

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the July 9, 2004/Asadha 18, 1926 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs, Food
and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests; Food Processing
Industries; Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Steel)**

Total number of questions — 20

Protecting sugar industry

*61. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
pruned sugar export support for three
schemes looking into dwindled stocks and
bullish prices in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the measures Government are
taking to protect the sugar industries from
incurring losses?

New trains in Andhra Pradesh

*62. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of
RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of
Andhra Pradesh has sought new trains
connecting Secunderabad and Chennai via
Kurnool, Inter-City Day Express between
Secunderabad and Cuddapah and another
connecting Vijayawada and Chennai via
Guntur; and

(b) if so, the action proposed in this
regard?

Spurious drugs and synthetic milk

†*63. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the business
of spurious drugs and synthetic milk is
booming throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether there are any
appropriate laws in this regard;

(c) if so, the punishment provided under
these laws and the details of the convicted
persons during the last three years; and

(d) if not, by when Government would
enact a law?

Opening of hospitals on the pattern of AIIMS

*64. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether six more institutes like
AIIMS are being planned to be set up in
backward areas;

(b) if so, the details of the places
selected and progress achieved in this regard;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the funds allotted, released and actually utilised on the construction of these hospitals during the year 2003-04 and till date;

(d) the details of facilities alongwith the total beds to be provided by the above hospitals; and

(e) by when, the above hospitals are likely to be commissioned?

Task Force report on micro irrigation

*65. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that task force on micro irrigation has submitted its report;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the task force has recommended for an allocation of Rs. 10,500 crores in the Tenth Plan and Rs. 51,000 crores in the Eleventh Plan to meet the needs of three million hectares of micro irrigational needs of the country;

(c) if so, whether Government have studied the report;

(d) whether the matter has been discussed with the Finance Minister and the Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the discussions?

Study regarding problems of farming sector

*66. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any authentic study of the problem afflicting the farming sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government are aware of the major bottlenecks impeding the growth in the agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove them?

CII plan for agricultural reforms

*67. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM

KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture sector, though on a fast growth track due to rising private investment is unlikely to sustain last year's double digit growth, as per CII assessment;

(b) whether agriculture sector still faces many hurdles such as poor productivity, falling water levels, expensive credit, a distorted market and unfriendly private investment climate;

(c) if so, whether CII has come out with a five point plan calling for agriculture reforms and increased private investment to put India on a higher growth net;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered the five point plan; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to implement them?

Computerised reservation facility to encourage tourism

†*68. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide the computerized reservation facility in cities in the country having importance from the tourism point of view; and

(b) if so, the names of cities in Uttaranchal where computerised

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

reservation facility is proposed to be provided, keeping in view of the convenience of the tourists?

Communicable Disease Control Programmes in Assam

*69. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's financial allocation for various Communicable Disease Control Programmes in the State of Assam is insufficient in the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the programmes formulated and being implemented for the last three years alongwith the names of the agencies and the programmes funded, year-wise; and

(c) out of this, how much amount has been actually spent?

Increasing incidents of crime and violence on trains and stations

*70. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of increasing crimes and incidents of violence on trains and stations, the Railway Protection Force will deploy Task Force on every train starting from July 1, 2004;

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken in this regard;

(c) to what extent it will help in checking the violence and robberies in trains;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has held that Railway Ministry is liable to compensate passengers who are robbed and railway administration cannot escape the liability; and

(e) the total number of train robberies which have occurred and passengers compensated after the Supreme Court's judgement?

Controlling prices of sugar

*71. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have introduced some changes in the commodity release mechanism from May 1, 2004 with regard to sugar pricing policy;

(b) whether the price of sugar which was being sold at Rs. 1115 per quintal, has risen by over Rs. 200 to Rs. 1321 per quintal in the past eight days;

(c) if so, what were other steps taken by Government to check the rise in prices of sugar; and

(d) the effect of the steps taken to control the prices of sugar?

Checking the steel prices

*72. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the plans Government have to achieve the set targeted capacity of 60 million tonnes by 2007 from the current level of 35 million tonnes;

(b) whether it is a fact that steel companies have hiked prices of steel by Rs. 1600/- per tonne in January, 2004;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the steel companies have taken the cover of increase in the global prices of steel; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the prices and protect the interest of domestic consumers?

Review of PDS

*73. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made recently to plug the loopholes in the operation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) for supply of wheat and rice to the targeted BPL card holders;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the fresh measures being taken to strengthen the PDS and also to extend it to the poorest blocks in the country?

Import of edible oil

*74. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is importing nearly half of its total consumption of edible oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of production of edible oil in the country during the last three years;

(d) the details of imports of edible oil in the country during that period;

(e) whether there is a sharp fall in the production of edible oil during the period 1996-2003;

(f) if so, the details along with the reasons for the same;

(g) whether Government have contemplated any comprehensive plan to

enhance the production of edible oil in the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Suicides by farmers

†*75. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some news related to the suicide by farmers have come to light in different States specially in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala;

(b) if so, the names of such States where from news regarding such suicides by the farmers have been received so far;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the root cause of these suicides; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of Transgenic varieties by ICAR

*76. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transgenic varieties of twelve varieties of fruits, vegetables and grains will soon be developed in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the impact of transgenic crops on the environment, bio-technology and health of the consumers before giving consent for their development; and

(c) the details of precautions taken before they are developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) scientists?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sickel-cell disease

*77. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sickel-cell disease is most prevalent amongst children in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and remote tribal areas of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any nation-wide study has been conducted about the prevalence and main factors contributing to the spread of the disease; and

(c) if so, the estimated number of persons afflicted with the disease, the age-group, races or areas more prone to the disease and other results of such study?

Selling of spurious ghee

†*78. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that spurious ghee (synthetic) is being sold in the name of pure desi ghee in the country on a large scale which is playing havoc with the health of public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against the persons playing with the health of crores of people?

NEW DELHI;
The 3rd July, 2004
Asadha 12, 1926 (Saka)

Services of Rail Hostess

†*79. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to provide the services of Rail Hostess to the passengers in some trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the trains/express trains in the country in which the services of Rail Hostess is to be provided; and

(c) by when, such service is likely to be provided in all the trains in the country and the effective and necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

Doubling of Bangalore-Mysore railway line

*80. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up doubling of railway line between Bangalore-Mysore;

(b) if so, the present status of the above work;

(c) if not, by when it will be taken;

(d) whether any survey had been done in this regard; and

(e) if so, the estimated cost of the above work?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 65, 66, 67, 75, 76,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: —
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 61, 71, 73, 74,
Environment and Forests	: —
Food Processing Industries	: —
Health and Family Welfare	: 63, 64, 69, 77, 78,
Railways	: 62, 68, 70, 79, 80,
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