

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 1, 2005/Agrahayana 10, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Ocean Development, Overseas Indian Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 20

Regional disparities of States

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional disparities of different States are widening;

(b) whether as per statistics prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal together account for 42.5 per cent of aggregate State domestic product, while Orissa, Bihar and a few other States' share has far declined in 2003-04 at 1993-94 price level;

(c) whether it is because of the fact that the new economic policy of Government hardly had the scope for practising welfare economics in these backward and poverty-stricken States; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

TRAI's direction to private companies

*122. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has given any direction to private telecom companies to immediately discontinue "misleading" tariff plans and show all monthly fixed recurring charges under one subhead for transparency to subscribers; and

(b) if so, the details of the direction given by TRAI?

Framework to resolve Indo-China border dispute

*123. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have agreed to proceed towards a framework for resolving vexed border dispute in a fair and reasonable manner keeping in view political perspective of overall bilateral relations;

(b) whether during the month of September, talks on two sides reviewed in a satisfactory manner, progress made in Special Representatives' meeting and agreed to proceed from political perspective of overall bilateral relations;

(c) if so, at what stage border dispute is at present and by what time clear picture of settlement is being reached; and

(d) whether both Governments are confident to settle this issue immediately for improvement of relations between the two countries?

Jaleswar-Chandneswar-Digha road

*124. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to declare Jaleswar-Chandneswar-Digha road as a National Highway in view of its importance to link tourist centres; and

(b) if so, the progress made, so far?

Six laning of Golden Quadrilateral

*125. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would shortly roll out a mega Rs. 175,000 crore project for six-laning of the entire 'Golden Quadrilateral' network for complete execution on build-operate-transfer basis;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the funds allocation for this purpose during the current Five Year Plan;

(d) the progress achieved in this direction, so far;

(e) whether Government would build the project on the public private-partnership model;

(f) if so, the ratio thereof; and

(g) whether Government had set any time-frame to complete this mega project?

SAARC Summit

*126. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister participated in the 13th SAARC Summit held on 12th November, 2005 in Dhaka;

(b) if so, the detail of discussions/ outcome of decisions taken at the said meeting;

(c) whether the Indian delegation put forward before the SAARC meeting any specific suggestions; and

(d) if so, the reaction of member nations to India's suggestion for a united bid to combat terrorism with "zero tolerance" towards cross-border terror?

Sale of excess coal to end-users

*127. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present the selling of excess coal produced in captive mines of core sector consumers to other needy end-users is not legally feasible;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a proposal to allow captive coal mine companies to sell excess coal to

eligible end-users, is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by Government to achieve this objective?

Denial of sophisticated technology

*128. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that developed nations are denying sophisticated technology to India through misplaced and anachronistic restrictions;

(b) if so, whether the non-availability of foreign sophisticated technology has impeded our scientific efforts in any way;

(c) whether the country has developed facilities to test and integrate new generation of satellites; and

(d) if so, the distinct advantages thereof?

Target of broadband internet

*129. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has fallen short of its target of reaching 3 million subscriber base in broadband internet; and

(b) if so, whether it is due to turf war between internet service providers, bandwidth providers and telecom operators offering last mile connectivity?

Mutual cooperation between India and Pakistan

*130. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the month of August,

India and Pakistan had agreed to resolve cooperation in the areas of mutual benefits such as civil aviation, shipping, banking and petroleum and natural gas as part of ongoing composite dialogue between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether as per the agreement reached the two Foreign Ministers met in October and had signed on pre-notification on balastic missiles; and

(c) if so, what were other agreements reached and implemented and to what extent India and Pakistan have agreed to new bus routes to Pakistan?

Revival of SSIs

*131. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to prepare an action plan for reviving small scale units by 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner it would help the small units by increasing the exports?

Companies engaged in coal production

†*132. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the responsibility of production of coal in the country lies with Coal India Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking;

(b) if not, the institutions alongwith

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Coal India Limited engaged in coal production;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the coal reserves in the country is more than 2 lakh 47 thousand million tonne; and

(d) if so, the percentage of average annual production out of these reserves?

Indian soldiers languishing in Pakistani jails

†*133. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indian soldiers are still languishing in Pakistani jails;

(b) if so, their total number and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any effort to take up the matter of their release with Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the complete details thereof and the details of the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan in this regard?

Road network in Orissa

*134. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa State is on the path of industrialisation and the State Government has inked major MoUs for setting up plants;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the industrialisation of a State depends on good road network and most of such projects in the State are dependent on Central funding; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to help the cash-starved State to speed up their road network to keep pace with their industrialisation?

Production of energy through non-conventional energy sources

†*135. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of energy being produced through non-conventional sources in India;

(b) the proportion of contribution atomic energy is making in this production;

(c) what is the per mega watt expenditure incurred in the production of atomic energy; and

(d) whether fuel required for the production of atomic energy is available in adequate quantity in our country?

Views of Cellphone Operation Association

*136. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about one lakh new subscribers of cellphones per month are resulting in Air Waves being jammed;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to tackle this problem so that the existing subscriber and prospective subscribers get a good grade of service; and

(c) whether the views of Cellphone Operation Association of India have been obtained on the subject?

Support of UN resolution on Iran

*137. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government supported in September, 2005 the resolution to restrict nuclear programmes of Iran;

(b) if so, the details of the resolution, including its sponsors and other member countries who voted for and against the said resolution and those abstained from voting;

(c) the rationale behind the stand taken by India;

(d) whether stand of Government is undergoing revision; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Constitution of Information Commission

*138. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have constituted the Information Commission under the Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the constitution of the Information Commission;

(c) the terms and conditions of this Commission;

(d) the qualification, tenure and responsibilities of such Commission;

(e) whether all the Central Government Ministries and Departments have appointed Information Officers as stipulated under the RTI Act;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of such Ministries/Departments?

Facilities to child labour in Maharashtra

*139. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had accorded approval to the National Child Labour Projects under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 for Thane and Solapur in 1995, and for 11 other districts in 2003 and 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the facilities and support provided to child labour thereunder; and the number of children covered in Maharashtra under the scheme; and

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has proposed some more districts in the State to be covered under the National Child Labour Projects, if so, the details thereof and what proposal is under consideration of Government?

Revision of remunerations

†*140. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND
EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the
remuneration of labourers, working in

agriculture area have been revised by
Government;

(b) if so, the increase made therein
alongwith the details of the difference of
remunerations being paid to the skilled and
unskilled workers; and

(c) whether any monitoring system has
been prepared by Government to
implement the directions of the said
remuneration hike, if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th November, 2005
Agrahayana 4, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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Agro and Rural Industries	: —
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Coal	: 127, 132,
Communications and Information Technology	: 122, 129, 136,
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