

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 10, 2005/Phalguna 19, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; 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

Problems of self help groups

*121. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has a policy to provide for linkage with self help groups, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that these self help groups are facing problems with regard to its implementation; and

(c) the measures taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

National Policy on voluntary sector

*122. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the National Policy on the voluntary sector prepared by previous Government; and

(b) the plans of Government in this regard?

Backward districts in Andhra Pradesh

*123. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified 137 backward districts in the country for development at an estimated cost of Rs. 45 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the districts that have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the criteria adopted in identifying the districts for development;

(d) whether Government are thinking of developing some of the above districts or all the 137 districts as model districts in the country; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

Turnover of KVIC

*124. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the annual turnover of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and

the number of people employed by them;

(b) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is being restructured; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Development strategy in un-recognised/informal sector

*125. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a new development strategy in the un-recognised/informal sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Non payment of statutory dues

*126. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defaulting establishments in each State that have defaulted in the deposit of Provident Fund, Pension, Employees Development Linked Scheme contribution, etc.;

(b) the total amount of dues in each State; and

(c) the proposal of Government to recover the dues?

Transfer of development programmes

*127. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering transfer of over 300 development programmes to State Governments after finding that Zilla Panchayats and local bodies were implementing them better;

(b) if so, whether there are monitoring organisations which would periodically ensure that there is no time-run and cost-run in execution of these projects; and

(c) if so, whether these organisations already exists or new monitoring bodies would be created?

Facilities to athletes

*128. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the facilities being provided to various sports persons, especially the athletes preparing for major international events are least to say pitiable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to improve the facilities being provided to these sports persons?

Minimum wages

*129. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of minimum wages in the country, State-wise;

(b) when the minimum wages came into force; and

(c) what steps Government have taken against those establishments which do not pay the minimum wages?

Merger of ITI Limited with BSNL

*130. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government-owned Public

Sector Undertaking the Indian Telephone Industries Limited is running under loss;

- (b) if so, the accumulated loss;
- (c) the reasons for incurring loss;
- (d) whether Government have any proposal to merge it with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited; and
- (e) if so, the present position?

Plan ceiling for Chhattisgarh

†*131. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to increase the plan ceiling limit by prescribing separate criteria for plan ceiling for the State of Chhattisgarh on account of this State being a newly created one, having majority of Adivasis, being backward and also being naxal affected;
- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of National Waterway No. 2

*132. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken any action for effective and immediate use of the National Waterway No. 2 (the Brahmaputra River) that could play a vital role in promoting trade relations with the neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have initiated any plan to encourage operators to ply on this waterway; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action

being taken to develop the National Waterway No. 2?

Network of developing and underdeveloped nations

*133. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a group of ten developing and underdeveloped nations in Asia Pacific region have formed a "network" to find ways of generating sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable sections of society and launch major capacity building initiative for identification of needs;
- (b) whether these nations had felt that the problem being faced by poor and weaker sections of society in these countries were almost of same nature;
- (c) if so, what other steps the developing and underdeveloped countries had taken and how many of them have finally been agreed to; and
- (d) to what extent the implementation of programmes would start?

Fraudulent advertising and marketing campaign by telecom companies

*134. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued show-cause notices to certain basic telecom operators for misleading the consumers by positioning their fixed wireless phones as similar to mobiles;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether one company claimed that their fixed wireless phone offers 'unlimited cordless' facility and another claimed their fixed wireless as 'Walky' with 'freedom of mobility at landline rates';

(c) whether same company was earlier found to indulge in fraudulent advertising and marketing campaigns on their Cellular services; and

(d) what stringent action Government propose to initiate against these companies?

Pace of National Highway construction

*135. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had accelerated the pace of National Highway construction to 7.5 km. a day from 1.8 km. a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that NHDP phase-IV which aims at upgrading 3,000 kms. of national highways each year was in the final stage of formulation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Assessment of poverty line

*136. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to set up another commission for a fresh assessment of "Poverty Line";

(b) if so, whether any such commission has since been set up;

(c) if so, its composition and the terms of reference; and

(d) the present concepts of Poverty-Line and the urban and rural population below poverty line?

Investment in developmental projects

*137. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to invest Rs. 20,000 crores in States; and

(b) if so, the details including the proposed developmental projects and the investment proposed to be done in the developmental projects and the period by which the projects would be completed, category-wise?

Transfer of Centrally sponsored schemes to States

*138. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally sponsored schemes that are currently in operation, indicating annual outlay involved therein;

(b) whether Government have set up any Advisory Committee to identify Central Projects that could be moved to the States;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee in this regard;

(d) whether Government have taken any decision as to which Centrally sponsored schemes are likely to be retained at the Central level, being in areas of national priority, and which could be transferred to the States; and

(e) if not, by when a final decision is expected to be taken by Government?

Supreme Court directives on child labour

*139. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated the 10th December, 1996 gave some directives to Central Government on 'Child Labour';

(b) if so, whether the Supreme Court directed to complete a survey on child labour working in hazardous employment within six months; and

(c) if so, the details of the judgement and the action taken?

Dredging project of JNPT

*140. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has asked for the help of Ministry of Finance for completion of the dredging project of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Trust propose to go on an expansion spree after completion of the dredging project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 4th March, 2005

Phalguna 13, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: 121, 124,
Atomic Energy	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 130, 134,
External Affairs	: 133,
Labour and Employment	: 126, 129, 139,
Ocean Development	: —
Overseas Indian Affairs	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: —
Planning	: 122, 123, 127, 131, 136, 137, 138,
Science and Technology	: —
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	: 132, 135, 140,
Small Scale Industries	: 125,
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —
Youth Affairs and Sports	: 128.