

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the March 2, 2005/Phalgun 11, 1926 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-
Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development;
Textiles)**

Total number of questions — 20

Marketing of handicrafts

*21. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased
to state:

(a) the steps taken by Central
Government to encourage the marketing of
handicrafts in the country;

(b) the total number of Haats
sanctioned by Central Government, State-
wise and district-wise;

(c) the details of Haats which have
become operational;

(d) the details of Haats which have not
yet been operationalised;

(e) the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Central
Government to see that these Haats become
operationalised at the earliest?

Constitution of a committee to promote trade with Britain

†*22. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

to constitute the joint economic and trade
committee to promote trade with
Britain;

(b) if so, the possible sectors for export
and import with Britain; and

(c) the other sectors where the trade
can be promoted and the facilities proposed
to be given to the Indian traders by
Government in this regard?

Comparative cost of solar energy

*23. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of NON-
CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
be pleased to state:

(a) how does the cost of solar energy
compare with other sources of energy;

(b) what are the advantages to the
consumers for preferring this;

(c) whether it costs less to the
consumer; and

(d) whether it also ensures continued
supply in different weather conditions?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Killings in J&K

†*24. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 650 innocent persons including 92 women and 32 children were killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir during 2004;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of women and children killed by terrorists in 2004 is more as compared to year-wise figures since 1990; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard?

National Identity Cards

*25. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to commence a National Identity Card project or a Smart Card project in the country;

(b) if so, what will be the various technical parameters or components of the project;

(c) whether proposed project is being pursued or has been planned for pursuance, and if so, how Government are planning to take the process forward; and

(d) whether Government are negotiating with any group, consortium or company to implement the project and if so, the details thereof?

Training institutes in textile production skills

*26. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been made to assess the demand for additional personnel trained in textile manufacturing skills, consequent to dismantling of the textile quota regime, raising expectations of doubling the exports in a couple of years;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that adequate number of institutes are not available to provide comprehensive training in textile production skills, especially fabrication of garments; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to encourage setting up of additional training institutes in different States to meet the growing demand of the textile industry?

Easy availability of military uniforms in Old Delhi

*27. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that military uniforms are available on sale in Old Delhi specially Chandni Chowk area at throwaway prices;

(b) whether this does not pose any kind of security risk, as anti-social elements can make use of these uniforms for malafide intentions in the guise of military personnel and can play with the lives of innocents; and

(c) if so, action plan of Government to ensure that easy access to these material is not misused?

Legislation for dealing Tsunami like disasters

†*28. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact the Government are considering any legislation for effective management and dealing successfully with the situation in future in the event of disaster, in view of the condition prevailed due to Tsunami disaster in the coastal areas of Southern States of the country and in Andaman and Nicobar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) up-to-date status of the action taken in this regard?

Nexus between criminal mafia and left-wing extremists

*29. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nexus between criminal mafia and left-wing extremists is on the rise in the country;

(b) whether Government at any time have investigated the finances that the naxalites are getting;

(c) if so, what is the outcome of such investigation;

(d) whether it is a fact that some of the States have started negotiations with naxalites to stop violence in the society; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the progress of the talks that have taken place?

Revision in Natural Calamities Assistance norms

*30. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the Natural Calamities

Assistance norms based on the report of Expert Committee;

(b) if so, what are the major changes suggested;

(c) whether norms have been fixed for declaring a Natural Calamity as National Disaster; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

High potential of wind energy in Rajasthan

*31. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that desert region of Rajasthan, especially Jaisalmer is endowed with high quantum of wind energy;

(b) whether any foreign firm is engaged in harvesting wind energy in the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the Government's stake in such firms;

(d) whether any feasibility study has been undertaken by Government to set up wind mills indigenously; and

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

Inclusion of more people in category of freedom fighters

†*32. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given its approval to include some more people in the category of freedom fighters in the month of January, 2005;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the role and contribution made by them in freedom struggle; and

(c) the total number of people included in the said list and the reasons for delay in their inclusion along with extra financial burden on the exchequer by the said decision?

Nexus between officers of Indian Navy and contractors

*33. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that senior officers of Indian Navy have been found involved in pocketing money from contractors who supply shoes, uniforms, suitcases etc.;

(b) if so, what is the number of officers found involved in those cases during the last three years and what action has been taken against them; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that suppliers who bribed the officers, referred to above are still doing business with the Armed Forces and if so, the reasons therefor?

Impact of import of cheap soda ash

*34. DR. A.K. PATEL:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that import of cheap soda ash from American Natural Soda Ash Corporation is hurting the domestic soda ash industry; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Resettlement of Chakma refugees

*35. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for resettlement of Chakma and Hajong refugees of the State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

Cyber crimes

*36. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of growing cyber crimes; if so, what measures have Government taken to prevent it; and

(b) whether it is a fact that workers of law enforcement agencies are not able to cope with cyber crimes as they don't know anything about it; if so, whether Government have any plan to provide training to the cops in this regard?

Textile exports

*37. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATISAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Agreement on Textiles and Clothing' came to an end on 1st January, 2005;

(b) if so, how will it be beneficial to our country so far as export of textiles, yarn

and readymade garments are concerned; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of quantitative restrictions being removed in four stages on 1st January, 1995, 1st January, 1998, 1st January, 2002 and 1st January, 2005 our textile, yarn and readymade garments exports have risen only at 3 to 4 per cent a year?

Hydel-power projects sanctioned to States

†*38. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the number of hydel-power projects that were sanctioned during the last three years in the country;

(b) the amount allocated for such projects; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

Functioning of NTC mills

†*39. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that out of 119 mills of the National Textiles Corporations, 55 mills will continue to function;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total loss estimated to be incurred by Government in respect of the non profit making mills be March, 2004?

Production of export quality tea in Uttaranchal

*40. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that export quality tea is produced in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the action plan Government are formulating with the collaboration of the State Government to enhance the production thereof;

(c) whether any target has been set for the production of export quality tea in Uttaranchal by the end of the ongoing Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the assistance to be provided by Government in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 24th February, 2005
Phalgun 5, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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