

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the December 17, 2004/ Agrahayana 26, 1926 (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

Violation of labour laws

*241. SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:
SHRIDIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Railways is aware of the gross violation of labour laws, pertaining to minimum wages, right to form union etc. and anti-workers activities by Hindustan Construction Company (HCC), the contractor engaged in construction work in Banihal in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry of Railways, as principal employer, to stop repression directly or indirectly by HCC on the above contractor's workers comprising migrant, dalit and minorities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Loss due to increase in price of steel

†*242. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Railways are making any loss due to frequent increase in the price of steel;

(b) if so, the details of the loss;

(c) whether Government are trying to find out substitute of steel;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating to manufacture aluminium wagons in place of steel wagons?

New technologies/systems to check the loss of foodgrains

*243. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have assigned the task of evolving new technologies/systems to check the loss of foodgrains and post-crop production to some Central Research Organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any headway has been made so far?

CGHS Homoeopathic dispensaries

*244. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new CGHS Homoeopathic dispensaries opened in Delhi since 1987 till date, year-wise and location-wise;

(b) if not, the specific reasons therefor;

(c) the number of new CGHS Allopathic dispensaries opened in Delhi since 1987 till date, year-wise and location-wise; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government to set up new CGHS Homoeopathic dispensaries in comparison to Allopathic dispensaries in Delhi?

(a) whether Government have decided to provide incentives to States for meeting Rabi targets;

(b) if so, the steps being taken and incentives that are being provided to States to meet Rabi targets;

(c) whether any concrete programme of action has been prepared to meet the shortage of Kharif production which was affected due to delay in monsoon;

(d) whether despite sluggish Kharif production, foodgrain output in 2004 has been up; and

(e) if so, whether Government are confident of meeting foodgrain shortage so that the demand of foodgrains by States are fully met?

Joint study by AIIMS and World Bank

*245. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study jointly carried out by AIIMS and World Bank, 69 per cent of the injections given at Government hospitals are unsafe and contribute in spreading diseases like AIDS, Hepatitis and Malaria;

(b) if so, the other revelations made by the above study; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated by Government on the outcome of the study?

Incentives for Rabi production targets

*246. PROF. ALKA BALRAM

KSHATRIYA:

DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

Landscape railway stations

*247. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to landscape railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue from the proposal?

Infant deaths

*248. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks first in the total number of child deaths, with 2.4 million dying before the age of five, whereas China with a higher population base, ranks third with 7,84,000 child deaths;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, indicating figures of neonatal mortality rate

during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) what preventive measures Government have taken, so far, to control infant deaths/gender bias from birth prevalent in certain States like Orissa etc. and need of raising awareness and strengthening laws in this regard?

Bogie frame of standard gauge

*249. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways have developed a bogie frame of standard gauge, which is the gauge used by Railways all over the world;

(b) if so, the details of the plan drawn up for its introduction on the Indian Railways, which, presently, has entirely different gauges—broad, metre and narrow—so as to integrate the Indian Railways with the railway system of the world; and

(c) the details of initiatives taken, if any, to explore the possibility of exporting such standard gauge railway coaches to earn foreign exchange?

Afforestation in Assam

*250. SHRIMATISYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money released by Government for afforestation in Assam for the year 2004-05;

(b) whether afforestation works have begun; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Procurement of crane from Switzerland

†*251. PROF. RAM DEO

BHANDARY:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has procured a crane worth Rs. 800 crore from a Swiss company which has not been utilized so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether irregularities and scam have been committed in the procurement and the said crane is of inferior quality and of lesser capacity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether two former Railway Ministers have recommended to look into the matter; if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government propose to conduct a high level enquiry thereon; if so, the details thereof?

Utilization of World Bank aid for Gir forest

*252. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large sums of money have been spent on Eco-development scheme on Gir Range in Gujarat under National Park and Sanctuary Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years together with utilization of funds;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a World Bank team visited Sasan (Gir forest) to make an assessment of how World Bank

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

aid has been utilised for development of the forest, lions and infrastructure of adjoining villages of the Gir Range; and

(d) if so, the details of observation of the World Bank team in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

Integrated Disease Monitoring Project

†*253. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States in the country where Integrated Disease Monitoring Project has been initiated and the amount Government is likely to spend to complete the said project;

(b) whether the said project is going to be initiated in country's two biggest States, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent of the impact likely to affect the health facilities in these two States in the event of non-starting of the Project?

Overloading in the Railways

*254. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scam of overloading in the Railways has been going on for number of years causing immense financial loss to the Railways;

(b) whether the said scam has since been exposed and if so, the details of action taken by the Railways in the matter including filing of FIRs and blacklisting the firms; and

(c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for monitoring freight movement than mere transfer only?

Privatisation of catering services

*255. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to privatise the catering service in Railways;

(b) if not, the reasons to entrust the catering service to Tourism Corporation; and

(c) what steps are being taken to safeguard the livelihood of the present workers?

Sky-bus metro project

*256. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the need for the sky-bus metro, a Konkan Railway Project, in the country which is considered to be safer, technically sound, eco-friendly and fitted with anti-pollution devices (SEDS) and also cost effective in comparison to underground and allevated metro rail;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to accord a green signal to this long standing demand for the project; and

(c) when the project is finally expected to start?

Kerosene distribution through PDS

*257. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that kerosene is distributed through fair price outlets under Public Distribution System to domestic consumers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the scheme and number of families covered and volume distributed, year-wise since 1994-95;

(c) the details of the special scheme, if any, for consumers belonging to BPL category along with details thereof;

(d) the amount of subsidy involved per litre distributed in respective category;

(e) whether there are complaints about substantial diversion of PDS kerosene to unscrupulous use for adulteration of diesel and other fuel; and

(f) the action, if any, taken to plug it?

Quazigund-Baramula Rail Project

†*258. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether time-over run has taken place with regard to Quazigund-Baramula Rail Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Incentive for research standard in agriculture

*259. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any incentive scheme for bringing the research level of agricultural research and development institutions of the country above the international standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Musi River Conservation Project

*260. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Musi River Conservation Project was launched by Government in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when was it launched and targeted for completion;

(c) the amount earmarked for the project and released till date; and

(d) the present status of the project?

NEW DELHI;
The 11th December, 2004
Agrahayana 20, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	:	243, 246, 259,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	:	—
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	257,
Environment and Forests	:	250, 252, 260,
Food Processing Industries	:	—
Health and Family Welfare	:	244, 245, 248, 253,
Railways	:	241, 242, 247, 249, 251, 254, 255, 256, 258.
Steel	:	—