

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the December 3, 2004/ Agrahayana 12, 1926 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries; Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Steel)**

**Total number of questions—20**

#### ***Safety of the goods carried by the Railways***

\*41. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that goods carried by the Railways which was over 88 per cent in 1970s have come down to merely 40 per cent in late 1990s;

(b) if so, how far lack of safety of carriages, pilferage of goods, spreading corruption and ill-maintenance of rail-wagons and other equipments are responsible for the less earnings of the Railways from goods and freight; and

(c) what additional safety measures and other steps including raids are being taken by Government this year?

#### ***New fertilizer policy***

\*42. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government's new fertilizer policy to remove anomalies in the 2003 pricing strategy is caught in the web of red tape;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the delay in announcing the new policy is virtually choking the operations of some public sector companies like Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) and Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL); and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in announcing new policy?

#### ***Female foeticide and sex selective abortions in Himachal Pradesh***

\*43. SHRI BALAVANTALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that female foeticide and sex selective abortions are common in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women has called for a thorough check on the use of ultrasound techniques in the State; and

(c) what is the response of the State Government to the problem?

***Projects pending for environmental clearance***

\*44. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects pending with Government for environmental clearance, State-wise;

(b) the reason for undue delay in clearing the projects; and

(c) whether Government would set up a time-frame for clearance of the projects submitted by the States?

***Reforms in FPI sector of Karnataka***

\*45. SHRIMATI PREMACARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate reforms in the food processing sector in various States, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the incentives being provided/proposed to be provided to the food processing industries in Karnataka?

***Illegal kidney transplant***

\*46. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals have come to light during current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the erring doctors, middlemen and hospitals; and

(d) whether there is a provision in the law to compensate the innocent donor duped into parting with a kidney, for a minimum six figure amount in rupees, from out of the fines/penalties levied on the doctors/hospitals?

***Sugar industries' suggestion on SMP of sugarcane***

\*47. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar industry has sought an overhaul of cane price regime and to lower the statutory minimum cane price (SMP) fixing it on zonal basis linking to average and not peak recovery; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the anomalies pointed out by the industry?

***Seizure of silver and gold consignment from Rajdhani Express***

\*48. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Protection Force has recently seized silver and gold worth crores of rupees from Mumbai Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that similar types of consignments were detected by R.P.F. earlier also and if so, the details thereof during last two years; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the guilty?

***Assigning Mc. Kensey and Company  
the task of improving functioning of  
FCI***

†\*49. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC  
DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mc. Kensey  
and Company has been assigned the task  
to give suggestions to bring improvement  
in the functioning of Food Corporation of  
India;

(b) if so, the basis for selection of the  
said organisation and by when the said  
organisation would submit its report to  
Government; and

(c) the amount earmarked by  
Government to be paid to the said  
organisation to accomplish such task?

***Water cess on sea water***

\*50. PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:  
SHRI ABANI ROY:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that  
sea water is available in the country in  
abundance;

(b) whether Government have issued  
notification for collection of cess on use of  
sea water by State Pollution Authorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the  
reasons for collecting cess on sea water and  
how much revenue is likely to be collected  
by Government;

(d) whether imposing of cess on sea  
water will hamper the industrial growth in

the country especially in and around  
coastal areas; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to  
withdraw cess on sea water?

***Special trains for festivals***

†\*51. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are running  
special trains in view of the growing rush  
of passengers during the festival season;

(b) if so, the number of additional trains  
run for each festival in the year 2004 till  
now;

(c) the details of places of departure  
together with the destinations of each  
additional train; and

(d) the capacity of total number of  
passengers travelling in these trains?

***Stampede at New Delhi railway  
station***

\*52. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will  
the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether the prime cause of stampede  
and resultant deaths at New Delhi railway  
station recently was due to issuing of  
unreserved tickets to destinations in Bihar  
much beyond the capacity;

(b) whether to derive more revenue  
Railways permit unreserved passengers to  
travel in reserved sleeper coaches much  
beyond capacity causing inconvenience and  
harassment to reserved passengers; and

(c) what steps are being proposed to  
lessen the crowd on platforms including

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

curtailment of persons accompanying travellers within station premises?

***Accident in Sky Bus Metro Rail***

\*53. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during a recent test-run of the Sky Bus Metro Rail, one of its bogies, reportedly, oscillated and hit a pole causing loss of lives of some employees on board;

(b) if so, the details of the accident, findings of any inquiry conducted into it and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the results of any fresh review undertaken on the safety aspects of the project and also on the feasibility and/or desirability of its commercial introduction as an alternative urban transportation device to underground metros and over land rail tracks?

***Stampede at New Delhi railway station***

†\*54. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:  
SHRI PYARELAL  
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons lost their lives at the New Delhi railway station as a result of stampede;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps Government propose to take to check the recurrence of such incidents?

***E-tickets***

\*55. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to launch e-tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is apprehension that these e-tickets might be misused; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

***Yamuna Action Plan-II***

\*56. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for abnormal delay in implementation of Yamuna Action Plan-II (YAP II) Development Project;

(b) whether Government would fix the responsibility for enhancement of the project cost directly attributable to delays on the part of the concerned officers of the Ministry and what is the likely enhancement cost; and

(c) how many slum colonies and the number of slum dwellers will be covered under YAP-II and what is the likely date of commencement of YAP-II and the project expenditure?

***Representation in National Joint Consultative Committee of Steel***

†\*57. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) on what basis Government select the representative in National Joint Consultative Committee of Steel;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the names of those Central labour organisations which have representation therein and the names of the organisations which do not have representation;

(c) since when, those organisations have been representing; and

(d) the reasons for not extending representation to others?

Group to revamp the Crop Insurance Scheme, looking at the farmers' suicides in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the terms of reference given to the Working Group; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for submitting its report; if so, the details thereof?

#### ***Non-availability of wax in Bihar***

†\*58. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of wax during the last two years in Bihar, the industries relating to this product are being closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to rejuvenate the wax industries?

#### ***Working Group to revamp NAIS***

\*59. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture has in association with the Ministry of Finance, set up a Joint Working

#### ***Financial irregularity at AIIMS***

\*60. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of serious financial irregularities in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, as pointed out by audit recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether responsibility therefor has been fixed on the concerned officers, particularly those who failed to recover loans and advances running into lakhs of rupees given to the officers and staff;

(c) if so, the names of said officers of the rank of section heads and above; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those responsible for creating financial mess?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 27th November, 2004*  
*Agrahayana 6, 1926 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

***I N D E X***  
**(Ministry-wise)**

<b>Agriculture</b>	:	59,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	:	42, 58,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	:	47, 49,
<b>Environment and Forests</b>	:	44, 50, 56,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	:	45,
<b>Health and Family Welfare</b>	:	43, 46, 60,
<b>Railways</b>	:	41, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55,
<b>Steel</b>	:	57.