

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Monday, the July 15, 2002/Asadha 24, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries: Development of North Eastern Region; Disinvestment; Health and Family Welfare; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Information and Broadcasting; Law and Justice; Shipping; Social Justice and Empowerment; Tribal Affairs; Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation)

Total number of questions—20

FDI in print media

*1. SHRI ABANI ROY:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow 26 per cent foreign direct investment in print media inspite of stiff opposition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the small and medium newspaper industry in the country is likely to suffer a lot due to this decision; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are going to take to protect them?

Disinvestment of PSUs

*2. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public undertakings under various Ministries, Ministry-wise;

(b) the total number of PSUs in respect of which decision has been taken to

disinvest them and proceeds realized after completing the process of disinvestment/sale;

(c) the number of PSUs in respect of which a decision has been taken to disinvest but the process not yet completed/proceeds not yet realized after the sale/disinvestment; and

(d) the number of PSUs still with Government and the steps taken to improve their management and functioning?

Disposal of surplus land of VSNL

*3. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:
Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering floating a separate company to dispose of surplus land available with the VSNL;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached with the new management of VSNL;

(c) whether permission to float a new company will have to be taken from US Securities and Exchange Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National Judicial Commission

*4. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to form a National Judicial Commission for making appointments in Judiciary; and

(b) if so, by when it will be formed?

Bifurcation of National Commission for SCs and STs

*5. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bifurcate the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Increase in seats in Dental and Medical Colleges

*6. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Admissions: 76 Dental, Medical Colleges out", which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 17th June, 2002; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to increase seats in Dental and Medical Colleges so that students do not suffer because of *malafide* intentions of some Private/Government Medical Colleges?

Absentee doctors in AIIMS

†*7. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) since when senior doctors of various important departments of AIIMS have been absent;

(b) the number of such absentees along with the names of their respective departments and whether it is a fact that all facilities including job, accommodation, telephone to such absentee doctors have not only been continuing but they have been given promotions also;

(c) the reasons for not taking any action against the said doctors; and

(d) the payments made by Government, so far, to the said doctors and the action Government would take to terminate their services and to recover the said payments from them?

Research work at AIIMS

*8. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Research work at AIIMS being hampered for want of animals", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 11th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted by the news-item which are hampering the medical research at AIIMS?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Collection of property tax from
Central Government assets**

*9. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed, in principle, to allow the local bodies to collect property tax in respect of Central Government assets; and

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard?

**Investment of VSNL capital in Tata
Teleservices**

*10. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tata Group has purchased controlling share of VSNL in the process of disinvestment;

(b) if so, the amount paid by Tata to Government and the details of the valuation of VSNL;

(c) whether it is also a fact that VSNL Board decided to invest Rs. 1200 crores in Tata Teleservices, a Tata Group Company; and

(d) whether such an investment decision is in keeping with a major stated objective of disinvestment to substitute public investment with private investment?

Reports of Disinvestment Commission

*11. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the reports given by the Disinvestment Commission so far;

(b) the main recommendations of the Commission; and

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted by Government keeping in view the interest of workers and employees of the public sector undertakings?

New male contraceptive

*12. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether Government have introduced a new male contraceptive in order to boost family planning;

(b) if so, whether efficacy of this contraceptive and its acceptability on wider scale has been confirmed; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

Sale of drugs through internet

*13. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new method to sell drugs through internet has come to light;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected, so far, case-wise;

(c) how many drug dealers are involved and the action initiated against them;

(d) whether it is also a fact that all this has been going on in connivance with customs officers; and

(e) if so, whether any arrests have been made and the details of revelations through investigations?

SC direction on candidates contesting elections

*14. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India in a recent judgement has ruled that a candidate willing to stand for elections must declare his/her assets and criminal antecedents, if any;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to give effect to this directive of the Supreme Court?

Guidelines relating to film certification

*15. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Censor Anand to clear more screen nudity with 'X' rating", which appeared in the Asian Age, New Delhi, dated the 21st June, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the existing guidelines and propose to clear films with extra doses of nudity and vulgarity with a special 'X' certificate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Action against Doordarshan defaulters

*16. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has initiated action against private producers and agencies which owe a total of Rs.169.28 crores;

(b) if so, the total number of private producers and agencies which have been continuously delaying payments;

(c) how much has so far, been recovered from them;

(d) in how many cases legal action has been taken; and

(e) how many, out of the defaulters, have been refused permission or extension of their programme?

Joint venture between India and Iran

*17. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have decided to take-up joint infrastructure projects in Afghanistan and other countries of the region;

(b) whether India has offered help to Iran in improving the infrastructure in large cities in Iran, such as Teheran; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

Surprise checks of CGHS dispensaries

*18. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are carrying out surprise checks of CGHS dispensaries to ensure availability of medicines as well as punctuality of doctors and staff;

(b) if so, the number of raids conducted during the last six months Dispensary-wise in Delhi; and

(c) the results of the raids as well as action taken against the errant doctors or other staff?

Filling of vacancies of Judges

*19. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has blamed the States for inordinate delay in filling up vacancies of Judges in fast track courts resulting in accumulation of arrears of 2.4 crore cases in the subordinate courts;

(b) whether any directive has been issued to the States to fill-up these vacancies under a time-bound programme;

(c) if so, whether any specific date has been given to States by which time these vacancies are to be filled up; and

(d) if so, which are the States which have not implemented the directive of Government in filling up the vacancies of Judges?

Non-Implementation of ACP scheme in CGHS

*20. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items captioned, "Health Check: CGHS arteries blocked" and "CGHS staffers demand promotions", which appeared in the Hindustan Times and Indian Express on 17th and 19th June, 2002, respectively;

(b) the details of steps being taken to augment the surprise visits of the dispensaries;

(c) whether one of the main reasons for ill-functioning of the CGHS dispensaries is denying promotion to CGHS Staffers;

(d) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme to CGHS pharmacists; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement the scheme for them?

NEW DELHI;
The 9th July, 2002

Asadha 18, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

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