

## 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 3, 2005/Phalgun 12, 1926 (Saka)*

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

#### **New bus and rail services between India and Pakistan**

\*41. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan are planning to start any new bus and rail services between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed services; and

(c) by when these are expected to start?

#### **FDI in telecom sector**

\*42. PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 74 per cent in the telecom sector has been considered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of foreign investors who have come forward to invest in the telecom sector;

(d) the concrete measures proposed by Government to improve the telecommunication system in the country; and

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

#### **Sethusamudram Project**

\*43. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are all set to implement the Sethusamudram Project to help coastal shipping and trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of this project; and

(c) how far it would contribute to the national economy, develop the coastal

districts of Tamil Nadu, improve the competitiveness of exports and generate employment opportunities on its completion?

#### **Prior intimation of Tsunami**

\*44. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any prior intimation of Tsunami from any Government or international agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are now considering to bring any technology for getting prior intimation of Tsunami and other natural disasters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Reconstruction of Tsunami hit areas**

\*45. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has decided to monitor reconstruction of Tsunami hit areas and has also been told to garner foreign aid to finance rehabilitation operations;

(b) if so, whether this group has started working from January, 2005;

(c) whether this group would comprise officials and experts who have experience in disaster management;

(d) whether this group would explore areas where multilateral agencies like World Bank and ADB can be requested to help;

(e) if so, to what extent this panel has been helpful to garner foreign aid; and

(f) what are the concrete plans prepared for starting rehabilitation work in these areas?

#### **Development of coir industry**

\*46. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop coir industry;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan indicating the amount that would be invested in the sector; and

(c) the number of jobs that would be generated as a result thereof, year-wise?

#### **Countries without diplomatic relations**

\*47. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI C. RAMA-  
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with whom India has not established diplomatic relations, so far;

(b) whether Government have made any study with regard to the need for operating new missions in these countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Expenditure on infrastructure facilities**

†\*48. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the developed countries in the world spend four to seven

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

per cent of their Gross Domestic Product on infrastructural facilities whereas India spent just 0.6 per cent of its GDP for the same;

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

(c) whether the said amount has been increased after the adoption of industrial liberalization policy in the country during the nineties; and

(d) if so, the details of the said amount at the beginning of nineties ?

#### **Tsunami Warning Alarm System**

\*49. SHRI LALIT SURI:  
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve and set up a Tsunami Warning Alarm System in the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, indicating the cost likely to be incurred, the time required for its setting up and the places where it would be installed?

#### **Constitution of organising Committee for Commonwealth games**

\*50. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:  
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is hosting the 2010 Commonwealth games;

(b) if so, when the decision was taken;

(c) whether the Organizing Committee for the games has been formed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Organising Committee would be formed by Government or Olympic Association of India; and

(g) the proposed set up of the Organising Committee?

#### **Road accidents in Madhya Pradesh**

†\*51. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the number of accidents on highways in Madhya Pradesh is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents that occurred during the last one year together with the number of persons killed in these incidents;

(c) the details of the loss of property suffered in these incidents; and

(d) whether the number of road accidents is on the rise due to vehicles plying without license?

#### **Golden Quadrilateral Project**

\*52. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 34,300 crore Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project linking the four metros and other major cities across thirteen States is likely to be delayed by a year;

(b) if so, the details of progress of work that has been done, so far; and

(c) the amount of money spent so far and by when the pending work is likely to be completed?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Rates of minimum wages**

†\*53. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are different rates of wages for different types of work in the country;

(b) if so, the rate of minimum wages during 2003-04 in the country indicating the areas and nature of work for which the minimum wages are paid;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is wide gap in rates of wages being paid in the country; and

(d) if so, the rates of maximum wages in country?

### **Postponement of SAARC Summit**

\*54. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind postponement of recent SAARC Summit in Bangladesh;

(b) whether India's position in the postponement of Summit was at variance with other Member countries, including the host country;

(c) if so, what has been India's reaction to the position of other member countries;

(d) whether Government have any strategy to utilise SAARC forum to strengthen democracy and bring about regional peace and prosperity; and

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

### **Highway Upgradation Programme**

\*55. DR. T.SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether Committee on infrastructure cleared a mega expansion of the on-going highway upgradation programme, entailing an expected investment of about Rs. 1,70,000 crore over the next seven years;

(b) whether besides two phases of on-going National Highway Development Project, Government are planning to implement a third phase covering 10,000 Kms. of road connecting the State capitals; and

(c) whether connectivity of ports and heritage sites is also envisaged?

### **Problems of Indian fishermen detained in Pakistan**

\*56. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:  
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indian fishermen and boats are being taken into custody by the Pakistan Security Agency;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to resolve this matter; and

(c) whether Government are considering signing an agreement with the Pakistani Authorities on the lines of the agreement between India and Sri Lanka?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Amendment in IT Act**

\*57. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amend the Information Technology Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

### **Reduction in Access Deficit Charges**

\*58. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of loss to the BSNL due to the TRAI's decision to reduce Access Deficit Charges (ADC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this loss is going to adversely affect the BSNL's responsibility in providing telephone facilities in rural areas; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the facilities in the rural/backward areas?

### **Problems faced by Mumbai**

\*59. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission had convened its first-over meeting to deal

exclusively with the infrastructural, social and economical problems plaguing Mumbai, the country's financial capital and if so, the decisions taken thereon;

(b) whether Chief Minister of Maharashtra had given a representation to the Prime Minister when he was on visit to Mumbai in January, 2005, and discussed the specific issues of Mumbai;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken thereon;

(d) whether the Prime Minister has himself taken an initiative to spruce up the city to make it a Shanghai; and

(e) if so, the plans and the amount allocated for implementation?

### **National Highways in Tamil Nadu**

\*60. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of about 3850 Kms. of National Highways in the State of Tamil Nadu, 1629 Kms. has been handed over to the NHAI for implementing the National Highway Development Programme and port connectivity programmes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the work on 1074 Kms. out of 1629 Kms. handed over to NHAI by the State Government of Tamil Nadu is yet to be taken up by the NHAI ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 25th February, 2005*  
*Phalgun 6, 1926 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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