

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 13, 2003/Phalguna 22, 1924 (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

Expansion of telecom network in Andhra Pradesh

*321. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-
CATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received
any proposal for providing WLL system
to facilitate expansion of telecom network
in various regions of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when WLL system would be
made available to the consumers in the
said regions?

Telephone facilities in Rajasthan villages

†*322. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have

since been provided in all the villages of
Rajasthan;

(b) if not, the number of villages in
each district of the State which have not
been provided with telephone facilities;

(c) whether Government have set any
time-frame for providing telephone
facilities in each village of the State;
and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Disinvestment of EIL, STC and MUL

*323. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO: Will the Minister of
DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that
Government are thinking of disinvesting
the Engineers India Ltd., State Trading
Corporation and the Maruti Udyog Ltd.
by the end of this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any process has been
started in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Food security project

*324. 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 the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is providing C \$ 5 million (Rs. 15.5 crore) assistance to implement a food security project in India; and

(b) the details thereof?

Telephone Lok Adalats

*325. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Telephone Lok Adalats held in Bihar during the last three years to mitigate the public grievances in the State, year-wise;

(b) the number of complaints disposed of during each year;

(c) the number of complaints pending before the Lok Adalats in the State; and

(d) whether it is proposed to hold more sittings of Lok Adalats in order to dispose of pending cases at the earliest?

Boundary dispute with Myanmar

*326. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any boundary dispute exists between Myanmar and India;

(b) if so, what efforts have been made to settle the dispute in a friendly and peaceful way; and

(c) the steps taken to further improve and strengthen the friendly relation between the two countries?

Widening of NHs in Uttar Pradesh

*327. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sections of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh where work for widening is presently going on;

(b) by when the work on these sections is likely to be completed, section-wise; and

(c) the sections of the National Highways in the State where similar work is proposed to be taken up next?

Software exports

*328. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the slowdown in growth of software exports, over 55,000 fresh engineers from the Government recognised colleges are yet to get jobs;

(b) whether a large number of Information Technology graduates and post-graduates had emigrated and returned to India after September 11, 2001, if so, the estimated number thereof;

(c) the latest assessment of the unemployed Information Technology engineers, graduates and post-graduates, and other Information Technology workers in the country; and

(d) what steps are being taken to provide them with employment and open up fresh avenues for Information Technology Engineers, graduates and post-graduates, including those emigrating from abroad?

Extradition treaty with France

*329. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed an extradition treaty with France recently; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the names of countries with which extradition treaty is proposed to be signed during the current year?

Amendment of Indian Post Office Act, 1898

*330. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 to open postal sector to private operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the western countries have not opened up their own postal services; and

(d) if so, the reason for privatisation of the postal services?

Golden quadrilateral project

*331. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project-main quadrilateral to link major cities like Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata, with high-speed roads, would be completed this year;

(b) by when the arteries linking the other major urban centres to this quadrilateral are expected so that the potential of this project could be exploited; and

(c) the budgetary allocation for these arterial roads, the time-frame for their completion, the agency which would be implementing this project and the monitoring mechanism for keeping track of the progress?

Import of Palmolein

*332. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

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

(a) whether allocation of RBD Palmolein for distribution through PDS has been stopped;

(b) whether import of RBD Palmolein by the State has declined drastically as it costs heavy due to high import duty levied on it;

(c) whether in view of the above Government would consider to give permission to the State Government of Gujarat to import 18,000 tonnes of crude Palmolein through STC with 45 per cent duty under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ); and

(d) if so, by when?

Telecommunication facilities

†*333. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of villages in the backward States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan that have been provided with telecommunication facilities, State-wise; and

(b) by when all the villages in these States are likely to be provided with telecommunication facilities, State-wise?

Indo-US talks

*334. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of an expanded framework of dialogue between the two sides, India and the United States would share notes on China;

(b) if so, whether both India and US have decided to expand the horizon of their talks by including discussions about the regional situation in the sub-continent;

(c) whether several Government officials visited US and had discussions on the situation in Sri Lanka, Nepal and China; and

(d) if so, to what extent, both the countries have taken a decision regarding China?

Additional employment generation

*335. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department-related Parliamentary Committee on Labour, in its 11th Report, of 2001, has observed stagnation in creating additional employment generation, particularly for the educated youth;

(b) whether the quantum of unemployment has increased from one Plan period to the other;

(c) whether Government would achieve the goal of rendering unemployment to a negligible proportion by 2003; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

Employment opportunities during Tenth Plan

*336. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target has been fixed to create five crores additional employment and self-employment opportunities during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Expenditure on computerisation and information dissemination

†*337. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved two to three per cent expenditure on computerisation and information dissemination works out of the annual budgetary allocation made to various Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of expenditure on the above works out of the allocated amount during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Highway from Agartala to
Bangladesh**

*338. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had some time back conceptualized a plan to construct a Highway from Agartala to the nearest town in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan has since been shelved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the progress made in this regard?

**Extradition treaty with various
countries**

*339. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 258 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large

number of criminals have taken shelters in many countries and the Extradition Treaty with these countries have not yielded any results for deportation of these criminals to India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating in this regard?

**Transfer of industries to private
hands due to disinvestment policy**

*340. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's existing policy of disinvestment has led to transfer of several important industries to private hands;

(b) whether this transfer would lead to gradual reduction in the number of employees working in these units; and

(c) whether Government propose to tackle this issue; if so, by when and in what manner?

NEW DELHI;
The 7th March, 2003
Phalgun 16, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X (Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: —
Atomic Energy	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 321, 322, 325, 328, 330, 333,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 324, 332,
Development of North Eastern Region	: —
Disinvestment	: 323, 340,
External Affairs	: 326, 329, 334, 339,
Labour	: 335,
Planning	: 336, 337,
Road Transport and Highways	: 327, 331, 338.
Small Scale Industries	: —
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —