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1

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Friday, February 07, 2020
Magha 18, 1941 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session

(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. VII contains Nos 1. to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

**Seventeenth Series, Vol. VII, Third Session, 2020/1941(Saka)
No. 7, Friday, February 07, 2020/ Magha 18, 1941(Saka)**

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
^{1*} Starred Question Nos. 81 to 87 and 89	6-48
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	49
Starred Question Nos. 88 and 90 to 100	
Unstarred Question Nos. 921 to 1150	

^{1*}The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

07.02.2020

4

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07.02.2020

5

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 07, 2020/Magha 18, 1941 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS*[English]*

HON. SPEAKER: Now Question Hour. Q. No. 81, Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu.

(Q. 81)

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to ask the supplementary. First of all, through you, I congratulate the hon. Minister for giving an elaborate answer. My specific question to the hon. Minister is, what type of mechanism has been evolved by her to coordinate among various Ministries involved in this programme.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, the hon. Member's compliment is something that I would like to graciously accept and thank him for being so kind. I would also like to congratulate the State of Odisha. In the last term of this very Government, Odisha had not come on board with regard to the *Poshan Abhiyan*. I, in a conversation with the hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, pleaded with him to ensure that in this *sankalp*, where we want to provide nutritious food and a healthy life to

our Children, Odisha also comes on board, and the hon. Chief

07.02.2020

7

Minister was kind enough to heed to my plea. Today, Odisha is also a part of this particular *Abhiyan*.

In so far as coordination with line Ministries is concerned, I would like to highlight that your honourable self in the last Session had directed my Ministry to come up with an eating chart for the pregnant and lactating women in the country. Never before in the history of our country have ministries come together to consult among themselves and with States to come up with dietary practices. We are on the verge of finalisation of the same. When it comes to *Poshan Abhiyan*, we meet almost every month. More so, we are in conversation every day with regard to the nutritional needs of women and children in the country.

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister ji you should also talk with all the State Governments about what nutrition should be provided by discussing with the State Governments. It is a serious matter.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Speaker ji, I certainly welcome your instruction. We held a meeting along with the Health Ministry yesterday, and we have had meetings with the National Institute of Nutrition, state governments, and AYUSH to formulate a diet chart as instructed by you. It has been repeatedly pointed out in the

07.02.2020

8

instructions of Prime Minister that the dietary diversity of states should be allowed to be celebrated. We would like millets to be promoted further. Instead of refined sugar, jaggery should be promoted. Palm oil should not be used anywhere in children's nutritional take-home ration. We have done this type of coordination with the states. We would continue to do so.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Sir, as per the reply given by the Minister, if you go through the National Family Health Survey, 2005-06 and the National Family Health Survey, 2015-16, in terms of the percentage of children under five years who are stunted, low height-for-age, Odisha stands at 34. 1 percent in contrast to the all-India average of 38. 4 percent, whereas, in terms of children under five years who are wasted, low weight-

for-height, Odisha stands at 22 per cent in contrast to 21 per cent all India average. In some fields Odisha is doing well.

My specific question to the hon. Minister is, whether the Ministry or the Central Government plans to reward the well-performing State like Odisha, which is performing very well under the leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik where some indicators show that the performance data

07.02.2020

9

of the State is above the national level.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: It is a matter of pride for us that all the States under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, given the very essence of cooperative federalism, have come forward. The only exception to it is the State of West Bengal. I would like to plead to the senior hon. Members of West Bengal also ensure it. I have had a word with the hon. Chief Minister in West Bengal and pleaded with her to please come on board about 'Poshan Abhiyan'.

Insofar as awards are concerned, through you, I would like to tell the august House that we have

instituted a Poshan Abhiyan Award which is applicable to all the State Governments and all the Anganwadis and given the performance of the States, recently, the award ensured the distribution of Rs. 22 crore.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: What he wanted to say was that the award should provide some more assistance.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: That is exactly my point, Sir. The cash prize, which is given to the specific States or for that matter, the specific Anganwadis, is given to better institutional mechanisms of delivery of nutrition to women and children. Insofar as more budgetary allocations to the States are concerned, the budgetary allocations are not a challenge for well-performing States, especially States which have met their targets.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Through you, I just want to suggest one thing regarding the Anganwadis and other social reform schemes and regarding women who are below the poverty line and those who have been

engaged and who have been given priority. I am just giving you an example of Self-Help Groups. Why has a statute not been brought to help the Self-Help Groups? Women are doing extremely well there. Now, the Self- Help Groups will get the priority. Behind the Self-Help Groups, there are some other persons who are controlling and actual benefits are not going to the Self- Help Groups. Can you think of any mechanism with regard to the same and can we fix it by legislation?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: I would like to add here that what the hon. Member has expressed, is a concern which is very valid and there have been instances where we have found so-called institutions misusing Government funds. I have categorically stated in my Department that Poshan is not a money-making or employment-giving opportunity for certain organizations. It is a money given so that nutritious food and subsistent support is reached out to pregnant and lactating women and to children.

Insofar as bringing legislation is concerned, I think the endeavor of the hon. Member is to ensure that

07.02.2020

12

there is more transparency with regard to delivery of, let's say, 'take home ration'. I repeat that we are now in conversation with the Health Ministry and the NITI Aayog. Just yesterday, we have substantially reached a conclusion that now we will use POS machines and barcoding to ensure that we not only find deliveries to be confirmed by the recipients. We also have a CAS mechanism where there is a digital mapping done of eight and a half crores of beneficiaries as we speak today. So, that particular mechanism, which is digital, is available in 15 local languages so that if any Anganwadi worker says that language is a challenge, we meet even that challenge. A call center is available to help people upload the data and ensure that if there is a data gap, we immediately alert the State. Yet again, I would reiterate, through you, my plea to the senior hon. Members from West Bengal to please come on board about Poshan.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please ask questions in brief and their answers should also be brief only,

because we have to increase the number of questions in the Question Hour.

[English]

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU: Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. I have gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister about the schemes of the Government of India which are very good. But coming to our State, our hon. Chief Minister has started a programme by the name 'Jagananna Gorumudda'. In every district, we have identified children who are not up to the required height, where the age index is very low, and where malnutrition is there. In addition to the schemes like Anganwadis, PMMVY given by the Government of India, we are providing eggs and milk every day. We are also taking extra precautions by identifying such children.

So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of any scheme of that nature.

If the Minister is aware, are we in the process of identifying some districts or children who are suffering from malnutrition? Could this Scheme be taken forward for the whole country's benefit.

07.02.2020

14

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, by following your instructions to give brief reply, I would like to submit that we appreciate best practices and new interventions by all the states. they are free to make those interventions. Given our capacities as the Government of India, we ensure that we consult with the States as to the kind of allocation and the kind of programmes they would like to undertake in their States. Every state is free to then customise certain parameters as they deem fit.

[Translation]

(Q. 82)

SHRI MANOJ KOTAK: Hon. Speaker, Sir, my question was related to air pollution and the 'National Clean Air Mission'.

Sir, first of all, I would congratulate the Government that in this budget, there is an increase of ten times, which is more than the previous years, and a provision of Rs. 4,400 crores has been made. Besides, I would like to know whether we are doing anything specific in the industrial or vehicular sector for effective air quality management. I would like to know what has been done by the Government to increase the enforcement mechanism or strong monitoring capacity.

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Sir, following your instruction I will try to answer in short, but the Government has done so much that if I do not mention it, it will be an injustice to them also.

Sir, the National Clean Air Mission (NCAP) is a long-term and time-bound mission.

HON. SPEAKER: Please reply in brief, and rest you can send the rest in writing.

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Sir, I am not reading.

The desirable level of PM-10, PM-2.5, and the level of PM-10 as per volume is 60 micrograms per cubic meter. We have selected 102 cities across the country. If we consider the year 2017 as the base year, then by the year 2024 we want to reduce it by 90 micrograms per cubic meter. At this time, I have no problem in saying that pollution is a very big issue all over the country and many Ministries are working on it in a synchronized way.

Sir, the other part of the Hon. Member's question is what the rest of the Ministries will do in it, so if you give me two minutes, I will tell you that five Ministries are working separately.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has given Rs. 309 crores from Urban Development Funds which have been given to MCDs of Delhi Government. Rs. 89 crore has been given to SDMC, Rs. 110 crore to EDMC, and Rs. 110 crore to North MCD. Separate funds have been given to the Delhi Government for this purpose. They should work very hard in utilizing these funds.

Apart from this, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare 1,178. 47 crore rupees have been given for the promotion of agricultural mechanism in in- situ management of crop residue. It has been given for the issue of stubble burning.

Apart from this, the FAME-I (FAME) scheme was running in the Department of Heavy Industries for a longtime, whereas the FAME-II scheme has faster adoption and a budget of Rs 10,000 crore has been sanctioned in three years for manufacturing of electric vehicles.

In addition, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has spent around Rs 60,000 crore to switchover from BS-IV to BS-VI.

The Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Western Peripheral Expressway, which is built for Delhi, its expenditure does not come from the NCAP, it comes from a separate fund called EPC, by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in association with the State Government. It is built with an expenditure of Rs. 17,000 crore. Because of that 60,000 vehicles do not enter Delhi and circumvent from outside.

MoHUA has another campaign in which the Metro Rail with 377 kilometer and 277 stations are made at an expenditure of 70,000 crore rupees. So the Central Government is taking it very seriously, the State Government should spend its funds at the earliest, so that a mountain of garbage is not created.

SHRI MANOJ KOTAK: Sir, my second supplementary question is that there is a huge shortage of space in Mumbai and Delhi. Our Government has resolve that the number of e-vehicles should be increased. Charging stations also need to be built for e-vehicles. Because there is lack of space in big cities like Mumbai and Delhi. What provision is the government going to contemplate in this regard? Hon. Minister should tell us about that.

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Regarding electric vehicles, it has some issues about charging points and electric vehicles. This is more or less, the same thing that we say about the chicken and egg, because the one you order first will happen first. First people will buy electric vehicles only then charging points or charging

stations would be installed or you will install charging points or charging stations first, and then people will buy electric vehicles. ! We have requested the manufacturers of electrical vehicles. Since their electric vehicles are a bit costly. Its capex is slightly on the higher side, but later the operational expenses decline and they become cheaper. When They spent money on buying electric vehicles, the government will definitely install electric charging points.

You will be happy to know that in Europe, where electric vehicles are used widely. Electric vehicles can also be charged at home. There is a need for that on the way too, but it is not necessary.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: The reply to the question is supercilious and is just a statement of intent. Insofar as India is concerned, one in every eight deaths is attributed to air pollution. Every year, three percent of our GDP is lost due to air pollution. It is ridiculous to note that for cities with a population of less than 5 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 10 lakh per city has been

07.02.2020

20

allocated and for cities with a population of 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you just ask your question.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, this is my question. I will speak about the reply only. The answer he is giving is Rs five lakh are being given for one city, and Rs 10 lakh for another. What kind of work will be done with this money? This is not a matter of fund management, but the most important thing is that it is estimated that we require at least 4000 continuous monitoring stations – 2800 in urban areas and 1200 in rural areas to specially and temporarily monitor air quality in the country. Besides, ambient monitoring, an important aspect of knowing the sources of pollution is emission monitoring and making that information available in real time for further analysis. This task is missing from the program. So, it is a wishy-washy statement and just a statement of intent and nothing more than that. So, it is a total failure of this Government.

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Sir, this is very specific allegation. Adhir dada under the 'Fit India' movement spends a lot of time in yoga in the morning, but he does not read the answer properly. For this. . . I want to².

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister ji,... you do not have the right to . . . *. *This* is wrong.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Sir, please expunge this. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Minister of Parliamentary Affair_Your approach is wrong, you tell this the Hon. Minister.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: He should apologize . . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please expunge this.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Sir, I have known Adhir dada for many years. . . (*Interruptions*) I withdraw this

² *Not recorded

word. But you don't know this. *(Interruptions)* I have known Adhir dada for many years. ...*(Interruptions)* I will talk to him. You sit down. *(Interruptions)*

Sir, through you, I want to say that there are 28 cities, ...*(Interruptions)* Dada, please sit down. I have take back my scolding, why are you still worried? ...*(Interruptions)* Suresh ji is still laughing...*(Interruptions)* Where there is a population of more than 10 billion, Rs. 10 crores is given there. ...*(Interruptions)* When my entire answer has been read by Adhir Dada, then what will I answer now? The State Government also has some responsibilities. They too should do something about pollution in the state. That fund was given to places where there are less than five lakh people. Nothing was said about what infrastructure would be built. After this, I do not consider it right that my answer should be read out to me. Nothing is achieved by reading this answer, rather one should understand it a little...*(Interruptions)*

Dada, you please sit down for one minute. ...*(Interruptions)* You are very agitated. Before this, show

07.02.2020

23

some patience to listen to the answer. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not be impatient...*(Interruptions)* Dada, sit down please. What happens by paying attention, one should also have the ability to listen...*(Interruptions)* If you do this, what I have given you my five page answer...*(Interruptions)*

(Q. 83)

SHRI REBATI TRIPURA: Sir, my question is about 'Ayushman Bharat'. First of all, I thank the Prime Minister ji and the Health Minister ji. Under 'Ayushman Bharat', health facilities are given to about 50 crore people in India. I believe that, so far there are many states including Delhi and West Bengal where 'Ayushman Bharat' has not been implemented. My question to Hon. Minister is that even wherever this has not been implemented so far, poor people are living there too. Whether Hon. Minister is contemplating any mechanism or system to extend this service to poor people, so that the poor people can also get access to these facilities?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, through you, I want to tell the Hon. Member that still there four states in the country who are not implementing our 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme. These states are Delhi, Telangana, West Bengal, and Odisha. For last 6 months, the first thing I did after becoming the Health Minister was to write letters to all these Chief Ministers and also spoke to them personally over the telephone in this regard. We are continuously pursuing them through our officers that they can implement this ambitious scheme within the country. More than 55 crores poor people are getting benefits. Earlier their lives used to get miserable due to a disease, people even had to sell their houses, their entire

07.02.2020

25

lives were ruined due to huge medical expenses, but now they have got some relief on this account. Within almost a span of one year so far, more than 82 lakh people have benefitted from this 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme. Because we have a federal system, we cannot forcefully implement 'Ayushman Bharat' in these states, but there are other means. We provide whatever help we can to the poor people from these states to any extent, be it from Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi and other facilities, from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, and from the Health Ministry. Through this House, we want to again request these states and their Chief Ministers that in the interest of the poor people, rise above politics and implement this scheme in their respective states.

With reference to this Scheme, the Prime Minister was invited to the United Nations. The whole world is appreciating this scheme. On Universal Health Coverage, Prime Minister made a statement in the United Nations. This is the largest ambitious programme in the world. Such a big programme, after 70 years of our independence, was conceived which serves the interest of public health. It never happened before in the country.

SHRI REBATI TRIPURA: Sir, my supplementary question is that 'Ayushman Bharat' benefits people who hold a BPL card or Antyodaya card. But among APL card

holders, there are many poor people also. It would be good if the Ministry could think about them also.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Speaker ji, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that in the year 2011 there was a socio-economic caste-based census. There were about 10.74 crore such poor people under this. In a way, at present it is an entitlement scheme. More than 55 crore people are entitled to it. Broadly, those who are very poor people are all covered under it.

As he suggested, besides this ultimately, the Health and Wellness Centre is the second component of this scheme in the future. Through that, in the coming years we are creating 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres by 2022 across the country, in which positive health and preventive health services have been included at the grassroots level, we have already established 27-28 thousand such centres. By 31st March, it is going to reach forty thousand. By 31st December 2022 this number is going to be one lakh fifty thousand. These Health and Wellness Centres are being developed and strengthened to provide positive health, preventive health, and curative health care facilities to the people.

SHRI MAHABALI SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, I agree with the Hon. Minister's statement on the Table of the House, but I do not fully agree. I know that after independence, people

07.02.2020

27

from poor families often die due to lack of treatment and medicine. Respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji started such a scheme due to which the poor families who died due to lack of medicines, will no longer die, and have given them a lifeline.

I want to say one thing to the Hon. Minister Sir the population of the poor who have been identified in the BPL list in Bihar is approximately five crore eighty-four lakh fifty-one thousand.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is not our job to state figures, you ask the question directly.

SHRI MAHABALI SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, only 43,48,901 people have been issued Ayushman Health Cards among them. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the poor people in the BPL family who have been left out. Does the Government propose to issue Ayushman Health Cards to those BPL families and the time by when it is likely to be done?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, first of all, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that 10.74 crores, that is, more than 55 crore people are entitled to this me. The card that is being given, more and more people are being made aware about it. Treatment is not being given to the card holders only, for those who do not have any card, if they

07.02.2020

28

go to any of the twenty two thousand hospitals and tell their name, address or age, then in every hospital, there is an "Arogya Mitra" under PMJAY just to help them. Anyone can enquire about their entitlement by calling on phone number-14555, whether the person is eligible for this scheme or not.

HON. SEPAKER: Hon. Minister, he is asking whether you will issue any other card?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, we will definitely give individual cards to 55 crore people. We want your help. Common Service Centers and States have also implemented many schemes. I want to clarify that so far it has been handed over to 12.04 crore people. Also, 43 crore people can go to any hospital without a card. Even if there is no money in their pocket, if they go to any of the twenty-two thousand empaneled hospitals, then their treatment will start.

[English]

(Q. 84)

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN: Sir, we are very much disappointed about the answer given by the hon. Minister because it is a long pending demand of Kerala to have the National Institute. Sir, you know that Kerala already has a well-established tradition and ancient practice of this branch of medicine. Perhaps, we are the first not only in India but also in the world as a whole in Ayurvedic medicine.

Ayurveda Medical System is a huge generator of medical tourism to Kerala and wherever it is practiced, it is earning goodwill as well as dollars for the country. Will the Government include major Ayurveda Centres in the Incredible India Programme and its tourist promotion activities?

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY: Hon. Speaker ji, what the Hon. Member has said, he is a very old Member. He has great experience.

HON. SPEAKER: He does not have much experience; he is a new member.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY: Sir, he has vast experience in politics. The state of Kerala, situated in the Southern part of our country, has been a very famous place of the Ayurveda system of medicine for centuries. There is no doubt about it.

Keeping this in mind, our government has ensured the operation of two important research institutes by an autonomous body called Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), through the Ministry of AYUSH in the state of Kerala. One of them is the National Research Institute of Panchakarma, Cheruthuruthi and the second one is the Ayurveda Research Institute for Mother and Child Health Care, Trivandrum. The Centre for Excellence Scheme was introduced by the Government in 2007, the Government upgraded the Panchakarma Institute in 2017. The Central Government is also running it directly. How much importance has been given to the State of Kerala is indicated from the fact that the Government has upgraded 36 such institutes across the country as

Centre of Excellence out of which six are only in the State of Kerala.

I am of the opinion that financial assistance of 25 crore rupees has also been given by the Ministry of AYUSH under this scheme recently to six institutes. Under this scheme of the Ministry of AYUSH, the Government transforms the already running institutions, whether they are Government or non- government, run by NGOs or trusts, into centres of excellence by providing financial assistance up to Rs. 10 crore based on specified criteria.

The question Hon. Member's has just asked, the Government has done its work and given a lot of importance to Kerala.

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN: Sir, you have given some grant but majority of the Institutes are under the private sector and not in the Government sector. Panchakarma Hospital in Cheruthuruthi is not serving the purpose of the Ayurvedic National Institute.

My second supplementary is, Ayurveda is being adopted by many countries as an accepted way of

medical treatment and what are the steps taken by the Government to promote the system in more countries?

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY: Sir, I have explicitly stated that there are two Government institutions in Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN: Ayurveda system of medicine is being practiced in many countries. Has the Government got any plan to promote Ayurveda in other countries?

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that at international level, the Ministry of AYUSH is organising many seminars and many big events in international collaboration to promote Ayurveda. Additionally, we are entering into agreements with many countries. At that stage, the Government of India is working through the Ministry of AYUSH and some agreements are also going to be signed on similar lines.

(Q. 85)

[English]

SHRI TALARI RANGAIAH: Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, forest fires occur every year in almost every State. Some of the regions are more vulnerable than others. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that what steps are taken by the Government to prevent such forest fires.

[Translation]

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member has raised a very important question. I want to tell you in advance, that you will be happy to know that there are only seven or eight countries across the world where forest cover has increased. India is one of them. In recent years, more than 2 percent increase has been seen in the forest cover. For this, I want to tell you that there are many projects of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, through which the plantation is encouraged, including the Nagar Van Udyan Yojana and School Nursery Scheme. But, the specific question that you are asking is what we are doing for the degraded forests so let me tell you that specifically for degraded forests there

is a programme called 'National Afforestation Programme' [NAP] . But the Government is not napping on that. It is called the National Afforestation Programme. Tree plantation in degraded forests with people's participation and the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) are going on simultaneously. In this, Rs 3 thousand 874 crore is being spent in States and Union Territories in an area of 2 million hectares meant only for NAP. It is being spent on the degraded forest. We hope that with the cooperation of the State and Union Territories, we will be able to further increase the forest cover very soon. Even in the places where it has been degraded, the topsoil has eroded, and afforestation in those places will be specifically beneficial.

[English]

SHRI TALARI RANGAIAH: Sir, actually, your answer is irrelevant. I am asking that what are you going to do to prevent forest fires.

[Translation]

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: I want to tell about forest fire. There is a separate scheme for forest fires, where forest fires are countered. When forest fires occur, then it leads to deforestation, and plantations are burnt. This

07.02.2020

35

fund is spent on that. Apart from this, wherever there are forest fires, a separate financial support is provided there. There are five alert systems, which have been developed through FSI. Based on the alert system, we try to stop wherever forest fires occur.

(Q. 86)

SHRI JAGADAMBIKA PAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, I have asked an important question about Artificial Intelligence. My question to the Hon. Minister is that Niti Aayog, has formulated a paper on Artificial Intelligence in the year 2018-19. He discussed about National Programme on Artificial Intelligence, to guide the research and development in new and emerging technologies. That's the question we asked. NITI Aayog discussed it in the year 2018. In the Hon. Minister's reply today states, "Niti Aayog's National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (NSAI) discusses the following." These were discussed in the year 2018, all these things have been mentioned in it. My question to the Hon. Minister through you is that today when the talk of Artificial Intelligence is being talked about all over the world. And even today, if there is anything that makes human beings superior in India or across the world, then it is only one thing and that is intelligence. Humans have higher intelligence than other beings, hence he is superior. When Artificial Intelligence

is spreading all over the world, then will you make a policy about it in coming days?

NITI Aayog has discussed Artificial Intelligence. You are saying that there is an Electronic and Information Technology Committee for this purpose. About the development of templates and the required legal and regulatory framework in the domain of Artificial Intelligence. I want to know through you whether the Government will make a policy for Artificial Intelligence.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, Artificial Intelligence is an emerging area. Our Government is working on descriptive technology and cutting-edge technology and our Prime Minister is very passionate about it. Nowadays, Artificial Intelligence is also being used in many areas. Today, the same is being used in the various fields of medical. Even for fraud detection in Ayushman Bharat, whatever science can be put to use, they are using Artificial Intelligence to detect fraud at any level in the hospitals. As far as the Government is concerned, the NITI Aayog has held a very detailed discussion in this regard. Detailed documents have been published in the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence. The committee that you are discussing about how to implement Artificial Intelligence in the country, should

07.02.2020

38

further discuss as to what should be our regulatory framework for it? Along with this, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is also discussing in detail how to make laws about Data Protection Privacy. A year and a half ago, the government formulated a National Mission on Cyber-Physical system policy in the Cabinet, in which the approximate expenditure was around Rs. 3,660 crore. Our Cabinet had approved such a policy. The Ministry of Science & Technology is setting up 20 Innovation Hubs in the country, one of the hubs will focus exclusively on Artificial Intelligence. I have to say to the Hon. Member that in terms of commitment, in terms of vision, in terms of preparation or in terms of what we want to do, or the direction in which we are working, we are second to none in the world. We are trying to find ways in which science can be used in the public interest and all areas through Artificial Intelligence.

[English]

SHRI JAGADAMBIKA PAL: The Hon. Minister has said in his reply that the Government of India is focusing a lot on this. The Prime Minister is also very concerned about it. In the light of NITI Ayog's Discussion Paper on National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence which was released in 2018, what measure the Government is taking to implement the same? The same document also states that the global investment in the field of artificial intelligence are forecasted to reach US \$57.6 billion by 2021 and we are in 2020. The Union Budget for 2020-21 allocated Rs. 8,000 crore for the period of next five years for the National Mission on Quantum Technology and Applications. Therefore, can the Government state the details in this regard?

[Translation]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: You have answered your own question. You have said that Rs.8000 crores have been announced in the budget for Quantum Technology. I have also told you about the Cyber Physical system. This strategy paper has been prepared after thorough research and interaction with stakeholders. People from different walks of life are involved in it. The findings of the Strategy Papers or the National Strategy that has been prepared, will go to the Cabinet in the future. The Cabinet will decide on it quickly.

07.02.2020

40

The Government's support and commitment to this cause is already there. I have spoken about Cyber Physical systems. You have mentioned yourself that in this year's budget an amount of Rs. 8,000 crores for Quantum Mechanics and other things has been announced.

The Government and Ministry of Science and Technology are already working on the state-of-the-art and latest descriptive technologies. In terms of publications, we have now reached number three in the world and we are among the first ten nations on almost every parameter. Hon. Prime Minister wants our country to be ranked among the top two-three scientific nations of the world in coming years. So, the Government is substantially concerned in this matter and is also doing considerable work in this regard.

[English]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Fourth Industrial Age comprising of digitisation, robotics, and

artificial intelligence, is going to completely transform the workplace. According to a World Bank estimate, 67 per cent of all manufacturing jobs in India will be lost to robotization.

My specific question to the Minister of Science and Technology is: Given this paradigm, has his Ministry conducted any study on the impact of this Fourth Industrial Age, digitalisation, robotics, and artificial intelligence on the workplace? How many jobs is India going to lose as a consequence of this; and how many jobs are going to be created as a consequence of this Fourth Industrial Age?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: I think, we can say that we are in touch with everything that is happening on this front all over the world; and we are doing whatever best needs to be done to ensure that we improve the lives of the people of this country and is being benefited as the others are also being benefited. So, we are doing all that is possible.

As regards losing of jobs and all, this is an area, which is already under a study and scrutiny, which is not only being done by India but also by the whole world.

As regards all these robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning etc. , we are in sync with the rest of the world; and I can promise on the floor of this House that through science and technology, we will do our best and we will also ensure that it does not have any adverse impact on the job situation in the country.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was very specific. Have they conducted any study on this?
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Questions Nos. 87 and 89 have been clubbed.

Shri Ajay Nishad.

(Q. 87 and 89)

SHRI AJAY NISHAD: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has given a very comprehensive reply to my question, yet I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how much amount has been allocated and how much money has been spent during the last five years in the National Programme for Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE)?

[English]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I may inform the hon. Members that under this scheme, in fact, we have created two National Centres for Ageing. These are at Madras Medical College, and AIIMS. For each of these two centres, we have provided Rs. 270 crore each. We have also created 19 Regional Geriatric Centres. In these Regional Geriatric Centres, we have a 30-bedded indoor patient department, physiotherapy, labs and specialised manpower. We give Rs. 4 crore to each of these centres.

Sir, at 713 District Hospitals in the country, we have provided total support for the creation of 10-bedded Geriatric Wards, physiotherapy, labs etc. , through the

National Health Mission. This facility is also available at 3,430 Community Health Centres where we have 2-days specific OPD for the senior geriatric patients along with physiotherapy, labs etc. Sir, in 552 Districts, we have already started the OPD; and our National Health Mission has a provision whereby we help the States to hire two doctors exclusively for the care of the elderly.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY NISHAD: Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Minister may please state what are the results of the LASI report submitted by the International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Speaker ji, this study was started in the year of 2015. It had a sample size of about 61 thousand and was studied along with 61 thousand elderlies. It has two phases Wave-1 and Wave-2. Phase Wave -1 is completed after talking to 61 thousand people, the report was submitted to the department yesterday evening itself. This study will be done among these 61 thousand people again, which will be called Wave-2. It will contain detailed information about health status, health care facilities, social status,

and their economic conditions. As soon as the study is completed, a report will then be submitted.

[English]

SHRI RAHUL GANDHI: Question No. 89.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH

VARDHAN): Sir, please excuse me that before I begin answering this

Question of dear Shri Rahul Gandhi ji, I want to condemn in no uncertain words, the outlandish language that he has used against the Prime Minister of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* In a recent speech, he used words like: 'Six months later, the youth of this country will beat Narendra Modi out of the country.' I am surprised that Mr. Gandhi's own father was the Prime Minister of India and I do not think that in the worst of cases our party leaders made such outlandish personal remarks against him. ...*(Interruptions)* Never threatening that the country's youth will beat him with *dandas* and throw him out of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* The entire House present here, must in unequivocal terms condemn his language against the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.52 hrs

(At this stage, Shri B. Manickam Tagore and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

HON. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till thirteen of the clock.

11.53 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirteen of the Clock.

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07.02.2020

47

13.00 hrs

*The Lok reassembled at Thirteen of the Clock. (Dr.
(Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki in the Chair)*

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned
tillfourteen of the clock.

13.01 Hrs
[English]

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

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14. 00 hrs

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fourteen of the
Clock.*

(Shri A. Raja in the Chair)

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS,
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES**

(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, the behaviour of the Congress MP is highly uncalled for. They tried to come and snatch the paper. If at all, anything is wrongly stated, then it is the domain of the Speaker to decide. Instead of that, trying to come and attack the Minister is highly condemnable. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 10th February, 2020 at 11. a. m.

. . . (Interruptions)

14. 02 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Monday, February 10, 2020 / Magha 21, 1941 (Saka)*

07.02.2020

49

****WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS***

Starred Question Nos. 88 and 90 to 100

Unstarred Question Nos. 921 to 1150

*** For Questions, please refer to Master copy of English version, placed in Library.**

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07.02.2020

51

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