finalised Phase-VIII.4 GSM expansion project for the following:

- Replacement of old equipment having high operational cost & AMC.

- Addition of 3G capacity for increasing 3G footprint.

- Introduction of 4G services.

The project will add 53,398 BTSs (2G+3G+4G) throughout the country.

At present, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has 3,594 BTSs in Delhi and Mumbai. MTNL is adding 1080 BTSs (3G) in Delhi and upgrading 720 BTSs (3G) in Mumbai.

(c) to (e) As on 28.02.2018, 585 mobile towers of BSNL are not functioning including 81 mobile towers in Maharashtra. The BSNL Circle-wise details of non-functional towers is enclosed Statement.

BSNL will make these non-functional towers functional during the next financial year based on assessment of techno commercial viability.

#### *Statement*

*Details of non functional towers of BSNL*

| Sl.No. | Circle | Non-functional  towers |
|--------|--------|------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman  and  Nicobar | 0 |
| 2. | Andhra  Pradesh | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Bihar | 1 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 127 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 19 |
| 7. | Haryana | 0 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 0 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 12 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 0 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 0 |
| 12. | Kerala | 8 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 0 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 81 |
| 15. | North East - 1 | 0 |
| 16. | North East - 2 | 2 |
| 17. | Odisha | 123 |
| 18. | Punjab | 1 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 104 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 9 |
| 21. | Uttrakhand | 0 |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 0 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 28 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 65 |
| 25. | Kolkatta | 5 |
| 26. | Chennai | 0 |
| | Total | 585 |

[English]

### Impact of Climate Change

2013**.** SHRIR. DHRUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of climate change on the high altitude army bases; and

(b) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to ensure the safety of the soldiers in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) High Altitude Army Bases have been created over the years after due reconnaissance and detailed evaluation of the terrain conditions. The adverse impact of climate change are in the form of avalanches, cold injuries like frost bite and chill blains, snow slides and scarcity of water. Adequate safety precautions are exercised by the ground troops at such Army bases. Special extra cold climate clothing and survival training against avalanches is also provided. Special medical care is provided to troops located in such inhospitable terrain

### Functioing of PSKs

2014**.** SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the PSKs currently functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the modernisation process of Passport offices/Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) is underway in the country including Telangana;

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

(d) the time by which all the PSKs are likely to be modernised along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) There are 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) and 152 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) functioning in the country as on 04th March, 2018 as extended arms of the 37 Passport Offices. The list of Passport Offices is enclosed as Statement-I. The list of Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) is enclosed as Statement-II. The list of POPSK functional as on 04th March, 2018 is enclosed as Statement-III.

(b) to (d) The Passport Offices, the PSK and the POPSK in the country are fully modernised. After the nation-wide roll-out of the Passport Seva Project, the

Passport Offices, the PSK and POPSK are supported by state-ofthe-art technology infrastructure which enables end-to-end passport services to be delivered with enhanced security.

*Statement-I*

*List of Passport Offices*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Location of Passport Office |
|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Visakhapatnam Vijayawada |
| 2. | Assam* | Guwahati* |
| 3. | Bihar | Patna |
| 4. | Chandigarh UT** | Chandigarh |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 6. | Delhi NCT*** | Delhi |
| 7. | Goa | Panaji |
| 8. | Gujarat | Ahmedabad, Surat. |
| 9. | Haryana | — |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu, Srinagar |
| 12. | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 13. | Karnataka | Bangalore |
| 14. | Kerala | Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin, Kozhikode, Malappuram. |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 16. | Maharashtra | Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur. |
| 17. | Odisha | Bhubaneswar |
| 18. | Punjab | Amritsar, Jalandhar. |
| 19. | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, Coimbatore. |
| 21. | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow, Bareilly, Ghaziabad. |
| 23. | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 24. | West Bengal@ | Kolkata |
| | Total | 37 |

* RPO Guwahati covers Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya & Nagaland.
**RPO Chandigarh covers parts of Punjab and Haryana
***RPO Delhi covers parts of Haryana
@RPO Kolkata covers Sikkim and Tripura.

### *Statement-II*

*State-wise List of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs)*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | No. of PSKs | Location of PSKs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 4 | Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Bhimavaram |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 | Itanagar |
| 3. | Assam* | 1 | Guwahati |
| 4. | Bihar | 2 | Patna, Darbhanga |
| 5. | Chandigarh UT** | 1 | Chandigarh |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 1 | Raipur |
| 7. | Delhi NCT*** | 3 | Herald House, Shalimar Place, Bhikaji Cama Place |
| 8. | Goa | 1 | Panaji |
| 9. | Gujarat | 5 | Ahmedabad I & II, Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat. |
| 10. | Haryana | 2 | Ambala, Gurgaon. |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 1 | Shimla |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 2 | Jammu, Srinagar |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 1 | Ranchi |
| 14. | Karnataka | 5 | Bangalore I & II, Hubli, Mangalore, Kalaburagi. |
| 15. | Kerala | 13 | Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvananthap uram (Rural), Kollam, Cochin, Ernakulam Rural, Alapuzha, Kottayam, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kozhikode I & II, Kannur I & II. |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 2 | Bhopal, Indore |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 8 | Mumbai I, II & III, Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik, Solapur. |
| 18. | Manipur | 1 | Imphal |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 1 | Shillong |
| 20. | Mizoram | 1 | Aizawl |
| 21. | Nagaland | 1 | Dimapur |
| 22. | Odisha | 1 | Bhubaneswar |
| 23. | Puducherry | 1 | Puducherry |
| 24. | Punjab | 5 | Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar I & II, Hoshiarpur. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 25. | Rajasthan | 4 | Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar, Udaipur |
| 26. | Sikkim | 1 | Gangtok |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 8 | Chennai I, II & III, Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai,Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, |
| 28. | Telangana | 5 | Hyderabad I, II & III, Nizamabad, Karimnagar |
| 29. | Tripura | 1 | Agartala |
| 30. | Uttar Pradesh | 6 | Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Ghaziabad. |
| 31. | Uttarakhand | 1 | Dehradun |
| 32. | West Bengal | 3 | Kolkata, Berhampore, Siliguri. |
|  | Total | 93 |  |

\*      RPO Guwahati covers five other North-Eastern States also at present.

\*\*     RPO Chandigarh covers parts of Punjab and Haryana.

\*\*\*    RPO Delhi covers parts of Haryana.

@      RPO Kolkata covers Sikkim and Tripura.

### Statement-III

### List of functional POPSK as on 04th March, 2018

| Sl.No. | Locations | State/UT | Passport Office |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Anantpur | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 2. | Chittoor | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 3. | Kadappa | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 4. | Kurnool | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 5. | Nellore | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 6. | Dibrugarh | Assam | Guwahati |
| 7. | Mangaldoi | Assam | Guwahati |
| 8. | Silchar | Assam | Guwahati |
| 9. | Buxar | Bihar | Patna |
| 10. | Chhapra | Bihar | Patna |
| 11. | East Champaran | Bihar | Patna |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | Gaya | Bihar | Patna |
| 13. | Madhubani | Bihar | Patna |
| 14. | Muzaffarpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 15. | Purnea | Bihar | Patna |
| 16. | Bhagalpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 17. | Samastipur | Bihar | Patna |
| 18. | Siwan | Bihar | Patna |
| 19. | Bettiah | Bihar | Patna |
| 20. | Bilaspur | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 21. | Durg | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 22. | Rajnandgaon | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 23. | Surguja | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 24. | Silvasa | Dadar and Nagar Haveli | Mumbai |
| 25. | Daman | Daman | Mumbai |
| 26. | Janak Puri | Delhi | Delhi |
| 27. | Nehru Place | Delhi | Delhi |
| 28. | Patparganj | Delhi | Delhi |
| 29. | Yamuna Vihar | Delhi | Delhi |
| 30. | Anand | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 31. | Bharuch | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 32. | Dahod | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 33. | Jamnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 34. | Junagadh | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 35. | Kheda | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 36. | Palanpur | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 37. | Bhuj | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 38. | Bhavnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 39. | Mehsana | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 40. | Navsari | Gujarat | Surat |
| 41. | Valsad | Gujarat | Surat |
| 42. | Veraval | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 43. | Karnal | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 44. | Hisar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 45. | Panipat | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 46. | Faridabad | Haryana | Delhi |
| 47. | Yamunanagar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 48. | Mandi | Himachal    Pradesh | Shimla |
| 49. | Palampur | Himachal    Pradesh | Shimla |
| 50. | Hamirpur | Himachal    Pradesh | Shimla |
| 51. | Kangra | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 52. | Kullu | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 53. | Una | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 54. | Anantnag | Jammu  and  Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 55. | Baramulla | Jammu  and  Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 56. | Kathua | Jammu  and  Kashmir | Jammu |
| 57. | Rajouri | Jammu  and  Kashmir | Jammu |
| 58. | Udhampur | Jammu  and  Kashmir | Jammu |
| 59. | Leh | Jammu  and  Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 60. | Bokaro | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 61. | Hazaribagh | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 62. | Jamshedpur | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 63. | Deoghar | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 64. | Dhanbad | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 65. | Dumka | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 66. | Belagavi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 67. | Bellary | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 68. | Davangere | Karnataka | Bengaluru |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 69. | Gadag | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 70. | Hassan | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 71. | Mysuru | Karnataka | Bangalore |
| 72. | Shivamogga | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 73. | Tumakuru | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 74. | Udupi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 75. | Vijayapur | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 76. | Chengannur | Kerala | Cochin |
| 77. | Idukki (Kattappana) | Kerala | Cochin |
| 78. | Pathanamthitta | Kerala | Trivandrum |
| 79. | Kasargod | Kerala | Kozhikode |
| 80. | Kavaratti | Lakshadweep | Cochin |
| 81. | Balaghat | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 82. | Dewas | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 83. | Vidisha | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 84. | Satna | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 85. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 86. | Gwalior | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 87. | Kolhapur | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 88. | Aurangabad | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 89. | Ghatkopar/Vikhroli | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 90. | Pimpri Chinchwad | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 91. | Wardha | Maharashtra | Nagpur |
| 92. | Balasore | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 93. | Baripada | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 94. | Berhampur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 95. | Bhawanipatna | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 96. | Rourkela | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 97. | Sambalpur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 98. | Koraput | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 99. | Karaikal | Puducherry | Chennai |
| 100. | Bathinda | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 101. | Moga | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 102. | Patiala | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 103. | Ajmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 104. | Alwar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 105. | Barmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 106. | Chittorgarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 107. | Churu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 108. | Karauli-Dhaulpur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 109. | Kota | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 110. | Bikaner | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 111. | Hanumangarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 112. | Jhunjhunu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 113. | Jaisalmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 114. | Jhalawar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 115. | Nagaur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 116. | Pali | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 117. | Sriganganagar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 118. | Cuddalore | Tamilnadu | Chennai |
| 119. | Kanyakumari | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 120. | Salem | Tamil  Nadu | Coimbatore |
| 121. | Tiruvannamalai | Tamil  Nadu | Chennai |
| 122. | Vellore | Tamil  Nadu | Chennai |
| 123. | Virudhunagar | Tamil  Nadu | Madurai |
| 124. | Viluppuram | Tamil  Nadu | Chennai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 125. | Adilabad | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 126. | Khammam | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 127. | Mehbubnagar | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 128. | Siddipet | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 129. | Warangal (Hanamkonda) | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 130. | Agra | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 131. | Ballia | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 132. | Bijnaur | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 133. | Jhansi | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 134. | Moradabad | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 135. | Pilibhit | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 136. | Ghazipur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 137. | Ayodhya/Faizabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 138. | Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 139. | Deoria | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 140. | Unnao | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 141. | Meerut | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 142. | Almora | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 143. | Haldwani (now at Kathgodam) | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 144. | Nainital | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 145. | Roorkee | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 146. | Rudrapur | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 147. | Asansol | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 148. | Bardhman | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 149. | Raiganj (North Dinajpur) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 150. | Nadia (Krishnanagar) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 151. | North Kolkata (Beadon Street) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 152. | Malda | West Bengal | Kolkata |

### India as Innovation Nation

2015. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog is working on a mission to reinvent India as Innovation Nation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the current development, as regards the above said mission of NITI Aayog, is satisfactory and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether poor and women are at the centre of NITI Aayogs mission to reinvent India as Innovation Nation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Atal Innovation Mission at NITI Aayog has been given a mandate to nurture creativity and innovation-driven entrepreneurship in India, and does not have any mandate to reinvent India. AIM is engaged with promotion of culture for innovation and societal adoption of innovation.

(b) and (c) AIM has mainly started two major initiatives: (i) Atal Tinkering Labs under which till now 2441 schools have been selected for establishment of ATLs in India. This covers 93% Districts of country representing all States and Five out of Seven UTs. (ii) Support for the setting up of Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) and scaling up of Established Incubation Centres (EICs). So far 19 AICs and EICs have been selected across Fifteen states.

(d) and (e) The Atal Innovation Mission at NITI Aayog has been given a mandate to nurture creativity and innovation-driven entrepreneurship in India across all sections of society without any gender discrimination. All the ATLs are expected to support all students without any bias and all the Incubation Centres are expected to support women entrepreneurs for mentoring and help them in setting up and scaling up their businesses. Apart from this, one of the AICs that has been set up at Banasthali Vidyapeeth is a woman only University and the AIC-Banasthali focuses only on mentoring and supporting women entrepreneurs while another EIC (NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore) runs a special program for women entrepreneurship.

### Dedicated Freight Corridors

2016. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to improve its freight-moving ability in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details of modalities worked out for the same;

(c) whether the Railways share in freight transportation in comparison to road sector has increased/ decreased in the last three years;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the dedicated Freight Corridor project is likely to start functioning in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present out of 1245 sections on Indian Railways, 483 sections are saturated. In order to increase the freight moving ability, 177 new line, 256 doubling, 58 gauge conversion and 570 traffic facility works are already included in the works programmes. In addition, works on two dedicated freight corridors of total 3360 Km. length has been taken on hand.

(c) and (d) There is no mechanism to assess the Railways' share in total freight transport in the absence of reliable data pertaining to freight movement on road sector. However, Railways have loaded 1104.17 MT, 1108.79 MT, 953.46 MT in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (upto January 2018) respectively.

(e) Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors have been targeted for commissioning in phases by the year 2020.

### Reconstruction of Flood Affected Areas

2017. KUNWAR BHARATENDRA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in respect of reconstruction of flood affected areas in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram;

(b) whether any steps are being undertaken to reduce flood damage/erosion in the upcoming monsoon; and

(c) if so, the budget outlay provided for the proposed measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The required information is not centrally maintained. The subject of flood management, including erosion control, falls within the purview of the States. The flood management and anti-erosion schemes are planned, investigated and implemented by the State Governments with own resources as per priority within the State. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States, inter alia, by providing technical advice and promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas.

### High Level Committee on 5G Services

2018. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a high level committee to work on a road map to launch 5G services/ network in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government is in the process of framing new numbering scheme for SIM cards to be used for Machine-to- Machine communications and if so, the details and the benefits thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Government has constituted a High Level Forum for 5G India 2020 on 22nd September 2017 comprising three Secretaries of Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and

Department of Science & Technology; and various stakeholders like global experts, academia, industry and industry associations; to work on the following:-

(i) Vision, Mission and Goals for 5G India 2020, and

(ii) Evaluate, approve roadmaps & action plans for 5G India 2020.

The High Level Forum has, so far, met on 13th December, 2017 and 7th February, 2018 and constituted Steering Committee and various Task Forces to work out roadmap of 5G technology in the country.

(b) The Government has finalized a 13 digit numbering scheme only for SIM cards used in Machine to Machine (M2M) communications. The benefit of this 13 digit numbering scheme is to generate sufficient number of numbering resources for M2M communications.

### Abolition of Posts

2019. SHRI BALKA SUMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to abolish all posts which are vacant for more than five years and has directed all the ministries and the department to submit a comprehensive report on it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH: (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Department of Expenditure in its consolidated compendium of instructions/guidelines dated 12.04.2017 directed all the Ministries/Departments to abolish all the posts which are lying vacant for more than five years and submit a report. At the same time, Department of Expenditure has also decided that now vacant posts would fall under deemed abolished category after a period of two/three years against earlier norm of one year subject to laid down conditions. Deemed abolished

posts can be got revived from Department of Expenditure subject to fulfilling of stipulated conditions.

[Translation]

### Upgradation of Stations

2020. SHRI MANOHAR UTAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works carried out for upgradation and beautification of railway stations in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, station-wise;

(b) whether the Railways has proposed the upgradation and beautification works of railway stations in Madhya Pradesh and approved the said proposals during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, station-wise;

(c) whether the Railways has provided for the washable aprons at the railway stations in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Presently, Railway stations are beautified/upgraded under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme. Various passenger amenities which inter-alia include improvement to façade of the station building, retiring room, waiting room (with bathing facilities), separate ladies waiting room for ladies, landscaping of circulating area, earmarked parking, signages, Pay & Use toilets, Foot Over Bridge, ramps at entry to station, separate parking for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Non-slippery walkway, 'May I help you' booth, trolley path etc. are proposed to be provided at Railway stations which are identified for development under this scheme as per the respective category of the station. 44 Railway stations in the State of Madhya Pradesh *viz.* Anuppur, Ashok Nagar, Balaghat, Bandakpur, Bheraghat, Bina, Biora Rajgarh, Birla Nagar, Burhanpur, Chhindwara Jn, Dabra, Damoh, Gadarwara, Ghatera (Patharia), Gwalior, Howbagh, Indore, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Junnerdeo (Jamai), Kareli, Katni Murwara, Khajuraho, Khandwa, Madanmahal, Maihar, Makronia, Mandsaur, Meghnagar, Parasia, Patharia, Pipariya, Ratlam, Rewa, Ruthiyai, Satna, Saugor, Shahdol, Shivpuri, Sihora Road, Singrauli, Taikamgarh, Ujjain and

Umaria have been identified for development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme. Out of these, 35 Railway stations have been developed as per norms. Remaining 9 Railway stations *viz.* Balaghat, Bandakpur, Bheraghat, Dabra, Howbagh, Mandsaur, Rewa, Sihora Road and Taikamgarh have been planned for development by 31st March, 2018.

(c) and (d) Indian Railways has planned to provide washable aprons at stations' platform lines where trains stop for longer duration in the morning hours. State specific details regarding provision of washable aprons are not maintained. These details are maintained Zonal railway wise. The State of Madhya Pradesh is predominantly served by West Central Railway, Western Railway and South East Central Railway. 107 nos. of washable aprons have been provided on these railways.

### Raxaul-Narkatiaganj Rail Line

2021. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time limit has been fixed by the Government for train operations between newly constructed rail section from Narkatiaganj to Raxaul and Narkatiaganj to Thori; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Works of gauge conversion on Raxaul-Narkatiaganj (42 Km) and Narkatiaganj-Gaunaha(22 Km) sections of JaynagarDarbhanga-Raxaul-Narkatiaganj-Bhikhnatori (294 Km) Gauge Conversion project have been taken up.

Due to heavy flood in North Bihar in 2017-18, some damages have occurred at the project site the rectification of which has been taken up.

In view of above, the target date of completion of this project has not been fixed.

Work on Gaunaha– Bhikhnatori (13 Km) section has been shelved due to Valmikinagar Tiger Reserve falling in alignment of this section.

*[English]*

### Post Offices

2022. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the country including those in the backward areas as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in the villages during the current financial year, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of areas where the postal services are still not available, State/UT- wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Madam, the number of District-wise Post Offices in the country including those in the backward areas as on 27.3.2017, is furnished as Statement-I.

(b) The number of Post Offices proposed to be opened in the villages during the current financial year (2017-18) State/UT-wise is furnished as Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The Postal network of more than 1.54 lakhs Post Offices provides postal services to the entire urban and rural areas in the country.

### *Statement-I*

*District-wise number of Post Offices in the country including Backward Areas*

| Name of the State/U.T. | Name of the Districts | Total No. of Post Offices |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | Srikakulam | 566 |
| | Vizianagaram | 665 |
| | Visakhapatnam | 699 |
| | East Godavari | 884 |
| | Ananthapur | 943 |
| | Chittoor | 894 |
| | Cuddappah | 826 |
| | Kurnool | 763 |
| | Prakasam | 926 |
| | West Godavari | 757 |
| | Krishna | 818 |
| | Guntur | 855 |
| | Nellore | 779 |
| | **Total** | **10375** |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Assam | Kokrajhar | 111 |
| | Dhubri | 129 |
| | South Salmara and Mankachar | 18 |
| | Goalpara | 108 |
| | Barpeta | 161 |
| | Morigoan | 104 |
| | Nagoan | 218 |
| | Hojai | 61 |
| | Sonitpur | 136 |
| | Biswanath | 77 |
| | Lakhimpur | 181 |
| | Dhemaji | 84 |
| | Tinsukia | 145 |
| | Dibrugarh | 216 |
| | Charaideu | 72 |
| | Sivasagar | 189 |
| | Jorhat | 169 |
| | Majuli | 49 |
| | Golaghat | 152 |
| | Karbi Anglong | 101 |
| | West Karbi Anglong | 28 |
| | Dima Hasao | 69 |
| | Cachar | 234 |
| | Karimganj | 150 |
| | Hailakandi | 154 |
| | Bongaigaon | 86 |
| | Chirang | 49 |
| | Kamrup | 238 |
| | Kamrup Metro | 64 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Nalbari | 149 |
| | Baksa | 131 |
| | Darrang | 76 |
| | Udalguri | 102 |
| | Total | 4011 |
| Bihar | Gaya | 295 |
| | Jahanabad | 185 |
| | Vaishali | 287 |
| | Munger | 274 |
| | Jamui | 42 |
| | Lakhisarai | 80 |
| | Shekhpura | 37 |
| | Nalanda | 399 |
| | Bhojpur | 301 |
| | Buxar | 194 |
| | Patna | 344 |
| | Aurangabad | 197 |
| | Arwal | 131 |
| | Bhagalpur | 506 |
| | Banka | 35 |
| | Nawada | 228 |
| | Rohtas | 226 |
| | Kaimur | 171 |
| | Begusarai | 208 |
| | Khagaria | 167 |
| | Samastipur | 395 |
| | Saharsa | 223 |
| | Madhepura | 199 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Supaul | 160 |
| | Siwan | 287 |
| | Gopalganj | 245 |
| | Sitamarhi | 175 |
| | Seohar | 158 |
| | Purnea | 237 |
| | Araria | 99 |
| | Katihar | 166 |
| | Kishanganj | 108 |
| | Motihari | 422 |
| | Bettiah | 276 |
| | Madhubani | 415 |
| | Darbhanga | 373 |
| | Chapra | 393 |
| | Muzaffarpur | 429 |
| | **Total** | **9067** |
| Chhattisgarh | Bastar | 140 |
| | Kondagaon | 92 |
| | Kanker | 151 |
| | Narayanpur | 20 |
| | Dantewada | 73 |
| | Bijapur | 61 |
| | Sukma | 53 |
| | Bilaspur | 204 |
| | Mungeli | 71 |
| | Korba | 112 |
| | Janjgir-Champa | 256 |
| | Durg | 139 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Rajnandgaon | 175 |
| | Balod | 123 |
| | Bemetara | 79 |
| | Kabirdham | 70 |
| | Raipur | 139 |
| | Mahasamund | 137 |
| | Baloda  Bazar | 153 |
| | Dhamtari | 104 |
| | Gariaband | 85 |
| | Raigarh | 286 |
| | Jashpur  Nagar | 158 |
| | Sarguja | 72 |
| | Balrampur | 75 |
| | Korea | 64 |
| | Surajpur | 72 |
| | Total | 3164 |
| Delhi | North  Delhi | 33 |
| | North  West | 107 |
| | West  Delhi | 62 |
| | South  West  Delhi | 141 |
| | Central  Delhi | 56 |
| | New  Delhi | 36 |
| | South  Delhi | 28 |
| | South  East  Delhi | 16 |
| | East  Delhi | 28 |
| | Shahdara | 18 |
| | North  East  Delhi | 29 |
| | **Total** | **554** |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gujarat | Ahmedabad | 463 |
| | Gandhinagar | 217 |
| | Botad | 100 |
| | Surendranagar | 332 |
| | Mahesana | 314 |
| | Sabarkantha | 332 |
| | Arvalli | 248 |
| | Patan | 266 |
| | Banaskantha | 407 |
| | Amreli | 356 |
| | Bhavnagar | 331 |
| | Rajkot | 458 |
| | Jamnagar | 243 |
| | Devbhoomi Dwarka | 139 |
| | Junagadh | 226 |
| | Gir Somnath | 158 |
| | Kachchh | 498 |
| | Porbandar | 167 |
| | Morbi | 47 |
| | Anand | 267 |
| | Kheda | 277 |
| | Mahisager | 187 |
| | Surat | 478 |
| | Tapi | 173 |
| | Dang | 56 |
| | Bharuch | 395 |
| | Narmada | 155 |
| | Panchmahal | 223 |
| | Dahod | 228 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Vadodara | 599 |
| | Navsari | 287 |
| | Chhotaudepur | 28 |
| | Valsad | 271 |
| | Total | 8926 |
| Daman and Diu | Diu | 6 |
| | Daman | 14 |
| | Total | 20 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | D.N.H. | 41 |
| Haryana | Ambala | 138 |
| | Yamunanagar | 122 |
| | Panchkula | 50 |
| | Bhiwani | 149 |
| | Charkhi Dadri | 76 |
| | Faridabad | 68 |
| | Palwal | 63 |
| | Gurgaon | 105 |
| | Mewat | 51 |
| | Rewari | 134 |
| | Mahendergarh | 119 |
| | Hisar | 210 |
| | Sirsa | 162 |
| | Fatehabad | 141 |
| | Karnal | 166 |
| | Jind | 163 |
| | Panipat | 98 |
| | Kurukshetra | 130 |
| | Kaithal | 103 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | ohtak | 120 |
| | Jhajjar | 141 |
| | Sonepat | 178 |
| | **Total** | **2687** |
| Himachal  Pradesh | Bilaspur | 146 |
| | Chamba | 222 |
| | Hamirpur | 230 |
| | Kangra | 649 |
| | Kinnaur | 72 |
| | Kullu | 155 |
| | Lahaul  Spiti | 46 |
| | Mandi | 370 |
| | Shimla | 357 |
| | Sirmaur | 167 |
| | Solan | 188 |
| | Una | 186 |
| | **Total** | **2788** |
| Jammu  and  Kashmir | Jammu | 194 |
| | Samba | 54 |
| | Kathua | 128 |
| | Udhampur | 110 |
| | Doda | 58 |
| | Kishtwar | 25 |
| | Ramban | 53 |
| | Reasi | 66 |
| | Rajouri | 136 |
| | Poonch | 63 |
| | Srinagar | 88 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Budgam | 42 |
| | Ganderbal | 27 |
| | Anantnag | 154 |
| | Kulgam | 37 |
| | Pulwama | 56 |
| | Shopian | 15 |
| | Baramulla | 151 |
| | Bandipora | 54 |
| | Kupwara | 78 |
| | Leh | 55 |
| | Kargil | 53 |
| | **Total** | **1697** |
| Jharkhand | East Singhbhum | 189 |
| | West Singhbhum | 131 |
| | Seraikella Kharswan | 97 |
| | Palamau | 180 |
| | Garhwa | 90 |
| | Latehar | 80 |
| | Ranchi | 296 |
| | Giridih | 253 |
| | Dhanbad | 199 |
| | Bokaro | 79 |
| | Gumla | 109 |
| | Khunti | 97 |
| | Lohardaga | 85 |
| | Simdega | 113 |
| | Hazaribagh | 115 |
| | Ramgarh | 87 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | Chatra | 78 |
| | Koderma | 86 |
| | Dumka | 192 |
| | Deoghar | 153 |
| | Pakur | 82 |
| | Godda | 125 |
| | Jamtara | 96 |
| | Sahibganj | 104 |
| | **Total** | **3116** |
| Karnataka | Bengaluru Urban Dt | 279 |
| | Bengaluru Rural Dt | 135 |
| | Ramanagara | 181 |
| | Chikkamagaluru | 301 |
| | Chamarajanagar | 205 |
| | Chikkaballapura | 198 |
| | Chitradurga | 317 |
| | Dakshina Kannada | 480 |
| | Davangere | 261 |
| | Hassan | 414 |
| | Kodagu | 213 |
| | Kolar | 219 |
| | Mandya | 352 |
| | Mysuru | 385 |
| | Shivamogga | 355 |
| | Tumakuru | 558 |
| | Udupi | 327 |
| | Bagalkot | 334 |
| | Belagavi | 733 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | Bellari | 448 |
| | Bidar | 304 |
| | Vijayapura | 405 |
| | Dharwad | 212 |
| | Gadag | 170 |
| | Koppal | 218 |
| | Kalaburgi | 420 |
| | Yadgiri | 204 |
| | Haveri | 260 |
| | Raichur | 287 |
| | Uttara  Kannada | 491 |
| | **Total** | **9666** |
| Kerala | Kasargod | 233 |
| | Kannur | 382 |
| | Wayanad | 162 |
| | Kozhikode | 410 |
| | Malappuram | 437 |
| | Palakkad | 455 |
| | Thrissur | 486 |
| | Ernakulam | 390 |
| | Idukki | 296 |
| | Kottayam | 408 |
| | Alappuzha | 300 |
| | Pathanamthitta | 315 |
| | Kollam | 364 |
| | Thiruvananthapuram | 414 |
| | **Total** | **5052** |
| Lakshadweep | UT  of  Lakshadweep | 10 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Madhya Pradesh | Anooppur | 112 |
| | Bhopal | 127 |
| | Balaghat | 229 |
| | Betul | 223 |
| | Chhatarpur | 380 |
| | Chhindwara | 272 |
| | Dindori | 82 |
| | Damoh | 161 |
| | Harda | 69 |
| | Hoshangabad | 175 |
| | Mandla | 147 |
| | Narsinghpur | 181 |
| | Raisen | 211 |
| | Rewa | 336 |
| | Seoni | 202 |
| | Sagar | 237 |
| | Satna | 291 |
| | Shahdol | 122 |
| | Sidhi | 145 |
| | Singrauli | 69 |
| | Tikamgarh | 187 |
| | Umaria | 74 |
| | Vidisha | 161 |
| | Sehore | 170 |
| | Rajgarh | 167 |
| | Panna | 119 |
| | Dewas | 173 |
| | Dhar | 216 |
| | Ratlam | 183 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Jhabua | 106 |
| | Alirajpur | 66 |
| | Ujjain | 191 |
| | Shajapur | 115 |
| | Agar  Malwa | 62 |
| | Gwalior | 157 |
| | Datia | 134 |
| | East  Nimar | 160 |
| | West  Nimar | 187 |
| | Burhanpur | 59 |
| | Barwani | 119 |
| | Guna | 104 |
| | Shivpuri | 217 |
| | Ashoknagar | 95 |
| | Mandsaur | 216 |
| | Neemuch | 119 |
| | Jabalpur | 232 |
| | Katini | 167 |
| | Morena | 201 |
| | Bhind | 258 |
| | Sheopur | 64 |
| | Indore | 34 |
| | Total | 8284 |
| Maharashtra | Pune | 793 |
| | Solapur | 534 |
| | Ahmednagar | 665 |
| | Satara | 666 |
| | Mumbai | 108 |
| | Mumbai  Suburban | 124 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Aurangabad | 341 |
| | Jalna | 189 |
| | Beed | 331 |
| | Jalgaon | 535 |
| | Dhule | 270 |
| | Nandurbar | 203 |
| | Nanded | 468 |
| | Osmanabad | 282 |
| | Latur | 289 |
| | Parbhani | 187 |
| | Hingoli | 121 |
| | Sangli | 418 |
| | Kolhapur | 563 |
| | Ratnagiri | 663 |
| | Sindhudurg | 371 |
| | Akola | 235 |
| | Washim | 164 |
| | Amravati | 454 |
| | Buldana | 353 |
| | Chandrapur | 330 |
| | Gadchiroli | 185 |
| | Nagpur | 346 |
| | Bhandara | 137 |
| | Gondia | 168 |
| | Wardha | 183 |
| | Yavatmal | 370 |
| | Thane | 308 |
| | Palghar | 220 |
| | Raigad | 358 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Nashik | 671 |
| | **Total** | **12603** |
| Goa | North Goa | 159 |
| | South Goa | 98 |
| | **Total** | **257** |
| Tripura | North Tripura | 117 |
| | Unakoti | 67 |
| | Dhalai | 70 |
| | Khowai | 65 |
| | West Tripura | 131 |
| | Sepahijala | 86 |
| | Gomati | 67 |
| | South Tripura | 107 |
| | **Total** | **710** |
| Nagaland | Dimapur | 57 |
| | Mon | 30 |
| | Kohima | 48 |
| | Phek | 36 |
| | Mokokchong | 52 |
| | Kiphire | 14 |
| | Tuensang | 27 |
| | Longleng | 8 |
| | Zunheboto | 19 |
| | Peren | 15 |
| | Wokha | 23 |
| | **Total** | **329** |
| Meghalaya | East Khasi Hills | 140 |
| | West Khasi Hills | 52 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | South West Khasi Hills | 19 |
| | Ri-bhoi Dist. | 39 |
| | East Jaintia Hills | 23 |
| | West Jaintia Hills | 53 |
| | West Garo Hills | 96 |
| | South West Garo Hills | 8 |
| | South Garo Hills | 14 |
| | East Garo Hills | 23 |
| | North Garo Hills | 23 |
| | **Total** | **490** |
| Arunachal | Pradesh Papumpare | 23 |
| | Upper Dibang Valley | 3 |
| | Lower Dibang Valley | 19 |
| | West Siang | 22 |
| | East Siang | 30 |
| | Upper Siang | 9 |
| | West Kameng | 24 |
| | East Kameng | 10 |
| | Changlang | 30 |
| | Lohit | 36 |
| | Tirap | 27 |
| | Anjaw | 9 |
| | Tawang | 13 |
| | Upper Subansiri | 13 |
| | Lower Subansiri | 16 |
| | Kurang Kumey | 9 |
| | Longding | 13 |
| | Kra-Dadi | 3 |
| | Siang | 4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Namsai | 23 |
| | **Total** | **336** |
| Manipur | Imphal West | 120 |
| | Imphal East | 62 |
| | Bishanpur | 79 |
| | Chandal | 28 |
| | Churachandpur | 79 |
| | Senapati | 82 |
| | Thoubal | 142 |
| | Ukhrul | 57 |
| | Tamenglong | 52 |
| | **Total** | **701** |
| Mizoram | Aizwal | 115 |
| | Kolasib | 29 |
| | Champai | 62 |
| | Lunglei | 74 |
| | Lawngtlai | 18 |
| | Serchhip | 26 |
| | Mamit | 36 |
| | Saiha | 30 |
| | **Total** | **390** |
| Odisha | Angul | 234 |
| | Balasore | 502 |
| | Bargarh | 240 |
| | Bhadrak | 319 |
| | Balangir | 288 |
| | Boudh | 118 |
| | Cuttack | 384 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | Deogarh | 58 |
| | Dhenkanal | 238 |
| | Gajapati | 150 |
| | Ganjam | 682 |
| | Jagatsinghpur | 220 |
| | Jajpur | 288 |
| | Jharsuguda | 86 |
| | Kalahandi | 307 |
| | Kandhamal | 267 |
| | Kendrapara | 285 |
| | Keonjhar | 448 |
| | Khurda | 328 |
| | Koraput | 194 |
| | Malkangiri | 109 |
| | Mayurbhanj | 711 |
| | Nuapada | 112 |
| | Nabarangpur | 204 |
| | Nayagarh | 204 |
| | Puri | 284 |
| | Rayagada | 213 |
| | Sambalpur | 202 |
| | Sonepur | 97 |
| | Sundargarh | 403 |
| | **Total** | **8175** |
| Punjab | Patiala | 222 |
| | Sangrur | 201 |
| | Ludhiana | 391 |
| | Amritsar | 285 |
| | Tarn Taran | 187 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Bathinda | 156 |
| | Mansa | 100 |
| | Faridkot | 72 |
| | Moga | 167 |
| | Ferozepur | 125 |
| | Fazilka | 139 |
| | Muktsar | 136 |
| | Gurdaspur | 204 |
| | Pathankot | 73 |
| | Hoshiarpur | 405 |
| | Jalandhar | 368 |
| | SBS Nagar | 126 |
| | Kapurthala | 122 |
| | Barnala | 70 |
| | Fatehgarh Sahib | 51 |
| | Ropar | 115 |
| | Mohali | 97 |
| | **Total** | **3812** |
| Chandigarh | Chandigarh UT | 51 |
| Rajasthan | Ajmer | 410 |
| | Alwar | 485 |
| | Banswara | 268 |
| | Baran | 197 |
| | Barmer | 481 |
| | Bhilwara | 392 |
| | Bikaner | 267 |
| | Bundi | 176 |
| | Bharatpur | 403 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Chittorgarh | 277 |
| | Churu | 345 |
| | Dholpur | 188 |
| | Dungarpur | 296 |
| | Dausa | 244 |
| | Hanumangarh Jn. | 232 |
| | Jaipur | 573 |
| | Jalore | 267 |
| | Jhalawar | 245 |
| | Jhunjhunu | 412 |
| | Jaisalmer | 151 |
| | Jodhpur | 406 |
| | Karauli | 248 |
| | Kota | 186 |
| | Nagaur | 544 |
| | Pali | 372 |
| | Pratapgarh | 167 |
| | Rajasmand | 212 |
| | Sawaimadhopur | 214 |
| | Sirohi | 175 |
| | Sikar | 469 |
| | Sri Ganga-nagar | 331 |
| | Tonk | 222 |
| | Udaipur | 457 |
| | **Total** | **10312** |
| Tamil Nadu | Ariyalur | 220 |
| | Chennai | 113 |
| | Coimbatore | 401 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Cuddalore | 467 |
| | Dharmapuri | 259 |
| | Dindigul | 459 |
| | Erode | 355 |
| | Kanchipuram | 459 |
| | Kanniyakumari | 267 |
| | Karur | 242 |
| | Krishnagiri | 299 |
| | Madurai | 394 |
| | Nagapattinam | 387 |
| | Namakkal | 354 |
| | Nilgiris | 182 |
| | Perambalur | 139 |
| | Pudukkottai | 347 |
| | Ramanathapuram | 308 |
| | Salem | 516 |
| | Sivaganga | 310 |
| | Thanjavur | 511 |
| | Theni | 161 |
| | Tuticorin | 425 |
| | Tiruvarur | 363 |
| | Tirunelveli | 549 |
| | Trichirappalli | 485 |
| | Tiruvallur | 370 |
| | Tirupur | 366 |
| | Tiruvannamalai | 486 |
| | Vellore | 667 |
| | Villupuram | 648 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Virudhunagar | 281 |
| | Total | 11790 |
| Puducherry | Karaikal | 27 |
| | Pondicherry | 61 |
| | Yanam | 1 |
| | Mahe | 4 |
| | **Total** | **93** |
| Telangana | Adilabad | 142 |
| | Bhadradri | 250 |
| | Hyderabad | 152 |
| | Jagtial | 185 |
| | Jangaon | 149 |
| | Jayashankar  (Bhupalapalli) | 189 |
| | Jogulamba  (Gadwal) | 163 |
| | Kamareddy | 192 |
| | Karimnagar | 194 |
| | Khammam | 324 |
| | Komaram  Bheem (Asifabad) | 121 |
| | Mahabubabad | 182 |
| | Mahabubnagar | 291 |
| | Mancherial | 128 |
| | Medak | 213 |
| | Medchal | 49 |
| | Nagarkurnool | 219 |
| | Nalgonda | 333 |
| | Nirmal | 125 |
| | Nizamabad | 289 |
| | Peddapalli | 143 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Rajanna  (Sircilla) | 113 |
| | Rangareddy | 280 |
| | Sangareddy | 258 |
| | Siddipet | 252 |
| | Suryapet | 211 |
| | Vikarabad | 146 |
| | Wanaparthy | 77 |
| | Warangal  Rural | 125 |
| | Warangal  Urban | 150 |
| | Yadadri  (Bhongir) | 190 |
| | **Total** | **5835** |
| Uttar  Pradesh | Agra | 355 |
| | Akbarpur | 393 |
| | Aligarh | 336 |
| | Allahabad | 438 |
| | Amethi | 191 |
| | Amroha | 92 |
| | Auraiya | 155 |
| | Azamgarh | 407 |
| | Baghpat | 143 |
| | Bahraich | 293 |
| | Ballia | 353 |
| | Balrampur | 184 |
| | Banda | 207 |
| | Barabanki | 361 |
| | Bareilly | 288 |
| | Basti | 293 |
| | Bhadohi | 103 |
| | Bijnor | 303 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
|  | Budaun | 325 |
|  | Bulandshahre | 312 |
|  | Chandauli | 180 |
|  | Chitrakoot | 85 |
|  | Deoria | 289 |
|  | Etah | 176 |
|  | Etawah | 178 |
|  | Faizabad | 308 |
|  | Farrukhabad | 199 |
|  | Fatehpur | 255 |
|  | Firozabad | 163 |
|  | G.B. Nagar | 119 |
|  | Gazipur | 378 |
|  | Ghaziabad | 121 |
|  | Gonda | 351 |
|  | Gorakhpur | 420 |
|  | Hamirpur | 132 |
|  | Hapur | 101 |
|  | Hardoi | 333 |
|  | Hathras | 181 |
|  | Jalaun | 154 |
|  | Jaunpur | 421 |
|  | Jhansi | 213 |
|  | Kannauj | 105 |
|  | Kanpur  Dehat | 302 |
|  | Kanpur  Nagar | 176 |
|  | Kasganj | 131 |
|  | Kaushambi | 107 |
|  | Kheri | 387 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Kushinagar | 219 |
| | Lalitpur | 245 |
| | Lucknow | 286 |
| | Maharajganj | 197 |
| | Mahoba | 95 |
| | Mainpuri | 170 |
| | Mathura | 214 |
| | Mau | 202 |
| | Meerut | 256 |
| | Mirzapur | 191 |
| | Moradabad | 164 |
| | Mujaffarnagar | 220 |
| | Pilibhit | 145 |
| | Pratapgarh | 364 |
| | Raebareli | 448 |
| | Rampur | 130 |
| | Saharanpur | 212 |
| | Sambhal | 99 |
| | Sant  kabirnagar | 185 |
| | Shahjahanpur | 304 |
| | Shamli | 100 |
| | Shrawasti | 101 |
| | Sidharthnagar | 214 |
| | Sitapur | 419 |
| | Sonebhadra | 148 |
| | Sultanpur | 309 |
| | Unnao | 271 |
| | Varanasi | 260 |
| | **Total** | **17665** |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Uttarakhand | Almora | 329 |
| | Bageshwar | 152 |
| | Chamoli | 261 |
| | Rudrapryag | 130 |
| | Dehradun | 246 |
| | Haridwar | 114 |
| | Nainital | 159 |
| | U.S. Nagar | 111 |
| | Pauri | 424 |
| | Pithoragarh | 325 |
| | Champawat | 80 |
| | Tehri | 261 |
| | Uttarkashi | 130 |
| | **Total** | **2722** |
| West Bengal | Kolkata | 282 |
| | North 24 Paragma | 627 |
| | Nadia | 459 |
| | South 24 Parganas | 774 |
| | Birbhum | 477 |
| | Murshidabad | 578 |
| | Hoogly | 507 |
| | Bankura | 486 |
| | Burdwan | 770 |
| | Howrah | 344 |
| | Purulia Dn | 443 |
| | West Midnapur | 585 |
| | East Midnapur | 838 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | North  Dinajpur | 195 |
| | Alipurduar | 125 |
| | Coochbehar  Dn | 237 |
| | Darjeeling    Dn | 222 |
| | South  Dinajpur  Dn | 178 |
| | Jalpaiguri  Dn | 301 |
| | Malda  Dn | 334 |
| | Total | 8762 |
| Sikkim | East  Sikkim | 92 |
| | West  Sikkim | 50 |
| | North  Sikkim | 23 |
| | South  Sikkim | 44 |
| | **Total** | **209** |
| Andaman  and  Nicobar  Island | South  Andaman | 48 |
| | North  and  Middle  Andaman | 34 |
| | Nicobar | 18 |
| | **Total** | **100** |

### Statement-II

*No. of Post Offices proposed to be opened in Villages during the Current Financial Year (2017-18)*

| Sl. No. | Name of States/UTs | No. of Post Offices proposed to be opened |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra  Pradesh | 6 |
| 2. | Assam | 3 |
| 3. | Bihar | 4 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 4 |
| 5. | Goa | 0 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 5 |
| 7. | Haryana | 4 |
| 8. | Himachal  Pradesh | 4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 2 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 4 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 4 |
| 12. | Kerala | 0 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 6 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 6 |
| 15. | North Eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura | 7 |
| 16. | Odisha | 6 |
| 17. | Punjab | 5 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 9 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 5 |
| 20. | Telangana | 5 |
| 21. | Uttarakhand | 3 |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh | 7 |
| 23. | West Bengal | 5 |
| **UTs** | | |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Island | 0 |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 0 |
| 3. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0 |
| 4. | Daman and Diu | 0 |
| 5. | Lakshadweep | 0 |
| 6. | Puducherry | 0 |
| | National Capital Territory of Delhi | 0 |
| | **Total** | **104** |

### Investment in IT Sector

2023. SHRI D.S. RATHOD:
SHRI PARESH RAVAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has any data for the investment in Information Technology sector in the country in the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The investment during last three years by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) units and IT/ITeS units in Special Economic Zone (IT/ITeS-SEZ) is as under:

(Fig. In Rs. crores)

|                   | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| IT/ITeS-SEZ Units | 96178   | 111444  | 136781  |
| STPI Units        | 11133   | 14758   | 14099   |

### Bilateral Relations with Nepal

2024.    SHRI KAMAL NATH:
            SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Minister of External Affairs had recently paid a visit to Nepal and held discussions with various leaders there;

(b) if so, the details of talks held with various leaders there;

(c) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to strengthen its bilateral relations with Nepal; and

(d) if so, the cooperation extended by the Government of India to Nepal in attaining economic growth and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Minister of External Affairs of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to Nepal from 1-2 February 2018. During the visit, she called on President of Nepal Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and (then) Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba. She also had meetings with leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli; Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (MC) Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'; leaders of Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal Mr. Mahant Thakur, Mr. Rajendra Mahato, Mr. Raj Kishore Yadav, Mr. Sharat Singh Bhandari, Mr. Mahendra Yadav,

Mr. Anil Jha; and Chairman of Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum-Nepal Mr. Upendra Yadav. EAM congratulated the political leaders and people of Nepal for the successful conduct of three-tier elections in Nepal. Discussions focused on ways to advance the special ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Nepal.

(c) and (d) The Government continues to take all necessary measures to advance its age-old, unique, multifaceted ties with Nepal. The Government has expanded its partnership with Nepal through, *inter-alia,* expediting implementation of connectivity and economic projects such as development of cross-border power transmission lines, construction of cross-border rail links, construction of roads in the Terai region, development of Integrated Check Posts at the India-Nepal border, hydropower projects, and initiatives to enhance people to people contacts and capacity building. Further, under the concessional Lines-of-Credit of over US$ 1.65 billion extended to the Government of Nepal, a number of infrastructure projects are under implementation in Nepal. Besides the regular meetings of India-Nepal Joint Commission at the level of Foreign Minister, which comprehensively reviews bilateral relations, a number of institutional mechanisms are in place between India and Nepal in the areas of defence & security, trade & commerce, power, water resources, connectivity and development cooperation to advance mutually beneficial cooperation. The Government is committed to advancing its cooperative ties across diverse sectors with Nepal, as per the priorities of the Government of Nepal, for the benefit of the two peoples.

*[Translation]*

### Post Office Passport Centres

2025. SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up post-office Passport Service Centres in two phases and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of such centres set up in the first phase and the number of centres out of these which have been operationalised along with the reasons for the remaining centres not being operationalised; and

(c) the details of targets set regarding the time by which the remaining centres are likely to be set up and operationalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Yes. The Ministry in association with the Department of Posts has decided to open 251 Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). The list of these 251 POPSK is given in the enclosed Statement-I. 152 POSPK are functional as on 04th March, 2018 ((Statement-II).

(b) and (c) The Ministry has announced the opening of 86 POPSK in Phase-I, 150 in Phase-II and another 15 subsequently. A total of 75 POPSK of Phase-I are functional as on 04th March, 2018 (Statement-III). The Ministry intends to complete the requisite formalities for the operationalization of the remaining POPSK by 31st March, 2018.

### *Statement-I*

*List of 251 POPSK in the Country*

| Sl.No. | Locations | State/UT | Passport Office |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Anantpur | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 2. | Guntur | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 3. | Krishna | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 4. | Ongole | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 5. | Chitoor | Andhra Pradesh | Visakhapatnam |
| 6. | Kakinada | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 7. | Srikakulam | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 8. | Kadappa | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 9. | Kurnool | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 10. | Nellore | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 11. | Rajamundry | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 12. | Changlang | Arunachal Pradesh | Guwahati |
| 13. | Tirap | Arunachal Pradesh | Guwahati |
| 14. | Silchar | Assam | Guwahati |
| 15. | Dhubri | Assam | Guwahati |
| 16. | Dibrugarh | Assam | Guwahati |
| 17. | Goalpara | Assam | Guwahati |
| 18. | Karbi Anglong | Assam | Guwahati |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 19. | Kokrajhar | Assam | Guwahati |
| 20. | Mangaldoi | Assam | Guwahati |
| 21. | North Lakhimpur | Assam | Guwahati |
| 22. | Sonitpur | Assam | Guwahati |
| 23. | Tinsukia | Assam | Guwahati |
| 24. | Chhapra | Bihar | Patna |
| 25. | Gopalganj | Bihar | Patna |
| 26. | Muzaffarpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 27. | Purnea | Bihar | Patna |
| 28. | Bhagalpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 29. | Siwan | Bihar | Patna |
| 30. | Bettiah | Bihar | Patna |
| 31. | Begusarai | Bihar | Patna |
| 32. | Buxar | Bihar | Patna |
| 33. | East Champaran | Bihar | Patna |
| 34. | Gaya | Bihar | Patna |
| 35. | Madhubani | Bihar | Patna |
| 36. | Samastipur | Bihar | Patna |
| 37. | Supaul | Bihar | Patna |
| 38. | Munger | Bihar | Patna |
| 39. | Navada | Bihar | Patna |
| 40. | Surguja | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 41. | Durg | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 42. | Bilaspur | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 43. | Rajnandgaon | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 44. | Silvasa | Dadar and Nagar Haveli | Mumbai |
| 45. | Daman | Daman | Mumbai |
| 46. | North West Delhl | Delhi | Delhi |
| 47. | Janak Puri | Delhi | Delhi |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 48. | Nehru Place | Delhi | Delhi |
| 49. | Patparganj | Delhi | Delhi |
| 50. | Yamuna Vihar | Delhi | Delhi |
| 51. | Krishna Nagar | Delhi | Delhi |
| 52. | Lodhi Road | Delhi | Delhi |
| 53. | Saket | Delhi | Delhi |
| 54. | South Goa | Goa | Panaji |
| 55. | Dahod | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 56. | Palanpur | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 57. | Mehsana | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 58. | Bhuj | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 59. | Veraval | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 60. | Anand | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 61. | Bharuch | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 62. | Bhavnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 63. | Jamnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 64. | Junagadh | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 65. | Kheda | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 66. | Navsari | Gujarat | Surat |
| 67. | Valsad | Gujarat | Surat |
| 68. | Karnal | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 69. | Hisar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 70. | Bhiwani | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 71. | Kaithal | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 72. | Panipat | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 73. | Yamunanagar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 74. | Faridabad | Haryana | Delhi |
| 75. | Narnaul | Haryana | Delhi |
| 76. | Rohtak | Haryana | Delhi |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 77. | Sonipat | Haryana | Delhi |
| 78. | Palampur | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 79. | Hamirpur | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 80. | Kangra | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 81. | Kullu | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 82. | Mandi | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 83. | Una | Himachal  Pradesh | Shimla |
| 84. | Anantnag | Jammu  and  Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 85. | Baramulla | Jammu  and   Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 86. | Kathua | Jammu  and   Kashmir | Jammu |
| 87. | Rajouri | Jammu  and   Kashmir | Jammu |
| 88. | Udhampur | Jammu  and   Kashmir | Jammu |
| 89. | Leh | Jammu  and   Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 90. | Dhanbad | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 91. | Dumka | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 92. | Jamshedpur | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 93. | Deoghar | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 94. | Bokaro | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 95. | Hazaribagh | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 96. | Medininagar | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 97. | Mysuru | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 98. | Bellary | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 99. | Bidar | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 100. | Gadag | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 101. | Raichur | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 102. | Shivamogga | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 103. | Tumakuru | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 104. | Udupi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 105. | Vijayapur | Karnataka | Bengaluru |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 106. | Belagavi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 107. | Devangere | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 108. | Hassan | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 109. | Chengannur | Kerala | Cochin |
| 110. | Idukki | Kerala | Cochin |
| 111. | Kasargod | Kerala | Kozhikode |
| 112. | Pathanamthitta | Kerala | Trivandrum |
| 113. | Kavaratti | Lakshadweep | Cochin |
| 114. | Vidisha | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 115. | Ratlam | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 116. | Shivpuri | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 117. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 118. | Gwalior | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 119. | Balaghat | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 120. | Chhindwara | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 121. | Dewas | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 122. | Damoh | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 123. | Hoshangabad | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 124. | Sehore | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 125. | Sidhi | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 126. | Ujjain | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 127. | Betul | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 128. | Shivni | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 129. | Satna | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 130. | Sindhudurg | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 131. | Wardha | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 132. | Jalna | Maharashtra | Nagpur |
| 133. | Latur | Maharashtra | Nagpur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 134. | Ahmednagar | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 135. | Pandharpur | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 136. | Sangli | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 137. | Satara | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 138. | Beed | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 139. | Mumbai North Central | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 140. | Mumbai South Central | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 141. | Ghatkopar | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 142. | Aurangabad | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 143. | Navi Mumbai | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 144. | Dombivali | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 145. | Panvel | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 146. | Nanded (N) | Maharastra | Nagpur |
| 147. | Kolhapur | Maharastra | Pune |
| 148. | Pimpri Chinchwad | Maharastra | Pune |
| 149. | Jalgaon | Maharastra | Thane |
| 150. | Baghmara | Meghalaya | Guwahati |
| 151. | Tura | Meghalaya | Guwahati |
| 152. | Rourkela | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 153. | Sambalpur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 154. | Koraput | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 155. | Balasore | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 156. | Baripada | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 157. | Berhampur (Ganjam) | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 158. | Bhawanipatna (Kalahandi) | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 159. | Karaikal | Puducherry | Chennai |
| 160. | Tarn Taran | Punjab | Amritsar |
| 161. | Patiala | Punjab | Chandigarh |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 162. | Bathinda | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 163. | Sangrur | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 164. | Gurdaspur | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 165. | Moga | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 166. | SBS Nagar (Nawan Shahar) | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 167. | Phagwara | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 168. | Kota | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 169. | Bikaner | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 170. | Barmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 171. | Jhunjhunu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 172. | Jaisalmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 173. | Jhalawar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 174. | Ajmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 175. | Churu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 176. | Dungarpur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 177. | Hanumangarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 178. | Karauli-Dhaulpur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 179. | Nagaur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 180. | Sriganganagar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 181. | Alwar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 182. | Chittorgarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 183. | Banswada | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 184. | Pali | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 185. | Vellore Tamil | Tamil Nadu | Chennai |
| 186. | Salem Tamil | Tamil Nadu | Coimbatore |
| 187. | Viluppuram | Tamilnadu | Chennai |
| 188. | Namakkal | Tamilnadu | Coimbatore |
| 189. | Tiruppur | Tamilnadu | Coimbatore |
| 190. | Tiruvannamalai | Tamilnadu | Chennai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 191. | Ramanathapuram | Tamilnadu | Maduai |
| 192. | Cuddalore | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 193. | Dindigul | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 194. | Sivaganga | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 195. | Virudhunagar | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 196. | Kanyakumari (N) | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 197. | Perambalur | Tamilnadu | Tiruchirapalli |
| 198. | Pudukkottai | Tamilnadu | Tiruchirapalli |
| 199. | Mehbubnagar | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 200. | Warangal | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 201. | Adilabad | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 202. | Medak | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 203. | Khammam | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 204. | Siddipet | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 205. | Nalgonda | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 206. | Bijnaur | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 207. | Pilibhit | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 208. | Moradabad | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 209. | Rampur | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 210. | Mathura | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 211. | Meerut | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 212. | Agra | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 213. | GautamBudh Nagar | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 214. | Aligarh | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 215. | Saharanpur | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 216. | Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 217. | Deoria | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 218. | Sultanpur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 219. | Jhansi | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 220. | Ghazipur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 221. | Mirzapur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 222. | Ayodhya/Faizabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 223. | Amethi | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 224. | Azamgarh | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 225. | Bahraich | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 226. | Ballia | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 227. | Balrampur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 228. | Barabanki | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 229. | Basti | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 230. | Gonda | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 231. | Jaunpur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 232. | Kushi Nagar | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 233. | Mau | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 234. | Sitapur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 235. | Pratapgarh | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 236. | RaeBareli | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 237. | Unnao | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 238. | Almora | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 239. | Haldwani/Kathgodam | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 240. | Nainital | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 241. | Pauri | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 242. | Roorkee | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 243. | Rudrapur | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 244. | Nadia (Krishnanagar) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 245. | North Kolkata (Beadon Street) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 246. | Asansol | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 247. | Raiganj | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 248. | Bardhman | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 249. | Barrackpore | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 250. | Darjeeling | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 251. | Malda | West Bengal | Kolkata |

### *Statement-II*

*List of functional POPSK as on 04th March, 2018*

| Sl.No. | Locations | State/UT | Passport Office |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Anantpur | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 2. | Chittoor | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 3. | Kadappa | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 4. | Kurnool | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 5. | Nellore | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 6. | Dibrugarh | Assam | Guwahati |
| 7. | Mangaldoi | Assam | Guwahati |
| 8. | Silchar | Assam | Guwahati |
| 9. | Buxar | Bihar | Patna |
| 10. | Chhapra | Bihar | Patna |
| 11. | East Champaran | Bihar | Patna |
| 12. | Gaya | Bihar | Patna |
| 13. | Madhubani | Bihar | Patna |
| 14. | Muzaffarpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 15. | Purnea | Bihar | Patna |
| 16. | Bhagalpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 17. | Samastipur | Bihar | Patna |
| 18. | Siwan | Bihar | Patna |
| 19. | Bettiah | Bihar | Patna |
| 20. | Bilaspur | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 21. | Durg | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 22. | Rajnandgaon | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 23. | Surguja | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 24. | Silvasa | Dadar and Nagar Haveli | Mumbai |
| 25. | Daman | Daman | Mumbai |
| 26. | Janak Puri | Delhi | Delhi |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27. | Nehru Place | Delhi | Delhi |
| 28. | Patparganj | Delhi | Delhi |
| 29. | Yamuna Vihar | Delhi | Delhi |
| 30. | Anand | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 31. | Bharuch | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 32. | Dahod | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 33. | Jamnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 34. | Junagadh | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 35. | Kheda | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 36. | Palanpur | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 37. | Bhuj | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 38. | Bhavnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 39. | Mehsana | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 40. | Navsari | Gujarat | Surat |
| 41. | Valsad | Gujarat | Surat |
| 42. | Veraval | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 43. | Karnal | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 44. | Hisar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 45. | Panipat | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 46. | Faridabad | Haryana | Delhi |
| 47. | Yamunanagar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 48. | Mandi | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 49. | Palampur | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 50. | Hamirpur | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 51. | Kangra | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 52. | Kullu | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 53. | Una | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 54. | Anantnag | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 55. | Baramulla | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 56. | Kathua | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 57. | Rajouri | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 58. | Udhampur | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 59. | Leh | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 60. | Bokaro | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 61. | Hazaribagh | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 62. | Jamshedpur | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 63. | Deoghar | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 64. | Dhanbad | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 65. | Dumka | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 66. | Belagavi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 67. | Bellary | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 68. | Davangere | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 69. | Gadag | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 70. | Hassan | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 71. | Mysuru | Karnataka | Bangalore |
| 72. | Shivamogga | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 73. | Tumakuru | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 74. | Udupi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 75. | Vijayapur | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 76. | Chengannur | Kerala | Cochin |
| 77. | Idukki (Kattappana) | Kerala | Cochin |
| 78. | Pathanamthitta | Kerala | Trivandrum |
| 79. | Kasargod | Kerala | Kozhikode |
| 80. | Kavaratti | Lakshadweep | Cochin |
| 81. | Balaghat | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 82. | Dewas | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 83. | Vidisha | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 84. | Satna | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 85. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 86. | Gwalior | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 87. | Kolhapur | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 88. | Aurangabad | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 89. | Ghatkopar/Vikhroli | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 90. | Pimpri Chinchwad | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 91. | Wardha | Maharashtra | Nagpur |
| 92. | Balasore | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 93. | Baripada | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 94. | Berhampur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 95. | Bhawanipatna | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 96. | Rourkela | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 97. | Sambalpur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 98. | Koraput | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 99. | Karaikal | Puducherry | Chennai |
| 100. | Bathinda | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 101. | Moga | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 102. | Patiala | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 103. | Ajmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 104. | Alwar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 105. | Barmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 106. | Chittorgarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 107. | Churu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 108. | Karauli-Dhaulpur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 109. | Kota | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 110. | Bikaner | Rajasthan | Jaipur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 111. | Hanumangarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 112. | Jhunjhunu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 113. | Jaisalmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 114. | Jhalawar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 115. | Nagaur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 116. | Pali | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 117. | Sriganganagar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 118. | Cuddalore | Tamilnadu | Chennai |
| 119. | Kanyakumari | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 120. | Salem | Tamil Nadu | Coimbatore |
| 121. | Tiruvannamalai | Tamil Nadu | Chennai |
| 122. | Vellore | Tamil Nadu | Chennai |
| 123. | Virudhunagar | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 124. | Viluppuram | Tamilnadu | Chennai |
| 125. | Adilabad | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 126. | Khammam | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 127. | Mehbubnagar | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 128. | Siddipet | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 129. | Warangal (Hanamkonda) | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 130. | Agra | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 131. | Ballia | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 132. | Bijnaur | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 133. | Jhansi | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 134. | Moradabad | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 135. | Pilibhit | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 136. | Ghazipur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 137. | Ayodhya/Faizabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 138. | Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 139. | Deoria | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 140. | Unnao | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 141. | Meerut | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 142. | Almora | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 143. | Haldwani (now at Kathgodam) | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 144. | Nainital | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 145. | Roorkee | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 146. | Rudrapur | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 147. | Asansol | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 148. | Bardhman | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 149. | Raiganj (North Dinajpur) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 150. | Nadia (Krishnanagar) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 151. | North Kolkata (Beadon Street) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 152. | Malda | West Bengal | Kolkata |

### Statement-III

*Functional POPSK of Phase-I as on 04th March, 2018*

| Sl.No. | Locations | State/UT | Passport Office |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Kadappa | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 2. | Kurnool | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 3. | Nellore | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 4. | Silchar | Assam | Guwahati |
| 5. | Muzaffarpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 6. | Purnea | Bihar | Patna |
| 7. | Bhagalpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 8. | Siwan | Bihar | Patna |
| 9. | Bettiah | Bihar | Patna |
| 10. | Surguja | Chattisgarh | Raipur |
| 11. | Silvasa | Dadar & Nagar Haveli | Mumbai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | Daman | Daman | Mumbai |
| 13. | Janak Puri | Delhi | Delhi |
| 14. | Nehru Place | Delhi | Delhi |
| 15. | Patparganj | Delhi | Delhi |
| 16. | Yamuna Vihar | Delhi | Delhi |
| 17. | Dahod | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 18. | Palanpur | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 19. | Bhuj | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 20. | Veraval | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 21. | Karnal | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 22. | Hisar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 23. | Faridabad | Haryana | Delhi |
| 24. | Palampur | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 25. | Hamirpur | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 26. | Udhampur | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 27. | Leh | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 28. | Jamshedpur | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 29. | Deoghar | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 30. | Dhanbad | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 31. | Belagavi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 32. | Davangere | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 33. | Hassan | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 34. | Mysuru | Karnataka | Bangalore |
| 35. | Pathanamthitta | Kerala | Trivandrum |
| 36. | Kasargod | Kerala | Kozhikode |
| 37. | Kavaratti | Lakshadweep | Cochin |
| 38. | Vidisha | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 39. | Satna | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 40. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 41. | Gwalior | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 42. | Ghatkopar/Vikhroli | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 43. | Kolhapur | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 44. | Aurangabad | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 45. | Pimpri Chinchwad | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 46. | Rourkela | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 47. | Sambalpur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 48. | Koraput | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 49. | Bathinda | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 50. | Patiala | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 51. | Kota | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 52. | Bikaner | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 53. | Jhunjhunu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 54. | Jaisalmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 55. | Jhalawar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 56. | Salem | Tamil Nadu | Coimbatore |
| 57. | Vellore | Tamil Nadu | Chennai |
| 58. | Mehbubnagar | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 59. | Warangal (Hanamkonda) | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 60. | Agra | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 61. | Bijnaur | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 62. | Jhansi | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 63. | Pilibhit | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 64. | Ghazipur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 65. | Ayodhya/Faizabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 66. | Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 67. | Deoria | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 68. | Meerut | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 69. | Almora | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 70. | Haldwani (now at Kathgodam) | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 71. | Nainital | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 72. | Asansol | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 73. | Raiganj (North Dinajpur) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 74. | Nadia (Krishnanagar) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 75. | North Kolkata (Beadon Street) | West Bengal | Kolkata |

## Market Share of BSNL

2026. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI
VASAVA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the market share of the BSNL during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the share of BSNL in telecommunication service is declining due to the alleged corrupt conduct of its officers and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any stringent action against such corrupt officers and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Circle-wise details of market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the last three years is enclosed as Statement. The data shows that the market share of BSNL was 10.21% on 31st March, 2015; 10.43% on 31st March, 2016 and 10.47% on 31st March, 2017. No correlation of any cases of corruption reported, can be established to any impact on the market share of BSNL. Action against delinquent officials is taken in specific instances as per laid down procedure in line with CVC guidelines.

(d) BSNL has drawn a comprehensive framework for augmentation/upgradation of its network in all spheres *viz.* wireless network, wireline network, data network, backhaul network and bandwidth augmentation with aggressive and innovative customer centric initiatives to retain/enhance its market share.

### Statement

*Circle-wise details of the market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited*

| Sl. No. | Name of Circle | No. of DELs of BSNL as on 31/03/2017 Total | % Market share of BSNL |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | | |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 1,11,38,382 | 12.86 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Assam | 16,89,421 | 7.68 |
| 4. | Bihar | 43,49,840 | 5.12 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | | |
| 6. | Gujarat | 59,63,925 | 8.15 |
| 7. | Haryana | 39,98,268 | 15.75 |
| 8. | Himachal  Pradesh | 23,10,394 | 21.84 |
| 9. | Jammu  and  Kashmir | 16,11,288 | 13.38 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | | |
| 11. | Karnataka | 82,57,215 | 11.57 |
| 12. | Kerala | 1,11,06,322 | 26.91 |
| 13. | Madhya  Pradesh | 59,17,103 | 8.38 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 79,23,690 | 8.27 |
| 15. | North  East-1 | 8,70,457 | 14.10 |
| 16. | North  East-2 | | |
| 17. | Odisha | 53,08,232 | 15.35 |
| 18. | Punjab | 51,27,877 | 13.87 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 61,65,874 | 9.05 |
| 20. | Tamil  Nadu | 86,46,158 | 11.06 |
| 21. | Uttrakhand | | |
| 22. | Uttar  Pradesh  (East) | 1,15,54,175 | 11.00 |
| 23. | Uttar  Pradesh  (West) | 61,09,636 | 9.11 |
| 24. | West  Bengal | 22,28,145 | 3.80 |
| 25. | Kolkatta | 15,69,230 | 5.20 |
| 26. | Chennai | 23,23,052 | 17.03 |
| | Total | 11,50,87,645 | 10.47 |

Note:

(1) West Bengal Telecom Circle Licensing Area includes Andman & Nicobar Circle

(2) NE-1 Telecom Circle Licensing Area includes NE-2 Circle

(3) UP(W) Licensing Area includes Uttarakhand Circle

(4) M.P. Licensing Area includes Chhatisgarh Circle

(5) Bihar Licensing area includes Jharkhand Circle.

| Sl. No. | Name of Circle | No. of DELs of BSNL as on 31/03/2016 Total | % Market share of BSNL |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | | |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 1,09,93,618 | 14.39 |
| 3. | Assam | 15,03,449 | 8.03 |
| 4. | Bihar | 36,55,987 | 4.88 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | | |
| 6. | Gujarat | 47,81,240 | 7.51 |
| 7. | Haryana | 35,09,906 | 14.86 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 18,81,142 | 20.76 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 14,32,181 | 14.40 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | | |
| 11. | Karnataka | 82,46,781 | 12.97 |
| 12. | Kerala | 97,82,409 | 26.72 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 51,51,216 | 7.72 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 73,87,669 | 8.58 |
| 15. | North East-1 | 17,52,560 | 15.65 |
| 16. | North East-2 | | |
| 17. | Odisha | 44,34,794 | 15.10 |
| 18. | Punjab | 42,42,915 | 12.93 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 46,65,616 | 7.66 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 84,38,291 | 12.01 |
| 21. | Uttrakhand | | |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 92,91,943 | 10.02 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 46,61,431 | 8.03 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 21,12,364 | 4.24 |
| 25. | Kolkatta | 14,52,660 | 5.60 |
| 26. | Chennai | 22,06,820 | 16.05 |
| | Total | 10,15,84,992 | 10.43 |

Note:

(1) West Bengal Telecom Circle Licensing Area includes Andman & Nicobar Circle

(2) NE-1 Telecom Circle Licensing Area includes NE-2 Circle

(3) UP(W) Licensing Area includes Uttarakh and Circle

(4) M.P. Licensing Area includes Chhatisgarh Circle

(5) Bihar Licensing area includes Jharkhand Circle.

| Sl. No. | Name of Circle | No. of DELs of BSNL as on 31/03/2015 Total | % Market share of BSNL |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | | |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 1,11,00,166 | 15.04 |
| 3. | Assam | 14,27,318 | 8.24 |
| 4. | Bihar | 31,64,568 | 4.54 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | | |
| 6. | Gujarat | 44,51,664 | 7.41 |
| 7. | Haryana | 30,85,927 | 13.77 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 16,28,298 | 20.19 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 13,67,952 | 14.46 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | | |
| 11. | Karnataka | 81,02,863 | 13.43 |
| 12. | Kerala | 89,96,274 | 26.51 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 40,52,255 | 6.57 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 67,88,709 | 8.59 |
| 15. | North East-1 | 16,47,665 | 15.50 |
| 16. | North East-2 | | |
| 17. | Odisha | 37,37,933 | 13.26 |
| 18. | Punjab | 37,90,757 | 11.94 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 39,91,872 | 7.12 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 85,59,534 | 12.64 |
| 21. | Uttrakhand | | |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 80,91,200 | 9.64 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 37,49,911 | 7.14 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 18,01,176 | 3.79 |
| 25. | Kolkatta | 15,48,387 | 6.57 |
| 26. | Chennai | 21,55,425 | 14.02 |
| | Total | 9,32,39,854 | 10.21 |

Note:

(1) West Bengal Telecom Circle Licensing Area includes Andman & Nicobar Circle

(2) NE-1 Telecom Circle Licensing Area includes NE-2 Circle

(3) UP (W) Licensing Area includes Uttarakhand Circle

(4) M.P. Licensing Area includes Chhatisgarh Circle

(5) Bihar Licensing area includes Jharkhand Circle

### Externally Aided Projects

2027. SHRI NINONG ERING: Will the Minister ofDEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of externally aided projects sanctioned during each of the last three financial years for Arunachal Pradesh, including the inter-state projects involving the State;

(b) the details of projects sanctioned by the Finance Ministers north east package in the last five financial years for Arunachal Pradesh;

(c) the status of the Strengthening of Transmission Distribution System in Arunachal Pradesh project under the NLCPR-CENTRAL; and

(d) the reasons for excluding Arunachal Pradesh from the North Eastern Regional Community Resource Management Programme for Upland Areas (NERCORMP) scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Information in this regard is being collected.

(b) In addition to projects under the on-going scheme of Non-Lapsable Central Pool Resources (NLCPR) and North Eastern Council (NEC), nine projects worth Rs. 147.50 crore have been sanctioned in Arunachal Pradesh under Social and Infrastructure Development Fund (SIDF).

(c) The project of "Strengthening of Transmission Distribution System in Arunachal Pradesh" has not been sanctioned under NLCPR-Central scheme. However, Ministry of Power is implementing North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim at an estimated cost of Rs. 5111.33 crore.

(d) The North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) is being implemented in selected districts of four States in North Eastern Region including Arunachal Pradesh.

### Jobs to Displaced Persons

2028. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
   SHANKARRAO:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision to provide jobs by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries to the persons displaced due to land acquisition for mining work;

(b) the criteria fixed by the Union Government to provide employment to displaced persons due to land acquisition;

(c) the number of displaced persons who have been provided jobs during the last three years;

(d) whether several cases of providing jobs to displaced persons are lying pending in different coal fields; and

(e) the time by which the said pending cases of providing jobs and resettlement of eligible persons are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes Madam. There is a provision for providing jobs to the persons displaced due to land acquisition for mining work as per the Coal India Limited (CIL)'s R & R Policy, 2012. Some of the salient features of the R&R Policy of CIL 2012 are:

 i. The maximum total number of employments that may be provided to the land losers would be limited to the total number of acres of land acquired divided by two.

 ii. However, employments will be released in proportion to the land possessed.

 iii. For every two acres of land one employment can be considered.

 iv. Subsidiary of CIL may give an option to the land losers having less than two acres of land to club together their land to the extent of two

acres and nominate one of the land losers among the groups or their dependent for employment under package deal or employment under Descending Order system by preparing the list of eligible land oustees in the descending order of land lost subject to the cut off equivalent to the total number of permissible employments or any other method with the approval of the respective Board of the Subsidiary.

v. The land loser must be a domiciled resident/ Mool Niwasi and the certificate to this effect shall be issued by the concerned state Authority.

(b) In the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013, there is a provision in Second Schedule (Serial No. 4- Choice of Annuity or Employment) of the said Act to provide employment to displaced person due to land acquisition, which are as follows:

"The appropriate Government shall ensure that the affected families are provided with the following options:

(a) Where jobs are created through the project, after providing suitable training and skill development in the required field, make provision for employment at a rate not lower than the minimum wages provided for any other law for the time being in force, to at least one member per affected family in the project or arrange for a job in such other project as may be required; or

(b) One-time payment of five lakhs rupees per affected family; or

(c) Annuity policies that shall pay not less than two thousand rupees per month per family for twenty years, with appropriate indexation to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers"

(c) The number of displaced persons who have been provided jobs during the last 3 years are as under:-

| Company | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 (upto 28th Feb'2018) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ECL | 313 | 278 | 316 | 337 |
| BCCL | 15 | 80 | 05 | 11 |
| CCL | 209 | 335 | 117 | 180 |
| WCL | | | NIL | |
| SECL | 157 | 253 | 360 | 204 |
| NCL | 40 | 36 | 48 | 16 |
| MCL | 1132 | 496 | 1070 | 758 |

(d) and (e) The subsidiaries wise pending cases of employment of displaced persons(subject to verification) are as below:-

| Sl. No. | Subsidiaries Name | Pending cases of employment |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | ECL | 217 |
| 2. | BCCL | — |
| 3. | CCL | 16 |
| 4. | WCL | — |
| 5. | SECL | — |
| 6. | NCL | 8 |
| 7. | MCL | ** |

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

The time taken for disposal of employment proposal depends on the submission of required documents with regard to merit of the case, delay in the plan, and proper authentication of the forms by the State Authorities etc. So, it varies on case to case basis and no time limit can be effectively fixed beforehand for this purpose.

### Accessibility to Legal Services

2029. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is concerned about the hurdles to common citizens in accessibility to legal services;

(b) if so, whether the Government has already initiated free legal services scheme in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total number of legal aid clinics established by the Government, State-wise and the financial assistance provided to the States during the last three years and the current year in this regard; and

(d) whether the Government has made any efforts to ensure that legal aid reaches the poor and the people residing in rural areas 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 (d) The Government and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) have undertaken a number of measures to address the problems of common citizens for accessing legal services. The Government has been implementing Access to Justice Project since 2012 in 8 States of the North East namely, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim and the State of Jammu & Kashmir in partnership with State Legal Services Authorities and State Governments. Under the project a number of legal aid and literacy programme are being implemented in these States. In 2016-17, 46 legal aid clinics were setup in Tuensang and Mon districts of Nagaland. The Government in partnership with UNDP also implemented another project on Access to Justice in 8 States namely, UP, Bihar, M.P, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Odisha and Maharashtra from 2009 to 2017. Under the project training and capacity building of panel lawyers, para legal volunteers, elected representatives of gram panchayats and anganwadi workers were undertaken. Under the project, 04 legal aid clinics were setup in Odisha in partnership with National Law University, Odisha and 02 legal aid clinics were setup in Mumbai in partnership with Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS).

In April, 2017, the Government has launched three new legal empowerment initiatives, namely, Tele Law, Pro bono legal services and NyayaMitra. Tele Law scheme has been launched in 1800 gram panchayats in 10 States of the country for providing free legal aid to marginalised persons as mentioned in section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. As on 01.03.2018, out of 13947 cases registered under the scheme, legal advice has been provided in 10703 cases. Under the Pro Bono legal service scheme, 215 advocates have registered. Under the NyayaMitra scheme, 15 NyayaMitrashave been engaged in 6 States namely, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tripura. The NyayaMitras are required to assist the judiciary in the disposal of long pending cases and also to provide free legal advice to marginalised persons.

NALSA was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes. Under the Act, legal services institutions have been set up at all levels *i.e.* taluka courts, the district courts, High Court and the Supreme Court. Legal aid clinics setup in jails, observation homes, juvenile justice boards and law schools are being manned by panel lawyers and para legal volunteers of legal services authorities. A total number of 20, 134 legal aid clinics have been established in the country as on 31.12.2017. [Statement showing details of these clinics setup State wise is enclosed].

NALSA has developed schemes and programmes to ensure equitable access to justice, especially for the marginalised communities. These schemes are meant for providing legal aid to those specific categories of people who are excluded from the formal legal system due to political, cultural, social or environmental conditions. Such schemes range from providing legal services to victims of disasters (both manmade and

natural) to acid attack victims. NALSA has also been at the vanguard for protecting the rights and interest of some of the most vulnerable members of the society, be it children, women, tribals or mentally ill and disabled people. During the current financial year (up to December, 2017) more than 5.47 lakh persons have benefited through legal aid services in the country.

Annual Grants allocated by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to State Legal Services Authorities for financing activities including legal aid clinicsduring the financial years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (upto 31.01.2018) are Rs. 53.41 crores, Rs. 57.05 crores, Rs. 110.10 crores and Rs. 89.00 crores respectively.

### *Statement*

*Statewise number of Legal Services Clinics*

| Sl. No. | Name of the SLSAs | Number of Legal Services Clinics established as on 31.12.2017 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 858 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 21 |
| 3. | Assam | 186 |
| 4. | Bihar | 261 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 493 |
| 6. | Goa | 120 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 638 |
| 8. | Haryana | 506 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 1010 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 215 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 498 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 876 |
| 13. | Kerala | 652 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 1138 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 645 |
| 16. | Manipur | 81 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 17. | Meghalaya | 133 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 102 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 124 |
| 20. | Odisha | 522 |
| 21. | Punjab | 526 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 7432 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 31 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 818 |
| 25. | Telangana | 392 |
| 26. | Tripura | 370 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 181 |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | 267 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 886 |
| 30. | A&N Islands | 0 |
| 31. | U.T. Chandigarh | 19 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 13 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 7 |
| 34. | Delhi | 50 |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | 0 |
| 36. | Puducherry | 63 |
| | Total | 20134 |

*[Translation]*

### 139 Enquiry Helpline

2030. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any new enquiry helpline number other than 139 introduced in 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to make enquiry helpline number 139 toll free; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made toll free?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

### Investment in NER

2031. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government currently have any plans ready to attract investment in the North Eastern Region and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of sectors for which the Government of India is keen to attract investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has supported North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) to set up a dedicated Venture Fund for the North Eastern Region (NER) with a corpus of Rs.100 crore.

A Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NITI Aayog consisting of Secretaries of Ministries/ Departments of Development of North Eastern Region, Expenditure, Commerce, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Textiles, Tourism, Health and Family Welfare, Power and Industrial Policy and Promotion has suggested a roadmap for a new industrial

policy for North Eastern States, after consultation with stakeholders.

Some Ministries are also implementing specific Schemes/Incentives to attract investments in the North Eastern Region. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is operating a scheme for Promotion of MSMEs in N.E. Region. A new scheme SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing) is being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). Under this scheme, grants-in-aid are provided on more concessional terms for the North Eastern States for setting up Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure etc. A specific Scheme called North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) for attracting investment is being implemented by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

### Telugu Translators

2032. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Telugu-speaking States by the Ministry for the appointment of, at least, four Telugu translators in each of the Embassies in West Asian countries in view of the large number of Telugus working there to mitigate their problems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these appointments would be made for addressing the issues of the expatriates by the concerned authorities?

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

(b) Not applicable.

### Rafael Fighter

2033. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to purchase the Rafael fighter flight from France and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has started discussions and negotiations for purchase of Rafael fighter flight prior to 2014 and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to review the terms and conditions of purchase after 2014 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details ofthe terms, conditions and price of the flight for the purchase prior to 2014; and

(e) the details of the terms and conditions and price of purchase after 2014 and the details ofthe reasons for increase in price of Rafael fighter flight, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for purchase of 36 Rafale aircraft has been signed on 23rd September, 2016 between the Government of India and the Government of French Republic.

(b) to (d) In the MMRCA proposal for 126 aircraft, the negotiations with M/s Dassault Aviation as L1 vendor commenced in 2012. The Contract negotiations had reached an impasse and the Request for Proposal (RFP) for procurement of 126 MMRCA was formally withdrawn on 24th June, 2015.

(e) The 36 Rafale aircraft are being procured in direct fly-away condition under Inter-Governmental Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of French Republic. In the IGA, better terms have been achieved in terms of pricing, maintenance terms and delivery schedule.

*[Translation]*

### Coal based Thermal Power Plants

2034. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether special emphasis is being given to solar energy across the country which may seriously affect coal based thermal power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the long term effects of the discontinuation of coal based thermal power plants in the context of coal production, local employment and its effects on concerned service sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Government of India has set an ambitious target of 175 GW from Renewable energy sources (RES) by 2022, which comprises of 100 GW Solar, 60GW from Wind, 10 GW from Biomass and 5 GW from Small Hydro. However, as per the Generation Planning studies carried out by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for the year 2021-22, with 175 GW of RES, it has been found that coal-based power plant will play a dominant role in Indian Power Sector. The energy contribution from coal-based power plants is likely to increase to 1072 BU by 2021-22. As such, there will be no serious effect on coal based thermal power plants.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) and (b).

*[English]*

### Shortage of Anti-Tank Missiles

2035. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has sounded the alarm about its critical operational deficiency in the field of Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs), asking the Government for the emergency induction of at least some of these "tank killers";

(b) if so, whether the Army has an alarming shortage of around 68,000 ATGMs and 850 launchers of different types;

(c) if so, whether the Army is worried with a shocking 60 per cent shortage in its "authorised holding" of ATGMs, the force has "nil" war wastage reserves (stockpiles held in reserve for war) as of now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to

(d) Government constantly reviews the security scenario and, accordingly, decides to induct appropriate defence equipment/technology to keep the armed forces in a state of readiness and equipped with modern weapon/ protection systems. In this direction, the deficiencies, if any, of critical ammunitions are also taken into consideration for taking appropriate steps to ensure desired level of operational preparedness commensurate to the threat perception in a dynamic strategic scenario.

*[Translation]*

### Appointment of Ombudsman

2036. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to appoint ombudsman;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any mechanism to deal with the complaints against judges of Supreme Court and High Courts; 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) Complaints received against Judges of Higher Judiciary are at present addressed through 'In house mechanism' of the Supreme Court. As per this mechanism, the Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of their Courts. There is no proposal for appointment of ombudsman.

### Earth Science Projects

2037. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise details of Earth Sciences schemes/projects implemented or under implementation by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the State/UT-wise details of funds sanctioned/ allocated/utilized under such schemes during the said period;

(c) the progress made under such schemes during the said period;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with the achievements made under such schemes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Madam, the mandate of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is to provide services for weather, climate, ocean and coastal state, hydrology, seismology and natural hazards; to explore marine living and non-living resources in a sustainable way and to explore the three polar regions (Arctic, Antarctic and Himalayas). To achieve this mandate, the research & development and operational activities of MoES are carried out under the following five major programs:

1. Atmosphere and Climate Research– Modelling, Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS).

2. Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources, Modelling and Science (OSTORMS).

3. Polar and Cryosphere Research (PACER).

4. Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE).

5. Research, Education, Outreach and Training (REACHOUT)

The above schemes are central sector schemes. They are for the entire country and not specific to any State/UT.

(b) The details of the funds utilised under these schemes during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The progress made under these schemes during the above period is as follows:

(i) ACROSS:

• Augmentation of surface and upper air observational network and Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) Network.

- Establishment of High Performance Computing System with 6.8 Petaflop speed to meet the modelling requirements.

- Under the National Monsoon Mission, a high resolution global· deterministic weather prediction model has been commissioned for generating operational weather forecasts at short, medium, monthly and seasonal timescales. Noteworthy improvement was made in track and intensity forecast of the tropical cyclones, and skills of Heavy Rainfall Forecasts

- Expansion of Agro-meteorological Advisory Services. At present· about 22.7 millions farmers receive these weather forecast and agromet advisories directly by SMS.

- The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research· (SAFAR) system has been developed and deployed at Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

(ii) OSTORMS:

- Augmentation of Ocean Observing Systems in the Indian Ocean· through national and international efforts.

- Provided a suite of advisory services on 24x7 basis, such as Tsunami early earning, Potential Fishing Zone, Ocean State forecast, coral bleach alert to cater to various sectors.

- The Ocean State Forecast service has been extended for neighbouring countries.

- Operationalization of International Training Centre for Operational· Oceanography at Hyderabad, which has been recent upgraded to UNESCO Category-2 Centre (C2C).

- Indigenously developed 500 m depth rated shallow water/Polar· Remotely Operated Vehicle (PROVe). It was successfully deployed in the Andaman coral Islands and the vehicle was successfully maneuvered in the undulating reef terrain to record high quality underwater visuals of coral reef biodiversity with spectral irradiance.

- Developed backward bent ducted buoy to generate power from sea· waves, drifter buoy,

deep ocean bottom pressure recorder, and autonomous passive acoustic monitoring system.

- Beach nourishment technique was demonstrated at Puducherry· coast leading to gain of 60 m wide beach.

(iii) PACER:

- Established a high altitude research station in Himalaya called· HIMANSH at a remote region in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.

- Deployed India's first multi-sensor moored sub-surface observatory· (IndARC) at a water depth of ~180 m in the Arctic. India has been accorded the Observer status in the Arctic Council in recognition of her scientific contributions endeavours in Polar research.

- Indian Scientific expeditions to Antarctica were launched and· executed successfully.

- Research studies were carried out on variability of cryosphere using· remote sensed data, southern Indian Ocean and past climate and oceanic variability of polar regions.

(iv) SAGE:

- Setting up of the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) at New Delhi· to provide added thrust to seismological services in the country. NCS now has 102 national observatories with real time data streaming through VSAT connectivity.

- For automatic earthquake parameter dissemination, IndiaQuake, a mobile App was developed and launched.

- The Scientific Deep Drilling Project at Koyna, Maharashtra started in 2016 with the aim of setting up of borehole observatory at 3.0 to 5.0 km. depths for directly measuring parameters in the near field of earthquakes - before, during and after their occurrence.

- In order to undertake micro-zonation, studies of 30 selected cities, falling in seismic zone V, IV, III and State Capitals has been initiated. As a part of this exercise, Micro-zonation of Delhi has been completed based on Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis (PSHA).

(v) REACHOUT:

- Under this program, Ministry has supported about 60 focused· research projects in the area of Atmospheric Science and Geoscience during the last 3 years and current year. As human resource development and capacity building, the ministry has supported M.Sc/ M.Tech/Ph.D. programmes at various Universities and IITs.

- During the last three years, MoES has also supported about 300· seminars, workshops, etc. in the area relevant to its mandate.

- Successful international cooperation with different countries for collaborative research and human resources development.

- Regional leadership through Bay of Bengal Initiative for MultiSectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), and International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCO ocean).

(d) Yes.

(e) Not Applicable.

***Statement***

*Funds utilized under these schemes*

| Sl.No. | Schemes | 2015-16 Actuals (in Crores) | 2016-17 Actuals (in Crores) | 2017-18 R.E. (in Crores) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | ACROSS | 278.87 | 394.60 | 423.00 |
| 2. | O-STORMS | 279.70 | 305.54 | 326.00 |
| 3. | PACER | 118.66 | 114.74 | 127.00 |
| 4. | SAGE | 117.78 | 51.04 | 88.82 |
| 5. | REACHOUT | 60.99 | 36.27 | 46.00 |

### Employment Generation in Economically Backward Regions

2038. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a task force for employment generation and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has taken note that no new employment is generated in economically backward regions especially in Bundelkhand; and

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering a special scheme to generate new employment opportunities in Bundelkhand and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNINF AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) An Expert Taskforce on Employment and Exports was constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog to provide a major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force were as under:

(1) To propose a comprehensive action plan to alleviate under-employment and low wages by boosting India's exports in key labour-intensive sectors.

(2) To recommend sector-specific policy interventions in key employment-intensive sectors like apparel, leather and footwear and electronics.

(3) To recommend measures to enhance trade in services which have high potential like tourism, education and health.

(4) To identify key macroeconomic factors constraining exports and suggest ways in which to address these constraints.

(5) To assess the effectiveness of existing schemes to promote exports.

(6) To assess issues related to logistics, export credits and trade facilitation.

(7) To suggest ways to enhance the availability of data on trade such that it is reliable, globally comparable and timely, particularly with respect to trade in services.

(8) To make recommendations on any other matters referred to the Task Force by the Government of India. The Taskforce has since submitted its report.

(b) and (c) Government of India provided a Bundelkhand package in 2009 covering a total of 13 districts in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The package aimed at drought-proofing the region, on the one hand and undertaking complementary activities for livelihood and income generation on the other. The impact evaluation of the program has indicated improvement in productivity of crops and hence income levels. The Government of India has recently launched a Program to transform 115 Aspirational districts in the country across States (including 3 Districts in Bundelkhand region *viz.* Chitrakoot in U.P., Chhatarpur & Damoh in M.P) with the objective of improving health, education, nutrition, infrastructure, agriculture, financial inclusion and skill development. These would have an impact on productivity and also generate more direct and indirect employment.

**Fighter Aircraft Squadron**

2039. SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of fighter aircraft squadron inAirForce;

(b) whether the Government proposes to take any action to tackle the situation of continuous aircraft crashes in Airforce;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of countries with which agreements have been signed for induction of advanced technology aircrafts; and

(e) the present status of the agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The Indian Air Force is equipped to cater for the threat environment that exists and is ready to meet the role assigned to it. Operational preparedness of IAF is reviewed from time to time based on the threat perception.

(b) and (c) The Government has been making significant improvement in following areas to tackle the situation of continuous aircraft crashes:-

(i) Invigoration of Aerospace Safety Organisation.

(ii) Real time monitoring and reporting of incidents and accidents.

(iii) Adoption of Revised Training Methodology.

(iv) Induction of Simulators.

(v) Use of Air Force System on Error Management (AFSEM) & Other Measures.

(vi) Investigation by Court of Inquiry and institution of remedial measures.

(vii) Regular visits by senior functionaries to flying stations.

(viii) Improvements in Operating infrastructure.

(ix) Introduction of Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFACS).

(x) Aviation Psychology courses for aircrew.

(xi) Bird Hazard Management Measures.

(xii) Enhancement of Aerospace Safety Awareness.

(xiii) Aerospace Safety courses conducted by Institute of Aerospace Safety.

(xiv) To identify critical vulnerabilities of aircraft and equipment.

(xv) Sharing of Aerospace Safety Information.

(d) To meet the 'Critical Operational Necessity' of the Fighter Aircraft in the IAF, the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed with Government of France for supply of 36 Rafale aircraft on 23.09.2016.

(e) At present, Inter-Government Agreement is on schedule.

*[English]*

### Upgradation of Courts

2040. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budget allocated and utilized for upgradation of courts for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017; and

(b) the breakdown of budget utilized for provision of housing to Upper Subordinates and Lower Subordinates in the Judiciary and the amount of funds released respectively?

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 is the primary responsibility of State Governments to provide adequate infrastructure for Subordinate Judiciary which includes court complexes/court halls and residential accommodation for them. Central Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in order to augment the resources of State Governments in this regard in association with the States/UT governments. The scheme has been in place since 1993-94, and was revised in the year 2011. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for judicial officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary. As on date, there are 14,467 residential units available and 1785 are under construction. The breakdown of budget utilized for provision of housing to Upper Subordinates and Lower Subordinates in the Judiciary and the amount of funds released respectively is not maintained centrally. The details of budget allocated and utilized for development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary for construction of court halls and residential accommodations for judicial officers of District and Subordinate Courts for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 are as under:

(Rs. In Crores)

| 2015-16 | | 2016-17 | | 2017-18 (Upto February, 2018) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Revised Estimates | Released Amount | Revised Estimates | Released Amount | Revised Estimates | Released Amount |
| 562.99 | 562.99 | 538.74 | 538.74 | 621.21 | 621.21 |

### Revamping of Catering System

2041. DR. RATNA DE (NAG):
SHRI HARI OM PANDEY:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal regarding entire revamping of existing railway catering system to boost up revenue earnings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) In accordance with the new Catering Policy issued on 27th February 2017, 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 on trains. In order to upgrade quality of food preparation, IRCTC is to set up new kitchens and upgrade existing ones. Zonal Railways are to manage minor static units (catering stall /milk stalls/ trolleys etc.) except base kitchens and

kitchen units. The policy mandates the zonal railways to hand over the kitchens managed by them to IRCTC. Food Plaza, Fast Food Units and Food Court will continue to be managed by IRCTC. At present, IRCTC has taken over almost all units in phased manner. Further, the procedure/guidelines/policy laid down for allotment of contracts for running various stalls at railway platforms have been simplified.

This revamping of existing railway catering system by carrying out unbundling under Catering Policy 2017 is primarily aimed at providing quality hygienic food to our customers at affordable prices and any consequential boost to revenue earnings thereof is only incidental to the above exercise.

### On-going Projects in West Bengal

2042.  SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:
       SHRI MOHAMMAD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going projects in West Bengal;

(b) whether the work on these projects is progressing as per schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) At present, Railways have taken up 57 major projects comprising 17 New Lines, 36 Doublings and 4 Gauge Conversions falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal at consolidated latest anticipated cost of '39454 crore with consolidated outlay of Rs. 1387 crore made for the year 2018-19.

These projects are progressing as per availability of funds. Apart from availability of funds, completion of projects depends upon several factors like complete handing over of encumbrance-free land by the State Government, forestry clearances, shifting of utilities, Road over/under bridges, canal & electrical crossings, etc. Hence, no time-frame has been fixed for completion of these projects.

*[Translation]*

### Budget Hotels on Railway Land

2043. SHRI AJAY NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposes to give licence to private companies for establishing yatri nivas and budget hotels on its land;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the tender procedure for applying the same;

(c) whether the Railways has prepared any model contract regarding revenue sharing, room charges, responsibility of licence, condition for cancellation of licence, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Railways is planning to establish such facilities in Gaya, Hazipur, Mujaffarpur, Siddarthnagar, Gorakhpur, Shravasti and Varanasi which are connected to important Baudh circuits; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Presently, there is no plan to set up Yatri Niwas at Railway stations. Provision is available for Budget Hotels to come up as part of Multi Functional Complexes (MFCs), through private sector participation, subject to their commercial viability for which tenders are awarded through competitive bidding. Model Development Agreement for development of MFCs stipulates modalities for leasing of Railway land and also conditions leading to termination of lease.

(e) and (f) 197 stations have been identified for development of Multi Functional Complexes (MFCs) over Indian Railways, out of which 44 stations have been found suitable for Budget Hotels. Gaya, Hajipur and Gorakhpur have been found suitable for Budget Hotels.

*[English]*

### Budgetary Allocations

2044. SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary allocation of Ministry of Defence has been done keeping in mind the collusive threat from the borders of China and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the special provisions made to improve the combat conditions on both the borders;

(c) whether fighting forces in those areas are being provided with nutritious food and clothing suitable for weather conditions to keep them fighting fit and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being adopted by the Government to keep the morale of the fighting forces high which has been badly hit by the ill effects of the 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Budgetary allocations are provided to the Armed forces to build up capability and prepare for all eventualities. The Armed forces are suitably equipped, trained and organized to uphold and preserve the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the Nation.

(c) Adequate nutritious food and clothing including special rations and suitable clothing to troops deployed in high altitudes, counter insurgency operations are being provided

(d) The core concerns of the Defence Services with reference to 7th CPC have already been addressed by the Government.

*[Translation]*

### Mobile Courts

2045. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce the operation of mobile courts in the country to dispose of cases within the stipulated time-frame concerning trivial household, familial and societal disputes, specially matters concerning harassment of women, children and senior citizens, keeping in view the inordinate delay in getting justice caused by the present judicial system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced; 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) As per Section 9 of the Gram Nyayalaya Act 2008, Nyayadhikari has been given the powers to hold mobile courts and conduct proceedings in villages outside the headquarters of Gram Nyayalaya. In terms of section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments may establish Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate Panchayat level in consultation with the respective High Courts with a view to provide access to justice to citizens at their doorsteps. Further, in terms of Section 9 of the Act, the Nyayadhikari shall periodically visit the villages falling under his jurisdiction and conduct trial or proceedings at any place which he considers is in close proximity to the place where the parties ordinarily reside or where the whole or part of the cause of action had arisen, provided that where the Gram Nyayalaya decides to hold mobile court outside its headquarters, it shall give wide publicity as to the date and place where it proposes to hold mobile court. The State Government shall extend all facilities to the Gram Nyayalaya including the provision of vehicles for holding mobile court by the Nyayadhikari while conducting trial or proceedings outside its headquarters.

The Central Government has been encouraging the States to set up Gram Nyayalaya by providing financial assistance within the prescribed norms. As per information available, 343 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified by 11 State Governments of which 210 Gram Nyayalayas have become operational in 9 States.

### Seismic Zones

2046. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA *ALIAS* HARISH DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has divided the country in various seismic zones on the basis of vulnerability of the area to earthquake and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to install earthquake early earning warning systems at district level; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Madam, under the aegis of Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) [IS 1983 (Part I):2002], seismic hazard vulnerability of the country has been assessed and the seismic zoning map covering whole of India has been prepared and given in the enclosed

Statement. The 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,
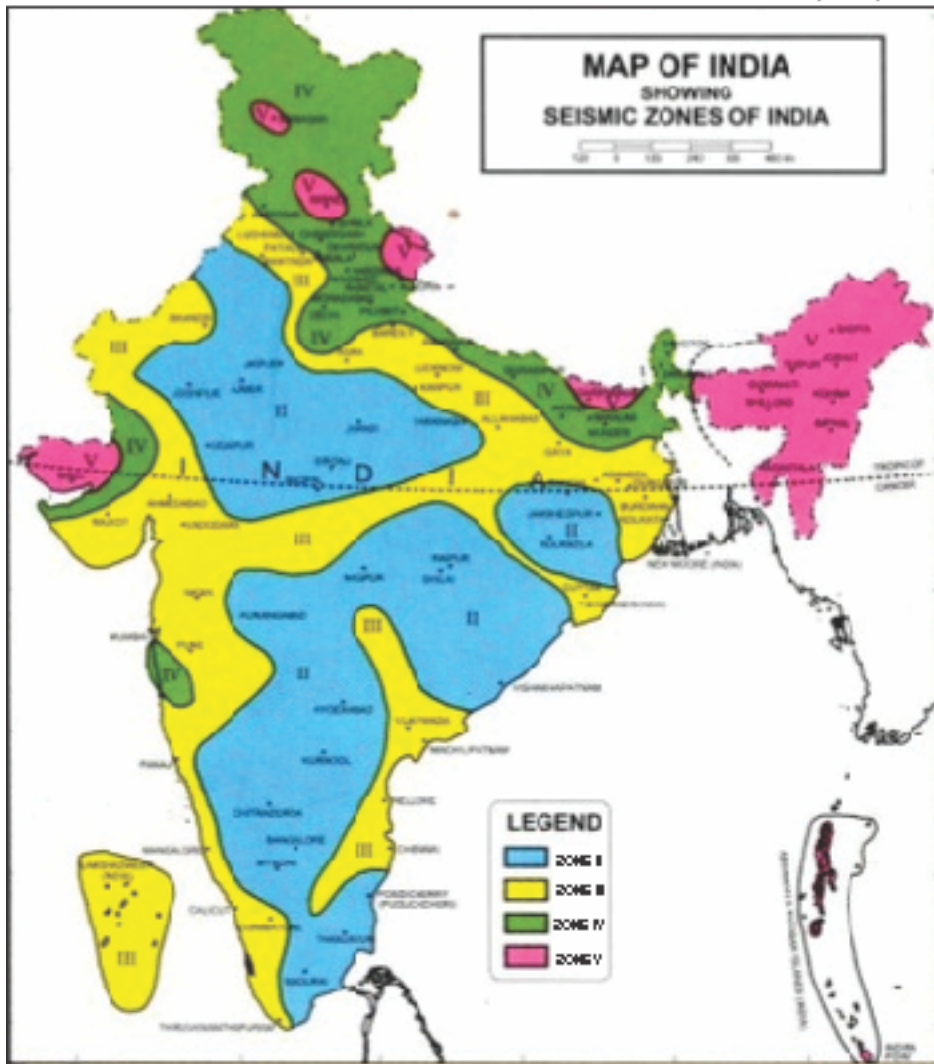
Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Tamilnadu and Karnataka. Zone-II covers remaining parts of the country.

(b) and (c) There is no proven scientific technique available, anywhere in the world, to predict the occurrence of earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy with regard to space, time and magnitude. Ministry is not operating any earthquake early warning system and has no proposal to install any such system. However, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), maintains a country wide national seismological network, to detect and locate earthquakes occurring in and around the country.



Statement
Seismic Zone Map of India
IS 1893 (Part 1) : 2002

NOTE: Towns falling at the boundary of zones demarcation line between two zones shall be considered in High Zone

*[English]*

### Safety and Security in Coal Mines

2047. SHRI RAMESWAR TELI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed any guidelines to ensure safety and security in coal mines across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of accidents and deaths are taking place in coal mines due to vertical extractions of coal; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken/ being taken to reduce the number of accidents and deaths taking place in the coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, there are guidelines issued by the Government for ensuring the safety in coal mines of the country. Safety, health and welfare of persons employed in the mines are dealt with under the Mines Act, 1952, Rule and Regulations made thereunder. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India administers this Act for ensuring safety in the mines in the country. Provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation, 2017 stipulates safety and security in the coal mines across the country. This is reviewed from time to time based on inputs from various organizations and accordingly it is amended. The last amendment was made in 2017.

(c) and (d) No accidents and fatalities (deaths) have taken place due to vertical extraction of coal in recent years. Further, vertical extraction of coal is not practiced in the Opencast (OC) mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries. All OC mines are operated as per the relevant statutes and stipulated conditions laid down in the DGMS permission for extraction of coal.

### Cyber Attacks on Portals

2048. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cyber attacks on Indian portals in 2017-18 (please classify them as governmental/others, websites/ apps, malware/ransomware/hacking, payment gateway attacks etc.);

(b) the number of attacks forecasted and alerted by Computer Emergency Response Team-India in 2017-18; and

(c) the measures undertaken by the Government to prevent and mitigate all kinds of cyber threats, including cyber attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) As per information reported to and tracked by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) a total of 22,207 Indian websites including 114 Government websites were hacked during April 2017 to January 2018. A total number of 493 affected websites were used for malware propagation.

Further, As per the information reported to and tracked by National Informatics Centre (NIC), a total number of 74 and 6 Government websites hosted on NICNET were hacked during the year 2017 and 2018 (till February) respectively.

(b) A total of 301 security alerts regarding potential vulnerabilities and threats to multiple systems and applications were issued by CERT-In during April 2017 to January 2018. In addition, various tailored alerts were sent to key organisations to enable them to detect and prevent cyber attacks.

(c) Government has taken various measures for preventing cyber security incidents and enhancing the cyber security of information technology infrastructure in the country. These are:

   i. Information Technology Act, 2000 has adequate deterrent provisions for cyber threats and cyber attacks.

   ii. 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. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has empanelled 67 security auditing organizations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.

iii. CERT-In is regularly tracking the hacking of websites and alerts the website owners concerned to take actions to secure the websites to prevent recurrence. CERT-In also issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis.

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

v. Government has issued general guidelines to Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) defining their key roles and responsibilities for securing applications/infrastructure and compliance.

vi. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers/servers on regular basis.

vii. Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 15 such drills have so far been conducted by CERT-In where 148 organisations from different States and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated. In addition 3 drills were conducted in coordination with The Reserve Bank of India and The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology.

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

mitigating cyber attacks. 22 training programs covering 610 participants were conducted during the year 2017.

ix. Government has 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.

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. 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. Also, relevant advisories are circulated among the NICNET users for taking precautionary measures from time-to-time. 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 hardenings. These are complemented by round-the-clock monitoring of security events.

*[Translation]*

### Rail Accidents

2049. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after taking cognizance of recent accidents, the Government has taken steps for passenger safety and to prevent recurrence of such accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has contemplated/proposed to upgrade the various safety standards of the railway;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expected time limit to complete the process; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis based on the experience gained from various accidents in the past to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and safety inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.

(c) to (e) All technologies, maintenance procedure & processes in connection with safe running of train are introduced after thorough examination from safety point of view. The safety standards are specific to the technologies and the procedures; these are constantly being upgraded/modified with the change in technologies and new maintenance procedures. Indian Railways have adopted or are continuously introducing new technologies such as electronic interlocking at all interlocked Broad Gauge stations on Indian Railways, Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system based on European Train Control System Level 2 (ETCS-L2) in the entire BG route and covering all the Electric locos, EMU/MEMUs and Diesel locos over BG route, Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) including Broad Band Corridor with LTE covering the entire BG route, Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) on entire route, Train Management System covering all 4 Metros, Automatic Block Signalling covering the Golden Quadrilateral & Diagonals routes and train detection system in balance routes, Remote Diagnostics and Predictive Maintenance, Track Circuiting at station, Axle Counter for Block working (BPAC), Use of 60 kg rails and Pre Stressed Concrete Sleepers (PSC), Long Welded Rail Panels (LWR), Thick Web Switches in turnouts, Digital Ultrasonic Flaw Detection Machines for rail defects. A policy decision has been taken to manufacture only Linke Hoffman Busche (LHB) type coaches from 2018-19 onwards. All electric locomotives have been provided with Vigilance Control Devices (VCD) which helps in checking the alertness of Loco Pilots (LPs). Training to the Loco Pilots is being imparted on Simulators for improving reaction time and driving skills.

As a result of implementing the above mentioned continual upgradation and adoption of technologies, the number of consequential accidents has steadily fallen over Indian Railways.

*[English]*

### Judiciary under Pressure

2050. SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Judicial system in the country is working under pressure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for recent controversy in the Supreme Court; and

(d) the measures the Government is taking to resolve this unrest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) There is no information with the Government to show that the Judicial system is working under any pressure. Judiciary is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution and is fully empowered and capable of handling all its matters. The Government is committed to the independence of Judiciary and does not intervene in its functioning.

*[Translation]*

### Reservation for Third Gender

2051. SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of reservation for third gender for filling up the vacancies in various Government departments;

(b) if so, the details and the number of people benefited therein;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the employment of third gender; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, scheme- wise and the number of appointments made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) At present, no instructions have been issued by the Department of Personnel and Training for providing reservation to third gender in the services and posts of Central Government Departments/ Ministries. Therefore, the question of beneficiaries in employment under Central Government Departments/Ministries does not arise.

*[English]*

### Bela Rail Factory

2052. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bela Rail Factory located in Saran district of Bihar established for producing the cast wheels for railway wagons is under-producing *vis-a-vis* its capacity;

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

(c) whether an audit has been done on the efficiency and production capacity of the Bela Rail factory since its incorporation, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the under-utilized/under- producing rail factory in the country; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to support such rail factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The Rail Wheel Plant (RWP), Bela is still in project stage. The production of cast wheels at RWP, Bela is progressing as per infrastructural facilities being developed there.

(c) No, Madam. No such Audit has been done.

(d) and (e) The production targets of Rail Factories are based on the Traffic demand for Rolling Stock, which is dynamic in nature. All Production Units, not in project stage, are manufacturing more than their installed capacity, except Rail Wheel Factory, Bengaluru. As the demand for cast wheels for Rolling Stock is lower at present, the target for Rail Wheel Factory (RWF), Bengaluru is less than the installed capacity for the year 2017-18. New products, such as cast wheels for Electrical Multiple Units (EMU) and Linke Hoffman Bosch (LHB) coaches are being developed at RWF, Bengaluru to enable better utilization of the capacity of Rail Wheel Factories.

*[Translation]*

### Losses Borne by IRCTC

2053. PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started the process to recover losses of crores of rupees suffered by IRCTC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for losses suffered by IRCTC;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the extent of losses suffered by the IRCTC and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Government is likely to bail out IRCTC from this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b)  Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has not incurred losses since inception.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

*[English]*

### Circulation of Fake News

2054. DR. ANSHUL VERMA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake news has pervaded all spheres of life and is leading to serious consequences and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the people booked in isolated incidents in different States for circulation of fake news on messaging and social media platforms; and

(c) whether the Government plans a new social media policy to check circulation of fake news *via* digital and social media and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):   (a) and (b) The Government does not maintain specific information with regard to people booked in isolated incidents if any in different States for circulation of fake news on messaging and social media platforms.

(c) No, Madam. There are existing legal provisions under Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 to regulate misuse of social media.

### Facilities to Coal Mine Workers

2055. SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:
PROF. RICHARD HAY:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI GEORGE BAKER:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Coal Mines across the country, State/UT-wise along with the detail s of the number of coal mine workers working in these mines across the country, State/UT-wise including Kerala;

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

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

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

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make these coal mines/all coal mines as Zero Accidental; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) State-wise number of working coal mines across the country, State/UT-wise is given below:

| Sl. No. | State | Number of working coal mines |
|---------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1. | West Bengal | 75 |
| 2. | Jharkhand | 140 |
| 3. | Madhya Pradesh | 70 |
| 4. | Uttar Pradesh | 4 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 57 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 60 |
| 7. | Odisha | 29 |
| 8. | Assam | 4 |
| 9. | Telangana | 47 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4 |
| 11. | Meghalaya | 3 |
| | Total | 493 |

The number of coal mine workers working in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) and The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) located in different States as on 01.02.2018 are given as under:

| State | Company | No. of Workers (Non-Exe.) |
|-------|---------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Jharkhand and West Bengal | Eastern Coalfields Limited | 62150 |
| Jharkhand | Bharat Coking Coal Limited | 49095 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | Central Coalfields Limited | 40984 |
| | Central Mine Planning and Design Institute | 3391 |
| Odisha | Mahanadi Coalfields Limited | 22380 |
| Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh | Northern Coalfields Limited | 15066 |
| Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh | South Eastern Coalfields Limited | 58754 |
| Maharastra and Madhya Pradesh | Western Coalfields Limited | 45898 |
| Assam and Meghalaya | North Eastern Coalfields | 1552 |
| West Bengal | CIL, Kolkata | 933 |
| | Dankuni Coal Complex | 334 |
| Telangana | SCCL | 54246 |
| | Total | 354783 |

(b) and (c) The following facilities are provided to the mine employees for ensuring safety:

i. Housing, drinking water and sanitation including medical facilities to employees in mines of CIL

ii. Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) to all employees as per their job requirements.

iii. Ensuring the health of the employees of mines of CIL by way of Initial and Periodic Medical examination as per statute and National Safety Conference recommendations and medical facilities for occupational health services.

iv. Adequate training facilities for Initial and Refresher training & On-the-Job Training as per statute.

v. Facility of Man Riding System for those UG mines having arduous and long travel.

vi. Round-the-clock Supervision by statutory personnel for ensuring safety of the employees working in the mines.

vii. Well-equipped Organization for Mine Rescue Services for dealing with Emergency situations.

(d) The operations in Coal Mines are regulated by the Mines Act-1952 and rules, regulations and byelaws framed thereunder and other important statutes related to use of electricity and explosive etc. These statutes are administered by the Directorate-General of Mines Safety (DGMS). DGMS ensures that the all the mines are operated as per statutes and any violations of safety statutes or guidelines are pointed out by them during their inspections.

(e) CIL undertakes the following for achieving Zero Accident in all its mines:

i. Safety Policy already formulated and implemented in all mines of CIL for ensuring mine safety.

ii. Provision for adequate nos. of competent man power and fund for maintenance of mine safety.

iii. Preparation and implementation of Risk assessment based Safety Management Plans (SMPs) for all mines of CIL.

iv. Preparation and implementation of Risk assessment based site specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for various mining and allied operations.

v. Identification of principal hazards, preparation and implementation of "Principal Hazard Management Plan (PHMP)" thereof.

vi.   Preparation and implementation of "Triggered Action Response Plan (TARP)" to deal with any emergency.

vii.  Conducting Safety Audit from time to time to assess status of safety in mines.

viii. Adoption of Mass Production Technology in more number of amenable UG mines.

ix.   Phasing out manual loading in UG mines.

x.    Adoption of the state-of-the art mechanism for Strata Management such as scientifically determined Rock Mass Rating (RMR) based Support System, Strata Control Cell, mechanized Drilling for Roof Bolting, use of Resin capsules in place of Cement capsules and modern Strata Monitoring Instruments.

xi.   Mine Air Sampling and Analysis by Gas Chromatograph.

xii.  Commissioning of Environmental Tele Monitoring System in Degree-III & fiery UG mines.

xiii. Eco-friendly Surface Miners for blast free mining and avoidance of associated risks.

xiv.  Dumpers fitted with Proximity Warning Devices, Rear view mirrors and camera, Audio-Visual Alarm (AVA), Automatic Fire Detection & Suppression system etc.

xv.   GPS based Operator Independent Truck Dispatch System (OITDS) in large OCPs.

xvi.  Training on Simulators for HEMM operators.

xvii. Commissioning of Virtual Reality Mine Station (VRMS) in collaboration with SIMTARS, Australia at IIT-ISM, Dhanbad.

(f) Over and above imparting Initial and Refresher training to mine workers including the contractual ones as per the provisions of the Mine Vocational Training Rules 1966, the following additional steps are undertaken -

1. Regular job specific safety training to mine workers & contractual workmen.

2. Imparting First-aid training to all front line supervisors & grass-root level employees.

3. Special safety drives on thrust areas such as, haulage & conveyors, mine ventilation, safe use of explosive & electricity, etc.

4. Special drives on safe dump management.

5. Sensitization programmes on safety management plan.

6. Regular sensitization of contractual workmen.

7. Imparting training on Simulators to Dumper/ HEMM Operators.

8. Imparting Risk Management training and Root Cause Analysis to mine officials, PSC members and grass-root level workmen by the SIMTARS accredited trainers of CIL & subsidiaries.

9. Additionally, several mass safety awareness programmes in form of celebrating Mine Safety Week, All India Mines Rescue Competition, Inter-Area First-aid competition, mine safety workshop etc. are observed to promote safety among all stakeholders.

*[Translation]*

### Selling of Call Record Details

2056.   SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
　　　　SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:
　　　　SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding alleged selling of call record details of people;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such illegal practices; and

(c) the number of such complaints received by the Government during the last three years, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No such complaint has been received in the Ministry of Communications. However, as per secret communication received from Ministry of Home Affairs, Delhi Police and

Thane Police have detected scam/rackets regarding agencies procuring Call Detail Records illegally and selling them to their clients.

(b) and (c) Total two cases have been registered by Delhi Police and Thane police against the accused persons during 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively.

*[English]*

### BPO's in Andhra Pradesh

2057.   SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY:
           SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

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

(a) whether the Government plans to set up more BPOs under India BPO Scheme in Andhra Pradesh (AP);

(b) if so, the details thereof, district- wise both of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;

(c) whether AP State is providing more jobs in BPO sector in comparison to other States and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes more bids for BPOs in Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof and the action plan prepared to set up more BPOs in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) aims to incentivize 48,300 seats BPO operations for creation of employment opportunities and promotion of investment in IT/ITeS sector across the country particularly in small cities/towns, with an outlay of Rs. 493 crore, by 31.03.2019. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous organization of MeitY is the implementing agency for the scheme. Till now, out of the total allocated 31,732 seats thus far across the country, 6460 seats have been allocated in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The list of the approved units thus far in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Till now, 79 units have reported commencement of operations to STPI for a total of 13,780 seats with initial employment to ~10,500 persons across the country. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, response received from the industry is good, and till now 13 units for a total of 2,450 seats have commenced operations with initial employment to 2,814 persons.

(d) STPI, from time to time, invites online bids from the eligible entities willing to set up BPO operations in any State/UT under IBPS including Andhra Pradesh

*[Translation]*

### Fast Track Courts

2058.   SHRI RAVINDER KUSHAWAHA:
           SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
           SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:
           SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) the details of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) functioning in the country, State- wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the last three years and the current year and number of cases presently pending in these courts, State-wise;

(c) the total funds allocated and spent for setting up of these courts during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up more FTCs in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government is satisfied with the performance of FTCs in delivering rapid justice to litigants and if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether FTCs are not functioning anymore or the same are proposed to be continued by State Governments owned resources and if so, the respective details of such courts; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure quick disposal of cases filed under these courts?

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 (g) The details of FTCs functioning in the country and the number of cases presently pending in these courts (State-wise) as per information received from High Courts is given in the enclosed Statement-I. However, the details of number of cases disposed of in these courts during the last three years and the current year is not maintained centrally in the Department of Justice, as their monitoring comes within the purview of the respective High Courts.

The Government of India had proposed setting up of 1800 FTCs with a cost of Rs. 4144 crores as a component of its Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission (FC) in order to dispose of cases pertaining to heinous crimes involving women, children etc. The 14th FC endorsed the proposal of the Union Government and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. The funds earmarked during the 14th FC Award period Statewise, is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

The decision of setting up of FTCs and allocation of funds 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. In its judgment in Brij Mohan Lal & Others vs Union of India & Others on 19.04.2012, the Supreme Court had, inter alia, directed the States that they shall not take a decision to continue FTCs on an ad-hoc and temporary basis. They (States) will need to decide either to bring the FTCs scheme to an end or to continue the same as a permanent feature in the State.

The Union Government has adopted a coordinated approach to assist judiciary, which includes FTCs, for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems and involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development. The Central Government has urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the activities mentioned in the 14th FC recommendations from their State budgets from 2015-16 onwards. The Minister of Law & Justice has also written letters to all the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts to implement the resolution of the Chief Ministers/Chief Justices Conference including the recommendations of the 14th FC related to FTCs.

### *Statement-I*

*Fast track courts and the number of cases presently pending in these courts (statewise)*

| Name of the States/UTs | No of Fast Track Courts functional as on 31.12.2017 | No. of Cases Pending in the Fast Track Courts (As on 31.12.2017) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh, Telangana | 72 | 9085 |
| Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram | 0 | 0 |
| Bihar | 55 | 22616 |
| Chhattisgarh | 21 | 4292 |
| Delhi | 14 | 6729 |
| Goa | 4 | 4719 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Gujarat | 0 | 0 |
| Haryana | 0 | 0 |
| Himachal  Pradesh | 0 | 0 |
| Jammu  and  Kashmir | 5 | 0 |
| Jharkhand | 14 | 2136 |
| Karnataka | 0 | 0 |
| Kerala | 0 | 0 |
| Madhya  Pradesh | 0 | 0 |
| Maharashtra | 100 | 105301 |
| Manipur | 3 | 114 |
| Meghalaya | 0 | 0 |
| Odisha | 0 | 0 |
| Punjab | 0 | 0 |
| Puducherry | | |
| Rajasthan | 0 | 0 |
| Sikkim | 2 | 13 |
| Tamil  Nadu | 69 | 50641 |
| Tripura | 3 | 891 |
| Uttar  Pradesh | 273 | 323854 |
| Uttarakhand | 4 | 671 |
| West  Bengal | 88 | 39162 |
| Total | 727 | 570224 |

### Statement-II

*Funds  allocated  for  establishment  of  1800  Fast  Track  Courts  for  a  period  of  five  years  (2015-2020)  as  endorsed  by  the  14th  Finance  Commission:*

(Rs.  in  crore)

| Sl.No | Name  of  the  State | Funds  allocated |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra  Pradesh | 108.21 |
| 2. | Telangana | 85.18 |
| 3. | Assam | 82.88 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 |
| 5. | Mizoram | 16.12 |
| 6. | Nagaland | 6.91 |
| 7. | Bihar | 338.43 |
| 8. | Chhattisgarh | 64.46 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 400.59 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 29.93 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 48.35 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 115.11 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 218.72 |
| 14. | Kerala, Lakshadweep | 94.39 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 306.20 |
| 16. | Maharashtra, D&N, Daman and Diu | 469.67 |
| 17. | Goa | 11.51 |
| 18. | Manipur | 6.91 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 9.21 |
| 20. | Orissa | 145.04 |
| 21. | Punjab | 115.11 |
| 22. | Chandigarh | 4.61 |
| 23. | Haryana | 110.51 |
| 24. | Rajasthan | 214.11 |
| 25. | Sikkim | 2.3 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu, Puducherry | 204.91 |
| 27. | Tripura | 20.72 |
| 28. | Uttar Pradesh | 488.08 |
| 29. | Uttarakhand | 64.46 |
| 30. | West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 216.42 |
| 31. | Delhi | 145.05 |
| | Total | 4144.11 |

*The amount is to be allocated by the State Governments from their enhanced State budgets made available to them in the form of tax devolution.

### Chinese Activities in Doklam

2059. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:
        SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:
        SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:
        SHRI LALLU SINGH:
        SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:
        SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has again increased its activities in Doklam region;

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

(c) the details of the action plan to deal with this situation;

(d) whether the Chinese road-workers intruded into the State of Arunachal Pradesh with road laying equipment and attempted to lay a road in the Indian Territory prompting the Indian troops to seize the equipment whereupon the Chinese desisted; 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) Since the disengagement of Indian and Chinese border personnel in the Doklam area on 28 August 2017, there have been no new developments at the face-off site and its vicinity. The status quo prevails in this area.

Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

(d) and (e) On 28 December 2017, an Indian Army patrol observed three civilians believed to be Chinese nationals, carrying out track construction in the Shiyung La area in Upper Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh, approximately one kilometer on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The three civilians returned to the Chinese side of the LAC on seeing the Indian Army patrol. As per the agreed modalities, a Flag Meeting was arranged to discuss the intrusion. The Chinese side admitted that the three civilians had crossed over the LAC and agreed to withdraw their equipment immediately.

Government regularly takes up such transgressions along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, as well as through diplomatic channels.

### Escalators and CCTVs

2060. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Railways has decided to go in for bulk purchases and disburse payments within 30 days of all work orders and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railway network needs at least 2,000 escalators and each escalator cost Rs.1.0 crore and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways plans to put up CCTV cameras in all coaches and railway stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam.

The centralized procurement is done at Railway Board and Production Units.

1.0 Centralized procurement at Railway Board:

By Stores Directorate:

(i) Diesel and Fuel-Approximate annual procurement value Rs. 15000 crore. Further centralized procurement for 3 years requirement (FY: 2018-19 to 2020-21) has been planned as Long Term Contract through competitive bidding.

(ii) Various types of Wagons- Approximate annual procurement value Rs. 3000 crore.

(iii) Steel of various sizes for Wagon production- Approximate annual procurement value Rs. 800 crore.

(iv) Loco and LHB Wheels- Approximate annual procurement value Rs. 125 crore.

By Engineering Directorate:

(i) Rails-approximate annual procurement Rs. 4000 crore.

(ii) Sleepers-approximate annual procurement Rs. 1300 crore.

(iii) Track Machines-approximate annual procurement Rs. 350 crore.

2.0 Centralized procurement by CLW and DLW:

(i) Also procurement for some important high value spares for maintenance of Electric and Diesel Locos by Zonal Railways, is being done centrally by CLW and DMW respectively.

(ii) Instructions have been issued by Railway Board on 09.12.2017 for centralized procurement of 20 high value items (estimated value of Rs. 18000 crore over 3 years) through Long Term Contracting by CLW and DLW.

3.0 Instructions for bulk procurement of 37 High value items, estimated to be more than Rs. 2000 crore through Long Term Contracting, have been issued by Railway Board on 05.07.2017 to Zonal Railways.

In order to bring transparency in administration, Stores & Works contracts bills, instructions have been issued on 27.10.2017, which inter alia, bring out that all claims received must be invariably passed within a week and payments credited to suppliers'/contractors' account within 30 days through RTGS/NEFT or any other digital payment mode.

(b) Yes, Madam. Railways has decided to provide escalators at all the A-1, A & C category (footfall 25000 or above) railway stations. Accordingly, there will be a requirement of more than 2000 escalators and present approximate estimated cost of escalator including Civil and Electrical works is about Rs. 1 crore per escalator.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. CCTV cameras have so far been provided at 394 stations, out of which 104 stations are covered under Integrated Security System (ISS). Further works are in progress at 98 stations under ISS and at 983 stations under Nirbhaya Fund. Work for provision of CCTV cameras at balance 7139 stations has been approved. Proposal to provide CCTV cameras in 58,000 coaches of Suburban, Premium, Mail/Express and Passenger trains has been approved.

**Weather Monitoring**

2061. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether weather monitoring is being used to help farmers in making better agricultural decisions;

(b) if so, whether there are any schemes to ensure that the farmers living in rural areas have access to this information; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa Scheme (GKMS), India Meteorological Department (IMD) generates district level weather forecasts for the next five days exclusively for all the farmers of the country.

(c) Based on the district level forecast issued by IMD, district Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) bulletins are prepared by the Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) for the different agromet zones of the country. These AAS bulletins are generated twice a week *i.e.* on Tuesday and Friday. During prolonged dry spells or break in monsoon like situations, inputs from Extended Range Forecast System valid for forthcoming two weeks are also referred while preparing the Agromet Advisory bulletins.

These are disseminated to the farmers through multimedia channels (print/visual/radio) as well as IT based media including SMS (using Kishan Portal & private companies) for the benefit of the farmers. At present about 22.7 millions farmers receive these weather forecast and agromet advisories directly by SMS. IMD is planning to reach more farmers through SMS.

As per the survey conducted by National council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), farming

community is widely using the GKMS Service products for their critical farms operations and get economical benefits.

### Cognizance of e-mail Communications

2062. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to promote the concept of Digital India Programme, Government has issued/would issue directions to all Government departments/PSUs/entities to take cognizance of e-mail communications of MPs/ex-MPs through their official mail, including prompt acknowledgement and subsequent communication of appropriate and prompt action taken thereon within stipulated time period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such advisory would also be issued to State Governments and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP) lays down broad procedures for process management in the Central Secretariat. E-mail is one of the modes of communication provided in the Manual. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has reiterated instructions contained in the CSMOP from time to time stressing on the need of following its provisions including acknowledging the communication received from MPs within 15 days, followed by a reply within next 15 days of acknowledgement sent.

(c) Under the federal principle the State Governments have their own separate sets of Manuals of Office Procedure for their offices.

### Women Scientists

2063. SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) the details of the number of Indian women scientists, engineers and technologists across the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the percentage of Indian women scientists, engineers and technologists is still less as compared to male scientists, engineers and technologists, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is planning/has planned any fellowship programme with foreign countries especially for women in Science and Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the number of women scientists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. As per available statistics, 39,389 (13.9%) women out of the total 2.83 lakhs scientists, engineers & technologists were employed in the R&D establishments across the country. However, the department does not maintain state/UT-wise data. The reasons are family responsibilities, cultural and societal constraints often affect research career of women scientists and academicians in Science and Technology (S&T) domain, thus forcing them to either take a break or opt out of career. Pursuing scientific research career along with socio-cultural responsibilities often becomes a major challenge for women scientists, engineers and technologists.

(c) and (d) To encourage women professionals in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM), the Ministry has taken various steps to enhance their research capacities and capabilities like launching a Indo-US fellowship for women in STEMM field to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions in U.S.A, Women centric schemes and programs under the ambit of Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) initiative, Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation (Bio-Care) for career development of employed/unemployed women scientists; apart from providing relaxation of 5 years in terms of upper age limit to women candidate to be eligible for all the fellowships(JRF/SRF)/research associate-ships awarded by CSIR for perusing doctoral and post doctoral research.

*[Translation]*

### Share of Atomic Energy

2064. DR. KRISHAN PRATAP:
        SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal to set up Nuclear Power Plant in the State of Punjab and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has undertaken a feasibility study to evaluate the impact of setting up of a nuclear power plant on per unit electricity cost in the State and if so, the details and the outcomes thereof;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken a study to ascertain the cost benefit analysis of setting up new Nuclear Power Plants in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the share of atomic energy in total power production of the country;

(e) whether the Government has prepared any comprehensive scheme to double it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Madam.

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

(c) Cost benefit analysis of each nuclear power project is carried out as a part of preparation of the project proposal. A project is accorded administrative approval and financial sanction based *inter alia* on consideration of the cost benefit analysis.

(d) Share of nuclear power in the total electricity generated in the country in the year 2016-17 was 3.05%.

(e) and (f) The present installed nuclear capacity of 6780 MW would reach 13480 MW by the year 2024 with the completion of projects under construction (including 500 MW PFBR, being implemented by BHAVINI). In June 2017, the Government accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for 12 more reactors with a total capacity of 9000 MW, which are scheduled to be completed progressively by 2031. Together with the capacity being implemented by BHAVINI, the total nuclear power capacity will reach 22480 MW by the year 2031. With the increase in the nuclear installed capacity base, the share of nuclear power in the country would also increase.

*[English]*

### POPSK

2065. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme, called Post Office Passport Sewa Kendra (POPSK);

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

(c) whether the Government has any record regarding the number of POPSKs functioning in the country;

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

(e) whether the Government is implementing any scheme to augment facilities in the POPSKs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the above purpose for the last two years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Yes. The Ministry in association with the Department of Posts has decided to open 251 Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called 'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra' (POPSK). The list of these 251 POPSK is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The POPSK are functioning like the other existing 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK). The process of issuing passports has not changed after the opening of the POPSK. Applicants, who apply for their passports online through the passport portal, can schedule an appointment and then visit the designated POPSK to complete the formalities similar to those at the PSK necessary prior to the issue of the passport. The photographs, biometrics and the supporting documents would be electronically captured at the POPSK prior to the issue of the Passport.

(c) and (d) Out of the 251 POPSK announced, 152 POPSK were functional as on 04th March, 2018 Statement-II).

(e) POPSKs are to be opened in the Head Post Offices (HPO)/Post Offices (PO) which are under the administrative control of the Department of Posts. The Government is providing facilities at the POPSK similar to any PSK operational in the country.

(f) The Department of Posts has provided the premises at the HPO/ PO for the opening of the POPSK. The Ministry has procured the necessary IT and non-IT equipment necessary for the functioning of the POPSK. The expenditure for these procurements is met out of the 'Information Technology' and 'Office Expenses' Budget Heads of the CPV Division. The funds allocated in BE and RE for Financial Years 2016-17 and 2017-18 are as follows:

(Rs. Crores)

| Particulars | 2016-17 | | 2017-18 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | BE | RE | BE | RE |
| Information Technology | 170.00 | 172.00 | 170.00 | 231.73 |
| Office Expenses | 12.00 | 13.20 | 13.00 | 10.93 |

**Statement-I**

*List of 251 POPSK in the Country*

| Sl.No. | Locations | State/UT | Passport    Office |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Anantpur | Andhra  Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 2. | Guntur | Andhra  Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 3. | Krishna | Andhra  Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 4. | Ongole | Andhra  Pradesh | Vijayawada |

| 1   | 2               | 3                 | 4              |
| --- | --------------- | ----------------- | -------------- |
| 5.  | Chitoor         | Andhra Pradesh    | Visakhapatnam  |
| 6.  | Kakinada        | Andhra Pradesh    | Vishakhapatnam |
| 7.  | Srikakulam      | Andhra Pradesh    | Visakhapatnam  |
| 8.  | Kadappa         | Andhra Pradesh    | Vishakhapatnam |
| 9.  | Kurnool         | Andhra Pradesh    | Vishakhapatnam |
| 10. | Nellore         | Andhra Pradesh    | Vishakhapatnam |
| 11. | Rajamundry      | Andhra Pradesh    | Vishakhapatnam |
| 12. | Changlang       | Arunachal Pradesh | Guwahati       |
| 13. | Tirap           | Arunachal Pradesh | Guwahati       |
| 14. | Silchar         | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 15. | Dhubri          | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 16. | Dibrugarh       | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 17. | Goalpara        | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 18. | Karbi Anglong   | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 19. | Kokrajhar       | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 20. | Mangaldoi       | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 21. | North Lakhimpur | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 22. | Sonitpur        | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 23. | Tinsukia        | Assam             | Guwahati       |
| 24. | Chhapra         | Bihar             | Patna          |
| 25. | Gopalganj       | Bihar             | Patna          |
| 26. | Muzaffarpur     | Bihar             | Patna          |
| 27. | Purnea          | Bihar             | Patna          |
| 28. | Bhagalpur       | Bihar             | Patna          |
| 29. | Siwan           | Bihar             | Patna          |
| 30. | Bettiah         | Bihar             | Patna          |
| 31. | Begusarai       | Bihar             | Patna          |
| 32. | Buxar           | Bihar             | Patna          |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 33. | East Champaran | Bihar | Patna |
| 34. | Gaya | Bihar | Patna |
| 35. | Madhubani | Bihar | Patna |
| 36. | Samastipur | Bihar | Patna |
| 37. | Supaul | Bihar | Patna |
| 38. | Munger | Bihar | Patna |
| 39. | Navada | Bihar | Patna |
| 40. | Surguja | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 41. | Durg | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 42. | Bilaspur | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 43. | Rajnandgaon | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 44. | Silvasa | Dadar and Nagar Haveli | Mumbai |
| 45. | Daman | Daman | Mumbai |
| 46. | North West Delhl | Delhi | Delhi |
| 47. | Janak Puri | Delhi | Delhi |
| 48. | Nehru Place | Delhi | Delhi |
| 49. | Patparganj | Delhi | Delhi |
| 50. | Yamuna Vihar | Delhi | Delhi |
| 51. | Krishna Nagar | Delhi | Delhi |
| 52. | Lodhi Road | Delhi | Delhi |
| 53. | Saket | Delhi | Delhi |
| 54. | South Goa | Goa | Panaji |
| 55. | Dahod | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 56. | Palanpur | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 57. | Mehsana | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 58. | Bhuj | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 59. | Veraval | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 60. | Anand | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 61. | Bharuch | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 62. | Bhavnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 63. | Jamnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 64. | Junagadh | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 65. | Kheda | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 66. | Navsari | Gujarat | Surat |
| 67. | Valsad | Gujarat | Surat |
| 68. | Karnal | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 69. | Hisar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 70. | Bhiwani | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 71. | Kaithal | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 72. | Panipat | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 73. | Yamunanagar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 74. | Faridabad | Haryana | Delhi |
| 75. | Narnaul | Haryana | Delhi |
| 76. | Rohtak | Haryana | Delhi |
| 77. | Sonipat | Haryana | Delhi |
| 78. | Palampur | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 79. | Hamirpur | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 80. | Kangra | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 81. | Kullu | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 82. | Mandi | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 83. | Una | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 84. | Anantnag | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 85. | Baramulla | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 86. | Kathua | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 87. | Rajouri | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 88. | Udhampur | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 89. | Leh | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 90. | Dhanbad | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 91. | Dumka | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 92. | Jamshedpur | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 93. | Deoghar | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 94. | Bokaro | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 95. | Hazaribagh | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 96. | Medininagar | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 97. | Mysuru | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 98. | Bellary | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 99. | Bidar | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 100. | Gadag | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 101. | Raichur | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 102. | Shivamogga | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 103. | Tumakuru | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 104. | Udupi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 105. | Vijayapur | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 106. | Belagavi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 107. | Devangere | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 108. | Hassan | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 109. | Chengannur | Kerala | Cochin |
| 110. | Idukki | Kerala | Cochin |
| 111. | Kasargod | Kerala | Kozhikode |
| 112. | Pathanamthitta | Kerala | Trivandrum |
| 113. | Kavaratti | Lakshadweep | Cochin |
| 114. | Vidisha | Madhya  Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 115. | Ratlam | Madhya  Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 116. | Shivpuri | Madhya  Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 117. | Jabalpur | Madhya  Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 118. | Gwalior | Madhya  Pradesh | Bhopal |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 119. | Balaghat | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 120. | Chhindwara | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 121. | Dewas | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 122. | Damoh | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 123. | Hoshangabad | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 124. | Sehore | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 125. | Sidhi | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 126. | Ujjain | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 127. | Betul | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 128. | Shivni | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 129. | Satna | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 130. | Sindhudurg | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 131. | Wardha | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 132. | Jalna | Maharashtra | Nagpur |
| 133. | Latur | Maharashtra | Nagpur |
| 134. | Ahmednagar | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 135. | Pandharpur | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 136. | Sangli | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 137. | Satara | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 138. | Beed | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 139. | Mumbai North Central | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 140. | Mumbai South Central | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 141. | Ghatkopar | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 142. | Aurangabad | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 143. | Navi Mumbai | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 144. | Dombivali | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 145. | Panvel | Maharastra | Mumbai |
| 146. | Nanded (N) | Maharastra | Nagpur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 147. | Kolhapur | Maharastra | Pune |
| 148. | Pimpri  Chinchwad | Maharastra | Pune |
| 149. | Jalgaon | Maharastra | Thane |
| 150. | Baghmara | Meghalaya | Guwahati |
| 151. | Tura | Meghalaya | Guwahati |
| 152. | Rourkela | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 153. | Sambalpur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 154. | Koraput | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 155. | Balasore | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 156. | Baripada | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 157. | Berhampur  (Ganjam) | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 158. | Bhawanipatna  (Kalahandi) | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 159. | Karaikal | Puducherry | Chennai |
| 160. | Tarn  Taran | Punjab | Amritsar |
| 161. | Patiala | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 162. | Bathinda | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 163. | Sangrur | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 164. | Gurdaspur | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 165. | Moga | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 166. | SBS Nagar  (Nawan  Shahar) | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 167. | Phagwara | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 168. | Kota | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 169. | Bikaner | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 170. | Barmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 171. | Jhunjhunu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 172. | Jaisalmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 173. | Jhalawar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 174. | Ajmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 175. | Churu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 176. | Dungarpur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 177. | Hanumangarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 178. | Karauli-Dhaulpur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 179. | Nagaur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 180. | Sriganganagar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 181. | Alwar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 182. | Chittorgarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 183. | Banswada | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 184. | Pali | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 185. | Vellore | Tamil Nadu | Chennai |
| 186. | Salem | Tamil Nadu | Coimbatore |
| 187. | Viluppuram | Tamilnadu | Chennai |
| 188. | Namakkal | Tamilnadu | Coimbatore |
| 189. | Tiruppur | Tamilnadu | Coimbatore |
| 190. | Tiruvannamalai | Tamilnadu | Chennai |
| 191. | Ramanathapuram | Tamilnadu | Maduai |
| 192. | Cuddalore | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 193. | Dindigul | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 194. | Sivaganga | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 195. | Virudhunagar | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 196. | Kanyakumari (N) | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 197. | Perambalur | Tamilnadu | Tiruchirapalli |
| 198. | Pudukkottai | Tamilnadu | Tiruchirapalli |
| 199. | Mehbubnagar | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 200. | Warangal | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 201. | Adilabad | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 202. | Medak | Telangana | Hyderabad |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 203. | Khammam | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 204. | Siddipet | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 205. | Nalgonda | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 206. | Bijnaur | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 207. | Pilibhit | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 208. | Moradabad | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 209. | Rampur | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 210. | Mathura | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 211. | Meerut | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 212. | Agra | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 213. | GautamBudh Nagar | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 214. | Aligarh | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 215. | Saharanpur | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 216. | Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 217. | Deoria | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 218. | Sultanpur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 219. | Jhansi | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 220. | Ghazipur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 221. | Mirzapur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 222. | Ayodhya/Faizabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 223. | Amethi | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 224. | Azamgarh | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 225. | Bahraich | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 226. | Ballia | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 227. | Balrampur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 228. | Barabanki | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 229. | Basti | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 230. | Gonda | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 231. | Jaunpur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 232. | Kushi Nagar | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 233. | Mau | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 234. | Sitapur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 235. | Pratapgarh | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 236. | RaeBareli | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 237. | Unnao | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 238. | Almora | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 239. | Haldwani/Kathgodam | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 240. | Nainital | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 241. | Pauri | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 242. | Roorkee | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 243. | Rudrapur | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 244. | Nadia (Krishnanagar) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 245. | North Kolkata (Beadon Street) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 246. | Asansol | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 247. | Raiganj | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 248. | Bardhman | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 249. | Barrackpore | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 250. | Darjeeling | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 251. | Malda | West Bengal | Kolkata |

## Statement-II

*List of functional POPSK as on 04th March, 2018*

| Sl.No. | Locations | State/UT | Passport/Office |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Anantpur | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 2. | Chittoor | Andhra Pradesh | Vijayawada |
| 3. | Kadappa | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 4. | Kurnool | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5. | Nellore | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakhapatnam |
| 6. | Dibrugarh | Assam | Guwahati |
| 7. | Mangaldoi | Assam | Guwahati |
| 8. | Silchar | Assam | Guwahati |
| 9. | Buxar | Bihar | Patna |
| 10. | Chhapra | Bihar | Patna |
| 11. | East Champaran | Bihar | Patna |
| 12. | Gaya | Bihar | Patna |
| 13. | Madhubani | Bihar | Patna |
| 14. | Muzaffarpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 15. | Purnea | Bihar | Patna |
| 16. | Bhagalpur | Bihar | Patna |
| 17. | Samastipur | Bihar | Patna |
| 18. | Siwan | Bihar | Patna |
| 19. | Bettiah | Bihar | Patna |
| 20. | Bilaspur | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 21. | Durg | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 22. | Rajnandgaon | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 23. | Surguja | Chhattisgarh | Raipur |
| 24. | Silvasa | Dadar and Nagar Haveli | Mumbai |
| 25. | Daman | Daman | Mumbai |
| 26. | Janak Puri | Delhi | Delhi |
| 27. | Nehru Place | Delhi | Delhi |
| 28. | Patparganj | Delhi | Delhi |
| 29. | Yamuna Vihar | Delhi | Delhi |
| 30. | Anand | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 31. | Bharuch | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 32. | Dahod | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 33. | Jamnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 34. | Junagadh | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 35. | Kheda | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 36. | Palanpur | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 37. | Bhuj | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 38. | Bhavnagar | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 39. | Mehsana | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 40. | Navsari | Gujarat | Surat |
| 41. | Valsad | Gujarat | Surat |
| 42. | Veraval | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |
| 43. | Karnal | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 44. | Hisar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 45. | Panipat | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 46. | Faridabad | Haryana | Delhi |
| 47. | Yamunanagar | Haryana | Chandigarh |
| 48. | Mandi | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 49. | Palampur | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 50. | Hamirpur | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 51. | Kangra | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 52. | Kullu | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 53. | Una | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla |
| 54. | Anantnag | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 55. | Baramulla | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 56. | Kathua | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 57. | Rajouri | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 58. | Udhampur | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu |
| 59. | Leh | Jammu and Kashmir | Srinagar |
| 60. | Bokaro | Jharkhand | Ranchi |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 61. | Hazaribagh | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 62. | Jamshedpur | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 63. | Deoghar | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 64. | Dhanbad | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 65. | Dumka | Jharkhand | Ranchi |
| 66. | Belagavi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 67. | Bellary | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 68. | Davangere | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 69. | Gadag | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 70. | Hassan | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 71. | Mysuru | Karnataka | Bangalore |
| 72. | Shivamogga | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 73. | Tumakuru | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 74. | Udupi | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 75. | Vijayapur | Karnataka | Bengaluru |
| 76. | Chengannur | Kerala | Cochin |
| 77. | Idukki (Kattappana) | Kerala | Cochin |
| 78. | Pathanamthitta | Kerala | Trivandrum |
| 79. | Kasargod | Kerala | Kozhikode |
| 80. | Kavaratti | Lakshadweep | Cochin |
| 81. | Balaghat | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 82. | Dewas | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 83. | Vidisha | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 84. | Satna | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 85. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 86. | Gwalior | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal |
| 87. | Kolhapur | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 88. | Aurangabad | Maharashtra | Mumbai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 89. | Ghatkopar/Vikhroli | Maharashtra | Mumbai |
| 90. | Pimpri Chinchwad | Maharashtra | Pune |
| 91. | Wardha | Maharashtra | Nagpur |
| 92. | Balasore | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 93. | Baripada | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 94. | Berhampur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 95. | Bhawanipatna | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 96. | Rourkela | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 97. | Sambalpur | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 98. | Koraput | Odisha | Bhubaneshwar |
| 99. | Karaikal | Puducherry | Chennai |
| 100. | Bathinda | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 101. | Moga | Punjab | Jalandhar |
| 102. | Patiala | Punjab | Chandigarh |
| 103. | Ajmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 104. | Alwar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 105. | Barmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 106. | Chittorgarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 107. | Churu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 108. | Karauli-Dhaulpur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 109. | Kota | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 110. | Bikaner | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 111. | Hanumangarh | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 112. | Jhunjhunu | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 113. | Jaisalmer | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 114. | Jhalawar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 115. | Nagaur | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 116. | Pali | Rajasthan | Jaipur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 117. | Sriganganagar | Rajasthan | Jaipur |
| 118. | Cuddalore | Tamilnadu | Chennai |
| 119. | Kanyakumari | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 120. | Salem | Tamil Nadu | Coimbatore |
| 121. | Tiruvannamalai | Tamil Nadu | Chennai |
| 122. | Vellore | Tamil Nadu | Chennai |
| 123. | Virudhunagar | Tamilnadu | Madurai |
| 124. | Viluppuram | Tamilnadu | Chennai |
| 125. | Adilabad | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 126. | Khammam | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 127. | Mehbubnagar | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 128. | Siddipet | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 129. | Warangal (Hanamkonda) | Telangana | Hyderabad |
| 130. | Agra | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 131. | Ballia | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 132. | Bijnaur | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 133. | Jhansi | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 134. | Moradabad | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 135. | Pilibhit | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly |
| 136. | Ghazipur | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 137. | Ayodhya/Faizabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 138. | Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 139. | Deoria | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 140. | Unnao | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow |
| 141. | Meerut | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad |
| 142. | Almora | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 143. | Haldwani (now at Kathgodam) | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 144. | Nainital | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 145. | Roorkee | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 146. | Rudrapur | Uttarakhand | Dehradun |
| 147. | Asansol | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 148. | Bardhman | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 149. | Raiganj (North Dinajpur) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 150. | Nadia (Krishnanagar) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 151. | North Kolkata (Beadon Street) | West Bengal | Kolkata |
| 152. | Malda | West Bengal | Kolkata |

### Carbon Emission Reduction in Telecom Sector

2066. SHRI OM BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended forty per cent reduction in carbon emissions in Telecom Networks by 2022-23, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of the said recommendations of the TRAI;

(c) whether the Government has also taken any step for the encouragement of the use of Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) in the Telecom sector in the last three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations on "Approach towards Sustainable Telecommunications" dated 23.10.2017 stated the following in respect of targets for carbon emission reduction:

"The target for reduction in Carbon Emission be set as 30% by year 2019-20 taking base year as 2011-12 and 40% by the year 2022-23. The targets should be reviewed in the year 2022-23."

(b) The said recommendations are under examination in DoT.

(c) The Government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Advisor (Finance), DoT to examine the recommendation of RET Committee regarding incentivization of the use of Renewable Energy technology (RET) in telecom sector. The Committee had submitted its report in October 2015, which is under examination in DoT, awaiting the outcome of TRAI recommendation on "Approach towards Sustainable Telecommunications".

In the TRAI recommendation on "Approach towards Sustainable Telecommunications" dated 23.10.2017, it has been recommended to pass all the possible benefits for deployment of Renewable Energy Technology (RET) as per extant Government schemes. These recommendations are under examination in DoT.

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

### Sub-standard Mobile Handset

2067. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sub-standard mobile handsets are one of the reasons for the menace of call drops and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the standards/norms, if any, laid down by the Government to be complied with by mobile handset in the market;

(c) whether any standards have been laid down that must be mandatorily be complied with by mobile handsets in the market;

(d) whether a body or a process is in place to ensure inspection and approval of such handsets for import or domestic production and sale in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether such standards and checks have resulted in prevention of the import or domestic production and sale of such sub-standard handsets in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) Apart from network problems, call drop can occur due to reasons attributable to consumer or due to the environment in which the consumer is using the mobile. The reasons which can be attributable to the consumer could be mobile handset issues such as poor handset quality and sensitivity, battery drain issues etc.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has notified the "Electronics and IT Goods (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012" (CRO) on 3rd October, 2012 under the ambit of the Registration Scheme notified by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the BIS Act 1986 to ensure the safety of the Indian Consumers. The order mandates *'Indian Safety Standards'* for the notified goods. The Mobile phones have been notified under the schedule of Order for compliance as per IS 13252: (part-1): 2010 vide notification dated 13th November, 2014 and has come into effect from 13th September, 2015. Further, the compliance to Indian Language support for mobile phone as per IS 16333 (part 3): 2016 has been notified on 24th October, 2016 and has come into effect from 23rd February, 2018.

As per the provision of Order, the manufacturers of the notified goods have to seek registration from the BIS based on compliance test reports from BIS recognized laboratories as per relevant Indian Standards. As per the provisions of the Order, no person shall by himself or through any person on his behalf manufacture or store for sale, import, sell or distribute goods which do not conform to the specified standard and do not bear the "Standard Mark" after obtaining the Unique

Registration Number from the Bureau. The Customs authorities are responsible for ensuring that only registered notified goods are allowed to be imported into the country. Further, to ensure the compliance of the Order, surveillance is being executed by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

The Compulsory Registration Order has resulted in high compliance of notified electronic goods to Indian safety standards. As on date, more than 1100 registrations have been granted by BIS to all manufacturing units covering approximately 55,000 products models/series.

### Services/Facilities Extended by Post Offices

2068. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:
DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK':
SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government services and other facilities extended to the public through post offices in the country along with the revenue earned during each of the last three years;

(b) whether decline in the usage of various postal services has been noticed by the Government in the said period and if so, the details thereof including the decline in the usage of the said services during the aforementioned period, service-wise; and

(c) whether the Government has prescribed latest innovation to connect the remote regions of the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The details of Services and facilities extended to public by Department of Posts are mainly under the broad headings of Traditional Services under Postal Operations and Mail Operations, Premium Products and Services under Business Development Division, Financial Services and Agency Functions and Postal Life Insurance and other products and services. Some of the important services/products are Speed Post, Business Post, Express

Parcel, Business Parcel, Bill Mail Service, Postage realized in cash, sale of stamps, Money Orders & Indian Postal Orders, logistic Post, Post Office Savings Banks Schemes, Philately Services, MGNREGA and other social security welfare schemes etc.

The revenue earned by the Department of Posts has been showing a stable trend. The revenue earned during the last three years as per Book of Accounts is as follows

|  |  |  |  | (In Crores) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sl No. | Details | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| 1. | Speed Post | 1495.63 | 1605.77 | 1785.25 |
| 2. | Business Post | 962.54 | 735.93 | 752.52 |
| 3. | Express Parcel | 64.33 | 58.77 | 64.18 |
| 4. | Business Parcel | 48.14 | 90.22 | 94.80 |
| 5. | Bill Mail Service | 103.56 | 99.04 | 77.15 |
| 6. | e.Post | 4.12 | 2.90 | 1.63 |
| 7. | Postage through Franking Machines and Pre-postage | 576.03 | 830.66 | 777.34 |
| 8. | Sale of Stamps | 522.76 | 441.74 | 470.78 |
| 9. | Commemorative Stamps | 27.78 | 33.25 | 43.30 |
| 10. | My Stamps | 1.58 | 2.83 | 5.33 |
| 11. | Philatelic Ancillaries | 3.49 | 2.91 | 13.54 |
| 12. | Postage-Other Schemes | 9.82 | 9.04 | 8.50 |
| 13. | MO & IPO | 641.98 | 464.84 | 284.62 |
| 14. | Retail Post | 84.36 | 76.87 | 67.68 |
| 15. | Logistic Post | 24.43 | 15.52 | 16.31 |
| 16. | E. Bill Collection | 25.75 | 30.79 | 26.34 |
| 17. | Railway ticket booking | 5.67 | 3.38 | 2.54 |
| 18. | MGNREGA | 400.00 | 425.28 | 48.00 |
| 19. | Other Activities | 140.00 | 446.96 | 152.57 |
| 20. | Net Receipts/Payments to Other Postal Administration (Other Countries) | -176.02 | -220.78 | -267.22 |
| 21. | SB & CC Remuneration | 6670.03 | 7783.87 | 7085.84 |
|  | Total | 11635.98 | 12939.79 | 11511.00 |

**Recoveries  (In  Crores)**

| Sl No. | Details | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | PLI and RPLI | 604.42 | 619.66 | 664.38 |
| 2. | Other  Recoveries | 57.56 | 88.04 | 66.52 |
|  | Total | 661.98 | 707.70 | 730.90 |

(b) During the period, while growth has been achieved in certain services and products, some decline has been noticed in few services also. The rates of Cash Certificates & SBCC remuneration have been decreased by MoF for 2016-17 that has impacted the overall growth of 2016-17.

The percentage of increase and decrease service wise in the last three years is furnished below:

| Sl. No. | Details | 2014-15 % of Increase/ Decrease with  previous year | 2015-16 % of Increase/ Decrease with  previous year | 2016-17 % of Increase/ Decrease with  previous year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Speed  Post | 8.92 | 7.36 | 11.18 |
| 2. | Business  Post | -6.51 | -23.54 | 2.25 |
| 3. | Express  Parcel | -17.13 | -8.64 | 9.21 |
| 4. | Business  Parcel | Distinguished separately  from 2014-15  only | 87.41 | 5.08 |
| 5. | Bill  Mail  Service | 0.56 | -4.36 | -22.10 |
| 6. | e.Post | 18.75 | -29.62 | -43.79 |
| 7. | Postage  through  Franking  Machines and  Pre-postage | -5.81 | 44.20 | -6.42 |
| 8. | Sale  of  Stamps | -16.05 | -15.50 | 6.57 |
| 9. | Commemorative  Stamps | 1210.38 | 19.69 | 30.22 |
| 10. | My  Stamps | Distinguished separately  from 2014-15  only | 79.11 | 88.33 |
| 11. | Philatelic  Ancillaries | 81.77 | -16.62 | 365.29 |
| 12. | Postage-Other  Schemes | 32.17 | -7.94 | -5.97 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | MO & IPO | 5.78 | -27.59 | -38.77 |
| 14. | Retail Post | 20.14 | -8.88 | -11.96 |
| 15. | Logistic Post | 60.20 | -36.47 | 5.09 |
| 16. | E. Bill Collection | -26.64 | 19.57 | -14.45 |
| 17. | Railway ticket booking | 36.63 | -40.39 | -24.85 |
| 18. | MGNREGA | 100.00 | 6.32 | -88.71 |
| 19. | Other Activities | -29.09 | 219.26 | -65.86 |
| 20. | Net Receipts/Payments to Other Postal Administration (Other Countries) | 20.33 | 25.43 | 21.03 |
| 21. | SB & CC Remuneration | 12.76 | 16.70 | -8.97 |

**Recoveries**

| Sl.No. | Details | 2014-15 % of Increase/ Decrease with previous year | 2015-16 % of Increase/ Decrease with previous year | 2016-17 % of Increase/ Decrease with previous year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | PLI and RPLI | 13.40 | 2.52 | 7.22 |
| 2. | Other Recoveries | -4.37 | 52.95 | -24.44 |

(c) Department of Posts is constantly working on improving quality and quantity of services for its customers. Many services have been introduced under the PO Division namely, Electronic Indian Postal Order (e IPO), Jeevan Pramaan Centres (JPC), Instant Money Order (iMO) and Mobile Money Transfer Service (MMTS).

Around 28095 locations of the Department of Posts have been connected under the Network Integrator (NI) Project where Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the Primary Network Service Provider and M/s Sify is the Secondary Network Service Provider.

The Department is under contractual obligation with the above service providers for provision of network connectivity in all the post offices. Besides, the Department has signed a tripartite MoU with BSNL and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) to provide broadband services in all feasible locations.

Under 'Digital Advancement of Rural Post Offices for a New India' '(DARPAN) project, the Department of Posts in a phased manner, is providing SIM based Hand Held Devices in approx. 1.29 Lakhs Branch Post Offices of the country, for carrying out online Postal and Financial transactions. 58065 Branch Post Offices have been rolled out under the DARPAN Project as on 28.2.2018.

**Wi-Fi Hotspots for Broadband Access**

2069.  SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
          SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:
          SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has to setup five lakh wi-fi hotspots which will provide fast broadband access to five crore rural citizens and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has planned to establish an indigenous 5G Test Bed to harness the benefit of emerging new technology and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) BharatNet Project is to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx.) in the country. Under this project, the Last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi (2 Access Points per GP) or any other suitable broadband technology, is to be provided at all the GPs (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country.

(b) The Government is planning to set up 'Indigenous 5G Test Bed' in India in collaboration with Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The project envisages setting up of end-to-end Open 5G Test Bed for Indian companies & academia in distributed architecture model.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure in the country:

   A. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is being utilised for creation and augmentation of Telecom network, the steps taken include the following:

## I. BharatNet Project

BharatNet Project is being implemented in a phased manner to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) by broadband in the country. The Phase-I has been completed, and as on 25.02.2018, a total of 1,12,677 Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been connected by laying 2,65,296 km. Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). The number of Service Ready GPs is 1,03,279. The remaining GPs are planned in phase-II through State Governments, public and private sectors by using an optimal mix of media by March, 2019.

## II. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region (NER):

CTDP for NER, which comprises setting up of mobile towers to provide mobile connectivity to villages is being implemented with USOF Funding. USOF has signed an agreement with BSNL to install 2817 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 4119 uncovered villages with an estimated cost of Rs. 2258 crore.

Agreements have also been signed with M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexacom Limited to install 2004 mobile towers for providing mobile coverage in 2128 villages and along National Highways in rest of NER with an estimated cost of Rs. 1656 crore.

## III. Provision of mobile services in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)affected areas

Out of 2355 towers to be set up, 2329 mobile towers have been set up in LWE affected areas with USOF Funding to provide mobile coverage in uncovered LWE affected areas.

## IV. Augmentation of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Network between District Headquarter (DHQ) and Block Headquarters (BHQs) in North Eastern Region

OFC network augmentation between the Block HQ and Districts HQ envisages creation of OFC Infrastructure in North-East Region. The schemes are being implemented to provide sufficient back-haul capacity to integrate the voice and data traffic from the access network in the rural areas to their core network.

## V. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

### (a) Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation for Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

Satellite bandwidth for Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been augmented from 260 Mbps to 1320 Mbps by BSNL.

### (b) Submarine OFC Connectivity between Mainland India (Chennai) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

A Project on Submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity from mainland India (Chennai) to Andaman & Nicobar Islands is being implemented.

## B. Other telecom initiatives:

(a) The licenses granted to the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) by the Department of Telecommunications, prescribe minimum roll out obligations to be fulfilled within specified timeframe. However, the TSPs are not mandated to cover all the urban/ rural areas.

After meeting the minimum roll out obligations, the TSPs are free to deploy their network for providing additional coverage as per their business decision. The TSPs provide mobile telephone services using appropriate technologies (*viz.* 2G, 3G and/or 4G) to comply with their minimum roll out obligations and thereafter cover the geographical areas as per their business decision. Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. Telecom Service Providers are continuously rolling out their networks using this spectrum resulting into the increase in internet connectivity and speed in the country.

### Indian Evidence Act

2070. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to incorporate images and videos captured from mobile phones as primary evidence sufficient for prosecution;

(b) if so, whether the Government is in consultation with various State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Presently, there is no proposal to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872).

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

HON'BLE SPEAKER: The house stands adjourned to meet again at 12.00 O' clock.

**11.02 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twelve of the Clock.*

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**12.00 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.*

[**Hon. Speaker** *in the Chair*]

...(*Interruptions*)

(*At this stage, Shri Thota Narasimham, Shri Rahul Shewale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*)

...(*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have received Notices of Adjournment Motion from some members on different issues the matter through important do not warrant interruption of business of the day. I take, therefore, not allowed some of the notices of Adjournment Motion.

...(*Interruptions*)

**12.01 hrs.**

## PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Hon'ble Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:-

1. The Telecommunication Interconnection Interconnection Usage Charges (Fourteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (2 of 2018) published in Notification No. F. No. 10-8/2016-BB&PA in Gazette of India dated 12th January, 2018.

2. The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (3 of 2018) published in Notification No. F. No. 15-10/2016-F&EA in Gazette of India dated 31st January, 2018.

[Placed in Library, *see* No. LT 8811/16/18]

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [(GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.)]: Hon'ble Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1)  (i)  A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the India Centre for Migration, New Delhi, for the years 2011-2012 to 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii)  A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the India Centre for Migration, New Delhi, for the years 2011-2012 to 2015-2016.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *see* No. LT 8812/16/18]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Defence, Coast Guard Director General and Coast Guard Additional Director General Coast Guard, Group 'A' post, Recruitment Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.R.O. 104 in weekly Gazette of India dated 30th December 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 123 of the coast Guard Act, 1978.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8813/16/18

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**12.02 hrs.**

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**52nd Report**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): I beg to present the Fifty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

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**12.03 hrs.**

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### 40th Report

*[English]*

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): I beg to present the Fortieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

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**12.04 hrs.**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

### 31st to 37th Reports

*[English]*

DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU (Visakhapatnam): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2017-18):-

(1) Thirty-first Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Evaluation of Role, Performance and Functioning of the Power Exchanges'.

(2) Thirty-second Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2017-18.

(3) Thirty-third Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Hydro Power – A Sustainable, Clean and Green Alternative'.

(4) Thirty–fourth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'National Electricity Policy – A Review'.

(5) Thirty-fifth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2016-17.

(6) Thirty-sixth Report on Action Taken on the recommmendations contained in the Twenty-second Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Energy Access in India – Review of Current Status and Role of Renewable Energy'.

(7) Thirty-seventh Report on 'Stressed/Non-performing Assets in Electricity Sector'.

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**12.05 hrs.**

## SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

### Re: Need to declare Marathi as a Classical Language

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

*SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (Amravati) : Hon'ble Madam Speaker, Thank you very much. For the last couple of days, Shiv Sena party has been in protest and demanding classical language status for Marathi language. We are not protesting all of a sudden but we have been fighting for this demand for the last 10-15 years. We pressed our demand through correspondence and our delegation also met Hon'ble Home Minister as well as Hon'ble Prime Minister is this regard. Our Shiv Sena MP Shri Arvind Sawant raised this issue repeatedly through Zero Hour, '377' during last 4 years. Our another MP Shri Shivajirao Adhalrao Patil had also raised this issue many times. Our Marathi has got some special and exclusive features as a language. As of now, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Oriya, these six languages have been recognized as classical languages. Our Marathi language fulfills all the parameters and criterion like ancientness, originality and continuity of the language, established and independent linguistic and literary tradition set for the classical language status. We have submitted all the records relating to the ancientness of our Marathi language in this House and also to Hon'ble Minister. Government of Maharashtra has also sent the recommendation in this

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English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

connection. But unfortunately, no concrete decision has been taken in this regard till date. In the reply given by the Government, they explained that if Marathi is given the classical language status, we would have to extend it to all the other languages. But, it has to decided on the basis of prescribed criterion. Some other languages may be dialects despite that if they fulfill the norms they should also be recognized as classical languages. We demand that an immediate action should be taken in this regard.

Hon'ble Home Minister is present here and he could give us a positive and satisfactory reply in this connection. We are not at all interested in agitations. If you kindly direct him to reply, he would definitely indicate the stand of the Government in this regard.

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HON'BLE SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with Shri Anandrao Adsul.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Madam Speaker, Hon'ble member has demanded that the Marathi language should be declared a classical language...*(Interruptions)* As this matter is not related to the Ministry of Home Affairs...*(Interruptions)* I want to assure him ...*(Interruptions)* that I will talk to the Ministry of Culture in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* so that they could take this demand seriously...*(Interruptions).*

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**12.07 hrs.**

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

*[English]*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members, who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes.

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*Treated as laid on the Table

Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time and the rest will be treated as lapsed.

*...(Interruptions)*

**(i) Need to direct banks in Jabalpur and other cities to accept deposit of coins of different denominations by customers**

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAHLAND SINGH PATEL (Damoh): There has arisen a grim situation due to excess coins of denomination of Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 in many cities including Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Banks are not accepting coins from traders due to which traders have stopped accepting coins from customers. This situation has led to the public outcry due to administrative inaction.

I urge upon the Central Government that it should direct the banks in all cities of Madhya Pradesh including those located in Jabalpur to accept the coins of different denomination that are deposited by public and traders and to ensure compliance of Government orders in this regard.

**(ii) Need to reduce or abolish the minimum export price of onions**

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (Dindori): My constituency Dindori leads in total onion production in the country. Most of the farmers here grow onions crops and earn livelihood for thier families through onion crops. This production of onions is relatively higher than that of other onion producting areas of the country. Since last few years there has been adverse impact on onion production due to drought or irregular rainfall in Pune, Solapur, Ahmednagar, Dhule, Buldhana and jalgaon in addition to my home district Nasik. There is a steep hike in onion prices due to less onion production. Due to this price rise all benefits have gone to traders instead of any gain to farmers. Due to adverse weather conditions production of onion has been affected but at the same time onion export policy has also affected its pricing. Due to this policy, farmers are not geting fair price of their onion crops. Farmers should get the benefit of high demand of Indian onion in international market. On one hand we talk of farmer's interest and giving them production cost price, on the other hand we talk of

farmer's interest and giving them production cost price. On one hand we talk of farmer's interest and giving them production cost price, on the other hand we fix the minimum export price at Rs. 770 US$ toone. Due to this high price, demand of Indian onion goes down in international market. Demand of onions from other countries like Pakistan, China, Egypt and Iran etc. goes up and these countries dominate in interantional market of onion. Due of this fact, we are not able to earn foregin exchange and the Indian farmers do not get reasonable price for their onions as a result throsands of tonners of onion get rotten which ultimately leads to revenue loss to India.

Therefore, my request to the Government is that the minimum export price of onion should be abolished or redued so that Indian farmers can earn profit from International onion market by selling onions in international market and earn foreign exchange from it.

### (iii) Need to shun the move to close F.M. Radio stations in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (Bharuch): Under Rule 377, I want to raise the issue of F.M. Radio Stations operating in my constituency, Bharuch. These stations are operating in Dediapada, Rajpipla of Narmada district and Netrang, Rajpacrdi and Jhagaria places of Bharuch district under my constituency, Bharuch. It has come to my notice that Central Government is going to close these F.M. stations, which will deprive a large number of tribal people of my constituency of this entertainment facility, whereas. F.M. Radio stations are the main source of entertainment in these poverty stricken areas and by doing so public of this area will be deprived of hearing the 'Man Ki Baat' of Prime Minister and they will not be able to get timely information of schemes of the Centre and the State, which will help in their social and economic development.

I, therefore, request the Government that none of the above F.M. Radio Station should be closed.

### (iv) Need to increase the amount of honorarium paid to Aanganwadi Sevikas and Sahayikas

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Aanganwadi Sevikas and Sahayikas provide help in educating small children in rural areas, protecting them from diseases, giving suggestions on nutrition to children and provide help to ailing and pregnant women of the village. Sevika and Sahayika also work in night, winter and rain, in addition to their normal day time duty. These Aanganwadi Sevikas and Sahayikas are not given adequate salary in proportion to their work. For this, Aanganwadi Sevikas and Sahayikas are agitating and their demand is reasonable. Many members of Paliament have raised this issue in the House.

I request the Government that honorarium of Aanganwadi Sevikas and Sahayikas should be increased for the cooperation and help provided by them in the area of rural health and rural education and their services be granted the status of Government service.

### (v) Need to make river Mandakini in Banda Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh pollution-free

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (Banda): The water level in the hony river Mandakini in my Parliamentary Constituency, Banda has gone down to a large extent. The water upto the holy pilgrimage Sarpkund nearby Karvi and got so much polluted that it is not fit for a holy dip. Number of drinking water projects hased on river Mandakini have been affected. It is a grave situation. Therefore, I urge the Government to send desilting machines to remove the silt at Ram Ghat, Chitrakut and Karvi on the river Mandakini and make a plan to clean the sources of water at the earliest.

### (vi) Need to accord Tribal Status to 'Kalita' Community of Assam

*[English]*

SHRI RAMEN DEKA (Mangaldai): Kalita (Caste) is an ethnic group of Hindus belonging to the state of Assam. Kalitas are the original inhabitants of Assam with its own culture and language. They existed much before the existing professional castes. Kalitas are mostly engaged in farming since ancient time. Kalitas took active part and played an active role in developing Assamese community socially, culturally and religiously. Due to demographic changes and other social pressure, Kalita community is about to lose their identity. In view of this, I urge upon the Government to accord tribal status to Kalita community.

**(vii) Modernization of Tumkur Railway Station in Karnataka**

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (Tumkur): Tumkur city in Karnataka has been selected as 'Smart City' among the 60 cities selected in the first and second phase. In addition to this, Tumkur has also been declared as 'Industrial Smart City' since it comes under Chennai-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. Tumkur is developing as an alternative city to Bengaluru. More than ten thousand people are travelling daily from Tumkur to Bengaluru. But unfortunately, the Railway Station at Tumkur is not having basic infrastructure and also lack amenities. In view of the reasons stated above, I urge the Union Government to convert the present railway station at Tumkur as high tech- station with all modern facilities.

**(viii) Development of tourism in Sundarbans of West Bengal**

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (Baharampur): The Sundarbans in West Bengal consists of National Park, Tiger reserve Biosphere reserve, Meandering rivers which are an indelible attraction of this area. It is part of the Ganga delta. The delta is densely covered by mangrove forests, the unique feature of this area. It is a home to variety of birds, reptiles which includes saltwater crocodile. In May 1984, it was declared a National Park. Inscribed in 1987, it is a UNESCO world heritage site.

This area could be turned into a kaleidoscope of India for the tourists provided the requisite infrastructure is built upon.

I would request the concerned Ministry to explore a holistic view of this area by providing all necessary inputs.

**(ix) Need to undertake de-weeding of forest area under MNREGS in Chamarajanagar Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka**

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (Chamarajanagar): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the fact that in my Constituency, forest area covered 1450 Sq. Kms. in Mysore District covering H.D. Kote & Nanjangud Forest area and 2791 Sq. Kms. in Chamarajanagar District covering BRT Tiger Project,

Bandipur Tiger Project, Cauvery Wild Life Division and Malai Mahadeshwara Wild Life Division.

The Officers of Forest Department in my Constituency are seeking permission to allow labourers under MGNREG Scheme to weed out lantana camara from the forests as about 60% of forests are encroached by weeds resulting in multiple issues, including the shortage of water and lack of fodder for herbivorous animals inside the forest.

De-weeding under MGNREGS definitely benefits forests as fodder base will increase and straying of animals into neighbouring farms will come down. Further, taking up de-weeding under MGNREGS will not only generate employment for tribal workers but also improve water table in forests. I hereby urge the Union Government to accord permission to remove lantana in the Forests of my Constituency under MGNREGS to avoid shortage of water and fodder for herbivorous animals inside the forest and to generate employment for Tribal workers.

**(x) Need to expedite completion of development works on National Highway No. 77 in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (Arani): The publication titled 'Road Accidents in India- 2016 puts the number of road accidents in the country at 4,80,652 and persons killed at 1,50,785. During the year 2016, 13 States including Tamil Nadu accounted for 86 per cent of the total road accidents and 84 per cent of the total persons killed in road accidents. As many as 46.3 per cent of road accident victims belong to the age group of 18 to 35 and the National Highways accounted for 29.6 per cent of total road accidents and 34.5 per cent of total number of persons killed.

In the above context, I wish to state that the newly carved National Highway No 77 passes from Krishnagiri (near NH 48) to Tindivanam (near NH 32) via Uttangarai, Tiruvarmamalai and Gingee for a length of 177 kms. This NH 77 has so many bottlenecks and dangerous spots claiming valuable lives through fatal accidents every day. It is an important road connecting the world famous temples including Thiruvannamalai Arunaachaleswarar temple and Tiruvakkarai Vakkra Kali Amman temple. Driving experience on this new National

Highway No 77 has always been nightmarish for many motorists. Since this is a new National Highway carved out of the National Highway No 66 and passing through my Constituency, I urge upon the Hon. Minister for Road Transport and Highways to take necessary measures for completion of the road development works through fresh tendering process for National Highway No 77 at the earliest with a view to minimise fatal accidents and save precious lives.

### (xi) Modernisaion of Chennai Central and Egmore Railway stations in Tamil Nadu

SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR (Chennai Central): The Railway Ministry has announced that Chennai Central Railway Station is one of the 23 stations that will be developed in the first phase of the redevelopment of Indian stations as world-class stations on PrivatePublic Partnership at a cost of Rs. 350 crore.

About 1.5 acres of prime land at Central will be made available for commercial exploitation to provide better facilities to passengers at the same time helping railways earn revenue by leasing out land for development.

Some of the amenities proposed are digital signage, escalators, selfticketing counters, walkways, WiFi, and executive lounges. The revamped station will be leased for retail development, office spaces beside hospitality sector.

Both Central and Egmore Railway Stations are strategically important in the sub-urban railway EMU line connecting Chennai with several stations in Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur and Vellore Districts. There is an urgent need to have a skywalk connecting Central and Egmore Stations.

The prevailing commercial rates at Chennai Central and Egmore will fetch Rs.1000 crores. This is sufficient for redevelopment and modernization of both Central and Egmore railway stations and all stations in the sub-urban EMU line along the Chennai Central — Arakkonam and Chennai Beach — Chengalpattu.

Many important bridges and railway crossings near Central and Egmore Stations and in Chennai particularly the Elephant Gate Bridge need to be renovated and strengthened.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take up the redevelopment and modernization of railway stations at Chennai Central and Egmore in one go and also provide much needed fillip for development of all the railway stations.

### (xii) Need to release central share of funds towards computerization of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) in Odisha

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): The Union Government has decided that the cost of computerisation of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) will be shared by the Union Government, State Government and PACS in the ratio of 60:35:5. Accordingly, the Government of Odisha has taken initiatives to complete the computerisation of 2600 PACS by 31 March, 2018 as a part of the Core Banking Solution Project of the Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure to harmonise their functioning with the computerised State and Central Cooperative Banks across the State. The Government of Odisha has, therefore, provided Rs. 48.77 Crore as against its share of Rs.27.30 Crore for computerisation of such PACS. However, no funds have been provided by the Union Government of its share so far. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to provide its share for computerisation of the said 2600 PACS to the Government of Odisha to enable it to complete computerisation of the said PACS by 31 March, 2018.

### (xiii) Need to regularise the services of Aanganwadi sevikas as Group C or D employees and enhance the payment made to them

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (South Mumbai): 27 lakh Aanganwadi Sevikas are rendering their services in more than 14 lakh Aanganwadi Kendras in the country under an ambitions scheme of the Government, Bal Seva Yojana. They are taking care of the children but these sevikas are deprived of the basic facilities even today. In the last forty years, the honorarium of these sevikas increased six times only. Their honorarium increased by rupees 500 or 250 in 2005, rupees 500 and 250 in 2008, rupees 1500 or 750 in 2008 and rupees 1500 and 750 in 2011. Thereafter on honorarium has been increased till date. There is a need to regularise the

services of these sevikas as Group 'C' or 'D' employees and enhance the payment made to them by including the dearness allowance in their honorarium and they should be paid a monthly salary of Rs. 18000. Besides there is a need to pay monthly pension of Rs. 3000 to 5000 on their superannuation.

Therefore, I urge the Government to regularise the services of Aanganwadi sevikas as Group C or D employees and enhance the payment made to them and after superannuation they should be paid monthly pension.

### (xiv) Need to shift headquarters of Damodar Valley Corporation from Kolkata to Jharkhand

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (Rajmahal): Under rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that most of the power plants of the Damodar Valley like BTPS/CTPS, BTPS-II in the country and hydo-power plants HPS located at Tilaiya, HPS Panchet located at Maitham and HSP located in Jharkhand have a total production capacity of 9191.7 Megawatt. On account of implementing Damodar Irrigation Project, thousands of villages of Jharkhand were displaced and even today, lakhs of hectares of land are flooded with water and millions of people have been displaced from their land. The office of this Damodar Valley Corporation is located in Jharkhand. But I regret to say that the headquartr of the Damodar Valley Corporation is in Kolkata. As the headquarter of Damodar Valley Corporation is located in Kolkata, many difficulties are being faced in maintenance and coordination of the Damodar Valley Project and Jharkhand is not getting equal revenue.

I urge upon the Government of shift the headquarter of Damodar Valley Corporation from Kolkata to any district of Jharkhand which has thermal and hydro-electic power generation plants.

### (xv) Need to regulate import of black pepper

*[English]*

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (Idukki): Even though the pepper farmers are protected by Minimum Import Price fixed by the government, the farmers are now facing the threat of illegal imports. Moreover, a dubious method of importing inferior-quality pepper from Vietnam, under the guise of value addition makes the situation more troublesome for domestic farmers. Later, they export Indian pepper packed in those Vietnam pepper bags quoting a lesser price. The Vietnamese pepper is then dumped in the domestic market thereby depriving Indian consumers the choice of home-grown superior quality pepper. On the one hand they get import duty refunded for value addition and on the other, get higher price than what was quoted during the export. Hence I urge upon the government to regulate and restrict import of black pepper which has been severely affecting Indian-grown superior quality pepper and also fix the MSP as a higher value than the MIP.

### (xvi) Need to provide adequate compensation to farmers who suffered loss due to hailstorms and untimely rains in Maharashtra

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJU SHETTY (Hatkanangle): Natural disasters and hailstorms are continuously hitting farmers of Maharashtra. To get rid of this, the farmers are forced to commit suicide. On the one hand, farmers were shown the rosy pictures ('Achchhe Din') and on the other, the promise of loan waiver was made. Then on the third side, under MSP, the promise of 1.5 times support price was made in the budget, but in reality it stands nowhere. All these promises have made farmers angry.

Just two weeks ago, there was heavy rainfall and hailstorm in the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of Maharashtra which not only destroyed the crop of the farmers totally but it put the farmers in great crises. As per the first investigation report, crops spread over 1 lakh 87 thousand hectares area were completely destroyed. Along with this, seven people and a number of animals and birds lost their lives. They orchards of sweatline grapes, oranges and mangoes were destroyed in the tehsils of Jalna, Amravati, Nagpur and other districts.

In this moment of crisis, the Central and the State Governments need to stand with the farmers firmly but the Minister of Agriculture of Maharashtra has announced relief which is Rs. 2400 (Rupees Two Thousand Four Hundred, per acre for non-irrigated land and Rs. 5400 (Rupees Five Thousand and Four Hundred) per acre for

irrigated land for farmers. For those farmers who own the fruit orchards, Rupees 14,720 per acre will be given as compensation if they have paid insurance premium under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana by the Insurance Company. But, the farmers who did not pay their premium for Fasal Bima, only Rupees 7,200 per acre has been announced from the State Government. Its like adding insult to their injuries. Along with this, an aid of Rs. 200 crore has been south from the Central Government.

During the last 3 or 4 years, since the present Government has come to power, every year farmers have to face either natural disaster or hailstorm and there is an increase in it. This time, excessive hailing has crossed all the records. So, the Government must help the farmers along with NDRF and insurance companies. Besides, I also demand and request that farm-

ers with non-irrigated land should be given Rupees 15 thousand per acre and farmers with irrigated land should be given Rupees 25 thousand per acre as compensation. So, the Central Government should atleast give Rupees 500 crores to the State Government of Maharashtra from relief fund.

*[English]*

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 8th March, 2018.

**12.08 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 8, 2018/Phalguna 17, 1939 (Saka).*

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ANNEXURE-I

*Member-wise Index to Starred Questions*

| Sl.No. | Member's Name | Question Number |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Shri Baker George | 164 |
| 2. | Shri Chandrakasi, M. | 171 |
| 3. | Shri Dubey Nishikant | 166 |
| 4. | Prof. Hay Richard | 164 |
| 5. | Shri Kachhadia, Naranbhai | 170 |
| 6. | Shri Kaushal, Kishore | 176 |
| 7. | Shri Khaire Chandrakant | 178 |
| 8. | Smt. Kothapalli, Geetha | 163 |
| 9. | Smt. Maadam, Poonamben | 177 |
| 10. | Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari | 162 |
| 11. | Shri Mishra, Bhairon Prasad | 172 |
| 12. | Shri Naik, B.V. | 177 |
| 13. | Shri Nete, Ashok Mahadeorao | 167 |
| 14. | Shri Pandey, Rajesh | 166 |
| 15. | Shri Parasuraman, K. | 168 |
| 16. | Shri Ram, Vishnu Dayal | 174 |
| 17. | Shri Ramachandran, K.N. | 169 |
| 18. | Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva | 175 |
| 19. | Shri Ray, Bishnu Pada | 165 |
| 20. | Dr. Sampath A. | 179 |
| 21. | Adv. Sawaikar, Narendra Keshav | 161 |
| 22. | Shri Shewale, Rahul | 162 |
| 23. | Dr. Somaiya, Kirit | 180 |
| 24. | Smt. V. Sathyabma | 169 |
| 25. | Dr. Venu Gopal P. | 173 |
| 26. | Shri Vijaya Kumar, S.R. | 170 |

*Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions*

| Sl. No. | Member's Name | Question Number |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Shri Adhikari, Dibyendu | 1886 |
| 2. | Dr. 'Nishank', Ramesh Pokhriyal | 1881, 1957, 2068 |
| 3. | Shri Adhalrao, Patil Shivajirao | 1873, 1885, 1902 |
| 4. | Shri Adhikari, Sisir Kumar | 1980 |
| 5. | Shri Adsul Anandrao | 1873, 1885, 1902 |
| 6. | Shri Agrawal, Rajendra | 1903 |
| 7. | Smt. Ahlawat, Santosh | 1888 |
| 8. | Shri Ajmal, Badruddin | 1872 |
| 9. | Shri Ajmal, Sirajuddin | 1930 |
| 10. | Shri Anto Antony | 1861, 2065 |
| 11. | Shri Anwar, Tariq | 1984 |
| 12. | Shri Arunmozhithevan, A. | 1862, 1889 |
| 13. | Shri Ashok Kumar K. | 1935 |
| 14. | Sh. Ashwini Kumar | 1852, 1943 |
| 15. | Shri Azad, Kirti | 1850, 1901 |
| 16. | Shri B. Sengunuvan | 1911, 2059 |
| 17. | Shri B. Sriramulu | 1946, 2069 |
| 18. | Shri Baker George | 1855, 2055 |
| 19. | Smt. Bala, Anju | 1946, 2069 |
| 20. | Shri Suman, Balka | 1885, 2019 |
| 21. | Shri Banerjee, Prasun | 2008 |
| 22. | Shri Barne, Shrirang Appa | 1873, 1885, 1902 |
| 23. | Shri Bharathi, Mohan R.K. | 1916 |
| 24. | Smt. Bhatt, Ranjanben | 1847 |
| 25. | Shri Birla, Om | 1863, 2066 |
| 26. | Shri Biswas, Radheshyam | 1898, 1966 |
| 27. | Shri Bohra, Ram Charan | 1978 |
| 28. | Dr. C. Gopalakrishnan | 1956 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 29. | Col. Choudhary, Sonaram | 1910 |
| 30. | Shri Chand, Nihal | 2001 |
| 31. | Shri Chandel, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh | 2038 |
| 32. | Prof. Chandumajra, Prem Singh | 1919 |
| 33. | Shri Chaudhary, Pankaj | 1941 |
| 34. | Shri Chaudhury, Jitendra | 1996 |
| 35. | Shri Chauhan, Devusinh | 1904 |
| 36. | Shri Chautala, Dushyant | 1918 |
| 37. | Shri Chavan, Ashok Shankarrao | 1889, 1898 |
| 38. | Shri Chavan, Harishchandra | 1894 |
| 39. | Shri Chavda, Vinod Lakhamashi | 1983 |
| 40. | Prof. Chwtamani Malviya | 1971 |
| 41. | Shri Chaudhary, Ram Tahal | 1887, 1988 |
| 42. | Shri Chouhan, Nand Kumar Singh | 2039 |
| 43. | Shri Chudasama, Rajeshbhai | 1936 |
| 44. | Shri Dana, Sankar Prasad | 1957 |
| 45. | Shri Deo, Arka Keshari | 1959 |
| 46. | Shri Deo, Kalikesh N. Singh | 1891 |
| 47. | Km. Dev, Sushmita | 1923 |
| 48. | Smt Devi, Rama | 1945 |
| 49. | Shri Dhotre Sanjay | 1869 |
| 50. | Shri Dhruvanarayana, R. | 1888, 2013 |
| 51. | Shri Diwaker, Rajesh Kumar | 2007 |
| 52. | Shri Dubey Nishikant | 1859, 2058 |
| 53. | Shri Dubey, Satish Chandra | 2021 |
| 54. | Shri Ering, Ninong | 2027 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 55. | Mohd Faizal | 1922 |
| 56. | Prof. Gaikwad, Ravindra Vishwanath | 2053 |
| 57. | Shri Gajanan, Kirtikar | 1889, 1898 |
| 58. | Shri Gandhi, Dilipkumar Mansukhlal | 1951 |
| 59. | Dr. Ganga Raju, Gokaraju | 1879 |
| 60. | Dr. Gavit, Heena Vijaykumar | 1859, 1999, 2028, 2063 |
| 61. | Adv. George, Joice | 1855 |
| 62. | Shri Ghubaya, Sher Singh | 1850 |
| 63. | Shri Girri, Maheish | 1848 |
| 64. | Shri Gogoi, Gaurav | 2016 |
| 65. | Dr. Go Pal, K. | 1912 |
| 66. | Shri Gopalakrishnan, R. | 1977 |
| 67. | Shri Gupta, Sudheer | 1889, 1898 |
| 68. | Shri Hansdak, Vijay Kumar | 1866, 2026 |
| 69. | Shri Hari, G. | 1900 |
| 70. | Dr. Haribabu, Kambhampati | 2006 |
| 71. | Shri Harish Chandra *Alias* Harish Dwivedi | 2046 |
| 72. | Prof. Hay Richard | 1855, 2055 |
| 73. | Dr. Hazra, Anupam | 2004 |
| 74 | Smt. Hema Malini | 2015 |
| 75. | Shri Hooda, Deepender Singh | 1981 |
| 76. | Shri Jadhav, Prataprao | 2045 |
| 77. | Shri Jadhav, Sanjay Haribhau | 1962 |
| 78. | Dr. Jaiswal, Sanjay | 2040 |
| 79. | Smt. Jardosh, Darshana Vikram | 1858, 2062 |
| 80. | Shri Jaunapuria, Sukhbir Singh | 2030 |
| 81. | Dr. Jayavardhan, J. | 1859, 1934, 2028, 2063 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 82. | Shri Joshi, Chandra Prakash | 1849, 2010 |
| 83. | Shri Joshi, Pralhad | 1895 |
| 84. | Shri Kachhadia, Naranbhai | 1889, 1898 |
| 85. | Km. Karandlaje, Shobha | 1882, 1986 |
| 86. | Sh. Kataria, Rattan Lal | 1930, 2002 |
| 87. | Shri Kateel, Nalin Kumar | 1913, 1915 |
| 88. | Shri Kaushalendra, Kumar | 1841 |
| 89. | Shri Kaushik, Ramesh Chander | 1850 |
| 90. | Smt. Khadse, Rakshatai | 1969 |
| 91. | Shri Khaire Chandrakant | 1962 |
| 92. | Shri Khan, MD. Badaruddoza | 2042 |
| 93. | Smt. Kher, Kirron | 1995 |
| 94. | Shri Kinjarapu, Ram Mohan Naidu | 2059 |
| 95. | Shri Kishore, Jugal | 1878 |
| 96. | Shri Kodikunnil, Suresh | 2070 |
| 97. | Shri Kotha, Prabhakar Reddy | 1851, 1955 |
| 98. | Smt. Kothapalli, Geetha | 2057 |
| 99. | Shri Kumar, B. Vinod | 2018 |
| 100. | Shri Kumar, Santosh | 1870, 1897, 1968, 2041 |
| 101. | Shri Kumar, P. | 1883 |
| 102. | Shri Kundariya Mohan Bhai Kalyanji Bhai | 1972 |
| 103. | Shri Kunhalikutty, P.K. | 1843 |
| 104. | Kunwar, Bharatendra | 2017 |
| 105. | Shri Kushawaha, Ravinder | 2058 |
| 106. | Smt. Lekhi, Meenakashi | 1857, 2061 |
| 107. | Shri Lokhande, Sadashiv | 1950, 1957 |
| 108. | Adv. M. Udhyakumar | 1974 |
| 109. | Shri Mahadik, Dhananjay | 1859, 1999, 2028, 2063 |
| 110. | Smt. Mahajan, Poonam | 1871 |
| 111. | Dr. Mahato, Banshilal | 1942 |
| 112. | Sh. Mahato, Bidyut Baran | 1889, 1898 |
| 113. | Shri Mahendran, C. | 1856 |
| 114. | Shri Mallikarjun, Kharge | 2059 |
| 115. | Shri Mani Jose K. | 1949 |
| 116. | Shri Manjhi, Hari | 2000 |
| 117. | Shri Manohar, Utawal | 2020 |
| 118. | Smt. Maragatham, K. | 1880 |
| 119. | Shri Marutharajaa, R.P. | 1852, 1993 |
| 120. | Shri Meena, Arjun Lal | 1914 |
| 121. | Shri Meena, Harish | 1944 |
| 122. | Dr. Meinya, Thokchom | 1888 |
| 123. | Shri Mishra, Bhairon Prasad | 2059 |
| 124. | Shri Mishra, Anop | 1924 |
| 125. | Shri Misra, Punaki | 2044 |
| 126. | Shri Mohan M. Murali | 1890 |
| 127. | Shri Mohammed Slim | 1998, 2042 |
| 128. | Smt. Mondal, Pratima | 2009 |
| 129. | Shri Muddahanumegowda, S.P. | 1920 |
| 130. | Shri Mullappally Ramachandran | 1852, 1948 |
| 131. | Dr. Munde, Pritam Gopinath | 1873, 1885, 1902 |
| 132. | Shri Nagar, Rodmal | 1844, 1963, 2056 |
| 133. | Shri Nagarajan, P. | 1989 |
| 134. | Shri Naik B.V. | 1920 |
| 135. | Shri Srinivas Keshineni | 1893 |
| 136. | Shri Nath Kamal | 2024 |
| 137. | Shri Natierjee, J.J.T. | 1899 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 138. | Shri Ninama, Manshankar | 2034, 2068 |
| 139. | Shri Nishad, Ajay | 2043 |
| 140. | Shri Nishad, Ram Charitra | 1908 |
| 141. | Smt. Noor, Mausam | 1990 |
| 142. | Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin | 1896 |
| 143. | Smt. Paatle, Kamla | 1938 |
| 144. | Shri Pal, Jagdambika | 1929 |
| 145. | Shri Panda Baijayant Jay | 1932 |
| 146. | Shri Pandey, Hari Om | 1870, 1897, 1968, 2041 |
| 147. | Shri Pandey Ravindra Kumar | 1859, 1860, 2022, 2058 |
| 148. | Shri Pandey, Rajesh | 1860 |
| 149. | Shri Parthipan, R. | 1892 |
| 150. | Shri Patel, Devji M. | 1868, 1877, 1960 |
| 151. | Smt. Patel, Jayshreeben | 1925 |
| 152. | Shri Patel, Prahlad Singh | 1952 |
| 153. | Smt. Pathak, Riti | 2037 |
| 154. | Shri Patil A.T. Nana | 1877, 1960 |
| 155. | Shri Patil, Bheemrao B. | 1881, 2014 |
| 156. | Smt. (Patil) Bhavana Gawali | 2025 |
| 157. | Shri Patil, Kapil Moreshwar | 1959, 1997, 2058 |
| 158. | Dr. Pratap, Krishan | 1860, 2064 |
| 159. | Shri Premachandran N.K. | 2033 |
| 160. | Shri Raajhaa, A. Anwhar | 1889, 1898 |
| 161. | Shri Radhakrishnan, T | 1889, 1898 |
| 162. | Shri Raghav, Lakhanpal | 1842, 1976 |
| 163. | Shri Raghavan M.K. | 2005 |
| 164. | Shri Rai, Prem Das | 1940 |
| 165. | Dr. Raj, Udit | 1947 |
| 166. | Shri Rajan, Vichare | 1937 |
| 167. | Shri Rajbhar, Harinarayan | 1906 |
| 168. | Shri Rajesh, M.B. | 1964 |
| 169. | Dr Rajoria, Manoj | 1842 |
| 170. | Shri Raju, C.S. Putia | 1857, 1888, 1917 |
| 171. | Shri Ramachandran, K.N. | 1916 |
| 172. | Shri Rao, Muthamsetii Srinivasa (avanthi) | 1890, 2032 |
| 173. | Shri Rathod, D.S. | 2023 |
| 174. | Shri Rathore, Hariom Singh | 1864 |
| 175. | Shri Rathwa, Ramsinh | 1939 |
| 176. | Dr. Ratna, De (Nag) | 1870, 1897, 1968, 2041 |
| 177. | Shri Raut, Vinayak Bhaurao | 1873, 1885, 1902 |
| 178. | Shri Raval, Paresh | 2023 |
| 179. | Shri Ray, Partha Pratim | 1928 |
| 180. | Dr. Ray, Ravindra Kumar | 1850, 1953 |
| 181. | Shri Reddy, A.P. Jithender | 1907 |
| 182. | Shri Reddy, Y.V. Subba | 1967 |
| 183. | Shri Reddy, Ch. Malla | 2035, 2059 |
| 184. | Shri Reddy, Gutha Sukender | 1854, 1979 |
| 185. | Shri Reddy, Konda Vishweshwar | 1860, 1867, 2068 |
| 186. | Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan | 1852 |
| 187. | Shri Reddy, P. Srinivasa | 1992 |
| 188. | Shri Reddy, Y.S. Avinash | 1851, 1854 |
| 189. | Shri Reddy J.C. Divakar | 2057 |
| 190. | Prof. Roy, Saugata | 1845 |
| 191. | Shri Rudy, Rajiv Pratap | 1888, 2052 |
| 192. | Shri Sahu, Lakhan Lal | 1933 |
| 193. | Shri Sahu, Chandu Lal | 1877, 1960 |
| 194. | Shri Sahu, Tamradhwaj | 2051 |
| 195. | Shri Saini, Rajkumar | 2011 |
| 196. | Shri Sanjar, Alok | 1973 |
| 197. | Shri Sarswati, Sumedhanand | 2056 |
| 198. | Shri Satav, Rajeev | 1859, 1999, 2028, 2063 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 199. | Shri Sawant, Arvind | 1844, 1991, 2012 |
| 200. | Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M. | 2016, 2024 |
| 201. | Shri Senthilnathan, PR. | 1916 |
| 202. | Shri Shankarrao, Mohite Patil Vijaysinh | 1859, 1999, 2028, 2063 |
| 203. | Shri Shetty Raju | 1924, 2050 |
| 204. | Shri Shetty, Gopal | 1909 |
| 205. | Dr. Shinde, Shrikant Eknath | 1873, 1885, 1902 |
| 206. | Shri Shirole, Anil | 2055 |
| 207. | Shri Siddeshwara, G.M. | 1926 |
| 208. | Shri Simha, Pratap | 1882, 1986 |
| 209. | Shri Singh Ganesh | 2029 |
| 210. | Shri Singh Rakesh | 1852, 1875 |
| 211. | Shri Singh, Abhishek | 1970 |
| 212. | Shri Singh, Bharat | 1961 |
| 213. | Shri Singh, Bhola | 1972, 1987 |
| 214. | Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan | 2003 |
| 215. | KW. Singh, Kunwar Haribansh | 1889, 1898 |
| 216. | Shri Singh, Lallu | 2059 |
| 217. | Shri Singh, Verma Parvesh Sahib | 1865, 2067 |
| 218. | Shri Singh, Ravneet | 1884, 2064 |
| 219. | Shri Singh, Sushil Kumar | 1965 |
| 220. | Smt. Singh, Pratyusha Rajeshwari | 2031 |
| 221. | Shri Singh, Sunil Kumar | 1846, 1960 |
| 222. | Shri Singh, Uday Pratap | 2049 |
| 223. | Dr. Solanki, Kirit P. | 1921 |
| 224. | Dr. Somaiya, Kirit | 1873 |
| 225. | Smt. Sonker, Neelam | 2036 |
| 226. | Smt. Sule, Supriya | 1934, 1999, 2028, 2063 |
| 227. | Shri Sundaram, P.R. | 1859, 1934, 1999, 2063 |
| 228. | Shri Suresh, D.K. | 1913, 1915 |
| 229. | Shri Tadas, Ramdas C. | 1849, 2010 |
| 230. | Smt. Tarai, Rita | 1891, 1931 |
| 231. | Smt. Teacher, P.K. Sreemathi | 1927 |
| 232. | Shri Tell, Rameswar | 2047 |
| 233. | Shri Teni, Ajay Misra | 1961, 1975 |
| 234. | Shri Thakur, Anurag Singh | 2048 |
| 235. | Dr. Tharoor, Shashi | 1994 |
| 236. | Shri Tiwari, Manoj | 1897, 2041 |
| 237. | Shri Tripathi, Sharad | 1895,1982 |
| 238. | Shri Hemant Godse Tukaram | 1958 |
| 239. | Shri Tumane, Krupal Balaji | 1844, 1991 |
| 240. | Shrl Udasi, Shlvkumar | 1874 |
| 241. | Shri V. Elumalal | 1876 |
| 242. | Smt, V. Sathyabama | 1916 |
| 243. | Smt. Vasanthi, M. | 1851, 2060 |
| 244. | Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai | 1860, 1894, 2026 |
| 245. | Shri Vasava, Parbhubhai Nararbhai | 1855, 2055 |
| 246. | Shri Venkatesh, Babu T.G. | 1954 |
| 247. | Shri Venugopal, K.C. | 1853 |
| 248. | Shri Verma, Anshul | 2054 |
| 249. | Shri Verma, Bhanu Pratap Singh | 1985 |
| 250. | Shri Vijayakumar, S.R. | 1889, 1898 |
| 251. | Shri Yadav, Dharmendra | 1873, 1885, 1902 |
| 252. | Shri Yadav, Om Prakash | 1963, 2056 |
| 253. | Shri Yadav, Tej Pratap Singh | 1905, 2069 |
| 254. | Shri Yadav, Laxmi Narayan | 1988 |

ANNEXURE-II

*Ministry-wise  Index  to  Starred  Questions*

Member-wise  Index  to  Unstarred  Quaestions

Electronics and Information Technology     :     1847, 1849, 1854, 1855, 1867, 1874, 1915, 1935, 1954, 1972, 1974, 1980, 1988, 2001, 2023, 2048, 2054, 2057

External Affairs     :     1841, 1848, 1860, 1863, 1884, 1885, 1897, 1901, 1907, 1911, 1919, 1936, 1943, 1973, 2014, 2024, 2025, 2032, 2059, 2065

Law and Justice     :     1883, 1895, 1913, 1930, 1969, 1979, 1982, 2005, 2008, 2029, 2036, 2040, 2045, 2050, 2058, 2070

Minority Affairs     :     1900, 1934, 1940, 1992

Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions     :     1850, 1858, 1877, 1960, 2019, 2051, 2062

Planning     :     1851, 1872, 1886, 1924, 1965, 2015, 2038

Railways     :     1856, 1861, 1862, 1865, 1868, 1873, 1875, 1876, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1882, 1887, 1890, 1893, 1896, 1902, 1904, 1905, 1909, 1914, 1922, 1927, 1928, 1933, 1937, 1946, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1985, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2002, 2004, 2009, 2011, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2030, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2049, 2052, 2053, 2060

Science and Technology     :     1898, 1932, 1984, 1993, 1999, 2063

Space     :

Statistics and Programme Implementation     :     1923, 1945.

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