

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS
SET FOR THE 23RD MARCH, 2018***

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Website for reporting lapses in safety operations

*301. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have launched a website where its 13 lakh employees can report internal lapses in safety operations and hazards without disclosing their identity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of such lapses concerning security reported on the said website and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (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) Total 387 lapses were reported in this web site up to 15.03.2018. However, no security related lapses were reported.

Safety of labourers engaged by BSNL

†*302. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permanent, temporary and contractual labourers engaged by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for laying of cables and repairing cable joints; and

(b) whether the personal safety equipments are being provided to these labourers engaged in such hazardous works so that their hands and fingers could be protected from becoming useless on getting burnt due to acid leakage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The number of permanent, temporary and contractual labourers

* The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, the 23rd March, 2018 was adjourned on account of interruptions. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 27th March, 2018.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

engaged by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at present for laying of cables and repairing cable joints is as under:

Permanent	:	1863
Temporary	:	43
Contractual	:	4716

(b) Safety equipments are used while doing works, and acid is not used in cable jointing works.

Aquaculture and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Funds

*303. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund and an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund are being established;

(b) the total corpus fund proposed for each of the above Funds; and

(c) whether any allocation has been made for the above Funds, so far, or any specific proposals are there with Government to build up the corpus?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For financing infrastructure requirements of animal husbandry and fisheries sector, in the Budget 2018-19, the Government of India has announced the setting up of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FAIDF) and an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) with total corpus of ₹10,000 crore. The Expenditure Finance Committee, Ministry of Finance has considered and recommended the implementation of Fisheries Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Funds (FAIDF) Scheme with a total outlay of ₹7522.48 crore with loan disbursement/capital investment period of five years w.e.f. 2017-18 to 2021-22, and with repayment period of 10 years. A moratorium of 2 years will be there on repayment of principal. The contribution of Government of India will be limited to ₹ 939.48 crore to meet the interest subvention cost and administrative expenses.

For setting up of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), no specific allocation has been made so far.