

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 18, 2005/Phalguna 27, 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

Additional funds to South Central Railway for passenger amenities

*241. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Central Railway approached Railway Board for grant of additional funds to the tune of Rs. 20 crores during the current year for various passenger amenities;

(b) if so, whether Government would assure of releasing this additional grant for the current year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NACO to remove bottlenecks

*242. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) had offered a unique option to remove bottlenecks, streamline communications and ensure better utilisation of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NACO had signed any Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National Commission on Farmers

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has initiated action to prepare reports on some of the fundamental issues affecting the lives and livelihood of farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has decided to make primary reports of four priority areas such as 'farmers distress and suicides', 'causes and cures', 'rainfed or dryland' and 'women farmers and the role of Panchayati Raj institutions';

(c) whether the Commission has already completed the study in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision for implementing the schemes prepared would be taken?

Food Parks

*244. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Food Parks set up in the country, State-wise, as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) whether adequate infrastructure facilities have been made available to these Parks;

(c) the number of new Food Parks proposed to be set up during the current financial year in each State; and

(d) total amount sanctioned under the scheme?

Model Act on agricultural marketing

*245. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in January, Government have circulated a Model Act on agricultural marketing asking States to amend their laws and allow private players to set markets for sale of farm produce;

(b) whether launching of Horticulture Mission and a new Weather Insurance Scheme would be more beneficial for Indian agriculture; and

(c) if so, the other steps being considered by Government to improve agricultural sector in year 2005-06?

Diseases in old people

*246. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a WHO-sponsored study

conducted by the doctors of Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi, on the geriatric problems has revealed high incidence of diabetes, hypertension and cardiac troubles among old people about which they are neither aware nor have any control over it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address these problems and create an awareness amongst the senior citizens?

Government's policy on new pharmacies

*247. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether affordability of drugs in the product patent era is considered a priority by the present Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up pharmacies across the country;

(c) whether his Ministry has decided to focus on healthcare and access to cheap drugs by setting up pharmacy chains through a Centre-State initiative;

(d) if so, whether the proposal has been prepared and by what time it is likely to be announced; and

(e) to what extent it will be helpful for the people to have cheaper drugs?

Project on health

*248. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the UN's State of World Population Report,

2004, there is an urgent need for India to spend more on health and education;

(b) if so, the percentage of GDP Government are spending on health for the last ten years, year-wise;

(c) the allocation that has been made by Government to health sector during the said period, year-wise; and

(d) the allocation that has been made by all States to health sector during the said period, year-wise?

Food safety

*249. SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of laws seeking to ensure food safety;

(b) whether it is also a fact that none of these laws is effectively enforced; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to consolidate or minimize these laws for better enforcement; if not, the reasons therefor?

Dismantling old ships

*250. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old and obsolete ships are being dismantled under wholly inadequate conditions on the beaches of India and adjoining countries;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the hazardous materials these ships are depositing on our seas;

(c) whether Government have lodged

any protest with Britain or other countries, found indulging in this illegal practice; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

Rail Museums

†*251. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Rail Museums in the country;

(b) the amount allocated for the maintenance of the same, every year;

(c) whether the amount is fully utilized; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Meeting of State Environment Ministers

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

(a) whether two days meeting of State Environment Ministers held in September, 2004 opposed or rejected the proposed reforms in the procedure for granting environmental clearance to development projects;

(b) if so, the details of States, suggestions that Government should form an independent monitoring and evaluation agency to assess compliance of the spirit of Environment Protection Act, 1986;

(c) if so, how many State Governments demanded delegation of powers to them on the projects of national importance;

(d) if so, what were the main decisions taken; and

(e) how many suggestions have been accepted and implemented?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Tigers population in Sariska Reserve

*253. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS

KAUR:

SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 524 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 2005 and to state:

(a) whether a Worldwide Life Fund (WWF)-India, expert team has found that there is not a single sign of evidence-direct or indirect to indicate presence of tigers in Sariska Reserve;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the WWF expert team in respect of Sariska Reserve, indicating the population of tigers in the reserve according to the last three counts and the causes of depletion in the tiger population; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to protect, preserve and promote the tiger population in the Sariska and other reserves and sanctuaries and the results thereof?

Interim report of National Commission on Farmers

*254. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers was appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to study the situation regarding the lifestyles of farmers in India;

(b) whether the Commission has submitted any interim report or made any interim recommendations;

(c) whether Government have accepted such interim report or recommendations;

(d) if so, the stage of implementation of these recommendations; and

(e) whether Government, in view of the experience gained, propose to make any changes in the constitution of the Commission?

Refusal by US and Australia to sign Kyoto Protocol

*255. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US and Australia have refused to sign Kyoto Protocol adopted by the International community;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these two countries are the top polluters of the world; and

(c) if so, what kind of pressure India would like to exercise to make US and Australia agree to sign the Protocol?

Save girl child

*256. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh initiative to save girl child;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any policy to give incentives or to provide major benefits, in addition to the existing benefits, to the employees who take part in the family planning with only girl child; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to increase the percentage of girl child?

Mashelkar Committee on Drug Prices

*257. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the major recommendation of Mashelkar Committee on Drug Prices;
- (b) the details of the recommendations implemented by Government;
- (c) whether Government are keeping a tab of the price structure of drugs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Private diagnostic labs at Safdarjung Hospital

*258. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi has become a hub of private diagnostic labs;
- (b) whether reports have come in that a majority of tests are done by these private labs in a very organised manner; and
- (c) if so, the action plan of Government to control this menace?

Unauthorised reservations from VIP quota

*259. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that unauthorized persons or institutions are being given confirmed reservations from VIP quota by DCM, Ahmedabad Railway Division of Western Railway;
- (b) whether any complaints have been received by the Railways in this respect; and
- (c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the concerned officers in this regard?

Medicine pricing policy

†*260. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are contemplating to amend the present policy regarding pricing of medicines;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government have received complaints of misuse or drawbacks of present policy; and
- (c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 12th March, 2005
Phalgun 21, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 247, 257, 260,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: —
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