

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 14, 2002/Phalguna 23, 1923 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour; Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—20

Territorial demarcation between India and Bangladesh

*161. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the territorial demarcation between India and Bangladesh has not been completed and settled, so far;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to resolve the issue and by when an amicable settlement is expected to be arrived at?

Export of Basmati rice

*162. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed minimum price for export of Basmati rice to the European Union;
- (b) if so, the estimated quantity of Basmati rice to be exported during 2002-2003; and
- (c) the other varieties of rice to be permitted/promoted by Government for export from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

List of militant groups that infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir

*163. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have requested the Government of Pakistan to furnish a comprehensive list of militant groups that infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

Procurement of paddy at MSP

*164. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the paddy production in Andhra Pradesh during the season of 2001;
- (b) whether the entire paddy offered in the State was procured by the Government agencies at the Minimum Support Price;

(c) if not, how much quantity was procured and how much could not be procured; and

(d) what action Government have taken to procure the remaining paddy so that growers do not resort to distress sale in the State?

Availability of telephones

*165. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the availability of telephones per one lakh population during the period of 1998—2001, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government have failed to take Bihar and West Bengal into priority list to improve the situation as these States stand at the lowest in the country?

Amendment of CAT Act

*166. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985, is proposed to be amended in the near future;

(b) if so, what prompted Government to think for amendments; and

(c) what are the views of the State Governments regarding functioning of the Central Administrative Tribunals?

Revival of SSI units

*167. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industrial units closed-down during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to revive them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Demands of Beedi workers

*168. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Beedi workers of the country owing allegiance to all the major central trade unions took out a protest procession in New Delhi on the 27th November, 2001 in support of their demands;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

Closure of SSIs

*169. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the Small Scale Industries closed during the last three years;

(b) the number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof;

(c) the money of the banks and other financial institutions blocked as a result thereof; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to assist this sector; if so, the details thereof?

Laying of telephone cables

†*170. SHRI R. N. ARYA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prescribed the required depth with regard to laying of telephone cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that while laying the telephone cables in district Mainpuri during the last three years, the aforesaid policy has not been adhered to and some of the officers have made the payment in accordance with the prescribed policy and some complaints have also been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the contractors, telephone cable and digging done during the last three years; and

(e) what action has been taken on these complaints so received?

Reduced rates by STD/PCO operators

*171. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to ensure that the STD/PCO operators follow the reduced rates;

(b) whether it is a fact that some operators are not operating their charge indicator

on metering pulses from the telephone exchange; and

(c) the manner in which the BSNL propose to check the malpractice?

Sugar production

*172. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's sugar production has fallen by over five per cent to 17.5 million tonnes in the current year;

(b) if so, whether the country produced a record 18.5 million tonnes of sugar in 2000-01, up from 18.2 million in the previous year;

(c) the States where sugar production has fallen;

(d) the main reasons for the same; and

(e) the steps proposed to be considered to improve sugar output in 2002-2003?

MoU with HCL Infosys

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

(a) whether the Department of Posts has signed a MoU with HCL Infosys to provide them the network of post offices across the country to market its entire range of computer products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial benefits to be generated by the Department of Posts from this agreement?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Connecting villages with optical fibre cables

†*174. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to connect the villages under Rohuru Telephone Exchange in district Shimla with optical fibre cables, so that all weather facility of telephones is made available to the villagers; and

(b) whether Government propose to issue instructions to the Assistant Engineer (Telecom) Rohuru to pay a visit every week for inspection of the telephone exchange, Rohuru and other exchanges connected with it to ensure satisfactory working of the exchange?

Accidents on National Highways

*175. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the study report of Rajshree Parmar Memorial Foundation, Pune, on the accidents occurring on National Highways and Expressways;

(b) whether the study highlights the fact that more than 50 per cent of the accidents were caused by tyre bursts;

(c) whether the study reveals that the quality of tyres available in the Indian market is not suitable for high speed; and

(d) whether unregulated imports of tyres is also compounding the problem?

Software competition

*176. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian software specialists have angered the British and the German infotech workers;

(b) whether it is professional competition or anything else; and

(c) what is the attitude of the British Government to this?

National Highways Projects in Gujarat

*177. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways Projects undergoing in Gujarat;

(b) the progress of these projects, project-wise so far;

(c) the expenditure incurred, so far, on each project; and

(d) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

Labour Policy

†*178. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have declared Labour Policy under the pressure of foreign investors;

(b) if so, the extent to which Government would protect interests of the labourers;

(c) whether Government are inviting investment only in those companies which are making profit;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is also a fact that the labourers engaged in small industries and factories would be exploited due to this policy; and

(e) if so, whether Government would reconsider to change the policy in view of interests of the labourers?

Release of rice under Food for Work Programme in A.P.

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

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

(a) the quantity of rice released by the Centre for the 'Food for Work' Programme

in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether the State Government has sought more rice from the Centre; and

(c) if so, by when the additional quota would be released?

Filling up of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs

*180. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs remain unfilled in various Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to fill up these vacancies?

NEW DELHI;
The 8th March, 2002

Phalgun 17, 1923 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X (Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	:	—
Agro and Rural Industries	:	—
Atomic Energy	:	—
Communications and Information Technology	:	165, 170, 171, 173, 174, 176,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	162, 164, 172, 177,
External Affairs	:	161, 163,
Labour	:	168, 178,
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	166, 180,
Planning	:	—
Road Transport and Highways	:	175, 177,
Small Scale Industries	:	167, 169.
Space	:	—
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	—