

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the August 14, 2003/Sravana 23, 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

Hallmarking of gold ornaments

†*341. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for hallmarking of gold ornaments in view of heavy loss to consumers as a result of mixing of other metals in gold ornaments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Telephone directory for Delhi and Mumbai

*342. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of a large number of changes in the telephone numbers in Mumbai, Delhi and all metros and the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to make directories available to the telephone subscribers annually, the

main telephone directories for Delhi and Mumbai have not been published since 1999 and 2000 respectively;

(b) what steps MTNL has taken to ensure that telephone directories are made available to the subscribers of Delhi and Mumbai in time on a regular basis; and

(c) whether Government have examined the feasibility of bringing out the directories by fixed dates?

Increase in turnover of IT industry

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that overall turnover of the information technology industry is constantly increasing;

(b) if so, the total turnover of this industry in the country and abroad during the year 2002-03; and

(c) to what extent it is higher in comparison to the last year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Production of sugar

*344. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether sugar season showed an
excess of sugar production in 2002-03
(October-September);

(b) if so, what was the total sugar
production in 2002-03;

(c) whether in the sugar season of
2003-04, the assessment up-till nine
months show that the 200 lakh tonnes mark
has been crossed;

(d) if so, whether the excess production
of sugar would create a problem in the
country;

(e) whether Government are considering
to export more and more sugar during this
year;

(f) if so, the efforts being made; and

(g) whether more export orders have
been obtained?

Unspent money with missions

*345. SHRI RAVULA
CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the
Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and
Auditor General of India in its latest report
on India's diplomatic missions abroad has
criticised the practice of missions keeping
unspent money for long with them;

(b) the number of missions which have
been found doing so; and

(c) what steps have been taken by
Government to ensure that this practice is
discontinued?

**China's refusal to recognise
Arunachal Pradesh as Indian
territory**

*346. SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese Government has
refused to recognise Arunachal Pradesh as
part of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including
the context in which the refusal was
communicated to India;

(c) Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government's viewpoint
has been communicated to the Chinese
Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not,
the reasons therefor?

Disparity in minimum wage

*347. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any disparity in
rates of minimum wage in various regions
of the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for variation from region
to region; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring in
regional uniformity in this regard?

Draft hardware policy

*348. DR. M.N. DAS:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the industry, including the apex body for IT manufacturers represented by the MAIT has called upon Government to announce the hardware policy at the earliest;

(b) if so, whether the representative body of manufacturing companies of Information Technology has, recently, circulated a draft paper on National Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing Policy; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the draft hardware policy circulated by the representative body;

(d) if so, to what extent it has been agreed upon; and

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Monitoring of schemes

*349. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the priority agenda, the list of thrust areas for 2003-04 relating to schemes, objectives as well as policy issues;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that out of the list of 47 priority/thrust areas related to schemes and objectives, seven schemes would be monitored by him while 40 items relating to objectives would be monitored by the Committee of Secretaries;

(c) if so, what is the total amount likely to be spent on these schemes; and

(d) by what time the work on these projects is likely to start?

Old and damaged foodgrains with FCI

*350. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether more than one lakh tons of old and damaged foodgrains are lying with the various godowns of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of such foodgrains stock as on date, State-wise;

(d) if so, the action taken to dispose off these stocks;

(e) the action taken to fix responsibility, if any, for this loss; and

(f) whether there is any strategy for moving foodgrains in case of crisis due to flood or drought?

Road connectivity to Pattadakal and Hampi Group of Monuments

*351. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India propose to give connectivity to the Pattadakal and Hampi Group of Monuments which has since been cleared as world heritage monuments, to better cater to the existing international tourist flow and to attract more tourists; and

(b) if so, by when the connectivity would be completed?

Capacity of nuclear power reactors

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided that the unit size of the future power reactors in the country be increased to 700 MW capacity instead of 250 MW or 540 MW capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what important project implementation strategies have been adopted by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India to reduce the construction period of atomic plants in India?

Investment by MTNL

*353. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. propose to invest Rs. 1200 crore during the current fiscal year for developing telephone infrastructure; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the investment would be made to develop infrastructure in two circles, namely Delhi and Mumbai;

(c) if so, what targets have been fixed; and

(d) the extent to which it has been achieved till date?

Speed post facilities in U.P.

†*354. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'speed post' facility is not available at District Headquarters in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when all the District Headquarters are proposed to be covered under this network?

Disinvestment of BVFCL

*355. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (BVFCL) is going to be disinvested;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) what has necessitated the disinvestment when Government had revamped the unit expending more than four hundred crores of rupees and bifurcated it from the sick HFCL?

Mobile and internet services in Himachal Pradesh

*356. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Himachal Pradesh where mobile and internet services are available at present;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) by when the said services would be provided in the remaining districts of the State during the current year;

(c) whether there is any proposal to instal BSNL server in the state for providing internet facility; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Closure of rural and cottage industries

*357. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of traditional rural and cottage industries in the country is deteriorating and they are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to revive the rural and cottage industries?

Blueprint for job opportunities

*358. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a blueprint for the generation of five crore jobs in the country by the year 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof including various segments wherein the targeted employment opportunities have been identified;

(c) by when the blueprint is likely to be made public and presented to the Planning Commission/National Development Council for final approval; and

(d) what further action is proposed to be taken to generate greater employment opportunities in the country?

Modernization of ESI hospitals

*359. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to modernize ESI hospitals throughout the country;

(b) if so, the budget provision earmarked for this purpose for the year 2003-04; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

On demand telephone connections

†*360. SHRI KRIPAL
PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to provide telephones on demand in the country, particularly in rural areas;

(b) whether Government have examined the feasibility of providing technologies having low running cost, minimum maintenance, cheap and reliable in rural and remote areas; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 8th August, 2003
Sravana 17, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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Agro and Rural Industries	: 357,
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