

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 8, 2005/Agrahayana 17, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Ocean Development; Overseas Indian Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 20

Collapse of Colliery

*221. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the roof of an abandoned CCL Colliery near Hazaribag collapsed on the 28th/29th September, 2005 leading to the death of a number of persons engaged in illegal mining there;

(b) if so, the number of the persons who lost their lives in the mishap;

(c) whether the matter has been investigated as to the role of unauthorized contractors/officials of the CCL and others in the illegal mining which led to the mishap; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

Foreign youths in call centres

†*222. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of youths of foreign countries who are employed in Indian call centres are rising day by day;

(b) if so, the number of foreigners working in Indian call centres at present;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide more and more representation to Indian unemployed persons in call centres; and

(d) whether Government are considering to formulate any law in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

Four laning of National Highways

*223. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that NH-64 from Zirakpur to Bahadurgarh and NH-95 from Kharar to Talwandi Chowk via Ludhiana and Moga need immediate four-laning in view of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

projected volume of traffic during the coming years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Seamen's Provident Fund

*224. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Forward Seamen's Union of India had gone on strike, recently in protest of Government inaction to restore Seamen's Provident Fund;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government had taken to restore Seamen's Provident Fund?

Amendment of Telegraph Act

*225. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Telegraph Act, so that, the legal provision is more stringent for grey market operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at present the crime is non-cognisable and bailable;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enhance the penalty;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether national loss amounting to Rs. 400 crores is being caused by grey market operators in the country since 1998;

(g) if so, the details of such losses, State-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by Government to prevent such losses in future?

Upgradation of road near Gujarat

*226. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat are not upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intends to upgrade the roads and in what time frame?

Compulsory education for child labourers

*227. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986 is functioning effectively towards total abolition of child labour, throughout India;

(b) the reasons for millions of child labourers still engaged, paving heavy hurdles for implementation of compulsory education for children of age 6 to 14 years;

(c) the number of employers punished for violating the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986, State-wise during the years 2002-03; 2003-04; and 2004-05;

(d) the details of measures already taken and proposed to be taken to curb the menace of ever growing child labour in India; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Industrial units set up by KVIC in
Andhra Pradesh**

*228. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial units set up by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the location-wise details of the work done by the said units during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of co-operative and private units which have been provided assistance by the State KVIC during the said period?

**Admission of China and Japan in
SAARC**

*229. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 13th meet of the Head of States of SAARC countries, held in Dhaka during second week of November, 2005, decided in favour of admitting Afghanistan as member;

(b) if so, the details of the resolution adopted in this regard, including the brief background of its origin;

(c) whether the summit also dwelt upon a proposal of admitting China and Japan in SAARC;

(d) the nature and status of the said proposal, including broad views of the countries favouring/opposing the proposal; and

(e) the details of the genesis of the proposals of inviting China and Japan as Observer members of SAARC?

Rising number of road accidents

*230. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is susceptible to 6 per cent World's road accidents while it has only 1 per cent of World's vehicle population;

(b) what are the major causes for such road accidents; and

(c) what are the preventive and curative measures in existence now and what are the further measures conceived to avert such accidents?

**Shortage of coal for small/medium
scale coal consuming industries**

*231. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of coal for small/medium scale coal consuming industries in the country and the power sector, consuming almost all the coal produced domestically, is enjoying priority of allocation and preference of price;

(b) whether small and medium scale coal consuming industries, especially those which mushroomed in coal producing States in the past, are meeting their demand by buying coal from 'market' at more than three times the price paid by power sector; and

(c) the steps proposed to get sufficient coal to such industries to meet the demand?

Ferry service between Mumbai and Karachi

†*232. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for starting a passenger-service for the passengers between Mumbai and Karachi through sea route;

(b) whether any discussion has taken place between Governments of both the countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Unemployed engineering/medical graduates

*233. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed engineering and medical graduates in the country with State-wise break-up;

(b) whether unemployment among technical/medical graduates is on the increase in the recent years; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce unemployment among youths belonging to this category?

Launch of new service 'City Post'

*234. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to launch a new service "City Post" aimed at re-capturing local market in urban centres;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out so far;

(c) the number of cities identified for this purpose; and

(d) the amount likely to be generated from this service during the current year?

Constitution of State Cadres of All India Services

*235. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed any guidelines for constituting State Cadres of All India Services; and

(b) if so, the details of these guidelines and other acts, rules or regulations applicable to the formation of State Cadres of All India Services?

Exclusion of note portion from Right to Information Act

*236. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Right to Information Act which has become operative now, to exclude file notings by bureaucrats to be kept away from public gaze;

(b) whether the Central Vigilance Commission which has vetted the draft Bill of RTI Act expressed that file notings are not secretive or sacrosanct as to be excluded from the purview of the Act;

(c) whether the bureaucracy is set to dilute the content and efficacy of the RTI

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Act purposely enacted to lend transparency in public governance;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have also decided to exempt UPSC and other agencies which are involved in conducting public examinations from the RTI Act; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Deterioration of BSNL telephone services in rural areas

*237. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp deterioration of telephone services of BSNL in rural areas;

(b) if so, to what extent the poor and sub-standard service has affected BSNL;

(c) whether Government have any mechanism to assess the quality of service of BSNL in rural areas;

(d) what steps are proposed to improve the services of BSNL in rural areas; and

(e) the reasons for lack of motivation in BSNL management?

Panchayats without telephone connectivity

*238. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUK-KARASAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Panchayats in the country without telephone connectivity; and

(b) the steps taken to provide telephone facility to all the Panchayats in the country?

Review of system by TRAI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI is reviewing the system keeping in view the hindrances related to slow uptake by Broadband;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made with regard to action taken/to be taken?

Computerization of Post Offices

*240. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Post Offices that have been computerized for counter work and back-office work are very less in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken for the computerization of all the Post Offices in the country, so as to create an all India computer-network for the Post Offices; and

(c) if not, the justifications therefor including the number of Post Offices that have been computerized for counter work out of the total number of Post Offices in each State alongwith percentage thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 2nd December, 2005
Agrahayana 11, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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