

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 5, 2003/Agrahayana 14, 1925 (Saka)

(Ministries : Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and
Forests; Food Processing Industries; Human Resource
Development; Ocean Development; Railways;
Science and Technology; Steel; Youth
Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—20

Drought in Southern States

*61. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO:
SHRI K. B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all
the Southern States particularly Karnataka
and Kerala are in the grip of worst drought
this year;

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

(c) whether any Central team has visited
the States to assess the drought situation
there;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) what relief measures have been
extended to the affected States so far,
State-wise?

Air-pollution in metros

†*62. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will
the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
air-pollution is increasing day by day in
the four metropolitan cities *i.e.* Delhi,
Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date of the last study on pollution
in each of these metros;

(d) whether any fresh study is proposed
to be conducted; and

(e) whether any time-bound programme
has been prepared to reduce pollution and
if so, the details thereof?

ADB funds for Railway projects

*63. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Asian
Development Bank has agreed to Fund
some Railway projects;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details of the projects;
- (c) the quantum of the assistance being extended by the ADB; and
- (d) the list of the externally aided projects and details of the loan taken from various agencies other than ADB?

Education for All-Global monitoring report

*64. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he is aware of the fact that UNESCO's latest Education For All (EFA) global monitoring report says that Bangladesh has achieved gender parity equal enrolment of boys and girls at school at the Primary level and India scraps the bottom of the list just a little above Pakistan; and
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Objectives of National Education Policy

*65. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the trend of public expenditure on education expressed as a percentage of GDP and total public expenditure since 1990; and
- (b) whether this trend is consistent with the resource requirements for meeting the National Education Policy objectives?

Mid-Day Meal Scheme
*66. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mid-Day Meal Scheme has been expanded further throughout the country;
- (b) if so, whether many opposition parties have also urged Centre to expand Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (c) whether mid-day meal supplied in Delhi and other places have been found affecting children instead of helping them;
- (d) if so, whether Centre has been informed that in number of States, after mid-day meal were supplied, number of children had been forced to go to hospitals;
- (e) the total number of students who were affected due to this; and
- (f) the steps Government propose to take to prevent such incidents in future?

Degrees to students of G.S.B.A., Greater Noida

*67. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Question 2824 and 4737 given in Rajya Sabha on the 17th August, 2001 and 10th May, 2002 respectively and state:

- (a) the reasons for delay in awarding 'Degrees' to successful students who have already completed the Masters in Computer Application course in July, 2003 in the 'Approved' institute at Graduate School of Business Administration, Greater Noida;

(b) the details of steps initiated/likely to be taken to honour the commitments already made by Visva Bharti, Shantiniketan to safeguard the interests of successful students of the batch passing out in July, 2003 already enrolled at Graduate School of Business Administration, Greater Noida; and

(c) by when, the final Marks Statement and Degree Certificates are likely to be issued to them?

Expansion and growth of FPIs

†*68. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to implement a time-bound scheme for expansion and growth of food processing industry in the country so that fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 50,000 crore could be saved from being perished without being used;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of given tax-relief to this industry for its expansion, the taxes have been increased during preceding years; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard?

Auxillary Warning System in Railways

*69. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway is planning to

adopt a new Auxillary Warning System to strengthen the safety and security of passengers and rail installations;

(b) what is the difference between AWS and the train protection and warning system recommended by Khanna Committee; and

(c) how the outside interference with rail installations such as track and signalling equipment is likely to be curtailed with the help of the above warning system?

Dress code for girl students in Universities

†*70. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Universities have prescribed dress code for the girl students;

(b) if so, the justification thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that girl students are opposing the said move;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by Government against the Vice-Chancellors of such Universities?

East Coast Railway Head quarters

*71. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that East Coast Railway has not yet become functional and many trains including Rajdhani Express which are operating from Bhubaneswar are being controlled by GM, Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata;

(b) total number of staff and officers

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

required for East Coast Railway Headquarters and the total staff in position; and

(c) total budget allocation for East Coast Railway Zone and year-wise allocation till today?

Promotion of organic farming

*72. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken for promoting organic farming by safeguarding chemical poisoning of food and water in the country and making agricultural activity more eco-friendly?

Suggestions for reviewing the Dowry Prohibition Act

*73. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from various women organisations for reviewing the Dowry Prohibition Act to make its provisions more stringent and effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to raise the status of women?

Bharat Shiksha Kosh

*74.SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected in Bharat Shiksha Kosh since its inception;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of the donors are opposing to pass donations through BSK;

(c) if so, how Government are planning to deal with the situation; and

(d) the amount disbursed through BSK to various institutions of the country; institution-wise?

Fishing harbour projects of Karnataka

*75. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects for construction of Karwar Fishing Harbour and Malpe Fishing Harbour of Karnataka Government, at an estimated cost of Rs. 229 lakhs and Rs. 481.65 lakhs respectively, are pending with Central Government for approval; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

Use of Naptha fuel and gas as fuel

†*76. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Naptha, fuel oil and gas is used as fuel for production of urea fertilizer in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the cost of production has been found to be varying based on the fuel used in production;

(c) if so, the cost of production of urea

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

produced during the production year 2002-2003 calculated on the basis of use of Naptha, fuel oil and gas separately; and

(d) the percentage of each of the said fuels being used at present in the country by fertilizer industry?

Review of Pharmaceutical Policy 2002

*77. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to review the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002;

(b) if so, whether Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals has suggested the Ministry to have a re-look at new policy and endeavour to make it widely acceptable and free of legal lacunae;

(c) whether panel has pointed out that the policy was not people friendly and even Supreme Court has commented adversely on it;

(d) if so, whether the Court had also refused to permit operationalisation of drug price control order under the new policy; and

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

World Bank study on pollution level in Ganga river

*78. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a study sponsored by the World Bank, the pollution level in the Ganga river continue to be alarmingly high Contributing to nearly 12 per cent of

the total disease burden in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the pollution of the river to the minimum index level set by the National Science Foundation; and

(d) the other major findings of the World Bank evaluation study and Government's reaction thereto?

Consideration of disinvestment of NFL

*79. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consideration of disinvestment of National Fertilizer Ltd. has been put-off for two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) was Government able to secure bids for reserve price; and

(d) if not, steps being taken to improve the performance of NFL to attract better offers?

Public sector investment in agriculture production

*80. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture production in the country is showing a downward trend since 1991 particularly after 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Public

Sector investment in agriculture declined considerably during this period; investment during the years 1980—90;

(d) if so, the year-wise details of Public Sector investment in agriculture during the years 1991—2002; (f) whether the low investment by Public Sector negatively affect the growth and competitiveness of this sector; and

(e) the comparative figures of (g) the response of Government thereto?

NEW DELHI;
The 29th November, 2003
Agrahayana 8, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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