

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the May 2, 2003/Vaisakha, 12, 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

Privatisation of rail routes

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

(a) whether proposals have been invited from private sector for running trains on the rail routes going in losses;

(b) if so, the details of the number of rail routes for which proposals have been received from private sector for running trains; and

(c) the details of the terms and conditions of the agreements made with private sector by Government for running trains by them?

that where alternative modes of transport exist or can be developed, such branch lines should be closed down;

(c) if so, the States in which these lines exist;

(d) whether States have offered to provide help and assistance for not weeding out these uneconomic branch lines;

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(f) by what time the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Uneconomic branch lines

*582. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to weed out uneconomic branch lines and have issued instructions for closure/dismantling of 21 such lines;

(b) whether high level Expert Committee had unanimously recommended

Allocation for agriculture and rural development in Gujarat

*583. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount allocated for agriculture and rural development during the last three years, especially for drought prone areas of Gujarat; and

(b) the total amount demanded by Gujarat Government and the amount sanctioned by the Planning Commission for the purpose?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Assistance to oilseeds producers

***584. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:**
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of the domestic demand for edible oil is met through import;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase oilseeds production; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to producers of oilseeds?

Metal contents in vegetables

***585. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:**
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level of lead, copper, zinc and cadmium have been noticed in okra (bhindi), cauliflower and spinach vegetables grown and sold in Delhi and Varanasi;

(b) if so, what are Government's findings; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check the growth of metals and making the vegetables safe for human consumption?

Displacement of tribal farmers

***586. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:**
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

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

(a) whether on the pretext of forest conservation, a large number of small tribal farmers are being displaced from their agricultural land;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the arrangements being made by Government for their livelihood?

Gas-based fertilizer units

***587. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:**
DR. M.N. DAS:

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

(a) whether Government have prepared a list of gas-based fertilizer units which will be encouraged to raise production capacity;

(b) if so, the number of fertilizer units that have been allowed to raise the production capacity;

(c) whether any incentives will be provided to these fertilizer units; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision will help to contain the subsidy outgo to production units thriving on Gold-Plating and reward the efficient players in the domestic market?

Anganwadi centres in Orissa

***588. MISS PRAMILA BOHIDAR:**
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for increasing number of anganwadi Centres in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these centres are likely to be made operational?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pollution in River Sai

*589. SHRI B.P. APTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that River Sai flowing from Raebareli to Jaunpur is heavily polluted with chemicals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the water of the river is even not consumable by the animals; and

(c) if so, the action being contemplated to remove the water pollution?

Shortage of NCERT books

*590. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of NCERT books particularly for senior secondary classes for this academic year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that books are made available to students immediately?

Impact of mid-day meal scheme on education

*591. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the system of mid-day meal in schools has been introduced (with the year of commencement of the system);

(b) what about those States where the system is still due to be started;

(c) what share do the Central Government bear for running mid-day meal scheme in the States;

(d) whether Government have formulated or are going to formulate a nation-wide policy on the system; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the impact of mid-day meals on elementary education according to the Central Government?

Environmental clearance to projects

*592. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:

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

(a) whether Government propose to examine all new developmental projects along the coastal region to conserve and manage groundwater resources in the wake of recent reports of increased salinity due to over-extraction;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to include a member from the Central Ground Water Board in the Expert Committee for all developmental and tourism projects, urban townships and special tourism zones along the coast to ensure that necessary measures are taken while according environmental clearance to the projects; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government have cleared these projects?

Agricultural bio-technology companies

*593. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural bio-technology companies and pharma-bio-tech companies in India; and

(b) how many of them are conducting commercial research on agriculture?

Academic ties between the Indian universities and foreign institutions

*594. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the guidelines for monitoring academic ties between the Indian universities and foreign institutions and scholars have been revised recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the fresh guidelines are too stringent to encourage academic research as new proposals would need clearance from a number of bureaucratic channels; and

(d) details of machinery established for co-ordination with the academic fraternity to ensure that genuine research proposals are properly evaluated and are also not unduly delayed?

Vocational schools in Gujarat

*595. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government vocational schools at plus two level which are functioning in the State of Gujarat as on date;

(b) the grants released by Government to these schools during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to increase the number of vocational schools in the State?

Expansion and modernisation of steel plants

*596. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for expansion and modernisation of steel plants functioning at present in the country; and

(b) the details of various plans formulated therefor, plant-wise?

Achievements of Dakshin Gangotri

*597. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of the 'Dakshin Gangotri' and 'Maitri' stations set up in Antarctica; and

(b) the future plan of new Antarctica station and the new programmes for the next five years?

Cleaning up of Sangam

*598. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA:

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

(a) whether Ganga Action Plan has cleaned up Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati, for a holy dip;

(b) if so, why pilgrims and *sadhus* protested in February, 2003 to take dip on Mauni Amavasya Day; and

(c) the action taken to clean up the bathing ghats of Allahabad and Varanasi?

Prevention of sugarcane pest

*599. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has alerted 16 sugarcane growing States on the outbreak of aphid attack and asked for village level monitoring and feedback to ensure effective plant protection and to take preventive measures;

(b) if so, whether an area of 1.32 lakh hectares of sugarcane crop in Maharashtra and 0.87 hectares in Karnataka were found infested by the aphid pest;

(c) whether any Central team has visited these States in March, 2003;

(d) if so, whether the team has submitted any report; and

(e) if so, what preventive measures Government propose to take in this regard?

Interim order on life saving medicines

*600. DR. A. R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued interim order asking the Government to lay down the criteria to bring essential and life saving medicines under price control by 2nd May, 2003;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the interim order of the Supreme Court;

(c) whether Government are set to explore all options to push through the policy of progressive decontrol;

(d) if so, whether the Health Ministry and Law Ministry have been consulted on this issue; and

(e) if so, by what time the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

NEW DELHI;
The 26th April, 2003
Vaisakha 6, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	:	583, 584, 585, 593, 599,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	587, 600,
Environment and Forests	:	586, 589, 592, 598,
Food Processing Industries	:	—
Human Resource Development	:	588, 590, 591, 594, 595,
Ocean Development	:	597,
Railways	:	581, 582,
Science and Technology	:	—
Steel	:	596.
Youth Affairs and Sports	:	—