

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the March 17, 2006/Phalguna 26, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries; Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Steel)

Total number of questions — 20

Damage to Kirandul-Visakhapatnam rail track due to overloading

*341. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 472 kilometers long rail track from Kirandul to Visakhapatnam is in danger of heavy damage due to overloading of iron ores in goods trains;

(b) whether some trains were recently cancelled due to damage to the tracks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount lost due to such cancellation;

(e) the reasons for not taking prompt action;

(f) whether the geologists have also expressed fear about this track;

(g) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(h) the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation?

Threat from Atmospheric Brown Cloud

*342. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC), a terminology generally used for the enormous blanket of pollution comprising ash, acids, etc., reduces the chances of monsoon rains substantially in the subcontinent thereby causing potential threat to the agricultural harvests;

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to tackle the threat;

(c) whether any study to assess its impact on our country has been carried out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Quality of fruits and vegetables
supplied through Mother
Dairy outlets**

*343. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of vegetables and fruits particularly onions and potatoes supplied through the Mother Dairy outlets in Delhi is inferior;

(b) whether any check is exercised by the senior officers of his Ministry on the officials of the organization responsible for procurement;

(c) if so, at what level and whether any irregularities/corruption in the procurement have come to the light; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to ensure reasonable good quality of vegetables and fruits at reasonable prices are made available through Mother Dairy outlets in the State?

Leprosy patients in the country

†*344. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 62 per cent of the world's leprosy patients are in our country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the largest number of such patients are there in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal;

(c) whether there is no qualitative change in its present status despite the leprosy eradication programme of Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the existing number of Leprosy patients and their condition, State-wise and the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

**Venture capital fund for dairy and
poultry industry**

*345. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a new NABARD-sponsored venture capital fund for dairy and poultry industry with corpus of Rs. 25 crores for three years;

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure that provision of its micro-credit to individual entrepreneurs, unemployed youths, etc. percolates to tribals and other deprived sections of the society for their gainful employment; and

(c) whether the backward and tribal districts of Chhattisgarh and Yavatmal in Maharashtra would be identified for selective operation of this scheme for the year 2007, through NGOs or cooperative societies functioning in such districts?

**Assistance to Madhya Pradesh for
fishery development**

†*346. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1056 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has made a proposal for sanctioning Rs. 52.49 lakhs for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

development of fishery in reservoirs under construction and constructed under the Narmada Valley Development Project; and

(b) if so, by when the said amount would be provided to the State?

Gauge conversion in north-eastern region

*347. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of rail lines that are under conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge;

(b) the names of metre gauge lines that are not under such conversion;

(c) whether in the north-eastern region rail lines are mostly in metre-gauge and due to this reason the goods are subjected to frequent loading and unloading for transportation outside the region causing additional financial burden and this also consumes a lot of time; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated to overcome these problems?

Indian Public Health Standards

*348. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first-ever draft of the Indian Public Health Standards, to have uniform guidelines to provide quality healthcare in the country, has been released by his Ministry recently;

(b) whether it is a part and parcel of the National Rural Health Mission inaugurated by the Prime Minister recently; and

(c) the minimum functional grade prescribed for community health centres?

Mangrove forests

*349. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of mangrove forests in the country in acres, State-wise;

(b) the details of mangrove forests and their locations specifically in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government extends protection to mangrove forests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Programme for checking infant and maternal mortality

*350. SHRI B.J. PANDA: MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa Government proposes to launch a new programme with the assistance of World Bank to check the high infant and maternal mortality rate in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government also proposes to raise its sanitation standards and improve other health-care facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the action plan of the Centre to help this backward region to achieve these laudable goals?

Deficient forest cover in Punjab, Haryana, U.P., etc.

*351. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab, Haryana, UP and

other parts of northern India, being mainly agricultural areas, are markedly deficient in Forest-Tree-Cover (FTC);

(b) whether declining prices of wood in the context of free import of wood under OGL presents added disincentive to farm-forestry;

(c) if so, whether with the twin objectives of increasing Forest-Tree-Cover (FTC) and generating viable employment opportunities, the Government of Punjab and other State Governments have requested the Centre to provide incentives to farm-forestry while imposing countervailing duties on import of wood and wood products; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

Ticketing system at Bangalore City railway station

*352. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to increase the number of reservation and other ticket issuing counters for various trains departing from Bangalore City railway station;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce IT enabled ticketing system at the station; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Production and export of horticulture items

*353. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved

a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in North East, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal for enhancement of assistance of components of TMNE at par with National Horticulture Mission (NHM) to help a large number of farmers, entrepreneurs and exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any road map has been drawn to boost production and export of horticulture items in the above States?

Policy for purchase of antibiotics

*354. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase antibiotics only from public sector manufacturers, instead of through market, using open tender route;

(b) whether it is a fact that the distributors are purchasing antibiotics at very low rates from PSUs and supplying them to Government hospitals at the rate contracts offered by the PSUs;

(c) whether Government's directive on purchasing antibiotics only from PSUs violates an Andhra Pradesh High Court order; and

(d) if the answers to above parts be in the affirmative, the action Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

Implementation of NAIS

*355. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States and Union Territories

where National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is not implemented and the reasons thereof;

(b) the details regarding the premium income the claims settled and the farmers benefited during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 till today;

(c) whether it is a fact that many past claims of Gujarat and Maharashtra have not been settled till today inspite of many representations;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the rate of premium on cotton is very high compared to other items; and

(e) the details of items covered under the scheme and the future plans to expand the areas and cover more items especially in drought prone States?

Decrease in agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh

*356. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of some of the agricultural products such as foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane, jute etc. in Andhra Pradesh has come down gradually during the last five years, causing a serious concern;

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to revitalize the agriculture sector, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the manner in which State has benefited under the Macro Management Programme; and

(d) the area in hectares of the State covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation?

Assistance to FPIs

†*357. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Food Processing Industries (FPI) during the last three years under the plan development scheme by the Central Government; State-wise;

(b) the details of the efforts made by the Central Government for the establishment, modernisation and upgradation of food processing industry units in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the details of food processing units established/modernised during the last three years in the State as a result of these efforts, district-wise?

Allocations to Ayurvedic System of Medicine

†*358. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the National Policy, 10 per cent of the total allocated amount should be allotted to Ayurvedic System of Medicine;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the total allocated amount was only two per cent during the previous years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of average amount allocated for Ayurvedic System of Medicine every year since 2004?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New Pharmaceutical Policy

*359. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether process for finalizing New
Pharmaceutical Policy is on the anvil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to
change the present methods of fixing prices
of drugs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal to
allow the drug companies to fix the prices
of drugs other than the National
Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)?

**Standardization of treatment charges
in private hospitals**

*360. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the
Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to
take any initiative to standardize treatment
charges and bed charges by private
hospitals in the country;
- (b if so, the details of the steps proposed
to be taken so as to protect the interests of
poor and middle class people in this regard;
and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 11th March, 2006
Phalguna 20, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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