

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, the December 16, 2002/Agrahayana 25, 1924 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; 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

Ban on animal testing

*361. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of
anti-snake venom has been stopped;

(b) whether ban on animal testing is
creating hurdles in research and
development efforts Pharmaceutical
companies in the country;

(c) if so, the manner in which the
companies are now supposed to test the new
medicines; and

(d) the action proposed to help the
Indian companies which are compelled to
plan animal testing abroad?

Production of commercial vehicles

*362. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the
Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND
PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to
state:

(a) the total production of commercial
vehicles in this financial year, model-wise;

(b) the total turnover of these units;

(c) whether there is any growth in the
production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total value of export earnings
through export of such vehicles?

Expansion of SCTMI

*363. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) the steps taken to expand and
improve the Sree Chithira Thirunal Medical
Institute and Research Centre (SCTMI) at
Thiruvananthapuram during the years from
1999 to April 2001; and

(b) whether Government propose to
provide enough money to equip SCTMI
with all the latest instruments required for
diagnosis and treatment in the Cardiology
and Neurology Departments?

Funds for various schemes to Karnataka

*364. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the
Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

any request from State Government of Karnataka for release of funds for (i) Scheduled Caste children whose parents are engaged in unclean occupations like tanning, scavenging of dry latrines etc., (ii) Schedule Caste students for acquisition of books under the Book Bank Scheme, (iii) incentives for inter-caste marriages (iv) to provide compensation to Scheduled Caste victims of atrocities; and

(b) the present stage of consideration of the request and by when funds are likely to be released?

Government offices outside Delhi

*365. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided long back to shift several Government offices outside Delhi to various cities of National Capital Region in order to reduce congestion in the Capital;

(b) if so, the number of such offices and organisations identified for shifting out of Delhi and how many of them have been shifted, so far;

(c) whether some of these identified offices like, Coast Guard HQ are yet to be shifted completely;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure full compliance of their orders in the matter?

**Telengiri Irrigation Project
resettlement plan**

*366. SHRIMATI SUSHREE DEVI:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Telengiri Irrigation Project located in the Koraput district of Orissa is awaiting clearance from Government for rehabilitation and resettlement plan;

(b) whether Government are also aware that on completion, this will irrigate a vast tribal area and drought-prone blocks of the region; and

(c) if so, the present status of the case?

Drug licensing powers

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

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

(a) whether Government approached the States with a proposal that it would take away the drug licensing powers currently vested with them;

(b) if so, whether this proposal for centralized licensing system for both drug manufacturing and trade alongwith a Central vigilance system would help to solve many of the vexing regulatory issues;

(c) whether this proposal was placed at the meeting of Health Ministers and Secretaries of certain major States held in New Delhi in the first week of November, 2002;

(d) if so, the decisions arrived at; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them?

**Assistance to NGOs operating in
Chhattisgarh and M.P.**

†*368. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to voluntary organisations for implementing the schemes relating to Adivasis through TRIFED in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Growth in Cement Sector

*369. SHRI ARJUN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cement Sector has not been able to exceed 10 per cent growth;

(b) if so, whether the reasons are the slack demand in western and southern markets and drought;

(c) whether in spite of this, the cement industry has managed 8-9 per cent growth during April-July, 2002; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the growth in Cement Sector?

National Waterways Project

*370. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch National Waterways Project throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the National Waterways Development Council, Madurai has submitted a proposal pertaining to the National Waterways Project;

(d) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

Coverage of FM Radio

*371. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of FM Radio Stations in the country;

(b) the percentage of population covered by these Stations;

(c) how many new FM Radio Stations are proposed to be started during the Tenth Plan, year-wise; and

(d) by when Government hope to achieve full coverage of FM Broadcast?

Vacancies in High Courts

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

(a) whether it is a fact that out of total sanctioned strength of 647 judges in country's 21 High Courts, over 150 posts of judges are still lying vacant;

(b) whether this is the main reason for mounting of cases pending with the various courts in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that neither the Law Commission's recommendations nor the repeated reminders of successive Chief Justices of the apex court have resulted in raising the strength of judges in the judiciary; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing the recommendations of the Law Commission in this regard?

Concession in bus travel for mentally retarded

*373. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a long-time demand for concession in bus travel to the mentally retarded persons has not been met; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to instruct the concerned authorities to give concession/free travel facility to mentally retarded persons alongwith an escort as is available while travelling by rail?

Cargo handling capacity of ports

*374. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the volume of cargo handled by major ports in the country during the last two years, month-wise and port-wise, with particular reference to Kandla Port;

(b) whether Government have a plan to modernise the major ports to enhance their cargo handling capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, port-wise?

BPL people in NER

*375. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of people who are below the poverty line in the NER as on 31st October, 2002; and

(b) the number of schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented for the welfare of poor people in the region?

Sex-determination tests

*376. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has

recently directed the States to take action against clinics which resort to sex-determination advertisements;

(b) if so, the action taken by his Ministry;

(c) whether his Ministry has evolved any mechanism to stop such clinics from giving publicity to sex-determination tests;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Efficacy of contraceptive RISUG

*377. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the male injectable contraceptive RISUG is under the threat of ban;

(b) whether it is also a fact that premier hospitals in India have given a clean chit to the drug; and

(c) if so, whether Government would examine the efficacy of the new drug?

Achievement of production target by PSUs

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

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 5 industrial establishments out of 46 industrial establishments under his Ministry have achieved their production target during the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the names of such PSUs which failed to achieve their production target during the said period; and

(d) the reasons for less production as compared to the target?

High cost of Rabies injection

†*379. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cost of Rabies injection is too high in the country and it is beyond the reach of poor people and as a result common man has to face a lot of problems and many people die as they are not able to buy the Rabies injection;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any arrangement for providing Rabies injection at low cost to people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Identification of sensitive areas of dangerous diseases

*380. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has identified any sensitive areas in the country likely to be the source of many dangerous diseases like Dengue, Malaria, etc.; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to prevent such diseases and its spreading?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th December, 2002
Agrahayana 19, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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