

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the May 18, 2006/Vaisakha 28, 1928 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Coal; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Information and Broadcasting; Overseas Indian Affairs; Panchayati Raj; Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Urban Development; Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 20

Strengthening of Prasar Bharti

*481. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to strengthen the Prasar Bharti;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government had constituted a Group of Ministers in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details of deliberations made by the Group of Ministers in their meetings?

Development of NH Nos. 57 and 57-A

†*482. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a length of about 7300 kilometers of National

Highways is being developed as PSEW corridor and built into a four lane highway;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that the process of construction is proceeding at a snail's pace;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is little change in the status with regard to National Highway Nos. 57 and 57-A on East-West corridor; and

- (d) if so, the details of the latest position with regard to the above three stretches?

Visa to visit Nankana Sahib

*483. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pilgrims travelling to Nankana Sahib from Amritsar by bus, can get the visa at the entry point;

(b) if not, what steps are being taken to facilitate their travel; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for which pilgrims have to come to Delhi to get the visa to travel a short distance of a few kilometers?

NURM funds for Pune Municipal Corporation

*484. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pune Municipal Corporation has asked for Rs. 1030 crores of funds from NURM for meeting the rapidly growing infrastructure needs of one of the fastest growing IT location in the country;

(b) if so, what is the status of the application; and

(c) whether NURM would extend assistance preferably to other cities like Pune which do not have adequate infrastructure funding as they are not even State capitals?

Training to sports persons

*485. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving any training to the Indian sports persons to face challenges in the Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi in 2010;

(b) if so, the details of such training provided/to be provided;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose for the coming years, year-wise;

(d) whether Government had identified the main venues to conduct the sports events;

(e) the present status of construction of each venue;

(f) whether the construction is meeting the international standards; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Basic amenities for slum dwellers in Metros

†*486. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people in slum clusters in metropolitan cities specially in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are living in miserable conditions;

(b) whether Government propose to take any effective steps to provide necessary basic amenities like power, pollution free environment, sewerage, drinking water to the people living in such slum clusters in the country, specially in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Performance of Missions abroad

*487. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any mechanism for the annual appraisal of the diplomatic, economic, academic and consular performances of the Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the details of the tangible parameters alongwith the rating of the Missions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Popularity of Doordarshan *vis-a-vis* private channels

*488. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Doordarshan *vis-a-vis* other private channels in terms of reach, revenue and popularity;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any study to ascertain the above facts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Automatic toll plazas

*489. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced its decision to install sophisticated equipment for automatic toll calculation and deduction for the upcoming toll roads;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal along with the total cost to be incurred in this regard; and

(c) the estimated financial benefits likely to accrue from installation of the said equipment?

Punjabi News Unit, Jalandhar

*490. DR. M.S. GILL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since 1966, Punjab does not have fully staffed and empowered Punjabi News Unit at Jalandhar and poor quality Punjabi News are fed to Jalandhar from Chandigarh UT and Delhi; and

(b) is this the policy for all States of the country?

Stand on Nepal's political development

*491. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to present the nation's cohesive stand on Nepal's recent political development;

(b) if not, the details of India's position thereon;

(c) to what extent the democratic experiment in Nepal would be sustainable given the growing influence of Maoists in Nepal's political scenario;

(d) whether resurgence of Nepal's Maoist forces is a threat to India's internal security in terms of further strengthening of Maoism and Naxalism in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of measures taken/proposed to be taken to counter the situation?

Regional passport offices in Uttar Pradesh

*492. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of proper staff at the regional passport offices in the States, particularly Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that due to the staff shortage the 'Haj Pilgrims' in U.P. have to face a lot of difficulties;

(c) whether Central Government are taking action for providing proper staff strength at the passport offices in Uttar Pradesh to enable all the persons seeking passports to get them well in time; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Revival of coastline

*493. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are all set for revival of India's coastline and have approached the Planning Commission to seek World Bank's assistance of Rs. 500 crores to save India's 7516 km. long coastline; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Bangalore Metro Rail Project

*494. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have approved the Bangalore Metro Rail Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of phases in which this project will be completed; and

(d) by when this prestigious project would be completed?

Construction of highways in Uttaranchal

*495. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to speed up construction of highways in backward, hilly and remote areas of Uttaranchal in respect of projects which are part of the IIIrd phase of National Highway Development Programme; and

(b) if so, the backward regions of the State which are likely to be benefited by the above decision along with details thereof?

Plan to end capital's land use trouble

*496. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan to put an end to capital's mushrooming land use trouble;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is proposed to be implemented?

Backward Hindus of Sindh region in Pakistan

†*497. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the standard of living of backward Hindus in the Sindh region of Pakistan is below poverty line;

(b) if so, whether any Non-Government Organization of Pakistan has carried out any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made to improve the condition of backward Hindus by Government of India after negotiating with Government of Pakistan?

Decline in the profit of MTNL

*498. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL has reported 36.5 per cent decline in its profits during the third quarter ended December, 2005;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) what is the action plan of the Government to control further decline in profits?

Backlog vacancies

*499. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2004 in his Ministry and various Departments under the Ministry;

(b) whether a special drive was carried out to fill in the above backlog vacancies;

(c) if so, the number of vacancies filled in during the last two years, Department-wise; and

(d) what are the backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2006?

Indian workers in Afghanistan

*500. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in November, 2005 M. Kutty, a driver working with BRO, was abducted by the Taliban and three days later his body was found in Kandhar and now the murder of Suryanarayana, a Telecom Engineer, posted in Afghanistan has raised question about Government's decision to expose around 2,000 Indians working in Afghanistan to potential terrorist attack at the hands of Taliban;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to save the lives and properties of Indians who are at present working/living in Afghanistan; and

(c) the nature of security provided by Government of Afghanistan for their protection and safety?

NEW DELHI;
The 12th May, 2006
Vaisakha 22, 1928 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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