

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the August 12, 2005/Sravana 21, 1927 (Saka)*

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**(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**

#### **Schemes of National Horticultural Board**

\*281. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of horticultural land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of schemes implemented by the National Horticultural Board in the country and in the North-Eastern States;

(c) the percentage of the horticultural produce processed during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(d) whether Government are planning for processing horticultural produce in a larger quantity to avoid wastage of the produce?

#### **Sickle Cell disease in Chhattisgarh**

\*282. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

almost ten thousand people die in Chhattisgarh due to Sickle Cell disease;

(b) whether Government would consider establishing a Sickle Cell Unit in the State to provide test facilities at all district centres in Chhattisgarh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and what steps Government are taking to provide cheap and reliable blood test alongwith the details of facilities offered till date?

#### **Pampa Action Plan**

\*283. PROF. P. J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Pampa Action Plan to clean and protect the Pampa river in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the action plan; and

(d) in how much time the plan is expected to be implemented fully?

**Major rivers choked with industrial effluents**

\*284. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of major rivers and their tributaries are choking with industrial effluents and other pollutants;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the programmes initiated by Government to clean the rivers indicating the amount spent thereon during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that heavy discharge of sewage water in the Yamuna River is creating havoc with the aquatic life in the river and defeating the River Conservation Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

**Target for agricultural growth**

\*285. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set a target to increase the annual growth rate of agricultural production by more than 6.5 per cent of coming years;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken for increasing growth of agricultural products in the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Medical and Dental colleges**

\*286. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of self-financed and Government medical colleges and dental colleges in the country, State-wise, and their intake at 1st year M.B.B.S. level and 1st year of B.D.S.;

(b) whether it is a fact that many more self-financed medical colleges and dental colleges are in the pipeline;

(c) if so, the number of proposals pending with the competent authorities; and

(d) what is the action plan of his Ministry for more dental and medical colleges and to increase their intake?

**Agenda of meeting of the National Commission on Population**

\*287. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first meeting of the recently constituted National Commission on Population was held recently;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meeting and its outcome thereof;

(c) whether any specific decisions were taken to control the explosion of population in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister announced during the meeting that the Population Policy of the country does not encourage incentives and disincentives; and

(e) if so, the manner in which Government propose to control population without any incentives and disincentives?

**Displaying extent of pesticides on labels of food items**

†\*288. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 499 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 2005 and state:

(a) the reasons for which Government do not wish to display extent of pesticides on labels of food items by amending the Food Adulteration (Prevention) Rules, 1955 keeping in view the concern for health of the common people;

(b) whether Government are aware that pesticides have been found exceeding the prescribed limit in several food products and cold drinks and they affect the public health adversely; and

(c) if so, by when Government would make arrangements for display of the extent of pesticides on the labels of food items?

**Review of anti-poaching measures**

\*289. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA  
MURTHY:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any comprehensive review of the performance, particularly the anti-poaching measures, in all the Reserves in the country;

(b) if not, the reason therefor and whether Government would conduct such a review;

(c) if so, the details of the status of anti-poaching measures in these reserves;

(d) what additional measures are being taken to strengthen anti-poaching measures;

(e) whether Government are considering setting up an expert group to monitor the reserves; and

(f) if so, the details of its mandate?

**Checking MRP violations**

†\*290. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing provision regarding percentage of difference to be maintained between actual cost and printed price in regard to packaged consumer goods including food items;

(b) the arrangements made for checking this in order to prevent its violation;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Central Government on the complaints received during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Growth rate of agriculture vis-a-vis foodgrain stock**

†\*291. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of targeted growth rate of agriculture achieved during all the years of Tenth Five Year Plan, so far, alongwith the target fixed for growth rate of agriculture for the remaining years and the efforts being made to achieve the same; and

(b) the status of storage of foodgrains due to non-achieving the required and intended growth rate of agriculture?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Infant mortality rate**

\*292. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infant mortality rate in India is much higher than that of the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of percentage and how it compares with countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India tops in the births of under-weight babies and neonatal mortality;

(d) the reasons for this alarming situation;

(e) what is the Tenth Plan goal in these areas; and

(f) what are the special measures in the offing and undertaken to bring down these problems?

### **Grants for protection of Sanctuaries and Parks of Kerala**

\*293. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for grant, submitted for protecting Sanctuaries and National Parks of Kerala, is under the consideration of the competent authority;

(b) if so, the details including the grant sought and the action taken on the above proposal;

(c) the details of assistance sanctioned to Kerala under the Scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether steps will be taken to

increase the allocation to Kerala under the said scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **New policy for welfare of farmers**

\*294. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the living condition of farmers in our country is totally unsatisfactory inspite of India emerging as an agricultural power;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated/will formulate any new policy for the welfare of farmers who are backbone of our economy;

(c) if so, the salient features of the policy;

(d) whether some reforms in the farm sector are proposed to be introduced to improve farmers' social and financial conditions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

### **Population stabilization by co-ordination with States**

\*295. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Prime Minister has pruned the National Commission on Population from 131 to 44 members to ensure its more effective functioning in achieving population stabilization;

(b) whether the Commission will direct implementation of policy with a view of achieving population stabilization by

promoting synergy among demographic, educational and environmental agencies, etc.;

(c) whether the Commission has sought to promote coordination in planning and implementation of population policies across the Central and State Government agencies; and

(d) if so, upto what extent the Commission is likely to achieve these aims and objectives?

#### **Ban on Indian Ayurvedic drugs by Canada**

\*296. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada has recently imposed a ban on import of Indian Ayurvedic formulations on the basis of report of its drug testing labs alleging that these Ayurvedic products contained high levels of metals like lead, mercury, arsenic, etc.;

(b) if so, whether the products such as Shilajit, Kerala Capsules and Mahasudarshan Churna have been declared by Canadian authorities as unfit for human consumption; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the matter with the Canadian Government for a possible reversal of its ban order?

#### **Non-availability of medicines in CGHS dispensary, Laxmi Bai Nagar**

†\*297. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special medicines are not being indented by CGHS dispensary No. 15, Laxmi Bai Nagar;

(b) if so, whether the main reason is that the term of contract of the previous supplier of indented medicines is over, thus forcing CGHS beneficiaries to procure medicines from open market;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of pending bills of pensioners, month-wise and by when such bills would be cleared for payment?

#### **Promoting inter-cropping**

\*298. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued an advisory to States for promoting best farm practices to maximize production in the ensuing kharif (paddy) season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have called for inter-cropping for higher returns and risk coverage to the farmers;

(d) if so, whether Government would bear the risk if the farmers do not get sufficient profits in changing their crops; and

(e) if so, the proposed package of reimbursement to be given to the farmers in case they lose their crops due to these reasons?

#### **Connection of Hajira Port to its hinterland**

\*299. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any need for connecting Hajira Port to its hinterland;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether his Ministry will consider extending the additional track of KRIBHCO upto Hajira; and

(c) if so, the proposed time frame for completion of the same?

**Need of doctors and medical colleges**

\*300. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

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

(a) whether there is shortage of doctors in the country;

(b) whether the country needs to have atleast a million doctors;

(c) whether the country is being forced to manage with six lakh doctors, a shortfall of four lakh doctors;

(d) whether according to some studies made, the nation may need upto 400 medical colleges in ten years to bridge this gap;

(e) whether there is also disparity in the availability of medical education within States;

(f) if so, the States where there are less colleges; and

(g) what steps Government propose to take to improve availability of doctors and also set up new medical colleges in those States where there is deficiency?

NEW DELHI;  
The 6th August, 2005  
Sravana 15, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

**I N D E X**  
(Ministry-wise)

<b>Agriculture</b>	: 281, 285, 291, 294, 298,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	: —
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 290,
<b>Environment and Forests</b>	: 283, 284, 289, 293,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	: —
<b>Health and Family Welfare</b>	: 282, 286, 287, 288, 292, 295, 296, 297, 300,
<b>Railways</b>	: 299.
<b>Steel</b>	: —