

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 5, 2002/Agrahayana 14, 1924 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour;
Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and
Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways;
Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and
Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—20

Telephone exchanges

*241. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges installed in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and NER during the last three years, district-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of the telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 in these States, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for expansion of telephone exchanges in these States?

Modernisation of employment exchanges

*242. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to modernise the employment

exchanges and to collect accurate and reliable statistics on the rate of unemployment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Pension schemes for unorganised workers

*243. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering introduction of a Pension scheme for workers of unorganised sector with a view to provide necessary social security to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds have been kept apart for the purpose in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether a proposal for generation of resources for funding of the scheme has been finalised; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Supply of rice to BPL families

*244. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news report captioned "Right to food still a dream" which appeared in 'The Hindu' dated the 24th October, 2002;

(b) if so, what steps would be taken to provide rice to families Living Below the Poverty Line as directed by the Supreme Court;

(c) what action Government propose to take so that price of the rice through ration shop is fixed as per the purchasing capacity of these families living in extreme poverty;

(d) whether any action plan is proposed to be formulated to help villagers in various parts of the country who are bracing themselves for extreme hunger in months ahead due to crop failure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Procurement of rice and paddy

*245. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to procure rice and paddy by FCI during the current paddy harvesting season;

(b) if so, whether any support price has been fixed for paddy in the current season; and

(c) whether any policy has been adopted for distribution of rice to different States?

India's help to safeguard Iranian oil tankers

*246. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has sought India's help to safeguard transiting oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

India's share in international IT market

†*247. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite swift development of the Indian information technology industry the country's share in international industrial market is only 1.6 per cent and the country depends mainly on North-American market where 67 per cent of software is exported from India; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the export of Indian Software to the fast growing markets of Germany, Japan, France and other countries in order to reduce dependence on North-American market?

Flexible labour laws for new industries

*248. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan for making flexible labour laws for new industries;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for protection of work force in various industries; and

(d) whether the representatives of major industries have been consulted in the matter, and if so, their reaction thereto?

Maintenance cost of National Highways

†*249. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that length of the national highways in the country is 58112 Kilometres;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard, including the length of national highways in each State; and

(c) the average repair and maintenance cost incurred per year by Government on the national highways in each State?

Demand for International Weapon Inspectors for Pakistan

†*250. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had requested U.S.A. to send International Weapon Inspectors to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the U.S. Administration's reaction thereto?

Nuclear power plants

*251. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nuclear power plants in the country already operational, ready for operation or under development;

(b) power generation capacity of an average plant;

(c) whether the plants and nuclear reactors which are still being developed are bigger and better in terms of power generation than those already operational; and

(d) if so, the comparative power generation capacity of each of such plant?

Promotion of IT

*252. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of Microsoft has offered Rs. 2000 crore to his Ministry to promote Information Technology in the country; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to disburse the funds?

Task Force on Food and PDS

*253. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

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

(a) whether Government have constituted a task force on Food and Public Distribution to ensure that foodgrains reach the targeted poor;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, its composition and the manner in which it would function;

(c) whether various anomalies in the existing Public Distribution System would also be checked by the task force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Indo-French cooperation

*254. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of France visited India in the month of July-August, 2002 and had discussions on Indo-French cooperation in the political, economic, military, scientific and cultural fields and reviewed the strategic dialogue initiated between the two countries in 1998 to chalk out a way forward;

(b) if so, whether any agreements have been signed between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent these agreements would give boost to the Indo-French ties?

Amendments in the Trade Union Act, 1926

*255. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring amendments in the existing Trade Union Act, 1926 keeping in view recommendations of the Second Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representations/suggestions from the industry in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the industry has suggested distinction between the Trade Union and registered Trade Union, if so, the suggested eligibility criteria; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

Legislation on conditions at work places

*256. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Second Labour Commission in its report submitted to Government, recommended steps to check multiplicity of trade unions, reduction in holidays and empowering employers to lay-off and retrench without prior permission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has suggested for a legislation on conditions at work places and another for unorganised sectors, besides advising Government to notify a national floor level minimum wage, giving State Governments powers to fix minimum wage which should be below the national level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken by Government?

Legislation to control private cell phone companies

*257. SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would enact

legislation to control the private cell phone companies;

(b) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to control the plethora of private cell phone companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Difference in the prices of sugarcane

†*258. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that separate prices have been fixed by Government and the State Governments for purchasing sugarcane;

(b) if so, the prices fixed by the Central Government and the sugarcane growing States at present; and

(c) the reasons for the variations in the said prices?

Establishment of ITIs in HP

*259. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any

proposal to establish Industrial Training Institutes in each district of Himachal Pradesh under the Training for Rural Youths for Self Employment with financial and other assistance from Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) by when, the above proposals would materialise?

Number of BPL people

†*260. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has taken a decision to ascertain the number of people living Below Poverty Line in each State;

(b) if so, whether Government had also finalized any policy to ascertain such numbers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the difference between the old and new procedure and policy?

NEW DELHI;
The 29th November, 2002
Agrahayana 8, 1924 (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	: 251,
Communications and Information Technology	: 241, 247, 252, 257,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 244, 245, 253, 258,
External Affairs	: 246, 250, 254,
Labour	: 242, 243, 248, 255, 256, 259,
Parliamentary Affairs	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: —
Planning	: 260,
Road Transport and Highways	: 249.
Small Scale Industries	: —
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —