

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the March 7, 2003/Phalgun 16, 1924 (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

Agreement for deep sea sand mining

*241. SHRI N.K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
the State Government of Kerala entered into
an agreement with a private firm for deep
sea sand mining;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala
sought the opinion of Central agencies on
the environmental impact before signing
agreement;

(c) whether Government subscribe to
the view that the dredging causes irreparable
damage to the Marine Eco System and
traditional fishing sector;

(d) whether Government propose to
conduct a study on the environmental impact
of sand mining through any Central
agencies; and

(e) the extent to which the Coastal Zone
Regulation Act permits the mining of sea
sand?

Districts without education facilities

†*242. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) number of districts in the country as
on date where arrangements have not been
made to send the children for primary
education;

(b) whether Government have
formulated any special scheme to send the
poor children and those suffering from
poverty and starvation to school;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in college fees

*243. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to
increase fees of college students of General
and Professional Courses;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be
implemented; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what will be the position of subsidies?

Starvation and mal-nutrition among cattle

†*244. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cattle in our country are victims of partial starvation and extensive mal-nutrition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for saving the cattle from starvation and mal-nutrition?

Changes in history text books

*245. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make some changes in the history books; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Mid-day meal scheme

*246. SHRIMATI SHABANA
AZMI:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the mid-day meal scheme for primary schools has run into difficulties because the Food Corporation of India has

threatened to stop supplies unless HRD Ministry pays up its arrears amounting to Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has not so far paid the amount required by the FCI; and

(c) if so, to what extent the FCI has stopped supplies and steps Government propose to take to resolve the issue?

Killing of snakes by Madaris

*247. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that snakes are still caught all over the country and sacrificed in Snake-Mongoose fights by Madaris (road showman);

(b) if so, whether Government have imposed a ban to save both the snakes and mongoose;

(c) if so, the punishment against Madaris indulging in such heinous act;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government feel the need to register all Madaris in the country and to restrict their collection of snakes at all times?

FPI proposals in Bihar

†*248. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to establish food processing industry in Bihar keeping in view the production of potato in Nalanda and Litchi in Vaishali; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ultrasonic Flaw Detection Test for tracks

*249. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the introduction of new trains is adversely effecting the rail safety;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to increased rail traffic there is absolutely no time for track maintenance and Ultrasonic Flaw Detection Test, to look for fractures, thus contributing towards increasing railway accidents; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to check the alarming situation in the interest of safety of passengers, rolling stock tracks, etc.?

Forest area in Jammu and Kashmir

*250. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area under forest in Jammu and Kashmir in 1950 and at present;

(b) whether the area under forest has declined; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the area under forest in the State?

Funds for forests

†*251. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the State-wise details of funds utilized by Government for the development of forests in the country during the last three years;

(b) to what extent the target of the development of forests in the country has been achieved; and

(c) how much funds have been allocated State-wise for this work during the current financial year?

Grant-in-aid for voluntary organisations

*252. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some voluntary organisations in Gujarat are being provided grant-in-aid by the Central Government for the protection of environment;

(b) if so, the names of these organisations indicating the year from which they are being provided grant-in-aid along with break-up of last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government monitor the works executed by them with the funds provided to them under such grant-in-aid; and

(d) if so, the details of the monitoring process?

Enacting MFRA by Gujarat

*253. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3144 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Gujarat has enacted the Marine Fishing Regulation Act debarring mechanised fishing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Foreign Direct Investment in Education Sector

*254. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Elementary Education Sector to Foreign Direct Investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have set up any Committee to examine the subject;

(d) if so, recommendation made by the Committee; and

(e) reaction of Government thereto?

Joint ventures in Milk Production

*255. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow joint ventures between milk co-operatives in the country and private players including multinationals offering 51 per cent stake by them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Ozone depletion

*256. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a signatory to Copenhagen and Montreal protocols on controlling Hydro-Chloro-Fluro Carbon (HCFC), Hydro-Bromo-Fluro Carbon (HBFC) and Methylene bromide emissions causing damage to Ozone layer on its skies;

(b) if so, the measures initiated by India to protect the Ozone layer; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ban the aerosol dispensing devices which also cause Ozone depletion?

Sports centres in Rajasthan

*257. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up sports centres in all the districts of Rajasthan for the promotion of sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of budget allocation; and

(c) by when these sports centres are likely to be functional?

UGC grants for NER Universities

†*258. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of universities in North-Eastern States for which University Grants Commission has sanctioned grant and 'Heads' under which the same has been sanctioned alongwith details of the funds sanctioned and released during Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise/year-wise/University-wise;

(b) the names of universities in North-Eastern Region which have utilised the sanctioned grant and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the grants proposed to be provided to each of the universities of all the said States during Tenth Five Year Plan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New railway stations

*259. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new railway stations constructed in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct new railway stations, specially in Gujarat, in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount spent on the maintenance of various stations in the country during the above period, State-wise and also in Saurashtra region of Gujarat?

Closing down of steel plants

*260. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to close down three subsidiaries of public sector Steel Plant namely the Rourkela Steel Plant, Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 28th February, 2003
Phalguna 9, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 244, 253, 255,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: —
Environment and Forests	: 241, 247, 250, 251, 252, 256,
Food Processing Industries	: 248,
Human Resource Development	: 242, 243, 245, 246, 254, 258,
Ocean Development	: —
Railways	: 249, 259,
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