

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 2, 2006/Phalguna 11, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Coal; External Affairs; Non-Conventional Energy Sources; Ocean Development; Overseas Indian Affairs; Panchayati Raj; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Power; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Urban Development; Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 20

Collapse of newly built highways in Eastern India

*161. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the incidents of portions of newly-built highways under the Golden Quadrilateral Project (GQP) caving in certain parts of eastern India, in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that NHAI has adopted uniform technical parameters for laying roads under the GQP throughout the country in disregard to the varied geological formations and soil texture prevailing in different parts;

(d) if so, the rationale therefor;

(e) whether any investigation into the reasons for collapse of sections of GQP highways have been carried out and accountability fixed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of Indian Maritime Service Cadre

*162. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have so far been made to set up an Indian Maritime Service Cadre;

(b) whether such a move will efficiently serve the requirements of all maritime related positions like shipping, light houses, sea ports, vessels, etc.; and

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal from Indian Maritime Industry to employ foreign officers on case to case basis if Indian hands are not available for such positions?

Repayment of loans to Asian Development Bank

*163. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Authority of India has defaulted in repayment of loans to the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers responsible for this lapse?

Implementation of Central Right to Information Act

*164. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ensured that the Central Right to Information Act is being implemented throughout the country;

(b) whether any States are lagging behind; and

(c) if so, which are these States and what steps are being taken to ask those States for its immediate implementation?

Revival of certain printing presses

†*165. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that printing presses at Kolkata, Shimla, Chandigarh, Gangtok and Stationery Office and Central

Farms Centres at Kolkata are without work for the last many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to revive them?

Criticism of Power Incentive Scheme

*166. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had criticized the Power Incentive Scheme, insofar as it did not benefit the consumer but the importer of power equipments/appliances only, by way of reduction in customs tariff; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto by way of reviewing and revising the power policy so as to benefit the consumer, directly?

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral Scheme

†*167. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme for National Highways would be completed within the stipulated time;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether Government propose to award incentive to those who complete road projects within time and penalize those who delay completion thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Administrative Reforms Commission

†*168. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission constituted by Government has started functioning;
- (b) if not, the handicaps it is facing; and
- (c) if so, by when this Commission is likely to submit its report to Government?

Indian artists in Pakistan

*169. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Pakistan have removed ban on performance by Indian artists in their country;
- (b) if so, whether Government have been informed about this development; and
- (c) if not, whether Government have tried to know the authenticity of the news coming from across the border to this effect?

Predictions of monsoon, earthquakes, etc.

*170. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether predictions of monsoon, earthquakes, anergy, health-care and water management have become vital for the overall development of the country;
- (b) if so, what strenuous efforts are in the pipeline for making accurate and timely predictions; and
- (c) by when these would start giving their results?

Hotel accommodation by 2010

*171. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the proposal under Government's consideration to provide for additional hotel accommodation and other infrastructure in Delhi and in the National Capital Region before the Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi in 2010;
- (b) whether any private parties are likely to be associated for providing additional hotel accommodation in Delhi and the NCR and the extent of their participation therein; and
- (c) the extent of expenditure likely to be incurred on the projects?

Rank in Human Development Index

*172. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India ranks 127th out of the 177 countries, for the second year in a row, on the Human Development Index of the United Nations;
- (b) if so, what are the determinant norms, parameters and criteria laid down, for determining the index;
- (c) what is the status of India, pertaining to each of the said norms, parameters and criteria, at present; and
- (d) what steps Government propose to take to improve Indian scenario regarding its position on the UN Human Development Index and the targets contemplated thereunder?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Volunteers training by youth organisations

*173. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government have identified some youth organizations to train the volunteers in the event of any disaster;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details of such organizations;

(d) what has been the procedure of identifying such youth organizations;

(e) what measures are being taken to train the young volunteers;

(f) which are the agencies involved in imparting the training;

(g) the number of such training programmes conducted during the current financial year; and

(h) the number of young volunteers enrolled in such training programmes?

Accommodation of meritorious reserved category candidates in General List

*174. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that candidates belonging to reserved categories who make it to the General List in civil services and other competitive examinations by way of merit are put under the respective reserved category;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would revise this formula and accommodate the meritorious candidates belonging to reserved category in the General List?

Power loss in transmission and distribution

*175. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are incurring losses to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crores annually due to theft and un-metered supply of power;

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to improve transmission and distribution system;

(c) whether there is huge gap between demand and supply of electricity in the country and if so, the details thereof in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the gap between demand and supply giving details thereof?

Acquisition of land for cargo terminal

*176. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether acquisition of land for the setting up of a Cargo Terminal of Inland Waterways at Mullakal, Alappuzha, Kerala is underway;

(b) if so, whether the proposed site is close to the finishing point of famous Nehru Trophy Boat Race;

(c) whether the site includes the House Boat Terminal which is the mainstay of the back-water-tourism in the State;

(d) if so, whether Government would consider relocating the Cargo Terminal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Civilian and nuclear facilities in the country

*177. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had prepared any proposal for separation of civilian and military nuclear facilities of India;

(b) if so, whether the same proposal has been submitted to U.S. Government;

(c) whether Government had consulted the political parties, parliament and scientific communities in prior hand before submitting the same proposal to U.S. Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

*178. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to amend the norms for centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Maritime Development Programme for Andhra Pradesh

*179. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the preparation of National Maritime Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details of specific schemes and projects to be taken up in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the total investment required for the projects/schemes to be undertaken in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the extent of private sector participation in the projects/schemes proposed in Andhra Pradesh?

Subsidy for sports goods

*180. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for subsidizing sports goods for training and practice of certain categories of sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount of subsidy spent by Government for last three years, sports-wise?

NEW DELHI;
The 24th February, 2006
Phalguna 5, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Atomic Energy	: —
Coal	: —
External Affairs	: 169, 177,
Non-Conventional Energy Sources	: —
Ocean Development	: —
Overseas Indian Affairs	: —
Panchayati Raj	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: 164, 168, 174,
Planning	: 172,
Power	: 166, 175,
Science and Technology	: 170,
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	: 161, 162, 163, 167, 176, 179,
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —
Urban Development	: 165, 171, 178,
Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	: —
Youth Affairs and Sports	: 173, 180.