

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the May 13, 2005/Vaisakha 23, 1927 (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**

#### **Agricultural growth**

\*701. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mid-term review of Tenth Five Year Plan has laid stress on revival of agricultural growth and rejuvenation of farm support system;

(b) if so, whether it has been pointed out that achieving the GDP growth rate of 8 per cent would critically depend on achieving higher growth rates in agriculture;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have considered the views expressed in the mid term review;

(d) whether any concrete programme has been prepared by Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it will be successful?

#### **Meeting on right to food**

\*702. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:  
SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal in favour of adopting a cross-sectoral approach for implementation of the right to food and treating it as multi-dimensional issue;

(b) if so, whether Government have called for any meeting in this regard recently;

(c) if so, the details of points discussed in the meeting; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

#### **Resurfacing of eradicated diseases**

†\*703. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:  
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the diseases which were almost eradicated are resurfacing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that epilepsy, which was eradicated as per official figures, is resurfacing on a large scale;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for eradication of the same?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Testing and certification of GM foods**

\*704. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate infrastructure is not available to detect traces of genetically modified organisms in the finished GM foods being imported into the country;

(b) if so, the details of plans drawn up, if any, to create the required level of facilities for testing and certification of the GM foods and their present status; and

(c) the guidelines being presently followed by the customs and other authorities to check the GM food consignments at the points of entry, etc.?

**Route of Lichhavi Express**

†\*705. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to run Lichhavi Express *via* Lucknow and Azamgarh in view of the route *via* Kanpur-Allahabad being very busy and considering the needs of lakhs of passengers of Azamgarh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would run Kamaini Express on daily basis *via* Azamgarh and introduce Azamgarh-Howrah Express, with a view to connect Azamgarh with the big cities; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons for neglecting Azamgarh alongwith the reasons for not providing proper rail link from the three main metros of New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai?

**Inquiry into Sabarmati Express accident**

\*706. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry has been conducted into the accident involving Sabarmati Express which rammed into a stationary goods train near Vadodara in Gujarat in the early hours of 21st April, 2005;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the number of persons who lost their lives, those seriously injured and the extent of loss caused to railway and private property, separately; and

(d) the compensation, if any, given to the families of those who lost their lives?

**Strengthening PDS**

†\*707. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to further strengthen the present public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details of the fresh measures proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether such measures at present would be confined to 600 blocks only;

(d) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(e) by when the strengthened system is likely to be implemented throughout the country?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Rail accidents since May, 2004**

\*708. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of rail accidents since May, 2004, till date;
- (b) the number of passengers died;
- (c) the number of passengers injured;
- (d) the casualties from staff side; and
- (e) the number of people punished for negligence?

**Degeneration of wetlands**

\*709. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country's wetlands are being degenerated, if so, what is the magnitude;
- (b) the major factors responsible for degenerating the wetlands;
- (c) the steps being taken to revive these wetlands;
- (d) whether these steps have succeeded in reviving the wetlands; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and proposed course for correction?

**Jaundice in Delhi**

\*710. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Jaundice is on the rise day-by-day in Delhi and its NCR because of poor quality of water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that people are suffering from various water borne diseases; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

**Bt cotton cultivation under technology mission on cotton**

\*711. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to set up National Cotton Mission;
- (b) if so, the mandate of this mission;
- (c) whether the new mission would also address the issues concerning cultivation of Bt Cotton; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Gauge-conversion projects in Tamil Nadu**

\*712. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the ongoing gauge-conversion projects at present in Tamil Nadu; and
- (b) the future projects for which surveys are being undertaken at present in the State?

**Drug price control**

†\*713. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are unable to control the drug prices;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government have received

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

a number of complaints/proposals with regard to controlling the prices of drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Paddy procurement in Orissa**

\*714. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa High Court has directed the FCI to procure paddy directly from the farmers by opening purchase centres in certain districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details of such orders; and

(c) how far these directives have since been implemented to help the beleaguered farmers of the State?

#### **Special package for Gir Sanctuary**

†\*715. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have formulated any scheme for development of Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Central Government intend to give any special package to the State Government for protection and promotion of lions living there?

#### **Public-private partnership in Railways**

\*716. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have addressed public-private partnership in Railways;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to encourage public-private partnership in Railways; and

(c) the specific steps Government propose to take to go further with automation, extend reservation hours, upgrade information system, improve facilities and support infrastructures, ensure cleanliness and hygiene all over?

#### **Assistance for loss on cotton procurement**

\*717. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has approached the Central Government seeking assistance for defraying the loss suffered and likely to be suffered this year in procurement of the cotton produce at the minimum support price fixed under the monopoly procurement system for cotton;

(b) if so, the extent of aid sought, the quantum of cotton procured and to be procured this year, the MSP fixed and the total production of cotton this year; and

(c) the Central Government's response thereto?

#### **Mother-child welfare centres**

\*718. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of family welfare centres and mother-child welfare centres in the rural areas all over the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have any concrete plan to upgrade existing facilities and to provide new facilities to meet the requirement; and

(c) the details of fund allocated for upgradation of those facilities in 2004-05?

**Growth rate of agriculture sector**

\*719. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of agriculture sector during each Five Year Plan, till now;

(b) whether this growth rate is as per the targets fixed by Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete efforts Government are going to make in 2005-06 and 2006-07 for

systematic, spontaneous and scientific growth of agriculture in the country?

**FPIs as large and small scale industries**

†\*720. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing industries are existing in both large scale and small scale industries sectors;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the percentage of the said food processing industries in both the sectors, sector-wise, run by MNCs?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 7th May, 2005*  
*Vaisakha 17, 1927 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

<b>Agriculture</b>	: 701, 711, 717, 719,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	: 713,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 702, 707, 714,
<b>Environment and Forests</b>	: 704, 709, 715,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	: 720,
<b>Health and Family Welfare</b>	: 703, 710, 718,
<b>Railways</b>	: 705, 706, 708, 712, 716.
<b>Steel</b>	: —