

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the May 16, 2002/Vaisakha 26, 1924 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal and Mines; 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

Entertainment tax on Internet Service Providers

*721. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that notices for payment of entertainment tax are being issued in NOIDA to the Internet Service Providers;

(b) whether Government consider the internet as means of entertainment in the country; and

(c) if so, whether the Internet Service Providers are also liable to pay entertainment tax on the basis of number of connections provided by them?

Wage disparity

*722. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is considerable disparity in rates of minimum wages in various regions of the

country ranging from Rs. 19.25 per day in Pondicherry to Rs. 93/- per day in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a big variation from region to region;

(c) whether Government have felt the desirability to bring in regional uniformity in respect of minimum wages; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Demands of handicapped STD/PCO operators

†*723. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the visually handicapped STD/PCO booth operators for having a share equivalent to 50 per cent of the rental charged from common subscribers and enhancing their commission from 20 per cent to 50 per cent;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what action Government have so far taken in this regard; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far, Government's reaction in the matter?

Sale of foodgrains to poultry industry

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

(a) the status of issuable and non-issuable stocks of foodgrains in FCI godowns of Andhra Pradesh as on the 31st March, 2002, commodity-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to sell foodgrains unfit for human consumption to poultry industry to produce poultry feed on token price to ease the stock position and promote poultry sector in the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Privatisation of Coir Board

*725. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to privatise 32 showrooms as well as the Hindustan Coir of the Coir Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of strong resentment over this decision; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Effect of nuclear test

†*726. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether nuclear test leads to dangerous effects on nature and environment;

(b) the likely ill effects as a result thereof; and

(c) whether such tests can be undertaken at other places beside Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof?

Tariff for ILD calls

*727. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has approved tariff for some of the private companies for the International Long Distance calls;

(b) if so, the tariffs as approved by TRAI;

(c) the private companies which have been granted ISD licence;

(d) whether the revised tariff has been introduced by these companies; and

(e) if so, from which date?

Registered institutions under I.T. Industry

†*728. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of registered institutions under IT Industry has been continuously increasing during the past years;

(b) if so, the number of such institutions during the period, 1995 to 2000, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the States where these institutions were set up; and

(d) the capital invested in these institutions?

Capacity expansion of telephone exchanges in U.P. and Haryana

*729. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand capacity of the existing telephone exchanges by providing modern communication facility in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana during the year 2002-2003;

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

(c) the funds provided by Government for the said period?

Human Development Report regarding growth and development

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Graft stunts growth: H.D. report" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 24th April, 2002; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report which have hampered growth and development in the country?

Telephone fault repair services

*731. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone fault repair service has been going from bad to worse in the Capital for past some time;

(b) the approximate number of complaints received by the different telephone exchanges every day;

(c) the time taken to attend to a complaint and restore a telephone to its normal functioning; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in some parts of the Capital *e.g.* Trans-Yamuna it takes several days to attend to a complaint, if so, the steps Government have taken to minimise the time taken in attending to the complaints?

Release of I-leap in Hindi and other Indian languages

*732. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals under Government's consideration for release of I-leap in Hindi and other Indian languages free of cost to the public through Government website;

(b) if so, by when it would be released; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider releasing it at the earliest?

Allocation of foodgrains for BPL card holders in Gujarat

*733. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented for allocation of foodgrains for BPL card holders based on survey conducted by the State Government;

(b) if so, whether the above request of the State Government is being considered; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Provision of foodgrains at concessional rates

†*734. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed a target to provide foodgrains at concessional rates;

(b) if so, the method adopted for proper distribution of the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that needy people fail to get foodgrains due to interference of middlemen and connivance of the officers; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to bring transparency in the system?

Schemes for unorganised work force

*735. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any schemes to

cater to the health and sanitation, housing, water supply and educational needs of the unorganised work force; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of unorganised workers, funds allotted for each scheme during the last three years, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise?

Schemes for promotion of cottage industries

*736. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes drawn up to promote the cottage industries in rural areas during the past five years and the benefits reaped therefrom; and

(b) the funds allocated by Government during the same period for promotion of cottage industries in Tamil Nadu in particular and other States in general?

Foodgrain export target

*737. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of foodgrain exports has since been achieved during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries to which foodgrains were exported, as well as its value and quantum;

(d) whether some countries have rejected the foodgrains on the ground of being sub-standard;

(e) if so, the facts thereof; and

(f) the impact of foodgrain export on indigenous supply and demand?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indonesian President's visit

*738. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indonesian President visited India in the month of April, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether the purpose of visit was to strengthen economic ties;
- (c) whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Eradication of poverty

*739. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inadequate funds are

blocking developmental goals to reduce poverty to half by 2015; and

- (b) the action proposed to step up efforts to remove economic hurdles for fulfilment of millennium goals to eradicate poverty?

Stock position of FCI godowns

*740. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that FCI godowns are overflowing and stocks of foodgrains lying in the open are rotting even as millions of poor people go hungry;
- (b) if so, the details of FCI stocks as on the 31st March, 2002; and
- (c) what steps Government have taken to dispose of the excess quantity of foodgrains during the last two years and with what results?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th May, 2002
Vaisakha 20, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: 725, 736,
Atomic Energy	: 726,
Coal and Mines	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 721, 723, 727, 728, 729, 731, 732,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 724, 733, 734, 737, 740,
External Affairs	: 738,
Labour	: 722, 735,
Parliamentary Affairs	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: —
Planning	: 730, 739.
Road Transport and Highways	: —
Small Scale Industries	: —
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —