

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 2, 2004/Agrahayana 11, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal and Mines; 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)

Total number of questions — 20

Pendency of passport applications

*21. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of passport applications are pending in the country, especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to set up one more passport office at Madurai, considering the heavy workload at Trichy Office, to clear the backlog;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Modernization of Postal Department

*22. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures are being taken by Government to modernise the Postal Department;

(b) how optimally the Department of Posts is utilising V-SATs;

(c) the details of centres that are covered by V-SAT in the country, State-wise; and

(d) what innovative areas the Department of Posts is looking for, apart from regular post and e-post ?

Agreement between India and Nepal

*23. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Nepalese Prime Minister to New Delhi, any agreement or Memorandum of Understanding was signed, extending Indian support to fight the Maoist insurgency in Nepal; and

(b) the details of specific issues discussed and the decisions arrived at as a result thereof and the follow up action taken so far by the two Governments to implement them ?

Atomic power plants in the country

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

(a) the quantum of atomic energy produced in the country and its percentage on the total generation of electricity;

(b) the target production of atomic energy during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether Government have any fresh proposals of atomic power plants in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rehabilitation of bonded labour in Tamil Nadu

*25. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale practice of bonded labour in the Redhill area of Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether his Ministry has received the National Commission for Women's report on public hearings on the subject; and

(c) the follow up action taken to secure the release and the rehabilitation of the victims and the punishment of those guilty of these criminal activities?

Vallarpadam International Container Trans-shipment Terminal

*26. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the fact that the Vallarpadam International Container Trans-shipment Terminal, which is Kerala's dream project is waiting for approval from his Ministry for the last five months;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay on Government's part in sanctioning the project;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that as the Indian ports lack full fledged trans-shipment terminal facilities, the major chunk of Indian container traffic is directed to foreign hubs like Colombo, Singapore and Dubai; and

(d) the efforts Government propose to make to accord an early sanction of the project?

Global Positioning System

*27. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is planning to provide Global Positioning System (GPS) for motor vehicles in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the System and how it would help the people;

(c) by when this would be implemented in Delhi;

(d) whether his Ministry is also working on National Spatial Data infrastructure alongwith GPS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Prime Minister's America visit

*28. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries whose Heads of State/Government had discussions with the Indian Prime Minister on matters of mutual interest in September last during his visit to the United States of America for addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations; and

(b) the outcome of the discussions in each case and to what extent these parleys are expected to help to improve the cause of peace, harmony and tranquillity in the world ?

Dissolution of Advisory Committees

†*29. SHRIMATIMAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to dissolve the Advisory Committees constituted in the Planning Commission that consist of foreign as well as other experts;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some hurdles are being foreseen in this behalf in the 'mid-term appraisal' of Tenth Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Non-working of PCOs in far-flung areas

†*30. SHRIHARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that PCOs in far-flung rural areas of the country remain out of order due to prolonged faults in telephone lines and instruments;

(b) if so, the number of the PCOs that remained out of order for more than three months, State-wise; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government for improving the telephone system at the PCO level ?

National Highways in Karnataka

*31. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

(a) the length of National Highways in Karnataka and the total amount spent on their maintenance during the last three years;

(b) the proposals pending for upgradation of State Highways into National Highways and by when these would be cleared; and

(c) the programmes of the present Government in connection of Golden Quadrilateral roads in Karnataka ?

Assistance to adivasis displaced by bauxite mining in Visakhapatnam

*32. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate measures have been taken to help landless poor tribals displaced by bauxite mining in areas of Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that adivasis are not deprived of their rights in their domain ?

Contribution of EDUSAT

*33. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that EDUSAT, India's first satellite dedicated exclusively for educational services will shortly become operational to boost the satellite-based distance education programmes in the country;

(b) if so, the detailed features of the EDUSAT;

(c) the details of steps taken to publicise its role and the contribution EDUSAT can make so that educational institutions, professional organizations, etc. can use its capabilities for their educational and other training programmes; and

(d) the details of action plan drawn up to equip the schools, colleges, etc. with the required terminals etc., State-wise?

Most Favoured Nation status to India by Pakistan

*34. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of grant of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India by Pakistan to help free flow of trade between the two countries;

(b) the details of pre-conditions, if any, Pakistan has attached to the issue; and

(c) the progress made to resolve these issues?

Capacity of Kudankulam Atomic Project

*35. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the generation capacity of Kudankulam Atomic Project as of now;

(b) what is the actual generation capacity that was originally estimated;

(c) what is the standard of safety measures adopted at the Atomic Power Plant; and

(d) how often the safety aspects are reviewed?

Complaints against Indian missions

*36. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and nature of complaints received against our missions from persons of Indian Origin abroad during the last three years, mission-wise;

(b) the steps taken to resolve them; and

(c) the grievance redressal mechanism in Indian missions, particularly to assist the Persons of Indian Origin travelling/working abroad, country-wise?

EU Summit

*37. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks held during the recent EU Summit at the Hague with leaders of Governments of European Union, included consultation with EU countries for establishing/strengthening extradition arrangements so that custody of fugitives, accused for terrorist as well as economic crimes, to the seeking countries could be facilitated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks were held to persuade Government of Italy for extradition of the lead accused in the Bofors gun purchase bribery case in India who is known to be hiding in Italy;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Grants for SSIs in Rajasthan and Punjab

*38. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought special grants from the Ministry of Commerce to benefit the Small Scale Industries in Rajasthan and Punjab;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any schemes are currently running under the Central Government to promote the Small-Scale Industries in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Enforcement of Social Security Scheme

†*39. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether Government had enforced social security scheme in the country in January, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard

together with the number of zones in the country in which this scheme was started in the first phase;

(c) the number of persons that have benefited, so far under this scheme; and

(d) the number of zones to which this scheme will be extended by March, 2005?

Growth of service sector

*40. SHRIM. A. M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the future growth of our GDP would be influenced by the growth of the service sector substantially;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up an agency to explore the potential for growth of the various sub-sectors of services in the next few years and create the manpower and financial inputs for the rapid growth of service sector through extension of manpower training and provision of liberal bank finance in view of the fact that service sector accounts for 40 per cent of our GDP;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th November, 2004
Agrahayana 4, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: —
Atomic Energy	: 24, 35,
Coal and Mines	: 32,
Communications and Information Technology	: 22, 30,
External Affairs	: 21, 23, 28, 34, 36, 37,
Labour and Employment	: 25, 39,
Ocean Development	: —
Overseas Indian Affairs	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: —
Planning	: 29, 40,
Science and Technology	: 27,
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	: 26, 31,
Small Scale Industries	: 38,
Space	: 33.
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —.