

# Monthly Policy Review

## May 2019

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### Highlights of this Issue

#### [New union government formed after elections to the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha \(p. 2\)](#)

A total of 542 Members of Parliament were elected to the Lok Sabha. The BJP won a total of 303 seats and has formed the union government with its allies.

#### [GDP estimated to grow at 6.8% in 2018-19; growth of 5.8% in Q4 \(p. 2\)](#)

GDP growth (at constant prices) in the January to March quarter was lower than the 6.6% growth in the previous quarter of 2018-19. Growth in all sectors, except services and mining, decreased from Q3 of 2018-19.

#### [Draft National Education Policy 2019 released \(p. 3\)](#)

The draft Policy highlights key challenges in the education sector and establishes a policy framework for action. The policy initiatives address learning outcomes in education, examination reforms, and teacher development.

#### [Scheme for providing minimum assured pension to traders approved \(p. 3\)](#)

The scheme is contribution-based and intends to provide a minimum pension of Rs 3,000 per month to all shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons after attaining the age of 60 years.

#### [Annual Report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey released \(p. 4\)](#)

Key findings based on survey in 2017-18 include: (i) Labour Force Participation Rate (% of people in the population working or looking for work) in age group 15-59 years is 53%, and (ii) unemployment rate is 6.1%.

#### [Cabinet approves PM Kisan Pension Yojana for small and marginal farmers \(p. 4\)](#)

Under the scheme, farmers will be provided with a minimum fixed pension of Rs 3,000 per month on attaining the age of 60 years. The amount of contribution made by the farmer will be matched by the central government.

#### [Ambit of PM-KISAN scheme extended to include all farmer families \(p. 4\)](#)

Earlier, farmer families with total cultivable landholding of up to two hectares were eligible for income support under the scheme. This has been extended to all farmer families irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

#### [RBI publishes vision document on Payment and Settlement Systems in India \(p. 5\)](#)

Vision 2021 concentrates on (a) exceptional customer experience; and (b) enabling an eco-system which will result in this customer experience through the four goal-posts of Competition, Cost, Convenience and Confidence.

#### [Ministry of Defence introduces scheme for self-certification of defence products \(p. 6\)](#)

The objective of the scheme is to encourage vendors to assume direct responsibility to sustain and improve the quality of products they supply.

#### [Government notified guidelines for sale of biodiesel for blending with diesel \(p. 6\)](#)

Guidelines include restricting sale of biodiesel for transportation purpose to indigenously produced biodiesel, a registration system, separate boards in English/Hindi and vernacular language at retail outlets among others.

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June 3, 2019

## Parliament

*Anya Bharat Ram (anya@prsindia.org)*

### New union government formed after general elections to Lok Sabha

The elections to the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha concluded in May 2019 and the new union government was formed. A total of 542 Members of Parliament were elected to the Lok Sabha. The parties with the highest number of seats (at least 10 seats) in the Lok Sabha after the 17<sup>th</sup> general elections are listed below.

**Table 1: Party position after 17<sup>th</sup> general elections**

Party	Number of seats
Bharatiya Janata Party	303
Indian National Congress	52
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	23
Yuvajana Sramika Raitlu Congress Party	22
All India Trinamool Congress	22
Shiv Sena	18
Janata Dal (United)	16
Biju Janata Dal	12
Bahujan Samaj Party	10
Others	64
Total	542

Sources: Election Commission of India, General Election to Lok Sabha Results, 2019, PRS.

The National Democratic Alliance has formed the government, with Mr. Narendra Modi as Prime Minister.<sup>1</sup> The new Cabinet was sworn in on May 30, 2019. The list of Ministers is given in the [Annexure](#).<sup>2</sup>

## Macroeconomic Development

*Gayatri Mann (gayatri@prsindia.org)*

### GDP estimated to grow at 6.8% in 2018-19; growth of 5.8% in Q4

Provisional estimates suggest that the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2018-19 is 6.8%, at constant prices.<sup>3</sup> This is estimated to be lower than the 7.2% growth in 2017-18. GDP grew at 5.8% in the fourth quarter of 2018-19, over the corresponding period a year ago.<sup>3</sup> This was lower than the 6.6% growth in the third quarter of 2018-19. The quarterly trend of GDP growth over the last two financial years is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: GDP growth (in %, year-on-year)**



Sources: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; PRS.

GDP growth across economic sectors is measured in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA). The growth in all sectors, except services and mining, has decelerated from the third quarter of 2018-19. Electricity is expected to decrease from a growth of 8.3% in the third quarter of 2018-19 to 4.3% in the fourth quarter of 2018-19. Details on sectoral GVA growth are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Gross Value Added across sectors in Q4 of 2018-19 (growth in %, year-on-year)**

Sector	Q4 2017-18	Q3 2018-19	Q4 2018-19
Agriculture	6.5%	2.8%	-0.1%
Mining	3.8%	1.8%	4.2%
Manufacturing	9.5%	6.4%	3.1%
Electricity	9.2%	8.3%	4.3%
Construction	6.4%	9.7%	7.1%
Services	8.2%	7.2%	8.4%
GVA	7.9%	6.3%	5.7%
GDP	8.1%	6.6%	5.8%

Note: GVA is GDP without taxes and subsidies, at constant prices (2011-12 base year).

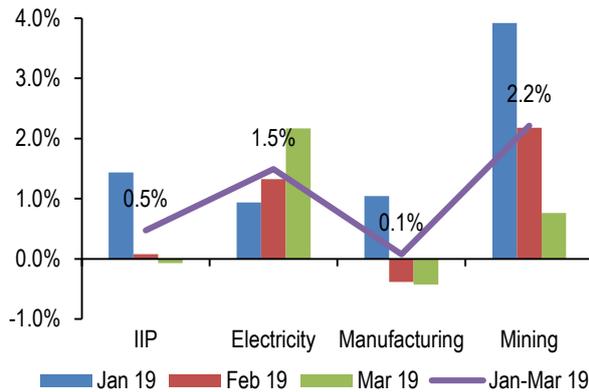
Sources: Central Statistics Office, MOSPI; PRS.

### Industrial production grew by 0.5% in the fourth quarter of 2018-19

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 0.5% in the fourth quarter (Jan-Mar) of 2018-19, as compared to the same period in 2017-18.<sup>4</sup> Mining saw the highest increase of 2.2% in this quarter, followed by an increase of 1.5% in electricity and 0.1% in manufacturing. Over the past year, from April 2018 to March 2019, IIP had an overall growth of 3.6% over 2017-18.

Figure 2 shows the change in industrial production during the fourth quarter of 2018-19.

**Figure 2: Growth in IIP in fourth quarter of 2018-19 (year-on-year)**



Sources: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; PRS.

## Education

Gayatri Mann ([gayatri@prsindia.org](mailto:gayatri@prsindia.org))

### Draft National Education Policy 2019 released

The Committee for Draft National Education Policy (Chair: Dr. K. Kasturirangan) submitted its report on May 31, 2019.<sup>5</sup> The Committee was constituted under the Ministry of Human Resource Development in June 2017. The report proposes an Education Policy, which seeks to address the challenges of: (i) access, (ii) equity, (iii) quality, (iv) affordability, and (v) accountability faced by the current education system. Key observations and recommendations of the Committee include:

- **The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:** Currently, the RTE Act provides for free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years. The Committee recommended extending the RTE Act to include early childhood education and secondary school education. This extends the coverage of the Act to all children between the ages of three to eighteen years.
- In addition, the Committee recommended that the recent amendments to the RTE Act on continuous and comprehensive evaluation and the no detention policy must be reviewed. The Policy states that there should be no detention of children till class eight. Instead, schools must ensure that children are achieving age-appropriate learning levels.
- **School exam reforms:** To track students' progress throughout their school experience,

the Committee proposed State Census Examinations in classes three, five and eight. Further, to reduce the stress levels of students, the Committee recommended restructuring the board examinations to test only core concepts, skills and higher order capacities. This would be achieved by replacing in-class final examinations with board examinations, and allowing students to take the board examination across a range of subjects at the end of each semester.

- **Higher education:** The Policy recommended restructuring of higher education institutions into three types: (i) research universities focusing equally on research and teaching; (ii) teaching universities focusing primarily on teaching but conducting significant research as well; and (iii) colleges focusing only on teaching in undergraduate education.
- In addition, the Committee proposed setting up of the National Higher Education Regulatory Authority. This authority would replace the existing individual regulators in higher education, including professional education. It would ensure that all higher educational institutes have administrative, academic and financial autonomy.

## Labour and Employment

Roshni Sinha ([roshni@prsindia.org](mailto:roshni@prsindia.org))

### Pension scheme for traders and shopkeepers approved

The Ministry of Labour and Employment approved a voluntary minimum pension scheme for traders and shopkeepers.<sup>6</sup> Key features of the scheme include:

- **Minimum assured pension:** Each beneficiary under the scheme shall receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000 per month after reaching the age of 60 years. The central government will match the contribution made by the beneficiary.
- **Eligibility:** The Scheme will apply to shopkeepers, self-employed persons, and retail traders with a GST turnover of less than Rs. 1.5 crore, between the ages of 18 and 40 years. In order to enroll, the subscriber must have a bank account and Aadhaar number. Interested persons can enroll themselves through any Common Service Centre in the country. A Common Service Centre is an access point for delivery of essential public utility services,

social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial or education services.

### Annual Report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey released

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the first Annual Report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey.<sup>7</sup> The Report provides annual estimates relating to various aspects of employment and unemployment at the national and state level. The report is based on data collected from 1,02,113 households between July 2017 and June 2018. Key results of the Survey include:

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** The LFPR for age 15-59 years was 53%. Of this, the LFPR for males was 80.2% and for females was 25.3%. The LFPR is the percentage of people in the population working or looking for work.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** The WPR for age 15-59 years was 49.5%. Of this, the WPR for males was 74.9% and for females was 23.8%. WPR is the percentage of persons employed in the population.
- **Sources of employment:** As per the report, on an all-India level, 52.2% of people had their major source of income from self-employment. Further, 24.9% had their major source of income from casual labour, and 22.8% from regular wage/salary.
- **Unemployment Rate:** The all-India total unemployment rate was 6.1%. The unemployment rate was 6.2% for males, while it was 5.7% in case of females.
- **Unemployment rate among urban workforce** was 7.8%, while the unemployment rate for the rural workforce was 5.3%. In urban areas, unemployment rate for males was higher at 7.1%, compared to rural areas (5.8%). The unemployment rate for women was also higher in urban areas at 10.8%, compared to rural areas (3.8%).

## Agriculture

*Suyash Tiwari (suyash@prsindia.org)*

### Cabinet approves PM Kisan Pension Yojana for small and marginal farmers

The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana for small and marginal farmers.<sup>8,9</sup> The scheme will provide farmers with a minimum fixed pension of Rs 3,000 per month on attaining the age of 60 years. It is a

voluntary contribution-based scheme where the amount contributed by the farmer will be matched by the central government. Farmers between the age of 18 to 40 years will be eligible to start making contributions under the scheme.

After the beneficiary's death (after the age of 60 years), their spouse will be entitled to receive 50% of the pension receivable as family pension, provided the spouse is not already a beneficiary under the scheme. If the beneficiary dies before the age of 60 years (while making contribution), the spouse will have the option of continuing the scheme by making regular contributions.

Under the scheme, farmers can choose an option where the monthly contributions will be directly deducted from the income support given under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. Alternatively, farmers can make their monthly contributions by registering through the Common Service Centres set up by the government in rural areas for providing e-governance services.

The scheme will be funded by the central government, and is estimated to cost Rs 10,774 crore over a three-year period.

### Ambit of PM-KISAN scheme extended to include all farmer families

The Union Cabinet approved extension of the PM-KISAN scheme to all farmer families irrespective of the size of their landholdings.<sup>10</sup> Earlier, only small and marginal landholder farmer families, i.e. families with total cultivable landholding of up to two hectares, were eligible for the income support of Rs 6,000 per year under the scheme.<sup>11</sup> However, certain exclusion criteria under the scheme will continue to apply. Certain farmer families of higher economic status are not eligible under the scheme, including those which are: (i) institutional land holders, (ii) families with one or more members as government employees, and (iii) families with one or more members as income tax payers.<sup>12</sup>

The revised scheme is expected to cover around two crore more farmers, increasing the coverage to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries. With this increase in coverage, expenditure on the scheme is estimated to increase from Rs 75,000 crore to Rs 87,218 crore in 2019-20.

### Cabinet approves programme for controlling diseases among livestock

The Union Cabinet approved a programme for controlling certain diseases among livestock in the country.<sup>13</sup> These diseases include foot and mouth disease, and brucellosis. The programme

aims to control these diseases in the next five years and subsequently eradicate them.

Foot and mouth disease is an infectious disease that causes fever, blisters inside the mouth and on the feet leading to lameness, and excessive salivation, among other things. The disease could reduce milk output in cows and buffaloes by up to 100% for a period of four to six months.

Brucellosis causes early abortions and infertility in animals, and could reduce milk output by 30% during the entire life cycle of the animal. The infection could also get transmitted to humans.

To control foot and mouth disease, vaccination would be provided to: (i) 30 crore bovines (cows, bulls and buffaloes), (ii) 20 crore sheep and goats, and (iii) one crore pigs at an interval of six months. Further, primary vaccination would be provided to bovine calves. To control brucellosis, 3.6 crore female calves would be provided 100% vaccination coverage.

The programme will be completely funded by the central government. An outlay of Rs 13,343 crore has been approved for the same.

## Finance

Anurag Vaishnav ([anurag@prsindia.org](mailto:anurag@prsindia.org))

### RBI publishes vision document on Payment and Settlement Systems in India

The Reserve Bank of India has published the “Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019-2021” document. The Payment Systems Vision 2021 aims at empowering every Indian with access to a bouquet of e-payment options that are safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable.<sup>14</sup>

The vision document aims to: (i) enhance the experience of customers, (ii) empower digital payment system operators and service providers, (iii) enable the digital payment eco-system and infrastructure, and (iv) put in place a forward-looking regulation.

To achieve the above, the vision document envisages the four goal-posts of competition, cost, convenience and confidence and identifies specific initiatives for each goal-post. For instance, the vision document aims to conduct customer awareness surveys to improve convenience for the customers.

The document also identifies 12 specific outcomes such as: (i) achieving 35% increase in use of digital payment for purchase of goods and

services by 2021 and (ii) decrease in technical declines across payment systems by 10%.

The vision document also aims to reduce the cash in circulation as a percentage of GDP through enhanced availability of point of sales infrastructure in the country.

The RBI had constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments in January 2019.<sup>15</sup> The Committee has submitted its report in May 2019.<sup>16</sup> The RBI will examine the recommendations of the Committee and include the action points from the report in the Vision document, wherever necessary.

### Working group submits its report on Foreign Portfolio Investors regulations

A Working Group has submitted its recommendations on the Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) regulations. The working group was constituted by SEBI to review the Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) Regulations, 2014.<sup>17</sup> The Working Group aimed to: (i) consolidate existing circulars and operating guidelines into the FPI regulations, (ii) simplify and rationalise the existing guidelines, and (iii) liberalise in order to improve ease of doing business for FPIs.

Key recommendations of the Group include:

- **Investment Restrictions:** Currently, FPIs are allowed to collectively invest up to 24% in a listed Indian company. Indian companies are allowed to increase this limit up to the sectoral cap/ statutory ceiling in their sector as per the Foreign Exchange Management Act, with the approval of Board of Directors.
- The working group recommended setting the default investment limit to the sectoral cap and allowing companies to reduce this limit by way of a Board Resolution.
- **KYC and simplification of documentation:** The working group recommended simplifying the certification and verification process for ‘Know your Customer’ (KYC). For example, currently FPIs are required to submit self-certified supporting documentation for KYC. It also recommended making self-certification of supporting documents optional.
- **FPI registration process:** The working group recommended a fast-track registration process for a set of investors such as pension funds.

Public comments on the report are invited till June 14, 2019.

## Term of the task force set up to draft new direct tax law extended by two months

*Suyash Tiwari (suyash@prsindia.org)*

The Ministry of Finance has extended the term of the task force set up to draft a new direct tax law by a period of two months.<sup>18</sup> The task force was constituted in November 2017 to review the Income Tax Act, 1961 and draft a new direct tax law keeping in view: (i) direct tax system prevalent in various countries, (ii) international best practices, (iii) economic needs of India, and (iv) any other connected matters.

The task force was required to submit its report by May 31, 2019. This has now been extended to July 31, 2019.

## Defence

*Vinayak Krishnan (vinayak@prsindia.org)*

### Ministry introduces scheme for self-certification of defence products

The Ministry of Defence introduced a scheme to allow for self-certification of defence products manufactured by Defence Public Sector Undertakings and private vendors.<sup>19</sup> Self-certification implies that the responsibility of certifying the quality of the product will be that of the vendor.

At present, defence products are subject to quality assurance carried out by the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (which is under the Department of Defence Production). According to the Ministry, the objective of the scheme is to encourage vendors to assume direct responsibility to sustain and improve the quality of products.

Vendors that are seeking self-certification status are required to apply to either the Directorate General of Quality Assurance or an authority in the Service Headquarters. Self-certification status will be granted by the Directorate General of Quality Assurance, based on an assessment of the quality management system put in place by the vendor, and other parameters. This status will be awarded for a period of three years. Self-certification status may be revoked in case any deficiencies in quality and reliability of the product are observed by the user. Further, it may be revoked by the Directorate General of Quality Assurance if the quality of the product is not satisfactory at any time.

## Changes to scholarship scheme under the National Defence Fund approved

The Prime Minister approved certain changes to the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme under the National Defence Fund.<sup>20</sup> The National Defence Fund was set up to utilise the donations received for the promotion of national defence. The Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme is a scheme being implemented under the National Defence Fund. It seeks to encourage technical and post-graduate education for widows and children of deceased/ex-service personnel of the Armed Forces, Paramilitary Forces, and Railway Protection Force.

The rates of scholarship have been increased from Rs 2,000 per month to Rs 2,500 per month for boys, and from Rs 2,250 per month to Rs 3,000 per month for girls. Further, the ambit of the scheme has been extended to include the children of state police officials who were killed during naxal or terror attacks. For the children of state police officials, 500 scholarships will be awarded per year. The Ministry of Home Affairs will be the nodal ministry for such cases.

## Petroleum and Natural Gas

*Anurag Vaishnav (anurag@prsindia.org)*

### Ministry notifies guidelines for sale of biodiesel for blending with diesel

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has notified guidelines for sale of biodiesel for blending with diesel for transportation.<sup>21</sup>

Biodiesel is produced from non-edible vegetable oils, acid oil, used cooking oil or animal fat and serves as an alternative fuel. Blending ethanol with petrol helps reduce vehicle exhaust emissions and reduces the import burden for petroleum. The National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 has set a target of achieving 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel by 2030 to promote the use of alternative and environmental friendly fuels.<sup>22</sup>

The guidelines notified by the Ministry include:

- Permission for retail sale of biodiesel will be granted exclusively for sale of biodiesel only (B-100) and not for any mixture of whatever percentage.
- Biodiesel permitted for sale should be indigenously produced and not imported.
- Separate boards in multiple languages should be prominently displayed at the biodiesel retail outlet displaying the percentage of Biodiesel allowed to be

blended with diesel. Board should also display clear warning that usage of biodiesel with percentage exceeding the prescribed percentage can cause damage to the engine.

- A registration system for biodiesel manufactures, suppliers and sellers will be devised at the state level.
- State Government authorities shall have the power to carry out regular inspections of the retail outlets selling biodiesel.

### High Level Committee recommends strategy to reduce import dependency

The High-Level Committee constituted by the government to examine issues relating to the Petroleum and Natural Gas sector submitted its report to the Ministry.<sup>23</sup> The Committee examined the preparation of action plan to create synergy among research and development centres of oil and gas public sector undertakings (PSUs), tax issues, and ways to benefit from GST by the oil and gas PSUs.

The Committee in their report recommended short term, medium term and long term strategies to reduce the import dependency of the nation. The report submitted by the Committee has not yet been released in public domain.

## Statistics and Programme Implementation

Anurag Vaishnav (*anurag@prsindia.org*)

### Merger of CSO and NSSO into National Statistics Office approved

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation approved merging of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) into a single statistics wing, which will be known as the National Statistical Office (NSO).<sup>24</sup>

The NSO would be headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. A committee will be constituted to recommend the operational steps required for the merger. Note that a proposal to create the NSO by merging the NSSO and CSO had been made earlier in July 2005.<sup>25</sup>

Currently, the CSO, an attached office of the Ministry, coordinates statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards.<sup>26</sup> The NSSO, a subordinate office (field agency) under the Ministry, conducts large scale sample

surveys across diverse fields on an all India basis, and publishes the results.<sup>27</sup>

## Energy

Prachee Mishra (*prachee@prsindia.org*)

### Connecting old solar off-grid plants to the grid approved

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy approved connecting the old solar off-grid power plants to the grid.<sup>28</sup> The connections will be made in areas where reliable grid supply is now available with provision for net-metering. Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system (or plant) owners for the electricity they add to the grid.

The connections will be subject to applicable regulatory provisions. Further, the cost of such connections will be borne by the respective state government or beneficiary departments.

## Annexure

The list of Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State – Independent Charge, and Ministers of State is given below.

**Table 4: Cabinet Ministers**

Name	Portfolio
Mr. Narendra Modi	Prime Minister Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space All important policy issues Portfolios not allocated to any Minister
Mr. Raj Nath Singh	Defence
Mr. Amit Shah	Home Affairs
Mr. Nitin Gadkari	Road Transport and Highways Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Mr. D.V. Sadananda Gowda	Chemicals and Fertilizers
Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance Corporate Affairs
Mr. Ramvilas Paswan	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Name	Portfolio
	Rural Development
	Panchayati Raj
Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad	Law and Justice
	Communications
	Electronics and Information Technology
Ms. Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Food Processing Industries
Mr. Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Social Justice and Empowerment
Dr. S. Jaishankar	External Affairs
Mr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Human Resource Development
Mr. Arjun Munda	Tribal Affairs
Ms. Smriti Irani	Women and Child Development
	Textiles
Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Health and Family Welfare
	Science and Technology
	Earth Sciences
Mr. Prakash Javadekar	Environment, Forest and Climate Change
	Information and Broadcasting
Mr. Piyush Goyal	Railways
	Commerce and Industry
Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan	Petroleum and Natural Gas
	Steel
Mr. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minority Affairs
Mr. Pralhad Joshi	Parliamentary Affairs
	Coal
	Mines
Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Mr. Arvind Sawant	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
Mr. Giriraj Singh	Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Jal Shakti

Sources: Press Information Bureau; PRS.

**Table 5: Ministers of State – Independent**

Name	Portfolio
Mr. Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Labour and Employment
Mr. Rao Inderjit Singh	Statistics and Programme Implementation
	Planning
Mr. Shripad Yesso Naik	Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy

Name	Portfolio
	Defence
Dr. Jitendra Singh	Development of North Eastern Region
	Prime Minister's Office
	Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
	Atomic Energy
	Space
Mr. Kiren Rijju	Youth Affairs and Sports
	Minority Affairs
Mr. Prahalad Singh Patel	Culture
	Tourism
Mr. Raj Kumar Singh	Power
	New and Renewable Energy
	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri	Housing and Urban Affairs
	Civil Aviation
	Commerce and Industry
Mr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Shipping
	Chemicals and Fertilizers

Sources: Press Information Bureau; PRS.

**Table 6: Ministers of State**

Name	Portfolio
Mr. Faggansingh Kulaste	Steel
Mr. Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Health and Family Welfare
Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal	Parliamentary Affairs
	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
General V. K. Singh	Road Transport and Highways
Mr. Krishan Pal	Social Justice and Empowerment
Mr. Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Mr. G. Kishan Reddy	Home Affairs
Mr. Parshottam Rupala	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Mr. Ramdas Athawale	Social Justice and Empowerment
Ms. Niranjana Jyoti	Rural Development
Mr. Babul Supriyo	Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
Mr. Sanjay Dhotre	Human Resource Development
	Communications
	Electronics and Information Technology
Mr. Suresh Angadi	Railways

Name	Portfolio
Mr. Nityanand Rai	Home Affairs
Mr. Rattan Lal Kataria	Jal Shakti Social Justice and Empowerment
Mr. V. Muraleedharan	External Affairs Parliamentary Affairs
Ms. Renuka Singh Saruta	Tribal Affairs
Mr. Som Parkash	Commerce and Industry

Name	Portfolio
Mr. Rameswar Teli	Food Processing Industries
Mr. Pratap Chandra Sarangi	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries
Mr. Kailash Choudhary	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Ms. Debasree Chaudhuri	Women and Child Development

Sources: Press Information Bureau; PRS.

<sup>1</sup> “Press Communique”, Press Information Bureau, President’s Secretariat, May 25, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> “Press Communique”, Press Information Bureau, President’s Secretariat, May 31, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> “Press Note on Provisional Estimates of National Income 2018-19 and Quarterly Estimates of Gross Domestic Product for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2018-19”, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, May 31, 2019, [http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/press\\_release/Press%20Note%20PE%202018-19-31.5.2019-Final.pdf](http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/press_release/Press%20Note%20PE%202018-19-31.5.2019-Final.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> “Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production and Use Based Index for the Month of March 2019 (Base 2011-12=100)”, Press Release, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, May 10, 2019, [http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/press\\_release/IIP\\_mar19.pdf](http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/press_release/IIP_mar19.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Draft National Education Policy 2019, Ministry of Human Resource Development, May 31, 2019, [https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/Draft\\_NEP\\_2019\\_EN.pdf](https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Draft_NEP_2019_EN.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> “Traders to get pension coverage”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, May 31, 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Annual Report, Periodic Labour Force Survey, July 2017 – June 2018, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, May 2019, [http://www.mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication\\_report\\_s/Annual%20Report%2C%20PLFS%202017-18\\_31052019.pdf](http://www.mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_report_s/Annual%20Report%2C%20PLFS%202017-18_31052019.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> “Landmark decision taken in the first Cabinet meeting of the NDA Government offers pension coverage to crores of farmers”, Press Information Bureau, Cabinet, May 31, 2019.

<sup>9</sup> “Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar holds review meeting with Agriculture Ministry officials”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, June 1, 2019.

<sup>10</sup> “PM-KISAN Scheme extension to include all eligible farmer families irrespective of the size of land holdings”, Press Information Bureau, Cabinet, May 31, 2019.

<sup>11</sup> “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi announced to provide assured income support to small and marginal farmers”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Finance, February 1, 2019.

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