

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the April 10, 2003/Chaitra 20, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region; Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

**Total number of questions—20**

#### **Recommendations of Sixth World Hindi Conference**

†\*401. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Sixth World Hindi Conference organised in London;

(b) whether these recommendations have been implemented fully, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what would be the terms of reference of the next Conference?

#### **Amendment of Central Motor Vehicles Rules**

\*402. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHANAZMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to amend the Central Motor Vehicles rules again to facilitate alternative

technology without the safeguards prescribed by the Apex Committee;

(b) whether Government intend to introduce a monopoly of foreign technology in the transport sector; and

(c) if not, what effective steps are being taken to prevent the State Governments from introducing the monopoly technology?

#### **Cancellation of passports**

\*403. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of persons belonging to the minority communities from U.P. in general and from Azamgarh District in particular have been served with show cause notices about the cancellation of their passports by the Passport Office at Lucknow;

(b) if so, the number of persons who have been issued such notices along with the details of the allegation against each; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of passports which have been cancelled during the last six months?

**Exemption from Employees Provident Fund Act**

\*404. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank has sought exemption from the Employees Provident Fund Act to cover its employees under the pension scheme; and

(b) if so, whether the above Bank has been permitted to discontinue with the payment of PF contributions of the employees?

**US attack on Iraq**

\*405. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States attacked Iraq in the early hours of the 20th March, 2003;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) steps taken by the Government through the aegis of the United Nations Security Council to avert war between the two countries; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure minimum loss of civilian lives and property and the results thereof?

**Outsourcing of business services**

\*406. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States of the USA have passed legislation against the

outsourcing of business services like call centres in a move to provide employment to locals;

(b) to what extent this would affect the operations of call centres running in India with clientele comprising of major US MNCs;

(c) whether NASSCOM has initiated any damage control measures by sending a delegation to US to lobby for a *status quo* on this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Slashing of rates by cellular companies**

\*407. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cellular companies in the country have slashed their rates for mobile users;

(b) if so, what are the rates/schemes at present being offered by these cell phone operators; and

(c) whether the rates of MTNL and BSNL are very high as compared to the cell phone operators, and if so, the comparative rates of cell phone operators *vis-a-vis* the landline operators namely MTNL/BSNL/VSNL?

**Linking of major ports**

†\*408. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action plan prepared for linking of major ports with the road network;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether its feasibility study has been completed; and

(c) if so, the details with regard to the ports to be linked through road network in Jharkhand?

**Telephone facilities to post offices in Rajasthan**

\*409. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections have been provided to all the post offices in Rajasthan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the post offices where telephone connections are yet to be provided; and

(d) by when the telephone connections are likely to be provided to these post offices?

**Equipment fitted on boats returned by Pakistan**

†\*410. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Government of Pakistan has recently returned 280 fishermen and 40 Indian boats that were seized from Indian region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also aware that the equipment worth lakhs of rupees fitted in these boats are missing;

(d) if so, whether Government have requested Pakistan to return the equipment; and

(e) if so, their reaction in this regard?

**Violation of Labour Laws**

\*411. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some companies are openly violating labour laws and the conditions of labourers/workers are very critical;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of Members of Parliament have submitted representations to his Ministry regarding stringent action against those companies which are functioning in New Delhi, if so, how many representations have been received since March, 2003, till date;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps against those companies who are harassing the labourers/workers; and

(d) if no action has been taken the reasons for the delay?

**No buyers for PSUs**

\*412. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have sent back proposals of eight Public Sector Undertakings to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises because there was no buyer for the same;

(b) if so, the names of these undertakings; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to decide future of these undertakings?

**Labour Relations Management Bill**

\*413. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the Labour Relations Management Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the industry representatives on the proposed draft Bill?

#### **Evacuation of Indians from Iraq**

\*414. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised all Indians in Iraq to leave that country as soon as possible in view of US-led attack on Iraq; and

(b) the details of the evacuation plans if any, drawn up, and other steps initiated to protect the Indian interests in Iraq?

#### **Conduct of WLL players**

\*415. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Cellular Operators Association of India, WLL companies are misleading the public;

(b) if so, whether the COAI has urged Government and TRAI to check role of the players of WLL who are cheating the public;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete plans formulated to check the role of the WLL players?

#### **Foodgrains to drought affected States**

\*416. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains were allocated last year to many drought and other natural calamity affected States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and quantity-wise; and

(c) the conditions thereof?

#### **Child Labour**

†\*417. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maximum number of child labourers in the world is in India;

(b) if so, the details of the child labourers less than the age of ten years, between the age of ten to fourteen years and fourteen to eighteen years;

(c) the State-wise details of the children engaged in begging, flesh trade, pick-pocketing, smuggling etc. and the working in the industries which are reckoned as hazardous under the law; and

(d) the estimated number of bonded child labourers?

#### **VRS after disinvestment**

\*418. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state what is the number of employees of various Public Sector Undertakings, undertaking-wise, who have got VRS after the completion of the process of Disinvestment?

#### **Expenditure on foodgrains**

\*419. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the average cost of procurement, transportation and storage of one million tonne of rice per day;

(b) the average cost of procurement transportation and storage of one million tonne of wheat per day; and

(c) the present stock, with break-up, of rice and wheat?

**Import of edible oils**

\*420. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to import 61.44 lakh tonne edible oils during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, whether this was due to the lower production during 2002-03;

(c) if so, to what extent it would be still less during 2003-04 and the actual demand; and

(d) to what extent Government are confident of meeting the shortage through imports?

NEW DELHI;  
The 4th April, 2003  
*Chaitra 14, 1925 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

## **I N D E X**

(Ministry-wise)

<b>Prime Minister</b>	: —
<b>Agro and Rural Industries</b>	: —
<b>Atomic Energy</b>	: —
<b>Communications and Information Technology</b>	: 406, 407, 409, 415,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 416, 419, 420,
<b>Development of North Eastern Region</b>	: —
<b>Disinvestment</b>	: 412, 418,
<b>External Affairs</b>	: 401, 403, 405, 410, 414,
<b>Labour</b>	: 404, 411, 413, 417,
<b>Planning</b>	: —
<b>Road Transport and Highways</b>	: 402, 408.
<b>Small Scale Industries</b>	: —
<b>Space</b>	: —
<b>Statistics and Programme Implementation</b>	: —