

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the March 17, 2005/Phalguna 26, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

#### **New rail and bus links between India and Pakistan**

\*221. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:  
PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal for the  
new rail and bus links between India and  
Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have examined  
its viability;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the security implication of  
such links was taken into consideration  
before making such announcements; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **New band of airwaves to operators**

\*222. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNI-  
CATIONS AND INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to  
allocate a new band of airwaves (3 G  
applications) to operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some operators have  
requested to allocate spectrum in the new  
band of airwaves known as PCS 1900  
which has been opposed by other  
operators;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons advanced by the  
opposing operators?

#### **Call charges by different service providers**

\*223. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

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

(a) the details of cellular and WLL  
service providers in different parts of the  
country; and

(b) whether Government have any plan  
to advise the Regulatory Authority to  
introduce a system so that rates chargeable  
by different service providers are  
more understandable to the ordinary  
consumer?

### **Rampant cloning of SIM cards**

\*224. SHRIMATI VANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of rampant cloning of mobile SIM cards has raised serious questions over the matter of security not only of mobile phone users but also of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/ to be taken by Government in this regard?

### **Restructuring plan for HDPEL**

\*225. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three member Committee headed by CMD, Cochin Shipyard Limited was formed in October, 2004 to prepare a revival-cum-financial restructuring plan for Hoogly Dock and Ports Engineers Ltd. (HDPEL);

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted the plan, if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Action against corrupt public servants**

\*226. SHRIMATI. SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any action against corrupt public servants of various departments booked by CBI recently;

(b) whether Government have decided to terminate such officials from service;

(c) how many such corrupt officials were suspended or terminated till January, 2005; and

(d) the details thereof, department-wise?

### **Settling of unskilled workers in United Kingdom**

\*227. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unskilled settlers from developing countries will now not be permitted to stay in United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Indian unskilled workers will also be affected?

### **Foreign Direct Investment from NRIs**

\*228. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for liberalising Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to facilitate higher inflow of FDI from NRIs and PIOs in group housing, real estate development, agriculture and plantation; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

### **Employment through SSIs in Tamil Nadu**

\*229. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in employment generated through small scale industries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of people employed through SSIs in Tamil Nadu during the last five years;

(c) whether Government are implementing any scheme for generation of employment through SSIs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Upgradation of National Highways**

\*230. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI MOOLCHAND  
MEENA:

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

(a) whether Government have proposed to spend Rs. 1,72,000 crores for upgrading the National Highways;

(b) whether these proposals include the 3rd phase of National Highways Development Programme to provide links between ports and National Highways;

(c) whether to fund the mega project, his Ministry are considering to seek market borrowings worth Rs. 30,000 crores and also external assistance and also from private capital to meet demands for completion of these projects; and

(d) to what extent Government have been able to collect money and the progress made, so far?

#### **Agreement with Anti Doping Agency**

\*231. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have signed an agreement with the World Anti Doping Agency, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to educate athletes about anti doping, and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Repair and maintenance of works under MPLADS**

†\*232. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:  
Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the agency responsible for repair and maintenance of works got done under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) whether any directions have been issued separately to the State Governments for this and whether any procedure has been prescribed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the arrangement for monitoring at Government level under this scheme?

#### **Promotion of core sector enterprises**

†\*233. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is essential to promote the enterprises of core sector in order to increase the annual growth rate of the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether Government have identified such enterprises of the core sector;

(d) if so, the names of those enterprises and whether it includes irrigation system also; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Lowering of Access Deficit Charges**

\*234. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competent Authority lowered Access Deficit Charges (ADC) and increased call charges of public call offices (PCOs) during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, details including payment received by BSNL due to ADC charges for last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, the expected revenue loss to BSNL due to lowering of ADC;

(d) the expected revenue from increase of call charges from PCOs;

(e) whether many private operators have to pay dues to BSNL on ADC charges; and

(f) if so, the details including amount of charges yet to be received from private parties?

### **Assets of VSNL**

†\*235. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assets of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. at present;

(b) the amount of money for which it had been sold to private players last year; and

(c) whether Government propose to compensate for the financial loss suffered by Government?

### **Tax charged on part of BOT concept**

\*236. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on some inter-State highways or bridges, motorists have to pay a charge as part of BOT concept or otherwise;

(b) if so, the details of such places in the country where such charges are being levied at present;

(c) the duration of period for which such charge is required to be paid; and

(d) whether there is any mechanism installed at any of such places displaying the amount collected so far and the remaining duration or amount that remains to be collected; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Biotechnology related proposals**

\*237. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures his Ministry are taking to give single-window clearance to all the biotechnology related proposals;

(b) what is the total export Indian biotechnology has made during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the exports in the next three years?

### **Investment in equities**

\*238. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the return on

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Employees Provident Fund Organisation's investment is declining and to strike a balance between the rate of earning and rate of interest offered to workers, it is proposed to consider the option of investing some portion of its assets in equities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that private provident funds have been allowed superannuation and gratuity funds to invest upto 5 per cent of their assets in equity of Blue-chip companies;

(c) if so, the quantum of such investment; and

(d) whether any criteria has been laid down for such investment?

#### **National Highways in Rajasthan**

†\*239. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some portions of the National Highways in the State of Rajasthan have not been constructed as per the prescribed standard and a 62 Km. long stretch of these National Highways has been left unconstructed;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has apprised his Ministry of the fact that the width of these National Highways is still inadequate;

(c) the action being taken for upgrading these National Highways into two lane and by when the sanction for the same is likely to be accorded; and

(d) the additional amount required for all this work and by when it is likely to be released?

#### **Sponsorship to sportspersons**

\*240. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to fully sponsor sportsmen who can finally be trained for international events;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether it is a fact that talented sportspersons from rural areas will not be able to compete in the international events?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 11th March, 2005*  
*Phalguna 20, 1926 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

## **INDEX**

**(Ministry-wise)**

<b>Prime Minister</b>	: —
<b>Agro and Rural Industries</b>	: —
<b>Atomic Energy</b>	: —
<b>Communications and Information Technology</b>	: 222, 223, 224, 234, 235,
<b>External Affairs</b>	: 221, 227,
<b>Labour and Employment</b>	: 238,
<b>Ocean Development</b>	: —
<b>Overseas Indian Affairs</b>	: 228,
<b>Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</b>	: 226,
<b>Planning</b>	: 233,
<b>Science and Technology</b>	: 237,
<b>Shipping, Road Transport and Highways</b>	: 225, 230, 236, 239,
<b>Small Scale Industries</b>	: 229,
<b>Space</b>	: —
<b>Statistics and Programme Implementation</b>	: 232,
<b>Youth Affairs and Sports</b>	: 231, 240.