

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the August 5, 2005/Sravana 14, 1927 (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

Amendment of Indian Forest Act, 1927

*181. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government are
considering to amend the Indian Forest
Act, 1927;

(b) if so, whether Government have
also decided to pass the Scheduled
Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights)
Bill;

(c) whether the Forest Conservation
Act, 1980 which expanded IFA's scope by
centralizing State powers over forests made
the prior approval of the Central
Government necessary for dereservation
of reserved forests for use of forest land
for non-forest purposes; and

(d) by what time the Bill is likely to be
introduced and passed?

Anthrax disease

*182. SHRI N.K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether any State in the country is
under Anthrax threat and if so, the details
of cases of Anthrax disease reported so far,
State-wise;

(b) the precautions proposed to be
taken by Government to check the disease;
and

(c) whether any package of assistance
has been made available to the State
Governments under the Centrally
sponsored schemes to control the disease?

Wheat production

†*183. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN
DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stock of
wheat during July, 2005 in the country has
come down to around 143 lakh tonnes;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons for continuous decline in the production of wheat;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for increasing production of wheat to keep pace with the increase in population of the country;

(d) the scheme formulated by Government to increase wheat production and various other crops so that their production does not decline in future; and

(e) whether Government would also ban residential use of agricultural land to increase the production of wheat and various other crops, if not, the reasons therefor?

Expansion of RINL

*184. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS
KAUR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has approved the expansion plan for Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) to increase its production from the present 3½ million tonnes to 7 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are seriously thinking of merging RINL with SAIL;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any consultations with State Government and the major political parties of the State have been held; and

(f) if so, what are Government's views thereon?

Impact of Patent Laws on pharma sector

*185. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether Government have assessed the impact of recent Patent Laws on the restructuring of pharma-sector in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, whether such restructuring would cause the closure of some units;

(d) if so, what will be the extent of unemployment due to closure of units; and

(e) what steps are being taken to absorb the skilled manpower of the closed units?

Streamlining Healthcare system

*186. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a bid to streamline and step up healthcare system in the country, Planning Commission has suggested measures including setting up a Public Health Development Authority with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore and launching 'Sarwa Swasthya Abhiyan' to make healthcare accessible to all;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been suggested by them as to how these healthcare schemes have to be implemented; and

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to implement such schemes?

**Rent paid to private godowns
by FCI**

*187. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the rent paid to private godowns by
the Food Corporation of India in 2004-05
in the country;

(b) the rent expected to be paid by FCI
to private godowns in 2005-06 in the
country;

(c) whether it is a fact that FCI had
entered into agreements with a number of
private godown owners during the last three
years;

(d) whether it is also a fact that no effort
has been made by FCI to review and ask
the godown owners to reduce their rents
and charges; and

(e) the reasons for this soft approach
towards godown owners who are
profiteering on a huge scale at public
expense?

Two child norm

†*188. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is necessary
to follow two child norm in the family to
control the population of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in
this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that several State

Governments in the country have taken
steps to follow the above norm; and

(d) if so, the names of the States and the
steps taken by them in this regard?

Privatisation of FCI

*189. SHRI THANGA TAMIL
SELVAN: Will the Minister of
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
have decided to privatise Food Corporation
of India (FCI) through McKinsey and
Company and other private agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what about the service conditions of
FCI employees and the labourers?

**Discovery of new species of fresh
water fish**

*190. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four year
study done as a joint project by the
National Agricultural Technology Project
and the Indian Council of Agricultural
Research have discovered eight new species
of fresh water fish;

(b) if so, the names of new species;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the study
has also highlighted the fact that fifty five
species of Kerala's fresh water fish are on
the verge of extinction; and

(d) if so, the action Government
propose to take to save the endangered
species?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Norms for use of pesticides in soft drinks

†*191. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee constituted for setting norms for the use of pesticides in soft drinks has not taken any decision in this regard, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken by the Committee in this regard?

Financial assistance to fishermen

*192. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of Indian fishing boats have been held up in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme to assist such fishing boat owners through financial assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to cover such Indian fishermen through an insurance scheme like the crop insurance, etc.;

(e) the details of steps taken by the Central Government to help Indian fishing sector facing such obstacles;

(f) whether Fisheries Division has taken any step to arrange a meeting on this matter; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Authority for disease surveillance

*193. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had announced setting up a separate authority for disease surveillance to monitor and check the prevalence of communicable, non-communicable and pollution-related diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research had an on-going Rs. 400 crore Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme; and

(d) the reasons why surveillance and research should not be carried out by the same agency?

Efficiency test for medical practitioners

*194. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to make renewal of Medical Practitioners (Doctors) mandatory after specific time intervals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in drug prices

†*195. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the selling price of medicines for consumers in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

country has increased as a result of Government taxes, dividend of manufacturer and commission for distribution;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the estimated difference between production cost of medicine and consumer selling price in the country on an average?

Earnings by Railways

*196. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to project profit this fiscal without increasing fares, Indian Railways is aiming at 12 per cent growth in passenger earnings by reallocating coaches from trains with low occupancy to those having high waiting lists;

(b) if so, whether zonal railways have been empowered to take decision in this regard by studying occupancy patterns of different trains operating under them;

(c) whether a new management information system software has been devised on the basis of below occupancy data raised from computerized passenger reservation system all over the country; and

(d) whether this has improved the financial position of Railways?

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

*197. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of additional households covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana during the year 2004-2005; and

(b) the break-up of these additional households, State-wise?

Proposal for new rail lines in Assam

*198. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from Assam for new railway lines has been received during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the present status of the above proposal?

Population control

*199. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that few States have crossed the benchmark of population growth by registering Total Fertility Ratio (TFR) of over 3;

(b) if so, the details of total fertility ratio, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to pursue proactive measures to control population in such States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, especially the feasibility of implementing two child norm?

Status of IISCO, Burnpur

*200. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur after taken over by the Steel Authority of India;

(b) the striking and marked

improvement made after being taken over in terms of reduction of accumulated loss, reduction of high cost operation, modernisation, reduction of large working force and increase in productivity; and

(c) whether there is any further move to take over a few loss making plants under SAIL?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th July, 2005
Sravana 8, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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