

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the July 15, 2004/Asadha 24, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and
Employment; Non-Resident Indians Affairs; Ocean Development; Personnel,
Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways;
Science and Technology; Shipping; Small Scale Industries; Space;
Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—20

Survey on housing situation

†*141. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried
out any survey on the housing situation in
the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to
formulate any special action plan to
provide homes to the homeless on the basis
of the said survey; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by
Government in this direction?

Progress of construction work of NH-57

†*142. PROF. RAM DEO
BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) the progress of construction work
of National Highway No. 57 in Bihar;

(b) the amount spent on the widening
and strengthening of the said highway during
the last three years;

(c) whether the said project would be
completed within the stipulated period;
and

(d) if so, Government's plan in this
regard, year-wise?

Telephone exchanges in Nagaland

*143. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the
Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be
pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of the telephone
exchanges in the State of Nagaland,
exchange-wise;

(b) the number of phones presently
lying out of order in the cities of the
State during the last one year, till date;
and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed
to be taken by Government in this
regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Small scale industries in the country

*144. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of small scale industries registered and functioning at present in the different parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the foreign exchange earned by these industries during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of such industries that closed down due to sickness, so far during the year 2003-04, State-wise?

Statutory dues of C.P.S.U. employees

*145. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1798 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 2003 and state:

(a) the status of payment of outstanding dues to employees of the Central Public Sector Undertakings which were Rs. 1915 crores as on the 31st March, 2003;

(b) whether a monitoring body has been set up to liquidate the dues in a time bound schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Women's wage rates

*146. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that according to the UNDP Human Development Report women's wage rates are on an average 75 per cent of men's wage rates and constitute only one fourth of the family income;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to enact labour laws for these women workers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Task Force on problems of WLL vs. GSM

*147. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA :
SHRIMOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government have constituted a Task Force of technical experts from IITs, CSIR, TCIL and others to ensure that WLL limited mobile services do not suffer due to unnecessary representation by Cellular Operators Association of India; and

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of the Task Force constituted to look into the problems of WLL vs. GSM?

Indo-Pak Border

*148. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not ruled out the possibility of altering India's borders with Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute;

(b) if so, whether there is any departure from the past policy; and

(c) if not, Government's views to get a solution on the Kashmir dispute?

India's relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh

*149. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of progress made in developing relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh in the socio-economic and political fields;

(b) whether the issue of trade and commerce from the North-eastern region with Bangladesh and with other regions of our country across Bangladesh has been taken up, so far; and

(c) the achievements in this respect so far?

Asian Highway Network

*150. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has signed a historical international agreement for completing 140,000 km. Asian Highway Network which would significantly promote regional integration and co-operation;

(b) if so, whether apart from India, countries such as Pakistan, China, South Korea and Vietnam have signed the inter-Governmental agreement at the ministerial segment of the 60th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific;

(c) if so, whether this agreement is a landmark and would further facilitate border crossing for people, vehicles, goods and other benefits to landlocked countries; and

(d) by when this work is likely to be completed?

Economic package for Assam

*151. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam is still the poorest and the most backward State in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of people living below the poverty line, as well as the literacy and drop-out rates;

(c) the action taken up to assist the State to come up to the national level norms and the details of economic package for the poor people proposed to be formulated; and

(d) if no action has been taken, so far, the reasons therefor?

Projects running behind schedule

*152. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost benefit of 116 of the 286 projects monitored were running behind schedule;

(b) if so, whether the cost overruns due to slow implementation of projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores has been brought down from about 10% in March, 2003 to about 7.7% by March, 2004;

(c) if so, the details of 116 of the 286 projects which were running behind schedule;

(d) to what extent their cost escalation has been reduced; and

(e) by what time all these projects are likely to be completed and what is the cost escalation attributable to all of them?

Khadi Gramodyog in Chhattisgarh

†*153. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote Khadi Gramodyog in the State of Chhattisgarh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of people likely to be benefited from these industries?

Maiden flight by Saras

*154. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 14-seater civilian passenger aircraft 'Saras' has been indigenously developed and its prototype made a successful maiden flight recently at the HAL Airport, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the distinctive features of the aircraft;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prototype aircraft has exceeded its intended weight, reducing the payload it can carry and the range;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to achieve the desired specifications; and

(e) the details of surveys conducted to project demand for the aircraft for domestic needs and the international market and plans drawn for its commercial production?

Recruitment of Indians in Iraqi security

*155. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians are being recruited into the Iraqi security unofficially;

(b) whether these Indians are being taken to Kuwait and sent to Iraq illegally where they are being treated like slaves;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiries in this regard;

(d) the steps being taken to stop this un-official slave trade; and

(e) the number of Indians recruited by these agencies, so far, and the number out of them that have died in Iraq?

Indo-Bangladesh joint operation to detect rebel camps

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Bangladesh had turned down India's request for conducting joint operations to detect rebel camps and hunt down insurgents using that country as a base to carry on violence in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Meeting of Foreign Minister with Sri Lankan counter part

*157. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he met recently his Sri Lankan counter part in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the points discussed; and

(c) the action taken on the suggestions made in the meeting?

Minimum export price for coir products

*158. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Coir Board has withdrawn the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for coir products;

(b) if so, whether Government have evaluated the adverse impact of this

decision on the small scale coir manufacturing sector alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reintroduce the MEP and Purchase Price Export Scheme; and

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

Implementation of new visa rules by USA

†*159. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government has recently made extensive changes with regard to the issue of some major categories of working visas;

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

(c) the possible repercussions on the Indian visa holders and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect their interests?

Common approach towards nuclear doctrines between India and Pakistan

*160. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are convinced that India and Pakistan should explore a common approach towards nuclear doctrines; and

(b) if so, whether Government would like to propose steps beyond confidence building measures to promote stability?

NEW DELHI;
The 9th July, 2004
Asadha 18, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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Atomic Energy	:	—
Communications and Information Technology	:	143, 147,
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Planning	:	151,
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