

Lok Sabha

(Wednesday, July 10, 2019/Ashadha 19, 1941 (Saka))

10 JULY, 2019

[Prime Minister - ATOMIC ENERGY - COAL - COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY - COMMUNICATIONS - DEFENCE - DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION - ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS - LAW & JUSTICE - MINES - PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS - PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS - RAILWAYS - SPACE - STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION and PLANNING].

Total No. of Questions - 20

Railway Workforce

*241 Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde(Kalyan) :

RAILWAYS :-

(c) the time by which the process of filling up of the vacant posts is likely to be completed along with the steps taken by the Railways to manage its operations in an efficient manner;

(d) the number of Railway employees who retired and the number of newly recruited employees during the last three years and the current year along with the number of job opportunities generated over the last decade and the reasons for not filling up the vacant posts of different categories; and

(e) whether there is any specific plan for hiring employees from economically backward areas like Bundelkhand and if so, the details thereof?

Complaints of Corruption

*242 Sh. Sunil Kumar Mondal (Bardhaman Purba):

Will the **MINES** be pleased to state that:-

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints of alleged corruption;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number and nature of complaints received during the last four years;
- (c) whether any action has been taken by the Government on these complaints;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of a Branch of Spices Board

***243 Sh. K. Navaskani (Ramanathapuram):**

Will the **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state that:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a branch of Spices Board at Paramakudi in Tamil Nadu considering very high production of Chilli and Pepper at Paramakudi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

New Railway Projects

***244 Mrs. Diya Kumari (Rajsamand):**

Will the **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state that:-

- (a) whether the Government is considering to launch any new railway projects to cater to the increasing passenger footfall and to connect the areas not covered so far under railway network;
- (b) if so, the details of railway projects under consideration along with the ongoing projects in various States of the country including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra, State/UT and zone-wise and if not, the plans of the Government to take up such projects in the near future;
- (c) the State-wise status of the projects announced during the last three

years along with the number of projects out of them on which work is going on and the number of projects completed so far, State/UT-wise;

(d) the amount of funds spent so far in this regard along with the estimated amount likely to be spent on these projects, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the details of the operation of new trains announced during the last three years?

Passport Seva Kendras

***245 Sh. Sudheer Gupta (mandsour):**

Will the **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state that:-

(a) the details of the passport offices and Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) currently operational in the country, State/ UT-wise;

(b) the number of post offices where passport service centres have been opened in the country till date, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has prepared/is preparing a list of the areas where new passport offices and PSKs may be opened and the existing ones be modernized in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for maximum coverage area under these centres?

Setting up of Railway Factory

***246 Shri. Mahabali Singh (Karakat):**

Will the **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state that:-

(a) whether the Railways has prepared a plan to set up a railway factory on the land of closed factory at Dehri-Dalmia Nagar;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) whether all the formalities for setting up of the said factory have been completed and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to expedite the setting up of the said factory so as to provide livelihood to people of that area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Passenger Trains

***247 Dr. Pritam Gopinath Munde (beed):**

Will the **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state that:-

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to rope in private players to run passenger trains and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether in 2018, the United Nations in its report criticised widespread privatisation of public goods in societies and concluded that it leads to elimination of human rights and furthers marginalisation of the poor and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether in 2017, the Government had ruled out privatisation of Indian Railways and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether private players are not interested in the projects that require heavy investments like laying of railway tracks, etc. and if so, whether the objective of the private firms is to exploit the resources of Indian Railways and maximise their profits, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) whether private players are only interested in the already developed infrastructure of the Railways and are looking to just provide services and charge exorbitant amounts in return and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Transportation of Coal

***248 Sh. Sunil Kumar Singh (Chatra):**

Will the **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state that:-

(a) the details of the railway freight charges for transportation of coal in the country along with the names of railway stations in the country including Jharkhand where siding facility has been provided for transportation of coal;

(b) whether the Government is aware that local residents of certain cities are

facing difficulties due to fly ash during transportation of coal from the railway stations located adjacent to these cities and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to shift the work of transportation of coal from the said railway stations to some other stations; and

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints of corruption in the railways relating to transportation of coal, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on the said complaints?

Shortage of Judges

***249 Shri. Adoor Prakash(Attingal) :**

LAW & JUSTICE :-

(a) whether the Government is aware that the shortage of judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India is causing delay in the disposal of pending cases and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has attained its full strength of 31 judges after more than a decade and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at present 43 lakh cases in High Courts and 59,000 cases in the Supreme Court are pending for disposal and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal/communication from Chief Justice of India to raise the strength of judges in the Supreme Court and increase the retirement age of High Court judges to clear the backlog; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

Beas Military Station

***250 Sh. Jasbir Singh Gill (Dimpa) (Khadoor Sahib):**

Will the **DEFENCE** be pleased to state that:-

(a) the details of defence land in front of/outside/adjacent to the Beas Military Station on G.T. Road;

(b) whether a large number of trees in front of outside/adjacent to the military station, which were acting as cover to anti-aircraft gun morcha, have been reportedly cut for mining resulting in disappearance of huge mounds and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of agencies/organisations which carried out the work of mining and cutting of trees thereby compromising on national security; and

(d) whether any action has been taken by the Government against those involved in mining and cutting of trees and if so, the details thereof?

Rail Over Bridge

***251 Shri. Sunil Kumar Pintu (Sitamarhi) :**

Will the **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state that:-

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for construction of Rail Over Bridge (ROB) at Mehsaul railway crossing in Sitamarhi, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far in this regard; and

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

5G Spectrum Auction

***252 Sh. Asaduddin Owaisi(Hyderabad) :**

COMMUNICATIONS :-

(a) whether the Digital Communication Commission (DCC) has cleared the auction of telecom spectrum to introduce 5G services including Fiber-To-The-Home internet in rural areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to give preference to small cities and nontelecom companies to take part in the said auction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Agricultural Export

***253 Sh. Chandra Sekhar Sahu(Berhampur) :**

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY :-

(a) whether there is a huge potential for agricultural export to boost the agriculture, horticulture, plantation, fisheries, sugar and dairy sectors and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to identify districts possessing potential for particular industries and items for development as clusters in order to develop that sector, especially in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some countries have evinced interest in investing in India's agriculture sector and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to fetch good price for agricultural produce; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the income of farmers and the extent of success achieved therefrom so far?

Roadmap for Rolling out 5G Services

***254 Sh. E. T. Mohammed Basheer(Ponnani) :**

COMMUNICATIONS :-

(a) whether the Government proposes to finalize a road map to roll out 5G services for wireless communication, if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said road map is likely to be finalized;

(b) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are likely to participate in the auction of 5G Spectrum, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate 5G spectrum to BSNL and MTNL at concessional rates, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by which the said allocation is likely to be done;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide high speed network to BSNL and MTNL customers; and

(e) whether the Government is aware that private Telecom Service Providers

are going/preparing to launch/introduce 5G services in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Telecommunication Facilities

***255 Sh. Gowdar Mallikarjunappa Siddeshwara (Davanagere):**

Will the **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state that:-

(a) whether telecommunication facilities are not available in a large number of villages in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such villages in the State and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Merchandise and Services Export Target

***256 Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal (Paschim Champaran):**

Will the **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state that:-

(a) whether there has been a delay in achieving merchandise and services export target of \$900 billion by 2020 as per the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20;

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

(c) the progress achieved in meeting the target so far?

Special Economic Zones

***257 Smt. Oja Queen (Gauhati):**

Will the **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state that:-

(a) the details of the 23 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country, location and State/UT-wise along with the detail of goods for which these SEZs are functioning;

(b) the details of SEZs out of the said SEZs which are reportedly not following the rules laid down in this regard during the last three years, location and State/UT-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government against these SEZs and the outcome thereof?

Train Services

***258 Sh. Shashi Tharoor (Thiruvananthapuram):**

Will the **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state that:-

(a) whether the Railways is considering the proposals to start a Thiruvananthapuram-Velankanni- Madurai Train and a Main-line Electric Multiple Units (MEMU) service connecting Thiruvananthapuram to Kollam, Nagercoil and Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Ministry proposes to execute these proposals; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Schemes to Eradicate Poverty

***259 Smt. Hema Malini (Mathura):**

Will the **PLANNING** be pleased to state that:-

(a) whether the Government has started various new schemes to eradicate poverty in the country during the last five years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the implementation of the said schemes has been done according to the target set so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the number of families living below poverty line has decreased in the country during the said period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Protection of Interests of Pepper Farmers

***260 Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi (new Delhi):**

Will the **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state that:-

(a) whether the pepper producing ASEAN countries are taking advantage of lower duty under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the Indian farmers;

(c) whether fixing a Minimum Support Price would help in countering this problem and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government is planning to take such a measure and if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;

Dated: July 4, 2019.

SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA,

July 4, 2019.