

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the August 1, 2003/Sravana 10, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean
Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel; Youth Affairs and
Sports)

Total number of questions—20

Effect of industrial discharge on ground water in Hyderabad

*181. SHRI YADLAPATI VEKAT
RAO: Will the Minister of
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Scientists of Acharya N.G.
Ranga Agricultural University, Andhra
Pradesh, have found in a study that
indiscriminate disposal of effluents from
industrial complexes in Hyderabad is
affecting the quality of ground water; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose
to send a team to see the seriousness of
situation and provide assistance in the setting
up of treatment plants?

Loss to Urea manufacturers by new pricing policy

*182. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are set to unveil
its new pricing policy for urea, phosphatic,
potassic and complex fertilizers aimed at
drastically reducing farm subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several urea manufacturing
units are set to lose over Rs. 620 crore
annually from new urea pricing policy that
has been framed by Government; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision is
likely to help in tightening norms for
complex and other decontrolled fertilizers?

Shortfall in agricultural production

*183. DR. M.N. DAS:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain production during
2002-03 was the lowest in the past seven
years;

(b) whether oilseeds output too was the
lowest since the past 13 years;

(c) if so, the extent to which the shortage
is likely to affect the country;

(d) whether the Ministry has assessed
the total output of wheat, coarse grain,
paddy and oilseeds for 2003-04;

(e) whether any contingency plan has
been prepared to meet the shortage; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign universities

*184. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign universities that are operating in one way or the other in India giving details of the number and the name of country of their origin; and

(b) what precautions have been taken to grant approval to such foreign universities before their entry in India?

Srinagar rail project

*185. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prestigious Srinagar rail project is progressing as per schedule;

(b) if so, its status as on date; and

(c) by when the first train is expected to reach Kashmir?

Siding track from Kribhco to Hajira

*186. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the Industrial growth of the area around Hajira Port, Railways accept the need of connecting Hajira Port to its hinterland;

(b) whether Railways will consider extending the siding track of Kribhco up to Hajira; and

(c) if so, by when this work will be taken up?

Central assistance for Orissa

*187. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rivers and drainage system in Orissa are afflicted with pollution;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for taking up integrated drainage, sewage and solid waste management programmes, the State has sent a proposal for Central assistance; and

(c) if so, the status of the request made by the State?

Distribution of forest land among tribals

*188. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to grant forest land in various States for distribution among tribals;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the forest land identified by State Governments for the purpose have been cleared by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated percentage of forest cover which would be reduced as a result thereof?

VRS in Railways

*189. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have announced any voluntary retirement scheme for its safety related front line staff; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

Increase in dowry related cases

†*190. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that dowry related incidents have increased manifold during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of dowry related incidents which have been reported in the metropolitan cities during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the number of girls killed during the said period and the details of cases in which FIR was registered by the Police, State-wise;

(d) the number of cases filed in the court with chargesheets; and

(e) whether the process of disposal of dowry related cases in courts is very slow, if so, what steps Government are contemplating to amend the law pertaining to dowry related cases so as to settle the cases expeditiously?

Forest cover in U.P.

*191. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of forest cover in Uttar Pradesh and how does it compare with the All India level;

(b) the steps proposed to increase the forest cover in that State, particularly in the areas in the plains where the forest cover is unsatisfactory;

(c) whether any financial assistance is proposed to be provided to the State Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

*192. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed expansion is likely to be completed?

Service road to Bogibeel Bridge

*193. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) status of the Bogibeel Bridge construction work showing sectoral outlay for the current year, progress made and target set including that for protection dam;

(b) whether part of railway track at Samarajan Area of Dhemaji District and the service road for Bogibeel Bridge approach was washed away by floods due to inadequate protection measures;

(c) if so, the remedial action taken thereon;

(d) whether Samarajan is breached every year due to unscientific and unplanned restoration work; and

(e) if so, amount of expenditure incurred and plan; if any, for permanent solution?

Universities/Deemed Universities

*194. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4397 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2003 and state:

(a) the total number of Universities/Deemed Universities in the country; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what is the rating of each one of those Universities according to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council?

Survival of Marine creatures

*195. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Marine creatures is slowly declining due to increasing salinity of water;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sea is not getting its due share of fresh water from its rivers, which helped to maintain the salinity at certain level for the survival of Marine creatures; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the survival of Marine creatures?

Air pollution in Nagpur

*196. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that air pollution has considerably increased in and around Nagpur city;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to find out average pollution level in other major cities of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to control air pollution level in and around Nagpur?

Hunger Free India

*197. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn on World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation Research Foundation's planned meeting on road map for hunger free India by 2007; and

(b) the issues that are likely to be taken up in the meeting?

National River Conservation Plan

*198. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has pointed out that there was a need to implement the river conservation programme with a greater sense of urgency and commitment as the availability of fresh water has dipped due to man-made pollution;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has decided to prioritise the approved works under the National River Conservation Plan; and

(c) if so, what are the steps, the Prime Minister has asked his Ministry to take in regard to river pollution?

National Adventure Award

*199. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to institute a National Adventure Award;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the steps, so far, taken to implement the scheme?

NAIS for Kerala

*200. SHRI N.K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been
received from Kerala Government
requesting to include coconut, arcanut,
rubber etc. under the coverage of National
Agriculture Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the decision, if any, taken in the
matter;

(c) whether Government would
consider including the above agricultural
commodities under the coverage of the
National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;
and

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

NEW DELHI;
The 26th July, 2003

Sravana 4, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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