

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the April 18, 2002/Chaitra 28, 1924 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;  
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food  
and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour; Parliamentary  
Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning;  
Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries;  
Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total Number of questions—20

#### Telephone connections to senior citizens

\*361. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior citizens are provided telephone connections on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received by Government from senior citizens for new telephone connections during January, 2002, in Gaya, Bihar, in general and Delha Mohalla in particular; and

(d) by when these applications would be cleared and installation of telephones completed?

#### Cable theft in Mainpuri

†\*362. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:  
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of cable theft have increased in district Mainpuri, U.P. during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures contemplated to deal with the problem;

(d) whether it is also a fact that complaints have been received to the effect that telephones remained out of order for quite a long time during this period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and efforts made to rectify the same?

#### Foodgrains Management Policy

\*363. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report, captioned, "Foodgrains Management Policy in limbo" appearing in the Hindu dated the 8th March, 2002;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when a firm Foodgrains Management Policy is likely to be put in place; and

(c) whether the opinion of the various State Governments with regard to the Foodgrains Management Policy is likely to be solicited before finalising the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Over charging by PCOs**

†\*364. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PCOs in the country are charging at old rates even now;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any steps to check this; and

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

#### **Transit of foodgrains**

†\*365. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculture experts have demanded Government for immediate repeal of the Essential Commodities Act, with a view to providing for unhindered transit of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether such demands had also been made previously;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not repealing the same; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the demands raised by the experts?

#### **Graduate Level Main Examination, 1999 by SSC**

\*366. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final results of the Combined Graduate Level Main Examination, 1999, were declared by the Staff Selection Commission in the last week of January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether dossiers of the successful candidates for the posts of Income Tax Inspector and Assistant are yet to be forwarded to the concerned Departments;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in forwarding the dossiers; and

(d) by when the dossiers would be sent to the concerned departments so that they could issue the offers of appointment to the successful candidates?

#### **Use of rubber bitumen in constructing roads**

\*367. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:  
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether any study has been conducted on the viability of using rubber bitumen in constructing roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has sent any request to the Union Government seeking use of rubber bitumen in the construction of National Highways and other roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by Government thereon?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Rise in buffer stock of foodgrains**

\*368. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the buffer stock of foodgrains by the end of this year is estimated to rise from the existing 580 lakh tonnes to more than 675 lakh tonnes;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to tackle this problem; and

(c) whether Government would consider to revamp the Public Distribution System (PDS) and if so, the details thereof?

**Lifting of control over foodgrains**

\*369. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to free foodgrains from its control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when Government are going to introduce the Warehousing Receipt Act which would enable the farmers to go to a private owner of a warehouse for better price of their produce; and

(d) what are the salient features of the proposed policy?

**Closing down of PCO/STD booths in J&K**

\*370. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCO and STD booths closed down in Jammu and Kashmir due to acute militancy, recently, district-wise;

(b) how many employees have been rendered jobless and income-less in the State, district-wise;

(c) what steps the Central and State Governments propose to take for rehabilitating such jobless youths in the State where lacs of educated youth have been facing unemployment; and

(d) by when such PCO/STD booths would be revived?

**Integrated Test Facilities**

\*371. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integrated Test Facilities (ITF) of Jessop and Company Ltd. is being treated as National Test House for testing of Underground Mining Roof Supports for use in the Indian mines;

(b) if so, whether the same purpose can be served after the proposed privatisation/disinvestment of Jessop and Company Ltd.; and

(c) if not, the action taken by Government to maintain the present status of ITF?

**Carry forward of unused telephone calls**

\*372. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to carry forward unused telephone calls to next quarter of the year; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Allocation of shops and PDS dealership to SCs/STs in tribal areas**

\*373. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to allocate shops and PDS dealership in tribal areas to SC/ST categories only; and

(b) the action taken to sanction loan to the allottees from the National Scheduled Caste Financial Development Corporation (N.S.F.D.C.) with sale guarantee?

**Employment growth**

\*374. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of employment growth in the country during the period 1987—1994 and 1994—2001, period-wise, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rate of employment growth is dwindling; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**I.T. in Northern States**

\*375. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Northern States are far behind the Southern States

in the field of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to remove this regional imbalance; and

(d) in what manner Government plan to promote Information Technology in the Northern States?

**Declaration of National Highways in Karnataka**

\*376. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Highways, indicating their length, declared as National Highways, so far, since 1998-99, in various States;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has requested his Ministry to declare approximately 1100 Kilometre of roads as National Highways; and

(c) if so, the details of the projects and the action taken by his Ministry in this regard?

**Lowering of telephone charges**

\*377. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone is essential for lower middle class and retired employees;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the number of free calls and reduce the rental charges to help the poor subscriber; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Upgradation of PCO Centres**

\*378. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India PCO Franchises Association has appealed to Government to upgrade PCO Centres to 'Multiple Internet Services Centres' to generate revenue for PCOs; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accede to this request?

### **Nepalese Prime Minister's visit to India**

\*379. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussions that

took place with the Nepalese Prime Minister during his recent five day official visit to India;

(b) whether issues like increasing security on the border, removing trade barriers recently imposed by India, were discussed;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **E-bill facility**

\*380. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of E-bill facility operated by Post Offices;

(b) whether Government are going to establish E-bill post service centres in various parts of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 12th April, 2002*  
*Chaitra 22, 1924 (Saka)*

R.C. TRIPATHI,  
*Secretary-General.*

**I N D E X**  
(Ministry-wise)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Prime Minister</b>                                     | : —   |
| <b>Agro and Rural Industries</b>                          | : —   |
| <b>Atomic Energy</b>                                      | : —   |
| <b>Communications and<br/>Information Technology</b>      | : 361, 362, 364, 370, 372, 375,<br>377, 378, 380, |
| <b>Consumer Affairs,<br/>Food and Public Distribution</b> | : 363, 365, 368, 369, 373,                        |
| <b>External Affairs</b>                                   | : 379,  |
| <b>Labour</b>   | : 371,  |
| <b>Parliamentary Affairs</b>                              | : —   |
| <b>Personnel, Public Grievances<br/>and Pensions</b>      | : 366,  |
| <b>Planning</b>   | : 374,  |
| <b>Road Transport and Highways</b>                        | : 367, 376.                                       |
| <b>Small Scale Industries</b>                             | : —   |
| <b>Space</b>  | : —   |
| <b>Statistics and Programme<br/>Implementation</b>        | : —   |