

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the December 9, 2005/Agrahayana 18, 1927 (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

Revival of Gorakhpur and Sindri fertilizer units

*241. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the revival of the Gorakhpur and Sindri units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India, by setting up gas-based brownfield fertilizer plants at the existing sites;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that GAIL has agreed to supply gas to the units by 2010; and

(d) by when the units are scheduled to be operational?

Complaints against slaughter houses causing environmental pollution

†*242. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Central Pollution Control Board and

the State Pollution Control Boards/Committees during the last three years regarding environmental pollution caused by slaughter houses;

(b) the names of complainants and the details of their complaints alongwith the names of those against whom each complaint has been made;

(c) the action taken by the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards/Committees on such complaints; and

(d) whether complainants have also been apprised of the outcome of inquiry?

Antyodaya Anna Yojana in Andhra Pradesh

*243. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty has estimated that in Andhra Pradesh, 23,84,535 families are at the risk of hunger;

(b) whether at present 12,33,600

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

families are covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the scheme and guidelines for its implementation;

(e) whether 13,49,990 families are yet to be covered under this scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether Government would take immediate steps to cover all these families, including all the left-over families under the scheme?

CBI raids in hospitals

*244. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted raids on certain hospitals in Delhi and other cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for conducting raids on these hospitals;

(d) the incriminating documents seized from these concerned hospitals;

(e) whether any arrests have, so far, been made;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the departmental action so far taken or proposed to be taken against the concerned officers of these hospitals?

Linking of Gurgaon/Rewari/Alwar with Punjab

*245. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to link Gurgaon/

Rewari/Alwar with Punjab by extending/diverting some of the trains which terminate at Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Agriculture as knowledge-based industry

*246. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture is becoming a 'knowledge-based' industry globally and in India if remains of subsistence level, although over 66 per cent of population depends on agriculture;

(b) if so, whether experts have urged India to move forward and be globally relevant like information technology;

(c) whether India is also a major exporter of several agricultural commodities and has earned top position in the production of milk, wheat, fruits and vegetables;

(d) whether Government have considered setting up more open universities for agriculture; and

(e) if so, the other steps Government propose to take in this regard?

M.S. Swaminathan Committee

*247. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee headed by the scientist Prof. M.S. Swaminathan has been set up to recommend steps to be taken along the Indian coastline in view of the Tsunami disaster last year;

(b) whether it is proposed to draw a vulnerability line along the coast and amend the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) along this proposed line;

(c) whether it is proposed that new construction is to be allowed only beyond 1500 mts. from the coast; and

(d) whether Government have taken into account its impact on beach tourism and hotel locations if construction is banned upto one and a half kms. from the shore?

Increase in prices of pulses

*248. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the rates of pulses are going to be high this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any remedial action to cope up with this problem?

Polluted lakes in Andhra Pradesh

*249. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had surveyed the polluted lakes in the country during the last one year especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of such surveys made in each district;

(c) the remedial steps taken and to be taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government are facing financial crunch to clean the polluted lakes;

(e) if so, the amount allocated, so far; and

(f) the amount to be allocated during

the coming year to clear the lakes from pollution?

Cancer patients in the country

†*250. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cancer patients is increasing in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cancer medicines are costly and out of reach of common man; and

(c) the measures Government would take to provide these medicines to the common man on reasonable rates?

Use of staple pins in packaging of edible items

†*251. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of staple pins in packaging of edible items is appropriate;

(b) if not, whether Government are giving it a serious thought; and

(c) whether Government would bring an amendment in the law to ban this?

NAFED loans

*252. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NAFED has disbursed loan of several crores of rupees

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to a few firms and if so, the details thereof including the amount of loans given to each firm and its grounds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NAFED had given bank guarantee or extended loans to these firms without any collateral, moveable or immovable sureties; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

New medicine for malaria

†*253. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invented a new medicine based on plants to prevent malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have completed the trial process of the said medicine and by when this medicine would be available to the common man?

Disease surveillance labs

*254. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centres for Disease Control, United States, will help India in setting up disease surveillance labs to track disease out-breaks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the National Drug Authority is also going to be set up to regulate standards for the manufacture, supply, pricing, licensing and use of medicines in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the other agreements that India agreed to enter with CUS, United States, during his recent visit to that country?

Institute for checking quality of wheat and rice

†*255. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an Institute has been entrusted with the responsibility of testing the quality of wheat and rice lying in the stores of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the name of the institute and the reasons for its selection; and

(c) the amount fixed for the institute for carrying on the responsibility and whether the above institute has been selected from a panel of institutes?

Shareholding pattern of VSP

*256. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the shareholding of Government in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) the other investments or stakes in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant by Government;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transfer the stake of the Central Government to the State Government; and

(d) the details of present value of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Procurement of materials by South
East Central Railway**

†*257. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the zonal headquarters of South-East Central Railway located at Bilaspur has been fully empowered to procure various materials to be used in the said zone;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and by when such powers will be delegated;

(c) whether any preference will be given to the State industries in the procurement of various materials to be used in this zone, and initiative will be taken by the Railways for setting up the industries producing such materials in case such industries are not in existence at present; and

(d) whether this zone has approached the Government of Chhattisgarh in this regard, if so, when and the details thereof?

PM's Task Force on drug prices

*258. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether PM's Task Force on making the medicines affordable has asked Government to cut by half the 16 per cent excise duty levied on retail price of medicines;

(b) whether the excise duty is currently levied at 60 per cent of retail price;

(c) whether the final report submitted by the Task Force also states that ceiling prices should be fixed for 314 essential

ingredients taken from a list of 354 prepared by the Health Ministry; and

(d) whether drugs with 70 per cent market share would be de-branded?

Rural healthcare and education

*259. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any initiatives for improvement in rural healthcare and education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that the country is still lagging behind countries like China in development of rural healthcare and education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps proposed to be initiated thereon by Government?

Iron ore produced in India

†*260. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of total deposits of 'iron ore' available in India;

(b) whether 'iron ore' is exported from India;

(c) if so, the quantum of 'iron ore' exported during the last three years;

(d) if this pace of export continues, after how many years 'iron ore' will be exhausted;

(e) whether any concern has been expressed by some on this export; and

(f) whether Government propose to restrict this export?

NEW DELHI;
The 3rd December, 2005
Agrahayana 12, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 246, 248, 252,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 241, 250, 258,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 243, 251, 255
Environment and Forests	: 242, 247, 249,
Food Processing Industries	: —
Health and Family Welfare	: 244, 253, 254, 259,
Railways	: 245, 257,
Steel	: 256, 260.