

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the August 9, 2002/Sravana 18, 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

#### Import of electronic waste from U.S.A.

\*381. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic waste is exported from U.S.A. to Asian countries, including India;

(b) whether the waste is hazardous for public health; and

(c) if so, what safety measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

#### Biotech alliance with USA

\*382. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the United States have formed a biotech alliance under the aegis of US-India Economic dialogue;

(b) whether this alliance would work towards collaboration in research areas and international trade treaties; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this agreement and the scope of the cooperation?

#### Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra

\*383. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1418, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 2002, and state:

(a) whether all the eligible Readers/ Selection Grade Lecturers, with Ph.D degree, in the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, have since been granted two advance increments, as admissible under the rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### Child malnutrition

\*384. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 47 per cent of child population suffers from severe malnutrition in India, as reported by UNICEF;

(b) whether Government have any plan to address this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have ever conducted any specific studies or asked any social or academic units to do so;

(e) if so, what are the results of these studies; and

(f) the remedial measures Government propose, to rectify this sad state of affairs?

#### **Patent for cow urine distillate**

\*385. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:  
SHRI MOOLCHAND  
MEENA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has granted a patent to a product which contains distilled portions from pure cow urine and increases the activity of antibiotics, anti-fungal agents and anti-cancer drugs;

(b) if so, the names of institutions which helped in research work of this project;

(c) the number of scientists who worked on this project;

(d) on which drugs experiments were carried; and

(e) whether Government have acclaimed it as a major breakthrough?

#### **Environmental clearance by Reliance Industries Limited**

\*386. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought an explanation from Reliance Industries Limited on drilling for oil and gas in the East Coast, without the mandatory environmental clearance, as reported in 'The Hindu' dated 18th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the environmental norms have been flouted by the company in its drilling operations in the country?

#### **Damaged railway bridges**

\*387. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail bridges damaged in Western Railway during the recent floods;

(b) the total loss incurred due to the damage; and

(c) the steps taken to rebuild those bridges?

#### **Optic fibre communication project**

\*388. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:  
SHRI MOOLCHAND  
MEENA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway fibre optic communication project, Railtel, has failed to take-off, as the Railways have not been able to attract any telecom major as a JV partner, with a 49 per cent equity;

(b) whether talks with MTNL and power-grid have not succeeded; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether, as a result, the Railways are off-loading parts of 49 per cent equity to their own PSUs; if so, the details thereof?

### **Decline in dyestuff exports**

\*389. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dyestuffs Manufacturers' Association of India (DMAI) has submitted an action plan to his Ministry, to combat decline in exports and undercutting;

(b) if so, the details of plan-aims and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the names of countries which are importing dyestuffs from India; and

(d) India's share in the global market?

### **Subsidy to Railways canteens**

\*390. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY:  
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing adequate subsidy to the Railways for providing catering services to Members of Parliament in Parliament House/Annexe canteens;

(b) if so, what is the total subsidy provided per year;

(c) whether this subsidy is being misused as officers of the Railway Board and other departments are also using catering services from Parliament House canteens every day at cheaper rates/free of cost; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and how much money Government are losing by way of pilferage from this canteen?

### **Drought in States**

\*391. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States of the country are facing severe drought situation due to failure of monsoon;

(b) if so, which are those States and the estimates regarding the percentage of land engulfed by drought in each of them;

(c) the estimate regarding the percentage of agriculture production affected by drought; and

(d) whether any action has been taken to combat the situation; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Wells in Gir Forests**

\*392. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 12,000 wells in Gir Forests have turned to be death trap for lions and are endangering the lives of lions and other wild animals; and

(b) if so, the action taken to cover those wells?

### **Functioning of new Zonal Railways**

\*393. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:  
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new Railway Zones were established in 1996;

(b) how many out of them are functioning independently;

(c) whether the North Western Zone, inaugurated on 17th October, 1996, was also functioning independently;

(d) the reasons for not constructing its own building, so far; and

(e) the reasons for slackness in ensuring better and smooth functioning of all the proposed Zonal Railways, especially of Western Railway and Northern Railway?

#### **Contingency plan for drought**

\*394. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any contingency plan has been drawn by the Centre to meet the situation arising out of the possible failure or weak monsoon season in the Country, this year;

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

(c) whether States have been advised to reschedule the credits advance to farmers, payment of compensation to them and retention of agricultural subsidy and Minimum Support Price, in the light of the drought-like situation in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

#### **Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh**

\*395. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for opening of more central Schools in Mandi, Kullu, Bilaspur and Una districts, in view of the pressing demand from serving/retired army personnel in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

#### **Dowry deaths**

\*396. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dowry deaths have been increasing continuously in each State/Union Territory during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to educate the public to contain the menace?

#### **Research on lakes in the Himalayas**

\*397. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether India has blocked UN research on lakes in the Himalayas;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for the refusal;

(c) what was the main purpose of the UN research study; and

(d) whether many other countries have also offered to have a study on the lakes in the Himalayas?

#### **Trains from Jammu and Pathankot**

\*398. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last Budget Session in March-April, 2002 it was announced to start two daily trains between Jammu-Haridwar and between Pathankot and Jammu and *vice-versa*; and

(b) if so, by when these trains would be started?

**Investment for agriculture in  
NER**

\*399. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investment made by Central Government in the agricultural sector in the NER, during the last five years;

(b) the details of proposals formulated, so far, for increasing the investment in the Region; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

**Medical experiments on animals**

\*400. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Animal Welfare has asked the National Institute of Virology, to stop its experiments on all animals;

(b) if so, the details of this decision;

(c) the reasons for the decision; and

(d) whether this decision would hamper the NIVs on-going research on developing AIDS vaccine and other experiments?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 3rd August, 2002*  
*Sravana 12, 1924 (Saka)*

R.C. TRIPATHI,  
*Secretary-General.*

**I N D E X**  
(Ministry-wise)

<b>Agriculture</b>	: 391, 394, 399,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	: 389,
<b>Environment and Forests</b>	: 381, 386, 392, 397, 400,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	: —
<b>Human Resource Development</b>	: 383, 384, 395, 396,
<b>Ocean Development</b>	: —
<b>Railways</b>	: 387, 388, 390, 393, 398,
<b>Science and Technology</b>	: 382, 385.
<b>Steel</b>	: —
<b>Youth Affairs and Sports</b>	: —