

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the December 7, 2005/Agrahayana 16, 1927 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-
Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development; Textiles)**

Total number of questions — 20

Norms to meet power needs from non-conventional energy sources

*201. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make it obligatory on States to meet 10 per cent of their total power needs from non-conventional energy sources; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Defence framework agreement with various countries

*202. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are many attempts to have defence framework agreements with various countries for the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the military ties, defence framework agreement, joint exercises, training programmes formulated with other countries for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and country-wise; and
- (c) whether the above military ties are in accordance with the independent foreign policy of the country?

Production of bio-diesel under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

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

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have been requested to bring production of bio-diesel under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have decided to include the production of bio-diesel under NREGS after considering the above matter; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Solar energy plants in the country

†*204. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of electricity being generated from solar energy in India;
- (b) the places where solar energy plants have been set up, so far;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) to what extent the electricity generated from solar energy is cheaper or dearer compared to that from other sources; and

(d) the quantum of available solar energy in India, tapped so far?

Allocation for rural drinking water plan

†*205. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the funds allocated in the current financial year under the rural drinking water scheme;

(b) the details of norms adopted while allocating funds under the said scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that these funds are not being used properly by some States; and

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to constitute any vigilance group to ensure proper utilisation thereof?

Soldiers killed while fighting terrorists

*206. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers who laid down their lives while fighting against terrorists during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are taking any appropriate steps to check such terrorist attacks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

RTV buses plying in Delhi

*207. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mini RTV buses plying at present in Delhi for which permits have been issued by Transport Directorate of Delhi Administration;

(b) the fare structure applicable to them;

(c) whether Government are aware that most of these RTVs are indulged in overcharging fare as in most cases they do not ply on DTC routes;

(d) whether any check is exercised on various irregularities indulged into by them;

(e) if so, the number of cases of irregularities detected during 2004 and so far during 2005; and

(f) the details of action taken against defaulters?

Contract with Reliance Industries by NTPC

*208. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has entered into a contract with Reliance Industries for supply of gas for its 2600 MW gas-based power plant at Gandhar-Kawas;

(b) whether RIL has sought major deviations in the contract agreement;

(c) whether these sought for deviations will have an adverse commercial impact on NTPC; and

(d) if so, whether Government are making efforts to enforce the original contract terms?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

FDI in retail market

*209. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission will give detailed presentation on retail FDI in early 2006 for bringing more investment in the consumer industry; and

(b) what are the advantages the farmers will get by bringing FDI in the retail market?

Percentage of electrified households in rural and urban areas

*210. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of households in urban and rural India electrified so far;

(b) how the all India percentage of electrified households in rural and urban areas compare with those in the Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar;

(c) how the per capita supply of electricity in these States, compared with all India figures; and

(d) whether some of the States still indulge in free supply of electricity to certain sectors like the farmers and make election promises to that end, despite Prime Minister's advice not to indulge in such populist announcements, if so, which ones?

Steps to boost industrial growth

*211. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industry grew 6.7 per cent in July, 2005 compared to 8.5 per cent in the same month in the previous fiscal year;

(b) if so, whether dip in growth rate resulted from a sharp slow down in electricity and mining sectors;

(c) if so, what efforts are being made by Government to provide power and improve mining which has seriously affected industrial growth in the month of July; and

(d) what is the position of industrial growth after July, 2005?

Development of bio-mass energy

†*212. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of Government regarding development of 'bio-mass' based energy sources in the villages keeping in view the abundant availability of 'bio-mass' in the rural areas of the country;

(b) whether the said plan is effective;

(c) if not, the measures being taken by Government to make it effective; and

(d) whether Government will give priority to those States in these plans which are to a great extent lagging behind in the field of energy?

Mobilizing capital from domestic and foreign markets by NTPC

†*213. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is considering to mobilize capital from domestic and foreign markets for its different projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that NTPC has decided to enter in the field of coal-mining and gas exploration; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are also aware of the fact that keeping in view the importance of gas based future projects, NTPC has started its efforts in this field to store gas, if so, the details thereof?

Incentive to rural artisans

*214. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state what initiative Government are taking to provide incentive to the rural artisans especially women workers of the dying handicrafts industry so that such an art form from different parts of rural areas of the country representing different cultures can be revived and promoted to the outside world?

Slow implementation of rural development schemes

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

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rural development schemes are running at a very slow pace in several States due to which the people in need are not getting their benefits;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to expedite the work related to said schemes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the States are not co-operating with the Central vigilance team;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what concrete steps Government are taking in this regard?

Growth of paper industry

*216. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether paper industry is growing at a fast pace;

(b) whether it is proposed to accord "core industry" status to paper industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Scheme to rejuvenate tea gardens

†*217. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of Government to rejuvenate tea gardens and maintain their greenery as well;

(b) whether any fund is being created for this purpose; and

(c) if so, what shall be the outline of this scheme?

Assistance for watershed development schemes

*218. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are providing substantial amount to the States

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for the implementation of watershed development schemes;

(b) if so, the State-wise details for the last three years thereof;

(c) whether Central Government or any other agency conducted any study about the increase of underground water table in those areas where the above said scheme is under implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Accumulation of wealth by naxal leaders

*219. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have information that naxal leaders have accumulated huge wealth collected through extortions and ransoms; and

(b) whether Government have information that this wealth has reached a mark of Rs. 150 crore per year?

Revival of Sambalpuri sarees

*220. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Sambalpuri sarees are losing their lustre on account of financial stringency;

(b) whether there has been exodus of weavers from the area, as the Sambalpur Bastralaya Handloom Co-operative Society Limited is facing closure on account of huge loss;

(c) whether in a similar situation in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh the handloom sector has been revived by the Centre after the implementation of Deen Dayal Hathkargha Yojana, while no such assistance has been given to Orissa; and

(d) if so, what is action plan of the Centre to help the State to revive this sector in Orissa?

NEW DELHI;
The 1st December, 2005
Agrahayana 10, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Commerce and Industry	: 209, 211, 216, 217,
Defence	: 202, 206,
Home Affairs	: 207, 219,
Non-Conventional Energy Sources	: 201, 204, 212,
Power	: 208, 210, 213,
Rural Development	: 203, 205, 215, 218,
Textiles	: 214, 220.