

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 10, 2004/Agrahayana 19, 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

Illegal felling of sandalwood trees in Kerala

*141. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal felling of sandalwood trees in Marayoor highrange in Kerala has been rampant, leading to illicit sandalwood oil distillation in Palakkad district in Kerala;

(b) whether the forest officials of Pallakkad district recently raided a few distillation units using illegal stocks of sandalwood; and

(c) whether any investigation is being conducted on reported theft of sandalwood from Marayoor highrange for clandestine use by distillation units in Palakkad?

Pollution by thermal power plants

†*142. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of flyash produced

in each thermal power plant through the waste products released from these plants annually in the country;

(b) whether any measures have been taken by Government for checking pollutants releasing from the thermal power plants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount being spent annually by Government for the same?

Failure of PDS

*143. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

SHRI N. K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Distribution System has failed to meet the expectation of the masses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received a large number of complaints regarding identification of beneficiaries, ration card owners, etc.;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government would consider to restore the universal rationing system by replacing the existing targeted Public Distribution System; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Physiotherapy Council

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

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to form a Physiotherapy Council;

(b) if so, the details including the courses incorporated under the purview of the proposed Physiotherapy Council;

(c) whether the class I Physiotherapy course recognised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare OM No. 2867/61/MI/MPT dated 30th December, 1964 and record office of Army Medical Corps instruction No. 91 dated 6th September, 1967 is also incorporated under the purview of the proposed Physiotherapy Council; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, whether Army Medical Corps will be consulted before finalising the form of the Physiotherapy Council?

Cost of production of medicines

*145. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for pharmaceutical companies to print the cost of production of medicines on each and every medicine pack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have also discussed this issue with Finance Ministers and Health Ministers of States recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to ensure availability of medicines at reasonable prices to the general public?

Extra prices on medicines

†*146. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many medicines manufacturing companies have earned extra dividend in recent years by charging extra price than the prescribed price of many medicines;

(b) if so, the names of these companies;

(c) the names of medicines which have been charged extra;

(d) whether Government have taken action for recovering extra price charged by these companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Functioning of Drugs Control Organizations

*147. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-standard medicines in the country are being sold and the Drug Controller has failed to curb their sale;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Dr. Mashelkar Committee Report has pointed out the inadequacy in the Drugs Control Organizations (DCOs) at the Central and State level and has recommended the strengthening of DCOs; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

Suicide by farmers in Karnataka

*148. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who committed suicide in Karnataka since 1998;

(b) the measures taken by Government to prevent such deaths and the number of families paid compensation and the amount of compensation, so paid;

(c) the special incentives announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister for the farmers of Andhra Pradesh and when the same incentives would be extended to farmers of Karnataka; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have announced any fresh package for the welfare of farmers?

Tiger reserves in the country

*149. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tiger reserves in the country;

(b) the funds spent on such reserves in the country in 2003-04;

(c) the efforts being made to upgrade such tiger reserves;

(d) whether any targets have been set for 2004-05; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Poor infrastructure for environment protection

*150. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to poor infrastructure, the environment protection mechanism in India suffers substantially which results in a setback in the environment development;

(b) the details regarding Government's efforts in the development of environment protection infrastructure; and

(c) the details of allocation of funds during the last five years for institutional strengthening including training and staffing of technical professionals?

Taking over of Super Bazar in Delhi

*151. SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether Kerala State Cooperative Consumers' Federation Ltd. *vide* its resolution dated 23rd October, 2003, had decided to take over Super Bazar at New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the same is being followed-up;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) has offered to take over the Super Bazar *vide*

its letter dated 20th August, 2004 to Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies;

(e) whether the same is being considered; if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has ordered payment of salary arrears to the employees; and

(g) if so, the action taken, so far, on the issue?

Provision of cyber cafes and telecom centres

†*152. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide cyber cafe and telecom centres at all the railway stations shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made an assessment of estimated expenditure for the abovesaid arrangements; and

(d) if so, the details of the estimates for the financial year 2004-05 as well as for the next three years?

Shortage of wagon wheels

*153. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways has lately been saddled with over 20,000 wagons bereft of wheels;

(b) if so, the main reasons for such shortage of wheel sets and the present annual requirement of railway for the same and the total indigenous production and capacity production of such wheels per annum; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the immediate requirements?

Rehabilitation of certain PSUs

*154. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the question of rehabilitating certain public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

People suffering from mental illness

†*155. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons suffering from mental illness at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons deprived of the medical facility, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to provide adequate medical facilities for mentally ill persons?

Opening of Ayurveda Institute at Thiruvananthapuram

*156. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of an International Institute of Ayurveda in Thiruvananthapuram is pending for sanction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government consider to accord sanction for the project; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sharing actionable intelligence in tackling crimes

*157. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to institutionalise the sharing of actionable intelligence in crime-prone States for tackling crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken a decision to deploy additional railway police on the basis of reports of crime and interaction with the State Government police; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Absorption of retrenched steam locomotive workers

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

(a) whether 5000 retrenched steam locomotive workers will be absorbed by the Railway Ministry after ten years;

(b) if so, the details of programme of their absorption; and

(c) how will their services be utilised?

Infant mortality

*159. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the infant mortality rate in Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof, hospital-wise;

(c) the reasons of infant mortality; and

(d) what action is being taken to control this?

Setting up of Medical Institutes on IIT and IIM pattern

*160. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish medical and other health institutes of excellence on the pattern of IITs and IIMs; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with revenue implications and the time-frame for establishing such institutes in the country?

NEW DELHI;
The 4th December, 2004
Agrahayana 13, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 14, 145, 146, 154,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public	:
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