

**RAJYASABHA**

**List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS**

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the August 7, 2003/Sravana 16, 1925 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communication, and Information Technology, Consumer Affairs; Food and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region; Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)**

**Total number of questions—20**

**National Population Policy**

\*261. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy laid down by the National Commission on Population towards a stable and sustainable population size;

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Population Policy (NPP) desires to bring the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to the replacement level of 2.10 by the year 2010;

(c) whether it would be possible with this TFR of 2.10, to restrict the National Population to 1107 million by 2010 A.D.; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission has set a target of population growth of 16.2 per cent between 2001 and 2011 in the Tenth Five Year Plan, implying a population of 1193 million?

**Ban on Pakistani newspapers**

\*262. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:  
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a continued mutual ban in India and Pakistan on each other's newspapers; and

(b) whether as a logical follow-up of Delhi-Lahore Bus Service and restoration

of airline flights between India and Pakistan, India would take the initiative in lifting the ban on Pakistani newspapers?

**Rail link between New Delhi and Hanoi**

\*263. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Myanmar Foreign Minister, at a recent meeting of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Group held at Phnom Penh, made a proposal for a rail link between New Delhi and Hanoi;

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

(c) whether any agency has been identified for conducting feasibility study of the project; if so, the details thereof?

**Settlement of labour disputes through teleconferencing**

\*264. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an IT company is developing a software to settlement of labour disputes in Delhi through teleconferencing; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any all-India level study has been made to find out the average time taken to settle labour disputes and if so, the details thereof?

**Closure of industrial establishment**

\*265. SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of closures lock-out, lay-off and retrenchments the industrial establishments reported during the period 2001-02 and 2002-03 and the number of workers affected, State-wise; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

**Mobile services in Jharkhand**

†\*266. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sanchar Nigam or any other company has not yet succeeded in launching mible services in Dakara (Ranchi), Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts have been made so far to launch mobile services in this town, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the Sanchar Nigam is likely to launch the said sarvices in the area?

**Superfast highway connection  
between India and China**

\*267. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a superfast highway connecting India with uts neighbours in the

East was discussed during the Prime Minister's visit besides opening border trade with Beijing via Sikkim;

(b) if so, to what extent Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh;

(c) whether Indian had sought to complete this highway project within 36 months of announcing it in 2001; if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) by when this highway link is likely to be completed?

**Unemployment problem**

\*268. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the avenues for employment areSHRInking and the number of unemployed and semi-employed persons are soaring over the years;

(b) the generation of employment opportunities planned in different categories during the period 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) what has been and what is likely to be the impact of cut in jobs in Government PSUs divestment in PSUs and closure of industrial units in creating new job opportunities; and

(d) whether Government have set any target to provide employment to every eligible citizen of the country?

**Investment by MTNL**

†\*269. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
"LANAN":

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that capital investment has been made by MTNL in other commercial organisations during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total amount of such capital investment and the names of institutions where the investment has been made alongwith the dates of such investments; and

(c) the assessment regarding receipt of dividend on this capital investment and the amount received, so far, by way of dividend?

**Previous free of cost handset by cellular companies**

\*270. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL is considering to provide handsets free of cost to customer as part of its tariff plan as is being done by one of the service providers these days; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Procurement of sub-standard paddy**

\*271. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI procured 2.91 lakh MT of paddy valued at Rs. 160.05 crore during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-01, which was found to be sub-standard;

(b) what action has been taken against the delinquent officers;

(c) if no action has been taken, the

reasons therefor?

**Abolition of sugar quotas**

\*272. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether many more sugar mills of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have demanded that the quota of sugar should go;

(b) if so, whether Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are still struck with the huge unsold stocks;

(c) if so, steps government are considering in this regard;

(d) whether government are considering any proposal to the Essential Commodities Act; and

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

**Infotech Pact with China**

\*273. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister while addressing a large gathering of industry and IT professionals in China, has proposed that that 2008 Olympic games in Beijing could provide a good opportunity for the Indian and Chinese Companies to work together;

(b) whether proposal made by Prime Minister during his visit has led to agreements between the two Countries on IT industry;

(c) if so, whether any steps towards working with China on software have been taken; and

(d) if so, to what extent both the countries may go together in software and hardware?

**BPL families in Gujarat**

\*274. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:  
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are allotting BPL quota wheat and rice ont he basis of 21.20 lakh BPL families instead of about 36 lakh BPL families in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to increase the monthly quota of BPL wheat and rice on demands from Gujarat?

**Recovery of EPF dues from defaulting employees**

\*275. SHRI RAMACHAN  
DRA KHUNTIA:  
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 1511 crore of workers' money is yet to be recovered by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) from the defaulting employers;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to recover this money of workers from defaulting employers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Visit of leader of opposition of Pakistan Assembly**

\*276. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be plesed to state:

(a) whether the leader of opposition of Pakistan National Assembly visited India, recently; and

(b) if so, the details of his visit and his meeting with PM?

**Laying of under ground cable**

\*277. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground cables for telephones are not being laid at prescribed depth, particularly in rural areas;

(b) whether Government are aware that cables under Bihar Sharif Division, particularly from Nalanda to Daman Khandha are laid at a depth of only one feet due to which telephones remain non functional for months together, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to order an independent enquiry into the matter; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Indigenous products for import substitution**

\*278. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be plesed to state:

(a) whether the National tEst House in accordance with the charter of the

organisation is assisting industry in developing indigenous products for import substitution;

(b) if so, the number of such import substitutes developed;

(c) the details thereof since 1995, year-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Waiving off Monthly Telecom Rental**

†\*279. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be plesed to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to waive off monthly rental in telecommunication in order to compete with private companies;

(b) if not, the manner in which Government are going to face the competition in telecommunication sector posed by private mobile companies; and

(c) whether Government are considering any scheme to provide cheap and competitive facility to the consumers; if so, the details thereof?

**New emigration amendments**

\*280. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be plesed to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any new emigration amendments which would adversely affect the Indian job seekers in Gulf Countries;

(b) if so, what are the new stipulations prescribed for emigration clearance;

(c) whether it is a fact that the newly introduced emigration amendments adversely affect the job opportunities in Gulf Countries; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review these provisions?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 1st August, 2003*  
*Sravana 1, 1925 (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>Prime Minister</b>	: —
<b>Agro and Rural Industries</b>	: —
<b>Atomic Energy</b>	:
<b>Communication and Information Technology</b>	: 266, 269, 270, 273, 277, 279
<b>Consumer Affairs</b>	:
<b>Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 271, 272, 274, 278
<b>Development of North Eastern Region:</b>	
<b>Disinvestment</b>	: —
<b>Extrnal Affairs</b>	: 262, 263, 267, 276,
<b>Labour</b>	: 264, 265, 268, 275, 280,
<b>Planning</b>	: 261,
<b>Road Transport and Highways</b>	: —
<b>Small Scale Industries</b>	: —
<b>Space</b>	: —
<b>Statistics and Programme Implementaion</b>	: 2