

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 11, 2003/Agrahayana 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

Working Group on Minimum Wages

*141. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group on
Minimum Wages (WGMW) has
recommended minimum wage of Rs. 66/-
per day to the labourer;

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

(c) whether Government have received
complaints regarding non-payment of wages
at Government prescribed rates from various
quarters, and if so, what steps Government
propose to take to ensure the payment of
minimum wage of Rs. 66/- per day to the
labourer?

Regional Passport Office, Bangalore

*142. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY: Will the Minister of
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications/
renewal applications received by the

Regional Passport Office, Bangalore, from
January, 2002 to the end of October, 2003;

(b) the average time taken to issue a
passport; and

(c) the steps taken to help the people
outside Bangalore to get the passports?

Splitting of IOC

*143. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHER-
JEE: Will the Minister of DISINVEST-
MENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided
to consider splitting of Indian Oil Corpo-
ration and selling its marketing arm; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor in view of
(i) Government's earlier decision of keeping
IOC as a flagship company under Public
Sector, and (ii) unviability of stand-alone
refineries?

Legislation on minimum wages

*144. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government are
contemplating a legislation providing for

minimum wages for workers in the unorganised sectors including rag-pickers and rickshaw pullers;

(b) the rationale behind leaving out domestic workers from the ambit of this proposed legislation; and

(c) whether the trade unions have expressed reservations over the legislation for lack of implementing mechanism and the fact that it requires contributions from beneficiaries?

Pension and insurance benefits for unorganised sector

*145. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce pension and insurance benefits for the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details of the sectors that would be covered by this scheme;

(c) whether the self-employed persons would also be covered by this programme; and

(d) how many women workers would be covered by this programme?

Rail link between India and ASEAN countries

*146. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-
CHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the proposed rail link between India, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam; and

(b) the reaction and contribution of these four countries to this proposal?

Non-core sectors under Contract Labour Act

*147. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified thirteen non-core sectors to be brought under the Contract Labour Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to rename the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pace of computer revolution

†*148. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pace of computer revolution that was there in the country sometime back has come to a halt now;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that due to the crowd on the net, the working on internet is becoming difficult day-by-day;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all the internet service providers are charging arbitrarily; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

New prices of wheat and rice

*149. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced new prices for wheat and rice at which exporters can lift from the central pool; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(b) if so, the new prices and the stock of wheat and rice with Government?

Second phase of the NHDP

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

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the second phase of the Prime Minister's National Highway Development Project comprising of 7,300 km. of north-south and east-west corridors;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in finalising this project;

(c) the amount involved in completing this second phase of the project; and

(d) by when it is likely to be started and completed?

Injuries to workers

*151. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI C. RAMACHAN-
DRAIAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 50,000 workers get injured each and every working day in the country;

(b) if so, the details of deaths and injuries of workers during the last two years; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve performance, increase productivity, build healthier employees relations and lower operating costs by introducing latest technologies?

Foodgrain stock in FCI

*152. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total foodgrain stocks in the FCI godowns during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of total offtake of foodgrains during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether foodgrains were released to exporters at a subsidised rate;

(d) if so, the details of subsidy given along with the quantum of grains released during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the details of foodgrains released to the Public Distribution System along with the price for the above period?

Working capital for SSIs

*153. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SSIs that have been closed and the number of SSIs that have been registered, State-wise from 1998-99 to 2002-03 and what is the total number of SSIs as on the 31st October, 2003;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of Naik Committee recommendations, adequate working capital is not provided to SSIs by the Banks; and

(c) whether Government propose to help SSIs in their revival and for fulfilling adequately their working capital needs?

Dip in employment in organised sector

*154. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether new data shows that organised sector employment has dipped by 4.2 lakh in the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, whether the reduction in jobs in the year 2001-02 is larger than the combined decline in the previous three years;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has called a meeting of trade union leaders, including those of INTUC and BMS, to discuss the issues concerned with the workers; and

(d) if so, to what extent he was able to convince the union leaders that the new labour laws would be beneficial to and in the interest of the workers?

Safe storage of foodgrains

†*155. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether Government have reviewed the requirements of storage of foodgrains in the country;

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

(c) whether Government have drafted proposals in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

Unorganised sector Bill

*156. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving final touches to the unorganised sector Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Finance have raised objections to the proposed unlimited liability of Government in the fund; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government propose to mobilise Rs. 1000 odd crores required in the next five years for the purpose?

Export of sugar

*157. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with Bangladesh to resume private sugar imports which has opened a new window for Indian sugar;

(b) whether Pakistan has also asked for Indian sugar;

(c) if so, what is the total export of sugar to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Brazil and Thailand; and

(d) to what extent more orders have been received?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Enhancement of teledensity

*158. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of telephones sanctioned and working in each State, State-wise;
- (b) the teledensity of each State; and
- (c) the measures being taken by the Centre to enhance teledensity in each State?

Disinvestment of PSUs

*159. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are planning disinvestment of certain companies and PSUs which were formed with the Government funds but not acquired under or pursuant to a statutory enactment;
- (b) if so, the details of such companies and PSUs and the status of its

disinvestment as on date;

(c) the details of such PSUs which were created by Act of Parliament and wherein the disinvestment process is at present on; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take so that disinvestment of these PSUs goes unhindered?

Payment by WLL operators for unified license

*160. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which the computation of amounts to be paid by WLL operators to acquire a 'unified license' is arrived at;
- (b) whether the difference in bidding prices and penal interest on default period is adequate to capture the delinquency in defaulting on license conditions;
- (c) whether such a method of computation is consistent with contemporary international practices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 5th December, 2003
Agrahayana 14, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: —
Atomic Energy	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 148, 158, 160,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 149, 152, 155, 157,
Development of North Eastern Region	: —
Disinvestment	: 143, 159,
External Affairs	: 142, 146,
Labour	: 141, 144, 145, 147, 151, 154, 156,
Planning	: —
Road Transport and Highways	: 150,
Small Scale Industries	: 153.
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —